

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 8, 2024

Pentecost 16

Sunday, September 8, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude "Sonata in E: Allegro" D. Scarlatti

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 519 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Solo "Sonata Op.1 No. 2: Adagio; Allegro assai" G. Tartini

Word

*Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia!" p. 205

*Gospel Reading Mark 7:24-37

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 725 "When the Poor Ones"

Healing

Introduction

Prayers of Intercession A: hear us, O God.

Laying on of Hands

Hymns during Laying on of Hands 219, 613

*Blessing

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 691 "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving	p. 206
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 207
*Thanksgiving at the Table V	
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>)	p. 208
Lamb of God	p. 208
Communion Hymn 496	<i>"One Bread, One Body"</i>
Table Blessing	
Prayer after Communion	
Sending	
General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 726	<i>"Light Dawns on a Weary World"</i>
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Psalm 19"</i> B. Marcello

Cover image and liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079

Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnerreit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Servers: Grace Schuster

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Don Robins (519-502-2099)

Worship Notes

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

Rite of Healing/ Anointing/ Laying on of Hands

During today's worship service, an option will be offered for the congregation to participate in a rite of healing and anointing.

"The order for healing is an expression in worship of the church's ministry of healing. Here all who would sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may join in prayer for others and themselves. Here each person may come to receive a word of blessing and prayer. Here each one may also receive a physical gesture of healing; the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given to us in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world." –excerpt from Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 276.

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.

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

Fellowship Time resumes today after worship. We hope to see you in the Community Hall!

Parking Lot OPEN Sunday, September 15: After further discussion and discernment, the decision has been made to keep the parking lot OPEN for worship and the BBQ. The carwash will start around 12:30 pm or 1 pm and you are welcome to join. We look forward to seeing you at Welcome Back Sunday!

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!

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.

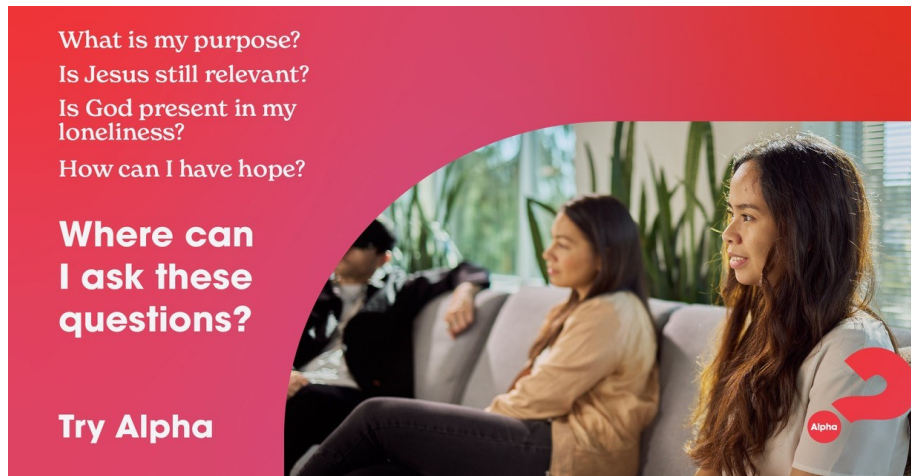
When: On Wednesdays 6-8 p.m., starting September 18th on Sweetbriar Drive, Kitchener. Meal provided. No cost.

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!

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.

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

54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER
N2G 3H2
519.742.0462

stmattskw.com
info@stmattskw.com