

August 16, 2026

(A)

12th Sunday After Pentecost

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 ¹ Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 [Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 [¹⁰ Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without

understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented

by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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Sunday August 16, 2026

Welcome Everyone !

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.

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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Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz
Second Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskis

Weekly Calendar:

Please note, pickleball sessions are cancelled for approximately two weeks while the Fellowship Hall floor is being refinished.

Monday: Pastor’s day off

Tuesday: Pastor in Port Colborne

Wednesday: Rose City Quilters 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Pastor in Welland

Thursday: Pastor in Welland

Friday: Pastor in Port Colborne

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.

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

Best wishes to Hilda Finlayson on her 95th birthday today. We hope your day is lovely. Hilda is the oldest member of our congregation.

Attendance Sunday August 9 - 11, one year ago 16.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

Upcoming Events

The next Church Council meeting will take place on Thursday August 27th @ 10:00 am.

Psalm 67 – Tune: 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (Fred til Bod)

Reader: May God be merciful to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.

**Let all peoples join to raise
Songs to you, O God, in praise.**

Let the whole world know your will, all nations your salvation.

**Let all nations join to sing
Praises to creation’s King.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

**Let God’s people praise employ
To proclaim our grateful joy.**

For you judge the peoples with equity and guide all nations upon earth.

**Let all peoples join to raise
Songs to you, O God, in praise.**

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

**Let all nations join to sing
Praises to creation’s King.**

God has blessed us; may all the ends of the earth revere him.

**Let God’s people praise employ
To proclaim our grateful joy.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 4 – Page 147

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn.....**ELW # 712**
**“Lord, Whose Love in Humble
Service”**

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm (printed in Bulletin).....67
Second Reading.....Romans
11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel Acclamation.....page 151
Gospel.....Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
Response **“Praise to you, O Christ”**
Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 716**
“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”
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** page 154
Lamb of God.....**ELW** page 154
Communion
Communion Hymns.....**ELW # 682 &
496**

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 759**
“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
Dismissal: Go in peace, Live in hope.

“Thanks be to God”
