

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 15, 2024

Pentecost 17 / Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday, September 15, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Seasons"</i>	Pachelbel arr. Fox & Newmark
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 555		<i>"Oh Sing to God Above"</i>
*Greeting		
*Canticle of Praise 664		<i>"Heaven Is Singing for Joy"</i>
*Prayer of the Day		
Blessing of the Students and Backpacks		
Anthem	<i>"Beautiful Saviour"</i>	W. Riegger

Word

First Reading		Nehemiah 8:9-10
Hymn 1037 (see page 4)		<i>"Christ Our Peace"</i>
Second Reading		2 Corinthians 4:16-18
*Gospel Acclamation		p. 216
*Gospel Reading		John 6:24-35
Homily		
*Hymn of the Day 753		<i>"Dona nobis pacem"</i>
*Apostles' Creed		p. 217
Payers of Intercession		A: Your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Thanksgiving

*Canticle of Thanksgiving 846		<i>"Amen We Praise Your Name"</i>
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*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord's Prayer (*Our Father, who art in heaven...*)

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 641

"All Are Welcome"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Prelude in Classic Style"

G. Young

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This Sunday we reflect upon God's welcome into the life of Christ. A welcome back to God is an invitation into God's renewal and joy made complete in us. From the believers heart flows rivers of living water. Summer holidays have come to an end as school and other activities gear up for another circle, we gather as one.

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.

Christ, Our Peace

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Christ, Our Peace'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system of music is for the lyrics 'Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;'. The second system is for 'Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: CHRIST, OUR PEACE, Marty Haugen

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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

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

Percussion: Peter Winkler

Lector: Kim Schaner

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

Worship Notes

In our prayers Glennis Koenig, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Grace, Maureen and John.

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

Special Congregational Bylaw Meetings: On Sundays September 22 and October 27 following the worship service, we will be having special congregational meetings to approve the revised Articles of Amendment and Bylaws 1 and 2, to comply with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. All voting members are encouraged to attend!

Bishop's Ordination: The Rev. Carla Blakley will be ordained as our next Synodical Bishop on Saturday, September 28th at 2 p.m. here at St. Matthews. Come early to get a good seat!

2024 Congregational Photo Directory: The Photo Directory is available for pickup! Please talk to the pastor after worship service to get your copy. All households who

had their picture taken in the Spring or who submitted a photo can have one copy. Those members who didn't, can request one based on availability. You can also contact Leanne at the office to organize a pickup.

Fall 2024 Alpha Course at 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.

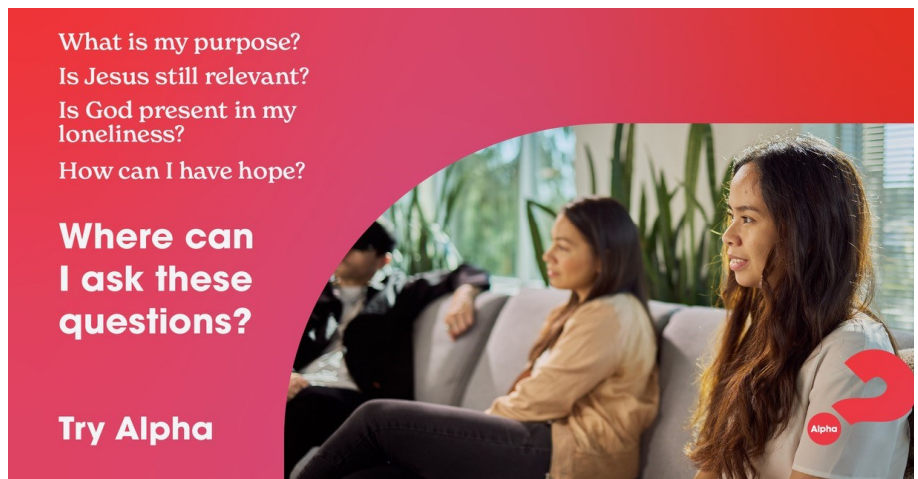
Who is this for? people interested in what Jesus and faith is about.

When: On Wednesdays 6-8 p.m., starting September 18th on Sweetbriar Drive, Kitchener. Meal provided. No cost.

Register/ more information: pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com or 519-742-0462 x2
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK_Xb3Wg

Schedule:

- 6: Arrive
- 6.15: Meal is served
- 6.45: Alpha Talk (film is presented)
- 7.15: Discussion and Dessert
- 8: Leave



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

Proposed New Bylaws Congregational Meeting on September 22

For over two years, the Bylaw task force has been preparing for the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) which comes into effect on October 18, 2024. In consultation with the 2023 Eastern Synod Model Constitution and Synod Secretary Grahlman, the task force has proposed new Articles of Amendment (which amend the Letters of Patent) as well as an updated Bylaw No 1 and No. 2. Upon recommendation of the Board, these will be presented to the congregation at a special first meeting on Sunday September 22 following the worship service (a second meeting for ratification would follow on October 27, as per our current bylaws).

Many changes were required by ONCA, many more proposed by Synod, and dozens of smaller changes were made, so instead of presenting each change individually, the bylaws will be presented in their entirety as updated documents for approval. At the September meeting, amendments to the updated documents can be proposed from the membership.

A two-page summary document of major changes will be distributed to the congregation, along with the current and proposed bylaws, starting September 1st. We invite any questions or concerns to be directed before the meeting to John Heil, Kim Schaner or Pastor Sebastian.

The most important changes are as follows:

1. A reduction of the required number of Board members from 19 to a range of 3 to 10, with a suggestion of 7 to 10.
2. A clarification that there are (only) two distinct classes of members: voting and non-voting
3. The removal of the right to vote by proxy (as it is no longer required by ONCA)
4. Written notice (mail/email) to all voting members of all congregational meetings will be required, replacing the requirement for an advertisement in the Waterloo Record.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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