

Advent 1
Elizabeth and Zechariah
Said Yes!

THE POWER OF
YES

November 30, 2025

Advent 1:
“Elizabeth and Zechariah said Yes!”
Sunday, November 30, 2025
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”</i>	J.S. Bach
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 5)		
*Hymn 250	<i>“Blessed be the God of Israel”</i>	
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
*Hymn 240 v. 1	<i>“Light One Candle”</i>	
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 184
Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>“Assaggio II in G minor: Commodo, Bourée”</i>	J.H. Roman

Word

Reading		Malachi 3:1-4
Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13 (see page 6)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Alleluia”</i>	p. 188
*Gospel Reading		Luke 1:5-25, 57-80
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 266		<i>“All Earth is Hopeful”</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession		A: hear our prayer.
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 254	<i>"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 190
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 190
*Thanksgiving at the Table III		p. 132
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 191
Communion Hymn 715	<i>"Christ, Be Our Light"</i>	
Table Blessing		
Prayer after Communion		

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing		
* Hymn 244	<i>"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"</i>	
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.	
Postlude	<i>"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"</i>	A.W. Leupold

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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.

The Power of Yes

In this liminal time, there are so many reasons to not say yes.

Even the small yeses in our daily lives feel riskier somehow. Decisions about where we put our money, our time, our energy, our confidence, and our faith feel more important than ever during these volatile times. We come from a history of people who said yes. Throughout the story of the people of God, brave and faithful, everyday people said yes to God. In Advent, these yeses are even more significant.

What does it take to get to yes? Why does it matter? Why does it matter that we believe this? This is a story that we tell, that isn't just on a page or in ancient tales, but one that lives in our bones, and calls to us to say our own yes when we are called into what God is doing now.

Today, we focus on the story of how Elizabeth and Zechariah said "Yes!"

Elizabeth and Zechariah show the range of responses to the surprising news of God's in-breaking. Some yeses, like Elizabeth's, are immediate. Others like Zechariah's, are more gradual and unfold through silence, reflection, and struggle. Both, in their own way, nevertheless, are part of God's unfolding work.

Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Bob Loeb sack

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Lynda Karn

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Bob Karn (519-577-3060)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be ...
Long-expected God,

A: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

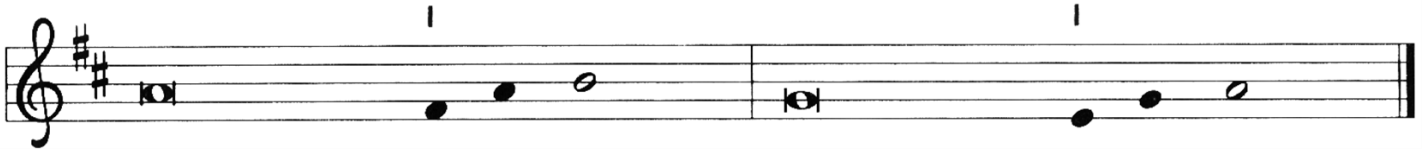


Christmas Worship at St. Matthews

Christmas Eve (German) December 24th at 5:00 pm	Christmas Eve (English) December 24th at 7:30 pm
Christmas Day December 25th at 9:30 am	New Year's Eve December 31st at 4:30 pm

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Tone 1



¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Marjorie, 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

Annual Budget Meeting following the service on Sunday, December 7. Printed budgets as well as large-print versions will be available on November 23rd. All voting members are encouraged to attend this important meeting to discuss the 2026 budget and a motion regarding the Property Sale Tithe.



Calling All Bakers! Your St. Matthews Women of Faith Group is hosting this evening's Advent Carol Service Reception. While most of the preparations are complete, there still remains a need for baked goods and sweets (cookies, squares, etc.). Any members of the congregation who would like to contribute any such items are asked to either bring them down to the Community Hall before or after the Sunday morning service on November 30th, or to drop them off at the Hall before the beginning of the Carol Service, which starts at 7 pm. We would ask that

any contributions be nut-free, and if you could plate them, that would be a great help! Please feel free to reach out to Marjorie Kuschnerreit if you have any questions, and we thank you for any contributions you might be able to provide.

Lutheran food4Kids Ambassadors – Advent Food Drive - Nov 30 – Dec 21, 2025:

The Lutheran food4Kids Ambassadors are kicking off a food drive for Advent. Who are the Lutheran Ambassadors, you ask? St. Luke's Kitchener, St. Peter's Kitchener, St. Matthews Kitchener, Third Space, Waterloo, St. Stephen Kitchener, and St. Peter's Cambridge have joined forces to help support food4Kids Waterloo Region.

food4Kids Waterloo Region is working to address the childhood hunger crisis by providing healthy food packages to local children—but their work is about so much more than food. It's about hope. It's about letting kids know that their community cares, that they matter, and that they are not alone.

The mission of food4Kids is to provide nutritious, culturally sensitive, allergy-aware food packages to children ages 1–14 from households facing severe food insecurity. These packages are provided on weekends and during school breaks—times when children cannot rely on school nutrition programs. Deliveries are made to schools during the school year and directly to homes during breaks, ensuring families can receive support without stigma. For more information, please go to this link <https://food4kidswr.ca>

And we need your help! From November 30 to December 21, we are collecting food items listed on the attached posters. You'll also find some printed posters in the Narthex for you to pick up. If you'd prefer, you can also support the campaign by making a financial donation using the link provided.

Donations by Credit Card:

<https://give-can.keela.co/community-lutheran-churches-2025>

Donations by e-transfers: <mailto:giving@food4kidswr.ca> QR:



Our contributions will be combined with the five other Lutheran churches, and we will share the Grand Total at the end of the campaign.

Together, we can help ensure that no child in our community goes hungry.

Thank you for giving generously—and for spreading hope from the food4Kids.

Advent Carol Service

Mary's Song



featuring **Magnificat** H.79 by Marc-Antoine Charpentier
with Caroline Schmidt, mezzo-soprano; Drew Aarssen, bass
Allene Chomyn and Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, baroque violins

Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 7 pm
Freewill Offering

St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 54 Benton Street, Kitchener

stmattskw.com

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

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Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 2	pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com
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Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



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Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Sunday, November 30: Advent Carol Service (7 pm)

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

Sunday, December 7: Annual Budget Meeting following service.

Sunday, December 14: Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 21: Christmas Cabaret & Carol Sing (3 pm)

Wednesday, December 24: German Language Christmas Eve Service (5 pm)

Wednesday, December 24: English Language Christmas Eve Service (7:30 pm)

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Service (9:30 am)

Wednesday, December 31: New Year's Eve Service (4:30 pm)



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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