

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8 ⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25 ¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 ²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”



Sunday July 19, 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.

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
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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

We live and serve on land that for thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have walked. We live on the traditional territory of several Indigenous peoples, including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnaabe and the Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their continuing stewardship of this land and we also honour the heritage and gifts of the Métis people.

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

Scripture Reader Bobbye Goldenberg
Prayers Linda Borland
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

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

Scripture Reader Marilyn Schultz
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Attendance Sunday July 12 - 13 , one year ago n/a.

Psalm 86 – Tune: 640 Our Father, by Whose Name (Rhosymedre)

**Teach me your way, O Lord,
That I may fear your name.**

Reader: Give me an undivided heart to revere your name, and I will walk in your truth.

**Teach me your way, O Lord,
Nor let me come to shame.**

The arrogant rise up against me, O Lord; a band of violent men seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

Your grace and mercy still abound.

Turn to me and have mercy on me; strengthen me and save me, because I serve you just as my mother did.

**Your praise shall from my lips resound,
For steadfast love with you is found.**

For you, O Lord, are a merciful and loving God, always patient, always kind and faithful.

**Teach me your way, O Lord,
That I may fear your name.**

I praise you with all my heart, O Lord my God; I will glorify your name forever.

**Teach me your way, O Lord,
Nor let me come to shame.**

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Your grace and mercy still abound.

How great is your constant love for me! You have saved me from the grave itself.

**Your praise shall from my lips resound,
For steadfast love with you is found.**

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn.....**ELW # 790**
“Day by Day”

Prayer of the Day
WORD

First Reading.....Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm (printed in Bulletin).....86
Second Reading.....Romans 8:12-25
Gospel Acclamation.....page 151
Gospel.....Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Response **“Praise to you, O Christ”**
Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 838**
“Beautiful Saviour”

Hymn Request..... **ELW # 232**
“Let My Prayer Rise Up”

Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving....**ELW** page 152
Sanctus ”Holy, Holy”...**ELW** page 153
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer.....**ELW** page154
Lamb of God.....**ELW** page 154
Communion

Communion Hymns Requests
Communion Hymns **ELW #465 &736**
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 817**
“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

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