

# HOLY CROSS

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

**St. Matthews Church**

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 14, 2025

**Holy Cross Day**  
**Sunday, September 14, 2025**  
*(\* indicates the assembly stands)*

**Gathering**

Prelude	<i>"I Love to Tell the Story"</i>	G. Young
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 660		<i>"Lift High the Cross"</i>
*Greeting		
*This is the Feast		p. 149
*Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>"Precious Jesus"</i>	J. Althouse

**Word**

First Reading		Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalms 98:1-4 (see page 4)		<i>(spoken responsively by whole verse)</i>
Second Reading		1 Corinthians 1:18-24
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia"</i>	p. 151
*Gospel Reading		John 3:13-17
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 641		<i>"All Are Welcome"</i>
*Prayers of Intercession		<b>A: hear our prayer</b>
*Peace		

**Meal**

*Offering Hymn 184		<i>"Let the Vineyards"</i>
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 152

*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 153
*Thanksgiving at the Table V		
*Lord's Prayer ( <i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i> )		p. 154
Lamb of God		p. 154
Communion Hymn 469	<i>"By Your Hand You Feed Your People"</i>	
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		
<b>Sending</b>		
General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Sending Hymn 545	<i>"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"</i>	
*Dismissal		
Postlude	<i>"The Solid Rock"</i>	D. Hustad

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**This festival, which originated in the fourth century,** celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

**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.

## Psalm 98:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing.

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### Leading Worship Today

**Minister:** Pastor Carey Meadows-Helmer

**Assisting Minister:** Linda McLellan

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Cross Bearer:** Paul Gross

**Communion Server:** Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

**Choral Scholar:** Drew Aarssen

**Broadcast:** Jamie Foley

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

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# Worship Notes

**In our prayers** Kevin, Betty, Anneke, Judy, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen and John.

## 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.
- **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

**St. Matthews Choir:** As our September routines begin once again you are encouraged to consider supporting our music ministry by joining the choir. Choir practice begins on Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 pm. We'd love to have you sing with us!

**Congregational Workshop October 5:** Please mark your calendars for the next workshop happening after service on Sunday, October 5th. We will be discussing the results of the September survey, and fine-tuning our congregation's "pillars, and principles" as well as determining who the participants need to be to determine our congregation's goals and priorities. Free lunch will be served! Many thanks to those who participated in the Spring workshops and we hope you will continue attending. If you missed the Spring sessions, please still consider attending this one, as your input into the strategic direction of our congregation is very important!

**Parking Notice:** Please be advised that signed/numbered parking spots (along the railing of the parking lot) are not available for church member use on weekdays. These

spaces are reserved for paid parker's weekday usage. However, you are welcome to use the parking spots in the evenings and all day on Sundays. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to ensure that our parking is used efficiently throughout the week.

### **Upcoming Events at St. Matthews**

**Sunday September 21:** Kids Sunday School

**Sunday, September 28:** Orange Shirt Sunday

**Sunday, October 5:** Congregational Workshop: Principles & Participants

**Sunday, October 5:** Full House Brass Concert at 3 pm

**Wednesday, October 15:** Oktoberfest Social (11 am - 2 pm)

**Sunday, October 19:** Foundation Sunday

**Sunday, October 26:** Congregational Workshop: Priorities

**Sunday, November 2:** All Saints Sunday

**Sunday, November 30:** Advent Carol Service at 7 pm

**Wednesday, December 3:** Christmas Social (11 am - 2 pm)



**Church Breakfast Group:** Join us on **Tuesday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m.** at **Kypreos Restaurant**, 305 Lancaster St. W., Kitchener. Attendees will order from the menu and pay for their own meals. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the great food, conversation and learning! Our speaker will be **John Neufeld**, executive director of **House of Friendship**. Looking ahead, our October speaker will be Susan Kadwell from Canadian Food for Children.

**Contact Information**

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The **St. Matthews Centre**, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Scroll down to “Upcoming Events” at <https://www.stmatthewscentre.ca>

The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can “follow” to get updates.





# **St. Matthews Lutheran Church**

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