

February 8, 2026

(A)

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] ¹Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ^{9a}Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” [^{9b}] If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16) ¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.]

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20 [Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Sunday February 8, 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!

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.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Serving Our Community for 150 Years

57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746
email: stmatts@cogeco.net • website: stmatthewswelland.com



Pastor: Reverend Bart Coleman.....Cell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Emailpastorbartcoleman@gmail.com
Council Chairperson: Bobbye Goldenberg
Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746
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 p

Dates to Remember

Please join us for our 150th anniversary service and celebration on Sunday February 22nd at 11:00, and potluck lunch afterwards. Please RSVP to Rona at 905-734-4746 or stmatts@cogeco.net if you plan to attend. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the Church.

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

Prior to our next Church Council meeting on Thursday February 19th, the council will meet at the museum at 9:30 am to view the display for our 150th anniversary.

The next Church Council meeting will take place on Thursday February 19th at 10:00 am.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday March 22. Please have your reports ready one week prior so they can be compiled into our Annual Report document.

Hello: Want to use the powers of your Church to activate and help improve your local community? Coming up on Saturday February 28th, 2026 at Open Arms Mission they are hosting a 12th annual Coldest Night of the Year event, and we would love to have your Church walk with us!

Coldest Night of the Year is a winteriffic walk-a-thon to raise money to help fight hurt, hunger and homelessness! All proceeds from the Welland walk location go directly to OAM so we can continue working to ensure no one goes hungry and that everyone knows God's love in our community.

For more information you can call 905-788-3800 or email adminsupport@openarmsmissionwelland.com

Braidy Butcher, Administration Assistant, Open Arms Mission Welland

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

Scripture Reader Bobbye Goldenberg

Prayers Marilyn Schultz

Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen

Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

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

Scripture Reader Marilyn Schultz

Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg

Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod

Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Last week's attendance 13, last year's attendance 17

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness.....ELW page 211

Hymn.....ELW # 510

“Word of God, Come Down to Earth”

Kyrie.....ELW page 213

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12)

PsalmPsalm 112:1-9(10)

Second Reading.....1

Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16)

Gospel Acclamation.....ELW page 216

“Glory to you, O Lord”

Gospel.....Matthew 5:13-20

“Praise to you, O Christ”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....ELW # 715

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Creed.....ELW page 105

Prayers of Intercession

“Receive our prayer”

Peace(non-contact gestures)

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Thanksgiving Song.....ELW page 206

Thanksgiving for the Word...ELW page 220

The Lord's Prayer.....ELW page 221

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing.....ELW page 221

Sending Hymn.....ELW # 540

“Go, Make Disciples”

DismissalELW page 222

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

“Thanks be to God”