

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother’s womb he named me. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. 3 And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” 4 But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God.” 5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— 6 he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” 7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42 29 [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.” 35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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Sunday January 18, 2026

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

Blessing our neighbourhood since 1876

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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

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

Prior to our service on the 25th of January there will be a short presentation by Joy Friesen from Hospice Niagara Walker House in Welland. She will be speaking about the needs of their new Welland Hospice.

Please join us for our 150th anniversary service and celebration on Sunday February 22 at 11:00 and potluck lunch afterwards. Please RSVP to Rona at 905 734 4746 or stmatts@cogeco.net if you plan to attend.

I am delighted to say that the Welland Museum Showcase for St. Matthew's 150th Anniversary is complete. Many thanks to Lisa Mooney, Executive Director, for her willingness to complete this project.

Welland Historical Museum, 140 King Street. Open Monday - Saturday excluding February 16th. Our display will be in place until the end of February. The museum is fully accessible. The showcase is at the top of the stairs. While the museum is free to visit, donations are always appreciated.

St Matthew’s Church Council

“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 Marilyn Schultz
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Last week’s attendance 15, last year’s attendance 13



GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness.....ELW page 94
Gathering HymnELW # 314
“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingIsaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11.....ELW
Second Reading.....1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel Acclamation.....ELW page 205
“Glory to you, O Lord”

GospelJohn 1:29-42
Gospel Response.....
“Praise to you O Christ”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....ELW # 696
“Jesus Call Us; o’er the Tumult”

Prayers of Intercession
“Hear our Prayer”

Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Offering Prayer
Great ThanksgivingELW page 206
Sanctus “Holy, Holy”.....ELW page207
Eucharistic Prayers
The Lord’s Prayer ELW page 208
O Lamb of GodELW page 208
Communion
Communion Hymns.....ELW # 312 & 336
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....ELW # 866
”We Are Marching in the Light ”
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
“Thanks be to God”