

August 23, 2026

(A)

13th Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6 ¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation,

for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8 ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many

members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20 ¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not

prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

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Sunday August 23, 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."

Pastor: Reverend Bart Coleman Cell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Email: pastorbartcoleman@gmail.com
Council Chairperson: Bobbye Goldenberg
Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz
Second Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese 905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Weekly Calendar:

Please note, pickleball sessions are still cancelled 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 Marilyn Schultz
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

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

Scripture Reader Linda Borland
Prayers Marilyn Schultz
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Attendance Sunday August 9 - 10, one year ago n/a.

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 138 – Tune 597 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (Melita)

**I thank you, Lord, with all my soul;
Your blessed name I e'er extol.**

Reader: I thank you because of your constant love and faithfulness, because you have shown that your name and your commands are supreme.

**You answered when I called in need;
Your strength became my strength indeed.**

All the kings in the world will praise you, Lord, because they have heard your promises. They will sing about what you have done and about your great glory.

**Behold us from your throne on high;
With steadfast love fore'er be nigh.**

Even though you are so high above, you care for the lowly, and the proud cannot hide from you.

**I thank you, Lord, with all my soul;
Your blessed name I e'er extol.**

When I am surrounded by troubles, you keep me safe. You oppose my angry enemies and save me by your power.

**You answered when I called in need;
Your strength became my strength indeed.**

You will do everything you have promised. Lord. Your love is eternal; complete the work you have begun.

**Behold us from your throne on high;
With steadfast love fore'er be nigh.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 4 – Page 147

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn.....**ELW # 526**
"God Is Here!"

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm (printed in Bulletin).....138
Second Reading.....Romans 12:1-8
Gospel Acclamation.....page 151

"Glory to you, O Lord"

Gospel.....Matthew 16:13-20
"Praise to you, O Christ"

Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 879**
"For the Beauty of the Earth"

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.....By Request
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 838**
"Beautiful Saviour"

Dismissal: Go in peace, Live in hope.

"Thanks be to God"
