

September 7, 2025

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13th Sunday After Pentecost

FIRST READING. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 ¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

SECOND READING. Philemon 1-21 ¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

GOSPEL. Luke 14:25-33 ²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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Sunday September 7, 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 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
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

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own. *From Sundays and Seasons.*



I have been a member of St. Matthew’s for 28 years and have grown along with my family here. I was married in the church as was my oldest daughter. I have held many positions of leadership at St. Matthew’s from Sunday school to choir and council. It was these leadership positions that led me to want to obtain my Master of Divinity. I will miss being in the church on a regular basis, but this call is too much to avoid. I thank my friends and family here at St Matthew’s for the unwavering support I have received over the years and humbly ask for your continued prayers as I go through school. This is not goodbye. I will be back to visit. That is a promise. With much love and appreciation, Jenn

Upcoming Events & Dates To Remember

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.

Next Church Council meeting will be September 18th.

Our Lutheran Women will meet on Wednesday September 17th @ 2:00 pm at the home of Marilyn Schultz

This lovely message is from Sylvia Tollar: “So good to hear from you. I have been involved with many senior activities, church choir etc. Our church did a talent show and showcased many talents. There will be a senior abuse awareness program that will be showcased in February and March which I am involved with. Had a summer concert series that I attended. Very busy and I like it. Say hi to everyone and let them know that I am surviving in my new life. There is a choir of 11 and children programs and even on the hottest day we have about 30/30 attendees in the church that I am a member of. Bible studies will commence in September. Hope you are well and please keep in touch.”

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

Scripture Reader Jenn Rusk
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen
Counters Carole McLeod & Jenn Rusk

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

Scripture Reader Linda Borland
Prayers Bobbye Marilyn Schultz
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Attendance Sunday – 14 people, attendance 1 year ago - 15

GATHERING
Gathering Hymn.....**ELW # 742**
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
Prayer of the Day

WORD
First ReadingDeuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1 **ELW**
Second Reading..... Philemon 1-21
Gospel Acclamation.....**ELW** Page 205
“**Glorify to you, O Lord**”
GospelLuke 14:25-33
“**Praise to you, O Christ**”
Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 787**
“On Eagle’s Wings”
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 # 810 & 188**
Prayer after Communion

SENDING
Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 677**
“”This Little Light of Mine”

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