

## Worship Notes

**Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables** in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

**In our prayers** Ruth-Marie, Frank, Susan, Dolly, Judy and Bernice.

**The Golden Hour Broadcast** of the service this morning has been sponsored to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Elfrieda (September 24, 1971), Carl (April 1, 1975), and Donald (March 6, 2019) Hachborn, by Sandra, Amy and Mateo.

**The Guide to Worship** is sponsored In memory of Clarence Bluhm who passed away September 26, 2003 and uncle Charles Bluhm, September 6, 2003, by Barbara Bluhm, Kim and Mark Schneider.

## 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 October. A task force has been 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 Communication:** A letter will be sent out in the next few weeks with an update on the re-opening date and what to expect when you come to church. Stay tuned!

**Devotional Booklets:** The devotional booklets for October, November and December have arrived. If you help to distribute multiple booklets to our homebound members or would like to pick up a copy outside of the church, there are two options: Monday, September 21st (10:30 am to noon) or Wednesday, September 23rd (10:30 am to noon). A table will be set up outside the office entrance. Marlene Cullen will be available to distribute a book to you while ensuring physical distancing. Please wear a face mask. We thank Marlene Cullen for taking on this important ministry project and we thank Judy Hummel for overseeing distribution of devotionals for many years.

**Bible Book Club:** Are you interested in joining a Bible Book Club? Through the Living Our Faith initiative of the National Church, a different book of the bible will be the focus each month. The first book is Genesis. As you read be guided by questions such as: Which story did you like best/least? Why? What is your favourite quote? What does it mean for your faith? This is a good opportunity for people of all ages to learn and grow together. If you would like to participate or have questions, speak directly to Pastors Carey or Sebastian.

**Pastoral Visitation Update:** During this time, in-home visits from pastors continue to be discouraged, and even in most seniors' residences and long-term care homes they are not allowed/ very difficult. If your loved one is in hospital, the only way for a pastor to visit is for them to be designated a "Care Partner" by the patient or their family (sometimes, only 2 Care Partners can be named). Thus, in-person visits

are best restricted to emergency or end-of-life events, with a preference for telephone or Zoom communication. During worship services, the pastors will not be greeting at the door or mingling, so if you want to talk to them, the best way is still to call or email them. Funeral services according to local health guidelines will continue to be planned.

**Refugee support good news, part 2!** The Refugee Committee has received news that Tsgereda and her son Raei are cleared to arrive in Canada on October 22nd! 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 ex-tended 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). 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, 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.

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!



Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, congregational meetings, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact [info@stmattskw.com](mailto:info@stmattskw.com) today!

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

54 Benton Street, Kitchener, ON, N2G 3H2

Main number: 519-742-0462

Alternate office number: 226-566- 6059

[www.stmattskw.com](http://www.stmattskw.com)

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer  
Pastor

Ext. 14  
[pastorcarey@stmattskw.com](mailto:pastorcarey@stmattskw.com)

Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer  
Pastor

Ext. 23  
[pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com](mailto:pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com)

Deacon Scott Knarr  
Diaconal Minister of Music

Ext. 15  
[deaconscoott@stmattskw.com](mailto:deaconscoott@stmattskw.com)

Leanne Vanderhout  
Administrative Co-ordinator

Ext. 10  
[lvanderhout@stmattskw.com](mailto:lvanderhout@stmattskw.com)



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