

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

First Sunday of Advent



Sunday November 30, 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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Council Chairperson: Bobbye Goldenberg
Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskaskas

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

Upcoming Events & Dates To Remember

On Wednesday, December 3, 2025, the Lutheran Women are hosting their **Christmas luncheon** at M.T.Bellies Family Restaurant, 871 Niagara Street in Welland at 11:30 am. All ladies are invited to join us in celebrating the Christmas season. Bring a friend if you wish! Contact Marilyn by November 30 if you are planning to attend.

Please join us for our **Congregational Christmas Dinner** which will take place on Wednesday December 10 at The Blue Star Restaurant. Please RSVP to Rona in the Church office if you and a guest plan to attend, or email stmatts@cogeco.net. You can also call 905-734-4746. We have reserved the back Banquet Room for 6:00 pm (booked for 2 hrs). Approximately 25-30 people.

Dinner Menu Options: **Roast turkey** dinner (dark and white meat), homemade dressing, cranberry sauce and gravy served with mashed (or your choice of fries or roasted potatoes) plus veggie of the day. **\$19.99 per plate. Ukrainian trio** choice of either 1 piece of white meat, or 2 pieces of dark meat, perogies and cabbage rolls. **\$19.99 per plate. Spaghetti and meat sauce.**

Desserts and drinks are available at an extra cost.

There is a Church Council budget planning meeting on Thursday, December 11th at 10:00 am.

Social Ministry:

Once again this year, we are asking for your financial support as we give to those in our congregation who need a little extra money at Christmas. Please mark your envelope SOCIAL MINISTRY and do so up to December 14th. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The **Altar Guild** will again purchase poinsettias to adorn the Church Sanctuary for Christmas. Anyone wishing to donate money towards the flowers in honour of, or in memory of loved ones, may do so by putting your donation in an envelope marked “Altar Guild” and placing it on the offering plate on Sunday.

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

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

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

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

Last week’s attendance 10, last year’s attendance n/a

INSPIRATION

Open unto me, light for my darkness.

Open unto me, courage for my fear.

Open unto me, hope for my despair.

Open unto me, peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me, joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me, strength for my weakness.

Open unto me, wisdom for my confession.

Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins.

Open unto me, love for my hates.

Open unto me, thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.

— Howard Thurman

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting Four – Page 147

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Wreath Lighting & poem “Inspiration”

Gathering Hymn.....**ELW # 257**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel v. 1”

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

First ReadingIsaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122..... **ELW**

Second Reading.....Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation.....**ELW # 673**

“God Whose Almighty Word” v. 1-2

Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

Gospel Response.....**ELW # 673**

“God Whose Almighty Word” v. 3-4

Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 241**

“Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Nicene Creed.....**ELW** Page 104

Prayers of Intercession

“hear our prayer”

Sharing the Peace

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering and setting the Table

Offering Prayer.....

Great Thanksgiving**ELW** Page 152

Sanctus “Holy, Holy”..... **ELW** Page 153

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord’s Prayer **ELW** Page 154

O Lamb of God**ELW** Page 154

Communion Hymns.....**ELW # 253 & 436**

Song After Communion..... **ELW # 204**

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

Prayer after Communion

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 244**

”Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.

“Thanks be to God”