November 15, 2026 **(A)** **Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 [Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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25th Sunday after Pentecost



Sunday November 15, 2026

Welcome Everyone!

Our mission statement: 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.

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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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:

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

As We Celebrate Holy Communion Together:

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 Marilyn Schultz
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 November 8 - 14, one year ago 18.

Upcoming Events:

The next Church Council meeting will take place on Thursday November 19th at 10:00 am.

Please join us for our annual Congregational Dinner taking place on Wednesday December 9th at the Rex in Welland at 6:00 pm. There are several choices for dinner, and family style tossed salad is being served for $28.00 plus tax and tip. RSVP to Rona by December 2nd by phone 905 734 4746 or stmatts@cogeco.net.

Psalm 90:1-12 – Tune: ELW # **652** Built on a Rock

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
Ever, in all generations.

Leader: From eternity to eternity--you are God! A thousand years to you are like one day, like yesterday already gone, like a short hour in the night.

Before the mountains took their place,
Before the world saw creation.

We, however, are dust, like weeds that sprout in the morning, to dry up and die by sunset.

Scorched by your wrath, we sinners wilt;
Nowhere to hide, we own our guilt
And wait your just condemnation.

Our days pass away under your wrath; our life expires like a sigh. Seventy years? Eighty? Trouble and sorrow fill them all, and we face eternity.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
Ever, in all generations.

Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear we owe you.

Turn us, O Lord, to seek your face;
Grant, e'er too late, restoration.

Teach us to count the days that we have, and inspire our hearts to use them wisely.

You were, you are, you e'er shall be
Our God to all eternity,
Author alone of salvation.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 4 - Page 147

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn……ELW # **715**
"Christ, Be Our Light"
Greeting
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading…Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm (see Bulletin)… Psalm 90:1-12
Second Reading……1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel Acclamation…ELW page **151**
"Glory to you, O Lord"
Gospel……Matthew 25:14-30
"Praise to you, O Christ"
Sermon
Hymn of the Day……...ELW # **678**
"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
Prayers of the Church
Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Offering Prayer
Great Thanksgiving….ELW page **152**
Sanctus "**Holy, Holy**"..ELW page **153**
Eucharistic Prayer
Lord's Prayer……..…ELW page **154**
Lamb of God……..…..ELW page **154**
Communion
Communion Hymns ……**726** & **695**
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn……..…ELW # **632**
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
"Thanks be to God"