

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8 ¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12 ¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



Sunday February 1, 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.

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.”

Pastor: Reverend Jukka Saarinen
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 pm

Prior to our service today we would like to welcome Joy Friesen from Hospice Niagara Walker House in Welland. She will be speaking about the needs of their new Welland Hospice.

Upcoming Events and 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.

Our congregation would like to express our sincere thanks to Pastor Jukka Saarinen for leading worship and preaching in Pastor Bart’s absence.

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 n/a , last year’s attendance 10



Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting Three ELW Page 138

GATHERING
Thanksgiving for Baptism.....ELW page 97
Gathering Hymn**ELW # 522**
“As We Gather at Your Table”
Prayer of the Day

WORD
First ReadingMicah 6:1-8
Psalm 15.....**ELW**
Second Reading.....1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel Acclamation.....ELW page 142
“Glory to you, O Lord”
GospelMatthew 5:1-12
Gospel Response.....
“Praise to you O Christ”
Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 728**
“Blest Are They”
The Apostles’ Creed.....ELW page 105
Prayers of Intercession
“Receive our Prayer”
Sharing the Peace

MEAL
Offering Prayer
Great ThanksgivingELW page 144
Sanctus “Holy, Holy”.....ELW page144
Eucharistic Prayers
The Lord’s Prayer ELW page 145
Lamb of GodELW page 146
Communion
Communion Hymns.....**ELW # 725 & 546**
Prayer after Communion.....ELW page 146

SENDING
Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 551**
”The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ”
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
“Thanks be to God”