

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

November 19, 2023

Pentecost 25
Sunday, November 19, 2023
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| Prelude | <i>"Dank sei Gott"</i> | A. Leupold |
| Words of Welcome & Service Announcements | | |
| *Hymn 632 | <i>"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"</i> | |
| Baptism of Clara Heil | | p. 227 |
| Baptismal Acclamation 210 | <i>"Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life"</i> | |
| *Baptismal Hymn 452 | <i>"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"</i> | |
| *Greeting | | |
| *Prayer of the Day | | |
| Anthem | <i>"Beautiful Saviour"</i> | D. Allen |

Word

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| First Reading | | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 |
| Psalms 90:1-8, 12 (see page 4) | | (sung responsively) |
| Second Reading | | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 |
| *Gospel Acclamation | <i>"Alleluia"</i> | p. 102 |
| *Gospel Reading | | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| Sermon | | |
| *Hymn of the Day 678 | <i>"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"</i> | |
| *Prayers of Intercession | | A: Your mercy is great. |
| *Peace | | |
| Music for Reflection | <i>"Adagio" from Sonata #3</i> | J.S. Bach |

Thanksgiving

| | | |
|--|--|--------|
| *Canticle of Thanksgiving | | p. 219 |
| *Thanksgiving for the Word | | |
| *Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>) | | p. 221 |

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 441

“Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Chorale Prelude on the Doxology”

J. Walther

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Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

Leading Worship Today

Minister & violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, John Waterfield.

Lector: Ivan George

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

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

Worship Notes

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



Baptism of Clara Louise Heil: Congratulations to John and Jaime, parents of Clara, who will be baptized today. Blessings to the family and godparents (Amanda and Kerry) as you support and encourage one another in this journey of faith. The communion of saints rejoices with you! The family of Calvin Brosowski (baptized Jan. 12, 2020, with parents Nicole and Darryl) will present the baptismal candle.

Service of Healing: On Sunday, Nov. 26th, we will be having a rite of healing and anointing (laying on of hands) again.

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.

General Announcements

The **2024 Offering Envelope Boxes** will be available for pickup starting Sunday, November 26, 2023, outside the church office.

The **Annual Budget Meeting** will be held on Sunday Nov. 26th in the Fellowship Hall following worship. All voting members please consider attending!

2024 Draft Budget Copies: Copies of the budget are available this Sunday and next Sunday in the Narthex. If anyone would like to receive a copy, please contact the office and Leanne can either email you a PDF version or mail a hard copy.

Our annual **Advent Carol Service** takes place on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 7 pm. The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by guest artist Lori Gemmell, harpist with the former Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, to present selections from Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols.

Lori Gemmell joined the former Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in 1999 and was principal harpist with the KWS when it ceased to operate in September 2023. She received her Master's degree from the University of Toronto where she studied with renowned Canadian harpist Judy Loman. Lori is much in demand as a soloist, chamber musician and recording artist and is a harp instructor with the Wilfrid Laurier University music faculty.

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.

Advent Carol Service

featuring

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

St. Matthews Sanctuary Choir
Lori Gemmell, harp

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 7 pm

Freewill Offering
stmattskw.com

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