



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 1, 2024

Pentecost 15/ Seven Sacred Teachings: Honesty (Raven)

Sunday, September 1, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude *"Trumpet Tune on Mit Freuden zart"* M. Helman

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)

*Hymn 557 *"Awake, My Soul, and With The Sun"*

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

*Song (see page 5) *"Seven Sacred Teachings"*

Duet *"On Eagle's Wings with When Peace Like a River"* J. Wilson

Word

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15 (see page 6)

Second Reading James 1:17-27

*Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia!"* p. 205

*Gospel Reading Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day (see page 7) *"The Call is Clear and Simple"*

*Prayers of the People (see page 9)

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving 837 *"Many and Great, O God"*

*Thanksgiving for the Word

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 879

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Trumpet Tune on Lobe den Herren"

W. Webber

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Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be ...

Gracious God,

A.: have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Violins: Lana Moses, Simon Thompson

Lector: John Heil

Broadcast: Gary Pootz

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

Seven Sacred Teachings



Cre - a - tor gives us sa - cred_ teach - ings:



1. Wis - dom a - lights from the east to keep us whole.
2. Love warms us all from the south to keep us whole.
3. Re - spect shines forth from the west to keep us whole.
4. Bra - ve - ry blows from the north to keep us whole.
5. Ho - ne - sty falls from a - bove to keep us whole.
6. Hu - mi - li - ty, from be - low to keep us whole.
7. Truth guides us all from with - in to keep us whole.

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

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your ^l tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your ^l holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do ^l what is right,
who speak the truth ^l from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ^l to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ^l on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ^l fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ^l back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ^l gainst the
innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be ^l overthrown.

The Call Is Clear and Simple

Capo 1

D Eb Bm Cm G Ab A Bb D/F# Eb/G A7 Bb7

1 The call is clear and sim - ple: "Love God and hu - man -
 2 God, help us sort our mo - tives, that lov - ing may be
 3 God, teach us strength and wis - dom when false love takes the
 4 O wise and ho - ly Lov - er, teach us, as sea - sons

D Eb Bm Cm G Ab A Bb

kind;" but love de - mands much wis - dom and
 whole. High aims or base am - bi - tion? Com -
 lead. Too well we learn sub - mis - sion and
 turn, to know our - selves and oth - ers— deep,

D/F# Eb/G Em Fm A7 Bb7 D Eb Bm Cm

clar - i - ty of mind. "Be wi - ly as a
 pas - sion or con - trol? Then help us clear our
 si - lence our own need. When oth - ers would mis -
 hon - est love to learn. So may we nur - ture

E F A Bb G Ab Em Fm A Bb

ser - pent, though gen - tle as a dove," for
 sched - ules of ev - ery fran - tic task that
 use us or lure us toward the wrong, God,
 liv - ing in all we say and do, in

D Bm G A D Em A7 D Eb Cm Ab Bb7 Eb

man - y are the dan - gers up - on the path of love.
 leads a - way from do - ing the one thing that you ask.
 tem - per love with cour - age to keep our bound - aries strong.
 strong and gen - tle giv - ing to hu - man - kind and you.

Prayers of the People

Revealing God, help us to create safe spaces where we can all feel comfortable to be open and honest with ourselves and one another.

God of acceptance,

Teach us to be honest like the raven.

Revealing God, help us to not speak lies about ourselves in the name of comparison or self-deprecation, but to see the gifts you have blessed each one of us with and to live into them for you and for others.

God of acceptance,

Teach us to be honest like the Kitchi-Sabe.

Revealing God, help us to be honest in times of trial or wrongdoing and to trust in our communities to hold us in our needs and weaknesses and walk with us in whatever journey we may be on.

God of integrity,

Teach us to be honest like the raven.

Revealing God, help us to not shy away from our limitations but to embrace the power that can be found in coming together to achieve goals outside of our individual capacities.

God of acceptance,

Teach us to be honest like the Kitchi-Sabe.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known in Jesus of Nazareth, who walked the way of honesty no matter its consequence. Grant us grace that we might be true to you and to ourselves. Show us your way so that we might bear witness to your Reign of

love. Bless us with peace in knowing that in you we are whole and at one with all creation, in Jesus our cornerstone and strong rock.

Amen

All Resources from the Eastern Synod Circle for Reconciliation and Justice <https://easternsynod.org/circle-for-reconciliation-and-justice/>

About the Seven Sacred Teachings

We seek to walk in a good way with our Indigenous neighbours. One thing we can do as faith communities is learn about Indigenous spiritual practices and honour them. Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action # 60 asks us to do this work, individually and together.

“The teachings in Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) cultures have been traditionally passed down from generation to generation orally through stories and ceremonies. Historically, this was done by the elders who carry the stories and traditions. Today the oral traditions are being shared by those who carry the knowledge of such things. The teachings of all Indigenous cultures encompass the morals, values, structures, ceremonial practices, and spiritual beliefs of the group. These teachings also ensured the survival of the people. The teachings vary from nation to nation, because of the geographical placement of each particular group. However, the sacred teachings commonly come from the same root and share a similar message.”

Of all the North American Indigenous teachings, the Seven Sacred Teachings, also known as Seven Grandfather or Seven Grandmother Teachings, are the most commonly shared from coast to coast. Many Indigenous organizations and communities have adopted the seven guiding principles, in one form or another, as a moral stepping stone and cultural foundation. Each community has adapted the teachings to suit their community values. Despite where the teachings may have originated, they share the

same concepts of abiding by a moral respect for all living things.



About the Fourth Teaching: Honesty (Raven or Sabe)

Honesty is represented by either the raven or the sabe. They both understand who they are and how to walk in their life. “Sabe reminds us to be ourselves and not someone we are not. An honest person is said to walk tall like Kitchi-Sabe... Like Kitchi-Sabe, Raven accepts himself and knows how to use his gift. He does not seek the power, speed or beauty of others. He uses what he has been given to survive and thrive. So must you.”

The Seven Sacred Teachings of White Buffalo Calf Woman, by David Bouchard & Dr. Joseph Martin.

To walk through life with integrity is to know honesty.

Be honest with yourself.

Recognize and accept who you are.

Accept and use the gifts you have been given.

Do not seek to deceive yourself or others.

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Worship Notes

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

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!

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!

What is my purpose?
Is Jesus still relevant?
Is God present in my
loneliness?
How can I have hope?

Where can
I ask these
questions?

Try Alpha



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.

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 Grahman, 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.

Parking lot closed Sunday September 15

Due to our BBQ and UNA Church's BBQ and carwash following, our Benton Street lot will be closed on Sunday morning the 15th. More information on parking can be found on our website <https://stmattskw.com/contact/location-accessibility-and-parking/> or by contacting the office.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to offer a shuttle service to and from the parking garage that day. Please contact the office, the pastors or Kim Schaner if you'd like to help.

Thank you for your understanding.

Contact Information

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