

FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 7:10-16** <sup>10</sup>The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

SECOND READING:

**Romans 1:1-7** <sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL:

**Matthew 1:18-25** <sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sunday December 21, 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 Devreese .....905-734-4746  
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

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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

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service @ 4:30 pm  
Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup> – no Christmas Service this year

Pickleball sessions are **cancelled** from December 15th to January 1st for the Christmas season. We are back to the regular schedule starting on Friday January 2 at 9:30 am.

Our Church Council meeting will take place on January 8th at 10:00 am.

Our congregational budget meeting will take place after worship service on Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Donations toward the poinsettias beautifying our sanctuary this Christmas season have been given by Dianne Yungblut and family in memory of husband, father and grandfather, Morley Yungblut, and Inge Poetzinger in memory of husband Gerry Poetzinger.

If you wish to have your offering included in your 2025 tax receipt, be sure to give your donation by December 31, 2025.

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

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

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for Christmas Eve service:

Scripture Reader Linda Borland  
Prayers Margaret Kleinsmith  
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen  
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Last week’s attendance 17, last year’s attendance 38

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.6-8	
WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song	
First Reading .....	Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19.....	ELW
Second Reading.....	Romans 1:1-7
Gospel Acclamation.....	ELW # 673
“God Whose Almighty Word” v. 1-2	
Gospel .....	Matthew 1:18-25
Gospel Response.....	ELW # 673
“God Whose Almighty Word” v. 3-4	
Sermon	
Hymn of the Day.....	ELW # 265
“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”	
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 .....	
Communion Hymns.....	ELW # 245 & 260
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 # 266
”All Earth Is Hopeful”	
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.	
“Thanks be to God”	