

January 4, 2026

(A)

Second Sunday of Christmas

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14 7 Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” 8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. 10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” 11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. 14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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Second Sunday of Christmas



Sunday January 4, 2026

“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 and Happy New Year!

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
- 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

“It was a joy to celebrate another Christmas with you all. Sharon and I are most grateful and touched by the kind and generous gift you presented to us. Blessings in the new year.”

Sharon and Pastor Bart

Dates to Remember

- 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.

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

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

Last week’s attendance 6, last year’s attendance 12



Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Service of the Word ELW Page 210

GATHERING

- Confession and Forgiveness.....ELW page 211
Hymn.....ELW # 861
“When Long Before Time”
Kyrie.....ELW page 213
Prayer of the Day

WORD

- First Reading.....Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm147:13-21
Second Reading.....Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel Acclamation.....ELW page 216
“Glory to you, O Lord”
Gospel.....John 1:1-18
“Praise to you, O Christ”
Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....ELW # 291
“Let Our Gladness Have No End”
Creed.....ELW page 217
Prayers of Intercession
“Your mercy is great”
Peace (non-contact gestures)

THANKSGIVING

- Offering
Thanksgiving Song.....ELW page 689
“Praise and Thanksgiving” vv. 2 & 4
Thanksgiving for the Word...ELW page 220
The Lord’s Prayer.....ELW page 221

SENDING

- Announcements
Blessing.....ELW page 221
Sending Hymn.....ELW # 253
“He Came Down”
DismissalELW page 222
Go in peace. Christ is with you.
“Thanks be to God”