

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 17, 2023

Pentecost 16 / Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday, September 17, 2023

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude "Close Every Door" A. Lloyd Webber

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 641 "All Are Welcome"

*Greeting

*Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" p. 213

*Prayer of the Day

Children's Time - Blessing of the Backpacks

Anthem "Any Dream Will Do" A. Lloyd Webber

Word

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm Hymn 649 "Behold, How Pleasant"

*Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia!" p. 216

*Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-22

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 670 "Build Us Up, Lord"

*Prayers of Intercession **A: Your mercy is great**

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Canticle of Thanksgiving p. 219

*Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220

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

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 733

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Jesus Christ Superstar Medley”

A. Lloyd Webber

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In today’s second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus’ challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God’s boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Caroline Schmidt, Dylan Siebert, John Waterfield

Lector: Kim Schaner

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

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

Worship Notes

In our prayers Bev, Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen and John.

General Announcements

West Tower Door for Emergency Only. Due to the ongoing construction planning, when going in to the church house or washrooms, use the west stair tower door and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. The stairs in the west tower are closed to the lower level sanctuary and should only be used in case of an emergency to exit the building.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WELCOME BACK

Sunday

September 17, 2023

Worship 9:30 am

with Sunday School

Special fellowship time following
worship with food, games for children
and musical entertainment by Zach
Ulmer and friends.

54 Benton Street

Alpha Course coming to St. Matthews!

Sharing your faith can be scary... but Alpha creates a space where you can simply invite a friend to explore their questions over some food, a video talk, and small group discussion. The rest is up to God.

Who is this for? 60+ non-regular churchgoers (e.g. attend church 0-3 times a year), people interested in what Jesus and faith is about. But if you're an active member you can attend if you bring a friend!

When: Thursdays Oct. 5 to Dec 14, 2023, 12-2 pm, & Sun. Nov. 19, 12-2 pm at 560 Queen Street South, Kitchener

Plus a **Retreat** at Crieff Hills Centre in Puslinch: Sat. Nov. 18th 10 am - 4 pm
Lunch provided. No cost.

Register/ more information:

Talk to Pastor Sebastian or
pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com or 519-742-0462 x2

All members are asked to prayerfully consider who they might invite to join the Alpha Course this Fall!



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 Fellowship Hall! Use the door nearest to the piano, and follow the signs.

Fire Exits: All Sanctuary fire exits remain operational during lower-level demolition and renovations. This includes the three Narthex (Entrance) doors, the mid-tower door (half-way up the right side), and the staircase at the front left, piano side.

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.

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	deaconscoott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



Blessing OF THE PETS

Sunday, October 1st
1 pm

October 4th marks the
commemoration of St. Francis of
Assisi, lover of animals.

Join us outside on the
Church Street grass with your pet(s)
for a blessing of the animals.



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

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