

LENT 2026

UNBOUND
Longing for Wholeness

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Diaconal Ministry Sunday/ First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 22, 2026

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude *"Adagio from Pastorale"* J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)

*Hymn 334 v. 1, 2, 3, Lent 1 *"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"*

*Greeting

*Kyrie p. 184

*Prayer of the Day

Anthem *"Kyrie & Agnus Dei"* S. Martin

Word

First Reading Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1-7

Lenten Theme Song (see page 5) *"We Belong to Each Other"*

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

*Gospel Acclamation *"Let your steadfast love"* p. 189

*Gospel Reading Luke 10:38-42

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 419 v. 1, 7, Last *"For All the Faithful Women"*

*Apostles' Creed p. 127

Prayers of Intercession **A: Your mercy is great.**

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 188 *"Create in me a Clean Heart"*

*Offering Prayer	
*Great Thanksgiving	p. 190
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 190
*Thanksgiving at the Table IV	p. 133
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)	p. 191
Lamb of God	p. 191
Communion Hymns 336, 808	
Table Blessing	
Prayer after Communion	
Sending	
General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Sending Hymn 326	<i>"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"</i>
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Little Prelude and Fugue in D minor"</i> Attr. to J.S. Bach

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In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

The last Sunday of February is Diaconal Ministry Sunday, the day the ELCIC celebrates the witness expressed through service (diakonia). Through our baptism all Christians are called to share God's word and to serve our neighbours in Christ's name. It is also a day to recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve in official calls as deacons in our church.

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**A: We confess to you, most loving God,
the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

We have knowingly believed dishonest words.

We have questioned your gracious power again and again.

We have given into temptation.

We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.

In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.

Gather us back to you.

Forgive us, free us, and make us whole

for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Friends, beloved of God,

Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame,

lead you by the Spirit,

and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

A: Amen

We Belong to Each Other

Refrain



We be - long, we be - long, we be - long to each - oth - er.



I am strong, you are strong; we are strong - er to - geth - er.

Verses



Each of us has gifts to share, there is plen - ty to
If we hold our gifts too tight, some - one else will be
Near or far, I'm on your side; we are part of God's



go a - round. When we're lone - ly, lost, and scared,
left be - hind. Give, for - give, and shine your light;
fam - il - y. I am yours and you are mine,



God makes sure we are found. *to Refrain*
take the time to be kind.
tied to - geth - er yet free.

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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Guest Preacher and Assisting Minister: Deacon Sherry Coman

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Jeanette Harrop

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Caroline Schmidt, Dylan Siebert, Drew Aarssen

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

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

Neurodiversity Awareness Sunday: On April 19th, we'll celebrate Neurodiversity during worship! If you're interested in participating or learning more about this Sunday, please contact Pastor Sebastian by March 1st.

Spiritual Retreat Day: Saturday, March 14, 10 am - 4 pm.

Enjoy a day at the Crieff Hills Retreat Centre in Puslinch, and

-unwind

-connect with yourself and God

-learn or revisit spiritual practices like meditation and labyrinth

-pray and sing

-enjoy good food (lunch, snacks and beverages) and fellowship

Limit: 8 people

Cost: \$30 or pay-what-you-can

Deadline to register with Pastor Sebastian: Friday, February 27

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Sunday, February 22: CALL 30: Dismantling the Prison Pipeline at 11:30 am

Wednesday, February 25: St. Matthews Presents: Organ Recital (noon) and Soup (12:30).

Wednesday, February 25: Lenten Midweek service at St. Luke's Kitchener (Pastor Sebastian preaching) at 7 pm

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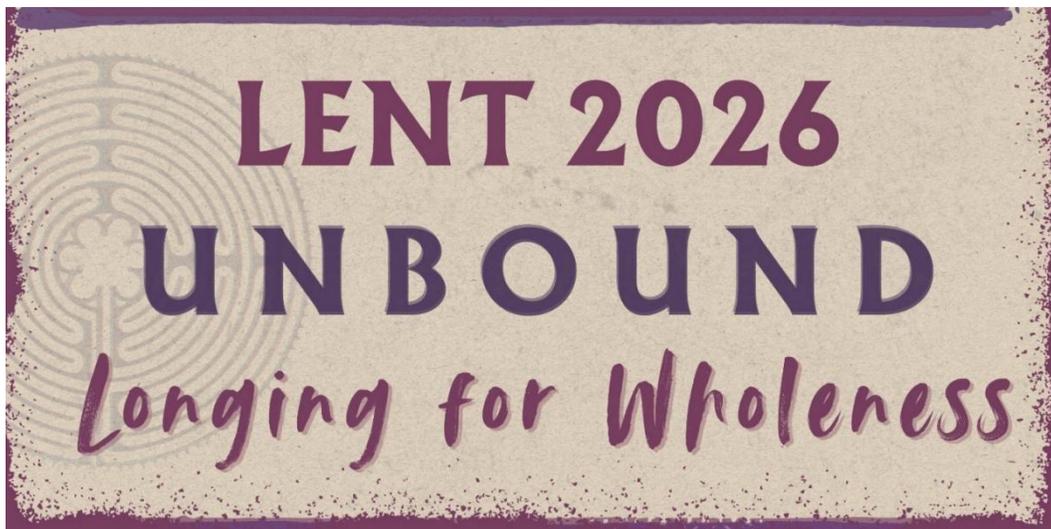
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The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Scroll down to “Upcoming Events” at www.stmatthewscentre.ca.

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





ST. MATTHEWS

presents



Organ Recitals and Soup

begins on

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 12 noon

Music at 12; Soup at 12:30pm

recitals every other Wednesday

Freewill Offering

February 25

Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, baroque violin

Pauline Finch, baroque flute

Scott Knarr, harpsichord & organ

March 11

Corey Linforth, vocalist

Peter Nikiforuk, organ & piano

March 25

Bruce Gremo, flute

Corinne Dutton, organ

April 8

Sherry Coman, spoken word

Scott Knarr, organ

April 22

Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, Lana Moses, violins

Scott Knarr, organ

2026 MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS



St. Luke's Lutheran

Worship 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

Presider: Rev. H. Toeller

Preacher: Rev. S. Meadows-Helmer

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, 317 FRANKLIN ST. N, KITCHENER

FEB
25



St. Matthews Lutheran

Worship 7:00 pm

*Holden Prayers Around the Cross:
For the Healing of the Nations*

Presider: Rev. C. Meadows-Helmer

Preacher: Rev. Mario Hryniewicz

ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, 54 BENTON ST. KITCHENER

MAR
11



St. Peter's Lutheran

Worship 7:00 pm

Compline

Presider: Rev. M. Ehlebracht

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 49 QUEEN ST N. KITCHENER

MAR
25



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT



Holy Week 2026

PALM SUNDAY

March 29 at 9:30 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 at 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 at 9:30 am

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5 at 9:30 am

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St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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