

FIRST READING. Genesis 18:20-32 ²⁰ Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.” ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

SECOND READING. Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] ⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

GOSPEL. Luke 11:1-13 ¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” ⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



Sunday July 27, 2025

Welcome Everyone!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.


You are invited to come forward via the centre aisle and form a single line across from the steps leading to the altar area. Once you have communed and the pastor has spoken the communion blessing, you may place your used wine glass into the bowl on the stand near the side aisle. Then you may return to your seat via the side aisle.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

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Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Weekly Calendar:

- Monday:** Pastor’s day off
- Tuesday:** Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Pastor in Port Colborne
- Wednesday:** Pickleball 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Rose City Quilters 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm (first of the month)
Pastor in Welland
- Thursday:** Pastor in Welland
- Friday:** Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Pastor in Port Colborne
- Saturday:** Pickleball 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Upcoming Events & Dates To Remember

Services will be held in the fellowship area July 27, August 3 & August 24.

St. Matthew’s is resuming the long held tradition of receiving an offering by way of passing a collection plate among those who attend worship. The practice had been suspended during the time COVID safety protocols were in place. We anticipate that the action of receiving an offering reflects our response to God’s graciousness, and our call to be stewards of what we’ve been given.

On August 10 we will worship in the sanctuary. Altar flowers will be donated in honour of the 60th wedding anniversaries of Norm & Carole McLeod and Roger & Margaret Kleinsmith.

St. Matthews will worship with First Lutheran at their Port Colborne location on August 17 at 9:30 am. First Lutheran will provide lunch after the service. The two Councils will meet together as well. Please let a member of Council or Rona know how many will be attending from your family/household by July 31st.

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for this week’s service:

Scripture Reader Linda Borland
Prayers Jenn Rusk
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod
Counters Jenn Rusk & Carole McLeod

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for next week’s service:

Scripture Reader Linda Borland
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen
Counters Carole McLeod & Bob Hansen

Attendance Sunday July 20 was 34, last year 16

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting Ten – Page 203

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn.....ELW # 779
“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading..... Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138..... ELW
Second Reading..... Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Gospel Acclamation.....ELW Page 205
“Glory to you, O Lord”
Gospel Luke 11:1-13
“Praise to you, O Christ”
Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....ELW # 745
“Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright”
Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace
Receiving the Offering and Offering Prayer

MEAL

Great ThanksgivingELW Page 206
Sanctus “Holy, Holy”..... ELW Page 207
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer ELW Page 208
O Lamb of GodELW Page 208
Communion Hymns.....ELW # 528 & 741
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....ELW # 543
”Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
“Thanks be to God”