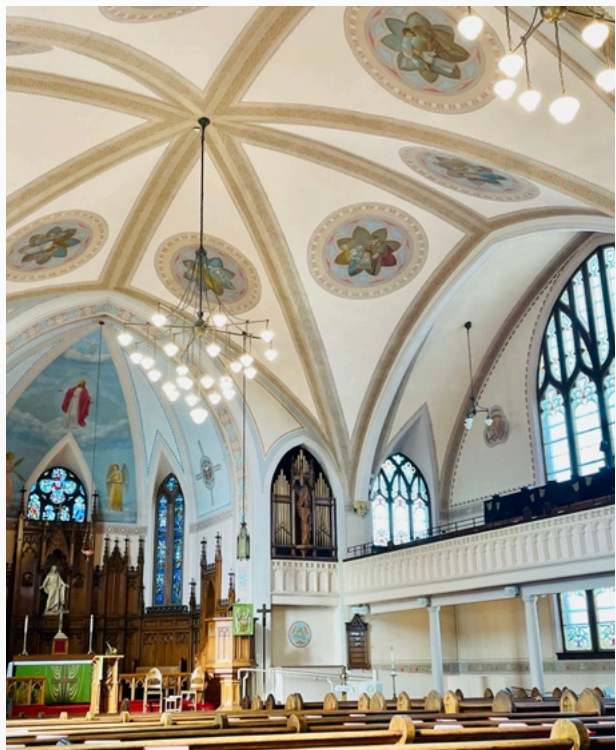


ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE AS A CARING FAITH COMMUNITY



A year of growth, community engagement, and strategic planning for the future, with a focus on inclusivity, outreach, and redevelopment

2024
IN REVIEW

REACHING UP

- Sunday Worship and Audio Livestream with hopeful, thoughtful, quality worship leadership
- Special Worship services, such as Christmas Eve (English and German), Advent Carol Service, Joint Lenten and Easter Vigil services with local Lutheran churches
- Regular Intergenerational and experiential worship, with crafts and opportunities for children to participate actively in worship
- Improved and enlarged children's area in Sanctuary, along with pew removal to create more flexible space for worship and musical performances
- Continuing our music excellence through our 4 choral scholars and special guest musicians



- Ordination Service for Bishop Carla Blakley, with massed choir and 14 guest bishops/dignitaries/guests from far and wide, showcasing our hospitality and leadership
- Enhanced Inclusivity and Diversity in Worship: celebrating Pride, Indigenous, Black History Sundays, incorporating visual elements like rainbow fabrics and mini knitted orange shirts
- 120th anniversary fundraising concert, and re-dedication concert featuring Jonathan Oldengarm and the KW Symphony Brass (the 1944 Casavant organ console had a major electronics upgrade and rewiring renovation completed)
- Overall worship attendance has been increasing for the past two years, with visitors attending frequently

Looking to 2025

- Improving welcome to all in worship
- Noontime Oasis (with organ recital series)
- Arts Hub community concerts





REACHING IN

- **Social Events:** Senior Socials (including Holy Communion), Coffee Hour, BBQs after worship, Soup Suppers, Pancake Supper, Dinner & Games Nights
- **Pastoral Care** available to all: palliative, crisis, loneliness, etc. by phone or in-person
- **Pastoral Acts:** baptisms, weddings, funerals
- **New Programs:** Revive (Faith Leadership Development) and Alpha Course (Basics of the Faith)
- **Sunday School** (2-3 times a month with 4-12 children)
- **Communication:** website, weekly electronic newsletters and monthly "Signal" newsletter, social media presence on Facebook and Instagram
- **Sanctuary Lower Level** named "Community Hall" with renovations complete
- **Ministry** supported by the St. Matthews Foundation
- **Photo directory** to deepen relationships between members

Looking to 2025

- **New Faith and Fellowship** small groups
- **New Alpha Courses** and Revive Lent (brief faith formation program)
- "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" children's program
- **Resume Confirmation Programme**
- **Expand soup suppers** and social gatherings
- **Community:** Increase connection with non-active members
- **Property renovations** to address pressing needs (sanctuary windows and church house roof), increase accessibility.
- **Capital Reserve Fund Study** to create roadmap for future major capital repairs
- **Improved Financial Management:** manage property sale proceeds and investments and plan for short- and long-term goals
- **Congregational goal setting** through a values-based visioning process to establish core values and priorities for the future.



REACHING OUT

- Wednesday Out of the Cold meal (November to April) feeds 50–60 guests (with takeout and eat-in) and time for fellowship
- Feather and Cross hosts multi-generational Indigenous events that foster safe spaces for relationship building and education. "Sing Fires of Justice: Music is Medicine" event focused on "Music for the Spirit" and visual artists from Six Nations.
- Successful community PD Day Camp and one-week summer camp (30 campers, 10 volunteers) with low fees, financial assistance and community partnerships with LAMA, Artshine and Feather and Cross
- Noontime Oasis launched: opening our Sanctuary doors for a peaceful hour of reflection and spiritual connection on Wednesdays
- Garden Meetups: weekly summertime community chats in our garden
- The St. Matthews Centre community hub managed by Relèven:
 - Engagement has expanded with increased space-sharing revenue by over 50%, hosting four other churches, 17 concerts, many weddings and social events, summer camps, children's choirs, music schools and core organizations: KW Symphony, Grand Philharmonic Choir, Hope Spring Cancer Support Centre and 519 Community Collective
 - Result: many more people using the building, offsetting building facility operational costs and helping us live out our motto of "where community gathers and grows"
- Property Redevelopment: After extensive discussions and town halls, the congregation voted decisively in favour of working with Kindred Works for redevelopment of the church property, marking a significant step toward future sustainability and addressing local community housing needs (mixed affordable and market rental units)

Looking to 2025

- Increase welcome to 2SLGBT2IA+ by investigating becoming a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation
- Continue developing and growing The St. Matthews Centre, strengthening ties with the local community
- Investigate more community outreach, partnerships and collaboration with local churches and organizations
- Property Sale Tithe Taskforce will resume, providing financial support to local and global organizations that align with our mission
- Continued exploration with Kindred Works on property redevelopment.



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KITCHENER

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“Test everything;
hold fast to
what is good.”



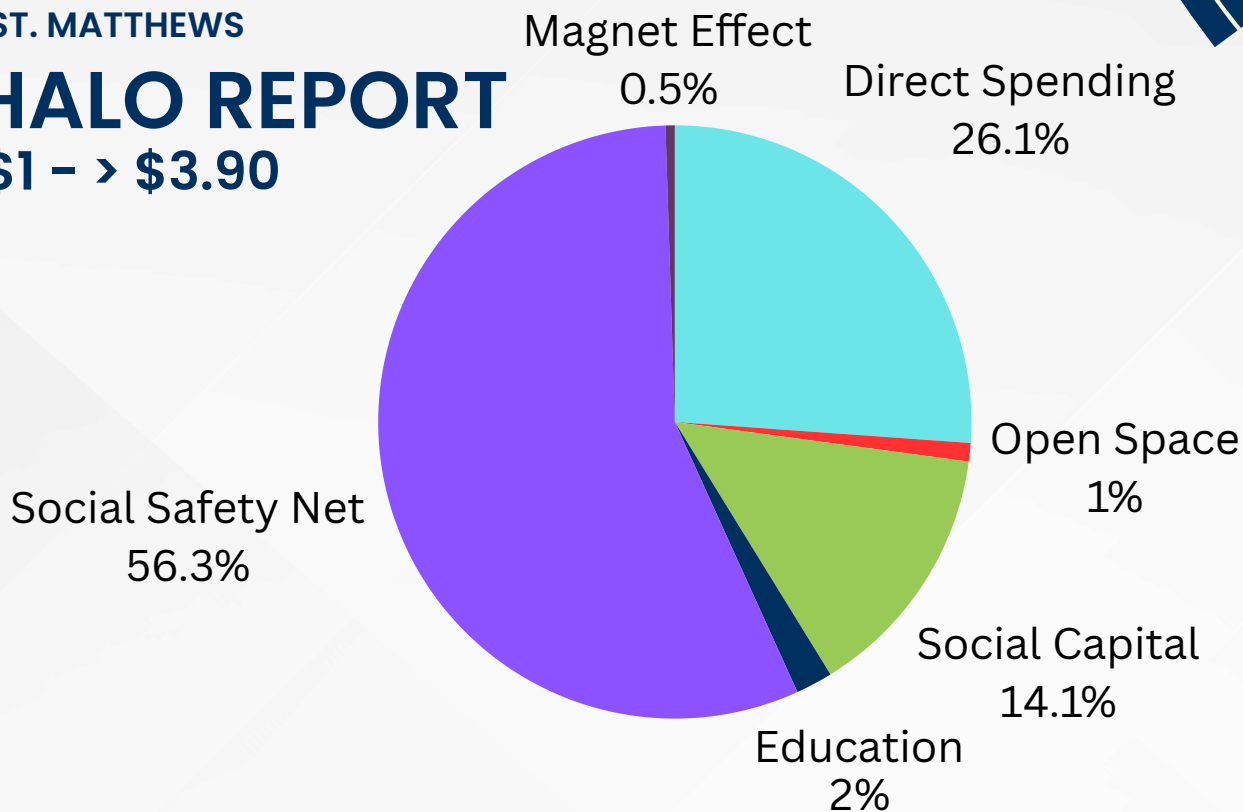
“where community
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ST. MATTHEWS

HALO REPORT

\$1 - > \$3.90



2024 Community Economic Impact (HALO effect): for every dollar spent, our church generates \$3.90 of social good, which is higher than the national average of \$3.32.

TOTAL HALO EFFECT (Socio-economic Impact) = \$2,643,339

Impact of 6 areas of neighbourhood engagement:

● OPEN SPACE

how the outdoor space is used. This typically includes things like community use of church parking lots, community gardens, and recreational space.

● DIRECT SPENDING

this accounts for how church spending contributes to the local economy through purchasing and salaries

● SOCIAL SAFETY NET

accounts for the direct services that are provided to community members. In St. Matthew's case, Hope Springs would be a primary example of the significant socio-economic benefit providing space for organizations like this can generate.

● EDUCATION

this does not include religious education. It does include educational programs that benefit the wider community.

● SOCIAL CAPITAL

recognizes the use of church space at less than market value for community groups and the dollar value associated with volunteer time that church members provide as well as community members associated with programs that operate out of the church.

● MAGNET EFFECT

worship and other programs offered by the church bring people to the neighborhood. Programs offered by space use partners do the same. This also contributes to the local economy by promoting spending in neighbourhood stores and restaurants when people attend.