**FIRST READING:**

**Exodus 17:1-7 1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"**

**SECOND READING:**

**Romans 5:1-11 1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.**

**GOSPEL: Available on the website.**

**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.**

# Third Sunday in Lent

## Sunday March 8, 2026

**Welcome Everyone! Daylight saving time has arrived!**

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

"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 Devreese ……..……905-734-4746
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.

The next Church Council meeting will take place on Thursday March 12th @ 10:00 am.

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

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 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 12, last year's attendance 14

**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 …..…….…..…... Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95 ….…….…….…….....**ELW**
Second Reading…….…… Romans 5:1-11
Lenten Acclamation…….……..……..**ELW** # 176
Gospel ……..……..……..…… John 4:5-42
Sermon
Hymn of the Day……..……**ELW # 611**
**"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"**
Prayers of Intercession
**"Your mercy is great"**
Sharing the Peace

**MEAL**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ**
Offering Prayer
Great Thanksgiving ……..……..…..**ELW** 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 # 447 & 480**
After Communion

**SENDING**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world**
Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn……..……**ELW # 658**
**" Oh Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"**
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
**"Thanks be to God"**