



Sunday March 15, 2026

Welcome Everyone!

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 ⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

GOSPEL: John 9:1-7 ¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

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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 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

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday March 22nd. Please have your reports ready 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.

Please remember Helga Moeller in your prayers as she mourns the death of her husband, Uwe.

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 14



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 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23ELW

Second Reading..... Ephesians 5:8-14

Lenten Acclamation.....ELW # 176

Gospel John 9:1-7

Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....ELW # 520

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

Prayers of Intercession

“Your mercy is great”

Sharing the Peace

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer

Great ThanksgivingELW page 206

Sanctus “Holy, Holy”.....ELW page207

Eucharistic Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer ELW page 208

O Lamb of God ELW page 208

Communion

Communion Hymns.....ELW # 780 & 553

After Communion

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn.....ELW # 324

”In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.

“Thanks be to God”