

Worship Notes

When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

In our prayers Frank, Susan, Dolly, Judy and Bernice.

General Announcements

Dear members and friends of St. Matthews,

Due to the pandemic, all services, gatherings and meals at the church are cancelled. The office is closed to the public and the building locked 24/7. Even though the government of Ontario has allowed for churches to re-open on June 12th, the St. Matthews Board has determined it is still not safe to do so, and thus the church building will remain closed until late September at the earliest. A task force will be working to establish guidelines for us to reopen safely.

Our focus has shifted towards meetings online and via phone. Above all, we pray for each other and trust in God, whose mercy endures forever.

You can follow updates on our Friday email blast, website, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, by listening to the Golden Hour on FaithFM or by contacting us or Leanne (see last page).

All God's blessings! Pastors Sebastian and Carey

Re-opening Survey: Please fill out the Re-opening Task Force survey by August 31. It was either emailed or mailed to you last week.

Community Garden at St. Matthews: Our garden is producing an abundance of wonderful vegetables and a couple of flowers in a small space! Right now we have tomatoes beginning to ripen. Soon there will also be cucumbers and cabbages. There is always kale and rhubarb!! We need volunteers to harvest and distribute the bounty. If you wish to volunteer or be a recipient of the produce (for yourself or someone you know in need) contact Karen Farrell at m.k.farrell@hotmail.com or learning@st.mattskw.com.

Pastors Carey and Sebastian will be away on their final 2020 holiday week from Aug. 31- September 7th. During this time, Pastor Claudine Carlson will be available for emergency pastoral care. She can be reached at 519-501-3759. She will also be preaching and leading worship next Sunday. Deacon Scott will return from holidays tomorrow. Leanne will be away September 4.

Refugee support good news! The Refugee Committee has received news that Tsgereda and her son Raei are cleared to depart from Sudan to arrive in Canada! Along with our partners at CLWR and St. Paul's Bridgeport we are excited that these 3 years of waiting are coming to an end, and Tsgereda will soon be in safety and reunited with her extended family in KW. Tsgereda and her son is the first family that we are supporting through direct financial support (other families we have supported with funds held in trust).

While her departure date is not yet set, we anticipate her arriving in a matter of weeks. Many thanks to all of you who supported our refugee fund through donations of time, money and furnishings. At this point, we do not need any help or donations (except for a smartphone in good working condition: contact Pastor Sebastian or the office), but we will let you know if any other needs arise.

Due to COVID-19 she will need to self-quarantine for 14 days after her arrival, which will complicate matters a little, but we are working on some temporary arrangements before she is cleared from quarantine. Many thanks to Kim, Steve, David and others for their active work on Tsgereda's case.

St. Matthews (Kitchener) Lutheran Church
"Sharing God's love as a caring faith community"

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