

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10 ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13 ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope. ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12 ¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



Sunday December 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

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

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.

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

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

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

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

Last week’s attendance 15, last year’s attendance 19

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.1-2

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

First ReadingIsaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7,18-19.....**ELW**
Second Reading.....Romans 15:4-13

Gospel Acclamation.....**ELW # 673**
“God Whose Almighty Word” v. 1-2

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12
Gospel Response.....**ELW # 673**
“God Whose Almighty Word” v. 3-4

Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 255**
“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

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 ThanksgivingELW Page 152

Sanctus “Holy, Holy”..... ELW Page 153
Thanksgiving at the Table
The Lord’s Prayer ELW Page 154

O Lamb of GodELW Page 154
Communion Hymns.....**ELW # 266 & 247**
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 # 726**

”Light Dawns on a Weary World”
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
“Thanks be to God”