

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

July 26, 2026

UN International Day of Friendship / Pentecost 9

Sunday, July 26, 2026

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude: Hymn Sing

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 742

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Solo

"Chorale Prelude on Song 1"

H. Willan

Word

Friendship of Family: Ruth and Naomi

*Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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*Gospel Reading

John 15:13-14

Friendship of Neighbours: The Hand of a Friend

*Hymn of the Day 726

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

*Prayers of Intercession

A: hear our prayer.

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 184

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

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*Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 190

*Thanksgiving at the Table

*Lord's Prayer (*Our Father in heaven...*)

p. 191

Lamb of God

p. 191

Communion Hymn 482

"I Come with Joy"

*Table Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn (see page 4)

“God’s Work Our Hands”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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In a time when the noise of division grows louder — fueled by wars, conflicts, inequality, and fear — friendship feels almost radical in its simplicity. It doesn’t arrive with fanfare or policy; it doesn’t need speeches or signatures. It begins with something quieter: a conversation, a shared moment, a willingness to see one another not as strangers but as fellow travelers through the human experience. In this year’s observance of the International Day of Friendship, we’re reminded that real peace is forged not only in negotiation halls or by writing into treaties — it’s built, thread by thread, in the trust we extend to one another in daily life. Friendship, especially among young people, holds a special kind of power. It can cross languages, faiths, and histories that might otherwise divide us. It invites us to listen before we judge, to stay when it’s easier to walk away. And when nurtured across cultures and communities, friendship becomes more than a bond—it becomes a blueprint for reconciliation. It teaches us that understanding isn’t a grand achievement; it’s a habit, a practice, a way of moving through the world that says ‘your well-being matters to me too’. This year, as the world faces profound ruptures — between nations, within societies, even within families — the call to friendship is not sentimental. It’s essential. It’s about reaching across what breaks us and daring to believe in something better. It is a call to imagine a future where difference doesn’t mean distance, where trust is stronger than fear. Through friendship, we don’t just cope with the world as it is — we begin to shape the world as it could be.

(Source: un.org)

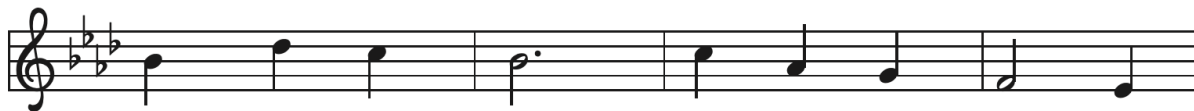
God's work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Guest Musician: Chris Bramble

Communion Servers: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson and Lynda Karn

Broadcast: Jamie Foley

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

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.

Worship Notes

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

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).

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. Rev. Heike Toeller (St. Luke’s Kitchener, 519-212-9952) is on call for Pastoral Emergencies from July 27-August 2. **Deacon Scott** - Holidays July 16 – July 30, August 10 - 24. **Leanne** - Holidays 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

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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.



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.





St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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