

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 13, 2026

Pentecost 16
Sunday, September 13, 2026
(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Fantasia and Imitation"</i>	J.S. Bach
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 482		<i>"I Come with Joy"</i>
Baptism of Presley and Harrison Zajac		
Profession of Faith (see page 4)		
Thanksgiving at the Font (see page 4)		
Baptismal Hymn 453		<i>"Baptized and Set Free"</i>
*Greeting		
*Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>"Hospitality"</i>	W.H. Anderson

Word

First Reading		Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103: 8-13 (see page 5)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		Romans 14:1-12
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia"</i>	p. 188
*Gospel Reading		Matthew 18:21-35
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 605		<i>"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"</i>
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 842 v.1, 5		<i>"Oh, Worship the King"</i>
*Offering Prayer		

*Great Thanksgiving	p. 190
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 190
*Thanksgiving at the Table B	
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)	p. 191
Lamb of God	p. 191
Communion Hymns 496, 522	
Table Blessing	
Prayer after Communion	
Sending	
General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 543	<i>"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"</i>
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Little Prelude & Fugue in G"</i> J.S. Bach

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In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Profession of Faith

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

A: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

A: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving at the Font

A: Saving God, we give you thanks for the waters of creation that have nourished the earth since you spoke life into being. We remember Noah and his family rocking back and forth on the floodwaters, Miriam keeping watch over her brother Moses in the Nile, the Israelites fleeing through the spray of the Red Sea, the thirsty drinks they took from water that poured from a rock in the desert. You sent your son to be carried by the water and waves of Mary's womb, to be baptized in the Jordan with the crowds, to turn water into wine, to meet the Samaritan woman at the well, to feel the thirst of humanity in life and death. Rain down your Spirit so that, by this water and your word, we are renewed by the gifts of Jesus and the truth about love. Amen.

Psalm 103: 8-13

Tone 2



⁸ LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholar: Drew Aarssen

Communion Server: Lynda Karn

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Don Robins (519-502-2099)

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.

Worship Notes

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

Baptized today are Presley and Harrison Zajac of parents Brooklyn Hope Zajac and Trenton William Harrison Jones. Presley's baptismal sponsors are Katelynn Williams and Brendon Tran. Harrison's baptismal sponsors are Victoria Faith Zajac and Brendon Tran.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

General Announcements

Benton Street Resurfacing: The Region is resurfacing Benton Street from Courtland Avenue East to Church Street beginning on or about August 31. Throughout construction, sidewalks, two-way traffic and driveway access will be maintained but there may be periods when traffic will be controlled with flag persons. Please plan ahead and expect delays.

Waterloo Region October 2026 Municipal Elections Survey. In June and July, Simon Thompson organized a survey of the faith groups in our building to determine what issues are most important to residents of Waterloo Region. Many thanks to those who participated! Here are the results he compiled: *"The findings can't necessarily be extrapolated onto KW voters in general since only the St. Matthews Congregation itself participated. However, within St. Matthews Congregation itself, the top priority is Social Services, with some concerns about Physical Infrastructure and Public Transit (to recap, the other areas people could have chosen were Housing, the Natural Environment, Crime/Law Enforcement, Arts & Culture, the Area Business Climate, and Taxes)."* For those interested, there is a Ward 10 candidates' debate at St. John's Anglican (23 Water Street, Kitchener) on Sunday, September 13th at 2 pm.

Church Breakfast Group - We meet next on Tuesday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees will order from the

menu and pay for their own meals. Everyone is welcome. Our September speaker will be St. Peter’s own Girl Guider extraordinaire Kris McGee.

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

- Thursday, September 17:** Together with Nature featuring Susan Aglukark at 7 pm
- Sunday, September 20:** Sunday School Resumes
- Sunday, September 20:** Community BBQ following worship
- Wednesday, September 23:** Organ Recital & Soup at Noon
- Thursday, September 24:** Choir Resumes at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, September 26:** Celebration Bells Resume at 9 am
- October 4:** Orchestrating Peace through Music at 3 pm

Contact Information

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



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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 CHURCH

COMMUNITY

SEPT
20

BBQ

FREE

10:30 AM AFTER WORSHIP



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

Fall 2026 Organ Recitals & Soup



Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 12 noon

Glen Soulis, penny whistle

Scott Knarr, organ

featuring celtic, hymn-based and folk music



Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 12 noon

Emma Allan, cello

Mark Himmelman, organ

original compositions, classical works and seasonal surprises



Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 12 noon

Sarah Steinert, soprano

Scott Knarr, organ

songs of reflection and inspiration

Music begins at 12 noon
followed by a hearty soup luncheon
with homemade bread.
Admission by donation

More information: www.stmatthewscentre.com

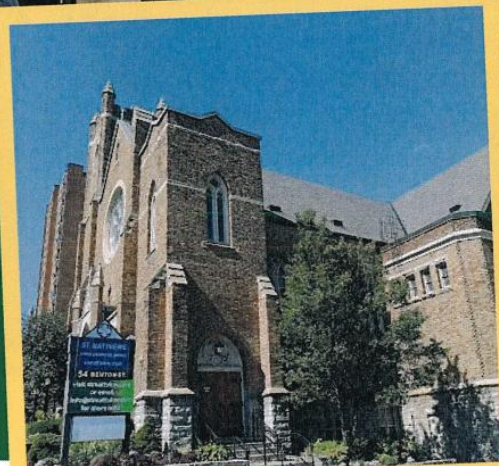


Trinity Village

- ADULT DAY PROGRAM -



Now offering Tuesdays Adult Day Program off site at St. Matthew's Church starting September 2026



Our Adult Day Program provides a welcoming and accessible space that fosters connection and wellbeing. The program offers a variety of social, spiritual, emotional, physical, and cognitive activities, carefully curated to help clients maintain or enhance their independence and self-esteem in a cheerful, supportive environment.

Enrolling a loved one in the program not only provides enriching experiences for them but also offers much-needed respite and support for care partners. We also provide information and referrals to other community services and programs, helping to reduce isolation, loneliness, and physical decline.



Transportation:

Services are not provided by Trinity Village; however, staff can assist in accessing resources like Mobility Plus and Community Support Connections.



Program Benefits:

- Safe and cheerful environment
- Activities for stimulation and confidence
- Support for care partners
- Links to community resources



Hours and Cost:

Available **Tuesdays** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for \$23/day, payable monthly. Price includes lunch and refreshments.



Participants:

The ADP supports older adults with chronic illnesses or disabilities. We aim to provide respect, enhance wellbeing, and improve quality of life for each individual.

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE!

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Trinity Village is owned and operated by Lutheran Homes Kitchener - Waterloo



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