

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:7-9 ⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress.It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:10-18 ¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” ¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23 ¹³Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”



Sunday December 28 @ 11:00 am

“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.”

Welcome Everyone!

Order of Worship
Today's Order of Worship and hymns are both located in **the Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.

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

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

Weekly Calendar:

Monday: Pastor’s day off (see below)

Tuesday: Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am (see below)
Pastor in Port Colborne

Wednesday: Pickleball 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Rose City Quilters 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (see below)
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

Dates to Remember

Please note that Pastor Bart will be away from December 26th up to and including January 3, 2026.

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.

The Rose City quilters will also take a holiday hiatus during this time.

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 11th.

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 by Inge Poetzing in memory of husband Gerry Poetzing.

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

“Rick and I are again feeling humbled and blessed by the kindness and generosity of our St Matthews family. Your generosity will go along way to help with rising winter bills and groceries! Thank you all so very much, you are such a blessing to us! May you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.”

Sheila and Rick

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 22, last year’s attendance 21



Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Service of the Word ELW Page 210

GATHERING
Confession and Forgiveness.....ELW page 211
Hymn.....ELW
#298 “The Bells of Christmas”
Prayer of the Day

WORD
First Reading.....Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm.....**#148**
Second Reading.....Hebrews 2:10-18
Gospel Acclamation.....ELW
#216“Glory to you, O Lord”
Gospel.....Matthew 2:13-23

“Praise to you, O Christ”
Sermon
Hymn of the Day..... ELW
#292

“Love Has Come”
Creed.....ELW page 217
Prayers of Intercession
Peace (non-contact gestures)

THANKSGIVING
Offering
Thanksgiving Song..... ELW
674
“Let us Talents and Tongues Employ”
Thanksgiving for the Word.....ELW page 220
The Lord’s Prayer.....ELW page 221

SENDING
Announcements
Blessing.....ELW page 221
Sending Hymn.....ELW
#290
“Go Tell it on the Mountain”
”DismissalELW page 222
Go in peace. Christ is with you.
“Thanks be to God”