

EASTER

JESUS IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

April 19, 2026

Neurodiversity Sunday / Easter 3

Sunday, April 19, 2026

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude "Chorale (Easter 1966)" W. Mathias

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 367 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Presentation on Neurodiversity

Anthem "May This Church Be Like a Tree" P. Sosa

Word

First Reading Isaiah 43:1-4

Psalm 139: 13-16 (see page 4) (sung responsively by whole verse)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

*Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?" p. 188

*Gospel Reading Luke 24:13-35

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day (see page 4) "You are my Hiding Place"

*Prayers of Intercession A: receive our prayer.

*Peace

Thanksgiving

A Brief Sharing

*Offering Hymn 692 "We Are an Offering"

*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord's Prayer (Our Father, who art in heaven...) p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 538

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Curious Story"

S. Heller

Cover image and Liturgy from Sundays and [Seasons.com](https://www.Seasons.com). Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079.

Today we gather mindful of the beautiful diversity with which God has created each person, including the many ways our minds work and experience the world. On this Neurodiversity Sunday, we celebrate the gifts, insights, and perspectives of neurodivergent individuals, recognizing them as essential to the body of Christ. May this time of worship open our hearts to deeper understanding, compassion, and belonging for all.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Guest Speakers: Corey Linforth and Linda McLellan

Lector: Kim Schaner

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Lindsay Scott, Dylan Siebert, Drew Aarssen

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Steve Dickin (519-580-8407)

Psalm 139

Tone 9



¹³For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.

¹⁴I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.

¹⁵My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written
| in your book;
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.

You are my Hiding Place

You are my hiding place.

You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance whenever I am afraid.

I will trust in You. I will trust in You; let the weak say:

"I am strong, in the strength of my God".

Words and music: Michael Ledner

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Marjorie, Kevin, Betty, Anneke, Judy, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen, and John.

Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

Corey Linforth is a musician, photographer, and neurodiversity advocate who is diagnosed with autism, ADHD, and OCD. She is the Festival Director of the Neurodiversity Arts Festival, a neuroaffirming arts festival launching in partnership with the Uptown Waterloo BIA and KWHabilitation in June 2027. She regularly plans community events with a focus on neurodivergent accessibility including being the Co-Chair of the Organ Festival Canada Planning Committee from 2023 to 2025. As a classical singer, she has appeared as a soloist with The Talisker Players and The Annex Singers, among others. She has also released a number of indie-pop recordings under the stage name Coraline James. As a photographer, she specializes in live events and family photography for neurodivergent and disabled families.

General Announcements

Breakfast Group: We meet next on April 21 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant. Everyone is welcome. Our speaker will be Debby Riepert, CEO of Trinity Village in Kitchener. They are a not-for-profit organization owned and operated by Lutheran Homes K-W, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Wednesday, April 22: St. Matthews Presents: Organ Recital (noon), and Soup (12:30)

Sunday, April 26: Annual Congregational Meeting following the service

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462

stmattskw.com

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Ext. 3

pastorcarey@stmattskw.com

Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Ext. 2

pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com

Deacon Scott Knarr

Ext. 4

deaconscott@stmattskw.com

Leanne Vanderhout

Ext. 6

lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Donate](#)

ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 26, 2026



FOLLOWING WORSHIP



Church Fire Plan - For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety. The AED and a first aid kit are in the hallway by the office.



Organ Recitals and Soup

Music at 12; Soup Lunch at 12:30 pm

Wed April 22

Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, Lana Moses, violins
Scott Knarr, organ

*featuring Mozart's Church Sonata in D major K. 69
and Huber's Concertino Op. 11*

Freewill Offering

www.stmatthewscentre.ca



The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir. Scroll down to "Upcoming Events" at www.stmatthewscentre.ca. The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can "follow" to get updates.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER
N2G 3H2
519.742.0462**

**stmattskw.com
info@stmattskw.com**