

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

June 21, 2026

Indigenous Peoples Day / Father's Day

Sunday, June 21, 2026

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude: Hymn Sing

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

*Call to Worship (see page 4)

*Hymn 636

"How Small Our Span of Life"

*Greeting

*Kyrie

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*Prayer of the Day

Solo

"About Strange Lands and People"

R. Schumann

Word

First Reading

Genesis 2:4b-10, 18-24

Psalms 24:1-6 (see page 4)

(read responsively by full verse)

Second Reading

Acts 4:32-35

*Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"

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*Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:25-33

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 736

"God, the Sculptor of the Mountains"

*Prayers of Intercession

A: Now our minds are one.

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Canticle of Thanksgiving

p. 219

*Thanksgiving for the Word and Creation

A: We bless you Creator.

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Sending Song (see page 5)

"God Bless Every Step"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Rondo"

K. Bissell

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Today marks the 30th anniversary for celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day across Canada. We hear in scripture that Creator formed us from the earth and that the early disciples held their goods in community so that those with little means could survive. We offer gratitude for the earth, creatures, trees and medicines that ensure our well-being. We strive to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us, and seek to honour the generations to come in our decision-making today.

The "Every Child Matters: The Tree of Life" design is a visual representation of community and protection, centred on two large hands that form the tree's trunk and roots. These hands provide a nurturing foundation for a nest of birds, symbolizing the sacred duty to cherish and protect life, while the three birds together represent the Holy Trinity. The theme of love is woven throughout the canopy, appearing both as a large central heart formed by the curving branches and as smaller heart-shaped leaves. Within the branches are seven feathers representing the Seven Sacred Teachings, and honouring the seven generations before us and those that will come after us. Fish-shaped leaves symbolize the interconnectedness of all life and the vital importance of water in sustaining creation. Anchored by the "EVERY CHILD MATTERS" banner, the design highlights a collective responsibility to support and nurture every individual within a values-based community.

Call to Worship

L: Listen to the flapping of the winged creatures, and the loud choruses of the small ones in every grass, leaf and branch. Listen, the birds are humming a tune!

A: Let the whole earth sing of God's realm!

L: Listen to the soft whispers of the pine-scented wind, to the music of the streams cascading into the river. Feel the joyous heartbeat of the earth!

A: Let the whole earth sing of God's justice!

L: Listen to the chanting of the elders, to the singing of young ones and youthful voices. Let the villages of the First Nations sing their praises!

A: Let the whole earth sing of God's glory!

L: Come, Great Spirit, and awaken the mountains. Rouse the forests from their slumber. May their shadows conceal us from our enemies. Sharpen the blades of our spears and sweeten our wine.

A: O Great Spirit, come and lead us on. Amen.

Carvalhaes: Liturgies from Below (Philippines)

Psalm 24:1-6

¹The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

²**For the LORD has founded it up- | on the seas
and established it up- | on the rivers.**

³Who may ascend the mountain | of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's | holy place?

⁴**Those of innocent hands and puri- | ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by | what is false.**

⁵They shall receive blessing | from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of | their salvation.

⁶**Such is the generation of those who seek | you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob.**

“God Bless Every Step”

Part 1 & 2: God bless every step. God bless the earth.

Part 3: God bless every step that I am taking, and bless the earth beneath my feet.

Words and music: Ruth Cunningham

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.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Preaching: Lana Moses and Deacon Scott Knarr

Thanksgiving for the Word and Creation: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Sonia Groh

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Steve Dickin (519-580-8407)

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Betty, Anneke, Meaghan, Maureen, Henry, Jeanette, and Kevin

General Announcements

Christian Unity Gathering Wednesday June 24th at 7pm. Join 5 other congregations worshipping in our building for a BBQ, fellowship and informal worship. Come meet our Christian neighbours at 54 Benton!

Volunteers Needed for Evening Security Checks: We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in helping with evening security checks at the church. This would only be on a part time basis when Larry is sick or on holidays. This role involves coming to the church, typically at 9:00 p.m. or later, to do a brief walk-through of the building. Duties include ensuring fire doors are closed, checking that windows are secure, turning off any lights that have been left on, and setting the alarm before leaving. If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer, please contact the Ron Roeder for more information. Thank you for considering this important ministry of care for our church building.

Contact Information

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Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Wednesday, June 24: Christian Unity Gathering at 7 pm

Friday, June 26: PD Day Camp 9am to Noon

July 6-10: Kids Summer Camp 9am to Noon

SUMMER CELEBRATION

JK to Grade 8

Email: camps@stmattskw.com

or

Register Online: www.stmattskw.com

PD Day Camp

FAITH STORY, MUSIC, SPORT, CRAFT

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26
9 AM - NOON**

COST: PAY WHAT YOU CAN

54 BENTON ST, KITCHENER



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 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 Lutheran Church

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