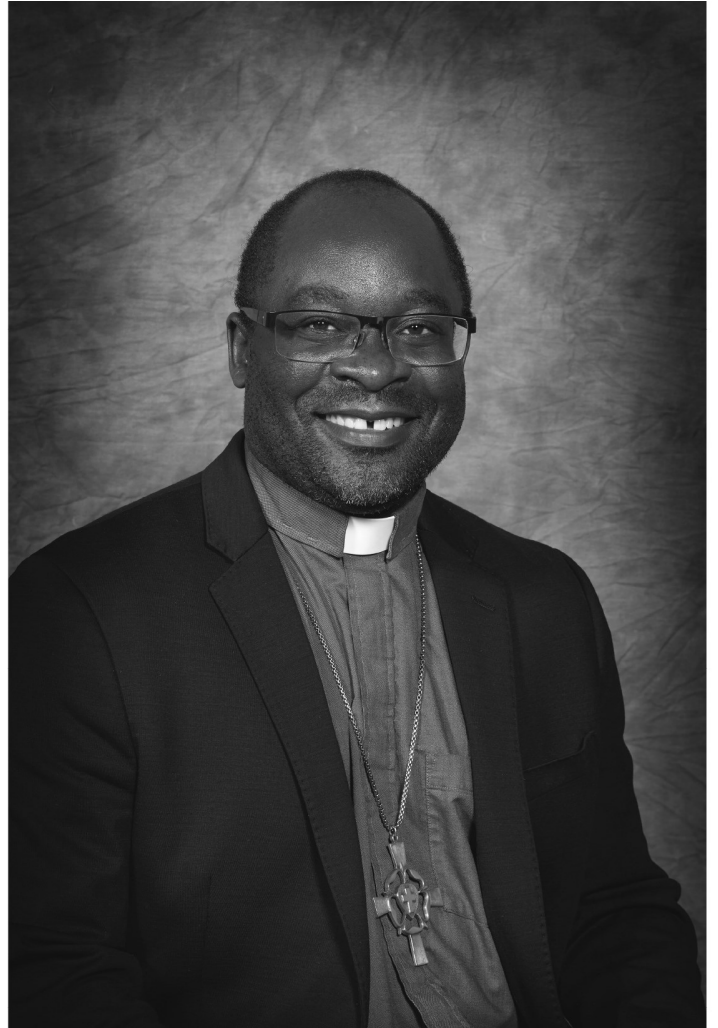


Elijah McCoy



Bishop Ali Tote

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

February 16, 2025

Epiphany 6 / Black History Sunday

Sunday, February 16, 2025

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"</i>	D. Akers
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn (see page 5)		<i>"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"</i>
*Greeting		
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>"Malembe"</i>	M. Kabemba

Word

First Reading		Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalms 1 (see page 6)		<i>(join in the refrain)</i>
Second Reading		1 Corinthians 15:12-20
*Gospel Acclamation 172		<i>"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"</i>
*Gospel Reading		Luke 6:17-26
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 633		<i>"We've Come This Far by Faith"</i>
*Prayers of Intercession		A: hear our prayer
*Peace		

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving 860		<i>"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"</i>
*Thanksgiving for the Word		

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 866

"We Are Marching in the Light"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Go Down, Moses"

African American Spiritual

Cover image and liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed...

Merciful God,

A: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Sonia Groh

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Sarah Hu-A-Kam, Dylan Siebert,
Drew Aarssen

Percussion: Peter Winkler

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home. Swing

low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

Verse 1:

Solo: I looked over Jordan and what did I see?

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Solo: A band of angels comin' after me

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Verse 2:

Solo: If you get there before I do

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Solo: Tell all my friends I'm comin' too

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Verse 3:

Solo: The brightest day that ever I saw

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Solo: When Jesus washed my sins away

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Verse 4:

Solo: I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Solo: But still my soul feels heavenly bound

All: Comin' for to carry me home

Psalm 1

Refrain:

Hap - py are they who trust in the LORD.
Oh, hap-py are they who trust, trust in the LORD.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats¹ of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching¹ day and night. *Refrain*

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that¹ do not wither;
everything they¹ do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind¹ blows away. *Refrain*

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council¹ of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall¹ be destroyed. *Refrain*

Tone 2

Worship Notes

In our prayers George, Anneke, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen and John.

Black History Music Notes: Doris Mae Akers was an American composer, arranger and singer of gospel music who wrote more than 500 songs and was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. This morning's prelude features her hymn "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place" which was published in 1962. Rawn Harbor is a leading Roman Catholic composer and liturgist who is based in California. Today's psalm refrain comes from his collection "Psalms from the Soul". Mwenze Kabemba, the composer of today's choir anthem, was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the second largest country in Africa. The refrain is sung by the choir in Lingala. *Malembe toko tambola* is often translated as "We know that God's reign will surely come". Another translation offered is "Slowly, we are going to work" signifying that we too must work towards justice for all God's children and creatures. The postlude today is based on the familiar spiritual "Go Down, Moses". Authorship of African American Spirituals is held in community with no one person taking credit for the lyrics and melody which are known to evolve and branch off into somewhat different versions according to regional practices. The lively music making of the community becomes more than notes written down on paper. Importantly, Black voices have shared with us that Spirituals such as "Go Down Moses" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" held double meanings which pointed people towards safety and freedom in the struggle against slavery and exploitation.

A Note about the Organ: This week Oxford Organ Company removed the keyboards from the organ and will replace the thumb pistons with new units which will be more robust than those which were installed in August. Unfortunately, the previous ones were at times problematic and the builder has agreed to upgrade the equipment at no additional cost to St. Matthews. We expect the work to be completed in approximately 2 weeks.

Important 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.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **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.

General Announcements

Coffee Hour - Please note, there is no Coffee Hour this Sunday. We will see you February 23!

Spiritual Discernment on the Election of a New National Bishop - At the 2025 ELCIC National Convention, delegates will elect a new National Bishop. The ELCIC's National Church Council invites members into a discernment process leading up to the election. Further information about the discernment process is available on the ELCIC website. As of January 2025, a form is now available for individuals to complete when they are ready to formally identify someone they feel has the skills and gifts for the call to serve as national bishop. Supporting materials and the form are available on the 2025 ELCIC National Convention section of the ELCIC website. If you have questions about the process, please submit them via email to discernment@elcic.ca.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WINTER SOCIAL

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

1:00 – 3:00 PM

STAY WARM BY CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS
IN THE COMMUNITY HALL
WITH FOOD, CONVERSATION AND MUSIC
(COMMUNION AT 2:30 PM)

RSVP: 519-742-0462 / info@stmattskw.com

Church Breakfast Group: We meet next on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees order from the menu and pay for their own meals. Everyone is welcome. Our speaker will be Shawn Hlowatzki, President of the Board of Directors for HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre. Since 1995 this non-profit organization has been providing support and resources to individuals affected by cancer. With local hospitals handling the medical aspects of cancer, HopeSpring offers a warm and inviting environment where individuals can focus on managing their mental and emotional well being through a variety of wellness programs which are offered free of charge. HopeSpring is now situated in the St. Matthews Church building. Shawn is a very engaging speaker who is eager to share his passion about HopeSpring's impact on our community.

On Tuesday, March 18 Father Toby Collins from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, our downtown neighbour will speak to us about Tiny Home Takeout, their innovative program that provides high quality meals based on 'Grab a Bite. Give if You Can.'

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER

MARCH 4, 2025

Doors open at 4:30 pm

Dinner 5 - 7 pm

A variety of pancakes (flapjacks & potato), sausage and beverages.

HOSTED IN THE COMMUNITY HALL
ENTRY OFF OF BENTON STREET PARKING LOT

54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER

Special Offering Dates for 2025

For those who do not use boxed offering envelopes, the following are the Special Offering dates for 2025.

01-Jan	Initial offering	04-May	Flowers for the Sanctuary
06-Jan	Epiphany	08-Jun	Pentecost
12-Jan	Out of the Cold	12-Oct	Thanksgiving
05-Mar	Ash Wednesday	26-Oct	Reformation
13-Apr	Palm Sunday	02-Nov	Out of the Cold
18-Apr	Good Friday	09-Nov	Building Improvements
20-Apr	Easter Sunday	24-Dec	Christmas Eve
27-Apr	Building Improvements	25-Dec	Christmas Day

Your consideration, and contributions are sincerely appreciated.
The white generic envelopes in the pew boxes may be used for your donations.
Please add your recording number to any envelope you chose to use
Thank you for your thoughtful generosity.

Space for your notes on today's service, for your personal reflection.

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](#)



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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

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