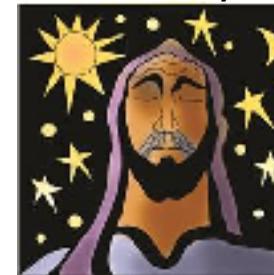


FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a 1 The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” 4a So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5 But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. 16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17 1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



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.”

Pastor: Reverend Bart Coleman.....Cell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Email.....pastorbartcoleman@gmail.com
Council Chairperson: Bobbye Goldenberg
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

NOTICE

The Constitutional Changes are delayed while we await the proper wording for one of the Sections from Synod.

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is hosting a World Day of Prayer Service on March 9, 2026 at 1:30 pm if you wish to attend.

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

The City of Welland's new Hospice Niagara, Walker House, Welland has been approved as our Anniversary project for 2026. Envelopes have been provided in the pews or money can be e-transferred to St. Matthew's for forwarding to the Hospice.

A big **thank you** to **all** who helped with the anniversary luncheon last Sunday:

- those who set up tables and memorabilia displays
- those who took photos and Bob H for the display videos
- those who brought delicious food for our potluck lunch
- those who tended the kitchen, picked up food and helped to get it out to the buffet table
- the amazing crew who cleaned up afterwards!

It was heartwarming to see people just pitch in and help! Cooperation and teamwork made for a successful event.

With appreciation and thanks from
The Anniversary Committee



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 42, last year’s attendance 22

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting Ten - ELW Page 138

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God
Gathering Hymn..... **ELW # 331**
“As the Deer Runs to the River”

Prayer of the Day

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121..... **ELW**
Second Reading.....Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Lenten Acclamation..... **ELW # 176**
Gospel John 3:1-17
Sermon
Hymn of the Day..... **ELW # 322**
“Oh, Love, How Deep”

Prayers of Intercession
“Hear our Prayer”

Sharing the Peace

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer
Great Thanksgiving **ELW** page 206
Sanctus “Holy, Holy” **ELW** page 207
Eucharistic Prayers
The Lord’s Prayer **ELW** page 208
O Lamb of God **ELW** page 208
Communion
Communion Hymns..... **ELW # 451 & 811**
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn..... **ELW # 803**
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
“Thanks be to God”