

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

July 19, 2026

Pentecost 8
Sunday, July 19, 2026
(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude: Hymn Sing

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 848 *"Give to Our God Immortal Praise"*

*Greeting p. 184

*Prayer of the Day

Solo *"Adagio in C"* W. A. Mozart

Word

First Reading Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Psalm 86:11-17 (see page 4) *(read responsively by whole verse)*

Second Reading Romans 8:12-25

*Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"* p. 216

*Gospel Reading Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 399 *"O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"*

*Apostles' Creed p. 217

*Prayers of Intercession **A: hear our prayer.**

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving 679 v. 1, 3 *"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord's Prayer (*Our Father, who art in heaven...*) p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 694

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Cover image and Liturgy from Sundays and [Seasons.com](https://www.seasons.com). Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079.

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk ^l in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- ^l vere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with ^l all my heart,
and glorify your name for- ^l evermore.**

¹³For great is your ^l love toward me;
you have delivered me from the ^l pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent people ^l seeks my life;
they have not set you be- ^l fore their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full ^l of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- ^l ness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mer- ^l cy on me;
give your strength to your servant,
and save the child ^l of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it
and be ^l put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and com- ^l forted me.

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.
- **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

Guest Musician: Chris Bramble

Lector: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

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

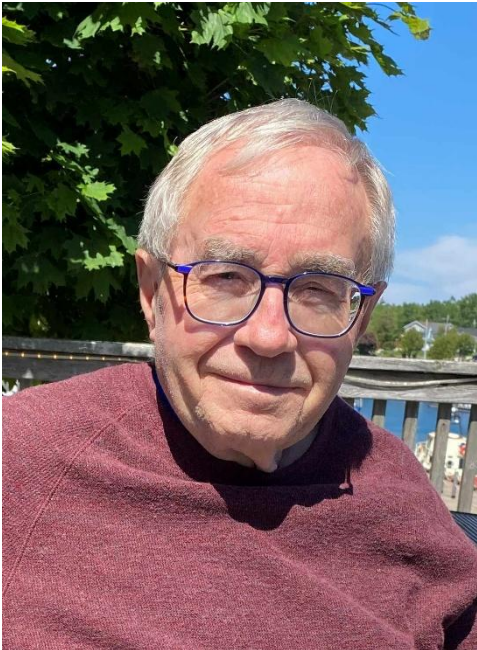
Worship Notes

In our prayers, Anneke, Meaghan, Betty, Maureen, Jeanette, Kevin, and Judy.

General Announcements

Coffee Hour: Please note there is no coffee hour for the summer, see you in September!

Waterloo Region Fall 2026 Election: Simon Thompson is organizing a survey of the faith groups in our building to determine what issues are most important to residents of Waterloo Region. He will be communicating the results to the candidates and also giving a presentation at coffee hour on September 13. Surveys are available in the Narthex, or directly from Simon on June 28, July 19 and 26. The surveys can be returned directly to Simon, or placed in the St. Matthews mailbox (deadline July 26).



Larry Strome Retires! In September 1984, 42 years ago, Larry began looking after our church's Security, doing nightly checks of the building to close and lock up, verifying windows, doors, checking to see if anything was amiss, and setting the alarm. He was always available to help with security and parking for special events, weddings and funerals, to tend to alarms, and various other property issues over the years. Until 2009 he also provided security on Sunday mornings and custodial duties. Throughout, his easy-going but no-nonsense attitude provided invaluable in his tasks. His dedication was remarkable, doing his rounds in rain or shine, snow or hot summer evenings. St. Matthews owes a debt of gratitude to Larry for his care for the building and for our safety.

On Sunday September 20th, at the Fall BBQ, we will celebrate his retirement from his duties at St. Matthews. Come out and say thanks and congratulations!

Upcoming Staff Holidays: Reverends Carey and Sebastian - Holidays July 27 - August 24. Rev. Monika Wiesner will be leading worship on Sundays. Please note, Rev. Sebastian will be away on reading week July 20 – 26 and Rev. Carey will be on reading week August 24 – 31. **Deacon Scott** - Holidays July 16 – July 30, August 10 - 24. **Leanne** - Holidays July 13 - 24, August 10-14. Please contact Pastors Sebastian or Carey or someone from the Board of Directors during this time with urgent matters. Please note, the office will be closed.

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462

stmattskw.com

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



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Donate](#)

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

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER**

N2G 3H2

519.742.0462

stmattskw.com

info@stmattskw.com