

A wooden manger, likely a nativity scene prop, is filled with golden straw. A white cloth is draped over the straw. The manger is made of dark wood and has a simple, rustic design. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a soft, out-of-focus light effect, suggesting a warm, festive atmosphere.

Christmas Eve

joy

TO THE WORLD

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Prelude (Carol Sing)

| | | |
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| Choir | <i>"Es ist ein Ros entsprungen"</i> | M. Praetorius |
| Hymn 270 | | <i>"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"</i> |
| Hymn 284 | | <i>"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"</i> |
| Hymn 269 | | <i>"Once in Royal David's City"</i> |
| Hymn 300 | | <i>"The First Noel"</i> |

Gathering

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| *Processional Hymn 283 | | <i>"O Come, All Ye Faithful"</i> |
| *Christmas Dialogue (see page 4) | | |
| *Opening Prayer | | |
| Anthem | <i>"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"</i> | arr. P. Kadidlo |

Children's Story

Word

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| First Reading | | Isaiah 9:2-7 |
| Hymn 279 | | <i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i> |
| Second Reading | | Luke 2:1-7 |
| Hymn 277 | | <i>"Away in a Manger"</i> |
| Third Reading | | Luke 2:8-20 |
| Homily | | |
| *Hymn 289 | | <i>"Angels We Have Heard on High"</i> |
| *The Prayers (see page 4) | | |

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|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Offering Music | <i>"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"</i> | arr. B. Kinyon |
| *Offering Hymn 296 vs. 1, 3 | | <i>"What Child is This"</i> |
| *Offering Prayer | | |
| Sending | | |
| <i>(Handheld candles are lit during the anthem.)</i> | | |
| Anthem | <i>"Wexford Carol"</i> | arr. J. Rutter |
| *The Gospel of the Incarnation | | John 1:1-14 |
| *Hymn of Light 281 | | <i>"Silent Night"</i> |
| *Lord's Prayer | | |
| *Blessing | | |
| <i>(Handheld candles are extinguished.)</i> | | |
| *Recessional Hymn 267 | | <i>"Joy to the World"</i> |
| Postlude | <i>"I Saw Three Ships"</i> | S. Elery Rogers |

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On Christmas Eve, our attention turns to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks at night. The shepherds' "yes" is unhesitating: "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." They leave their flocks and hurry to find Mary, Joseph, and the child. They may not fully understand what they will find, but they act in trust and obedience. What the Gospel does emphasize is that the first to say "yes" to God's Good News were not kings, priests, or scribes, but shepherds.

Dialogue

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

A: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

A: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

L: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

A: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

L: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

A: And also with you.

The Prayers

L: Glory to God in the highest,

A: and peace to God's people on earth.

L: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

A: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

L: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counsellor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

A: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

L: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

A: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

A: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

A: Reveal yourself to us so that we may bear your light to all the world.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choir Director: Corey Linforth

Soloist: Dylan Siebert

Sanctuary Choir: Drew Aarssen, Julia Crnko, Nicole Hamilton, Lana Moses, Bev Roeder, Erika Sattler, Jim Sattler, Tim Schaner, Caroline Schmidt, Dylan Siebert, Hannah Swiderski

Celebration Bells: Julia Crnko, Jamie Cross, Mikala Hunt, Gwenanne Jorgenson, Kim Schaner, Christine Klaver-Schmidt, Linda McLellan, Sam Schmidt, Simon Thompson, Mary-Ellen Winkler

Flute: Julia Crnko

Percussion: Peter Winkler

Lectors: Deacon Sherry Coman, Ivan George, James Meadows-Helmer, Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Candle Lighters: Izzy Kanaris, Gabrielle Meadows-Helmer

Cross Bearer: Jullian Henry

Torch Bearers: Cailin and Jaime Moses

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Worship Notes

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

Information for this evening's worship

- **Offering:** Will be collected today during the Offering Music.
- **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

Please have your 2025 donations to the office before 11:00 am on December 31, 2025. If you need to be reimbursed for expenses, please submit receipts by December 31, 2025.

Join us for a Christmas Ice Skating Party on Friday, January 2nd from 2- 3 pm at Aactiva Sportsplex located at 135 Lennox Lewis Way. Come to skate or socialize.

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

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

Friday, January 2: Ice Skating Party, January 2, 2-3 pm, Aactiva Sportplex

Wednesday, January 7: Noontime Oasis Resumes

Sunday, January 18: Special Congregational Meeting

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.

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

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| Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer | Ext. 3 | pastorcarey@stmattskw.com |
| Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer | Ext. 2 | pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com |
| Deacon Scott Knarr | Ext. 4 | deaconscoott@stmattskw.com |
| Leanne Vanderhout | Ext. 6 | lvanderhout@stmattskw.com |



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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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