

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

September 20, 2026

Pentecost 17
Sunday, September 20, 2026
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Hymn to Joy"</i>	J. Vandertuin
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness		p. 116
*Hymn 641		<i>"All Are Welcome"</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 184
*Prayer of the Day		
Children's Message		
Solo	<i>"Vocalise"</i>	S. Rachmaninoff

Word

First Reading		Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm 145: 1-8 (see page 4)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		Philippians 1:21-30
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"</i>	p. 188
*Gospel Reading		Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day (see page 5)	<i>"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"</i>	
*Apostle's Creed		p. 217
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving 836 v.1, 2	<i>"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"</i>
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*Thanksgiving for the Word

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

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 845

"Voices Raised to You"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Hymn to Joy"

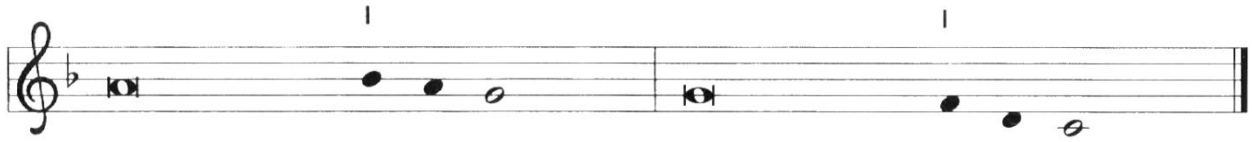
M. Costello

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Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Psalm 145: 1-8

Tone 2



¹ I will exalt you, my [|] God and king,
and bless your name forev- [|] er and ever.

² Every day [|] will I bless you
and praise your name forev- [|] er and ever.

³ Great is the Lord and greatly [|] to be praised!
There is no end [|] to your greatness.

⁴ One generation shall praise your works [|] to another
and shall de- [|] clare your power.

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor [|] of your majesty
and all your [|] marvelous works.

⁶ They shall tell of the might of your [|] wondrous acts,
and I will re- [|] count your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of [|] your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully [|] of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full [|] of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in [|] steadfast love.

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the meas-ures of our mind;
4. But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
5. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg-ment giv'n.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Leading Worship Today

Minister & violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Cantor: Lana Moses

Lector: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

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.

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 the Community BBQ** 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, Meaghan, Gary, Judy, Anneke, Kevin, Jeanette and Maureen.

General Announcements



Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

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

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



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The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events. 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 CHURCH

COMMUNITY

SEPT
20

BBQ

FREE

10:30 AM AFTER WORSHIP





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



**Walk along with Bishop Carla
in solidarity with Healing of the Seven Generations**

TRC Orange Shirt Day Walk

Remember Me Walk

Wednesday September 30th, 2026 10 am-noon

Meet at 300 Frederick St, Kitchener



Put on your orange shirt and join Bishop Carla, Synod Staff, and a caring community of Lutherans. Together at 10 am, we will walk, hobble, and roll from 300 Frederick St. all the way to the clock tower in Willow River (Victoria) Park. If the distance feels challenging, feel free to walk partway, or drive and join us at the park, where you can listen to moving stories of heartbreak and hope shared by our local Indigenous Community.



For more details contact deaconscoott@stmattskw.com

Orange Shirt Day

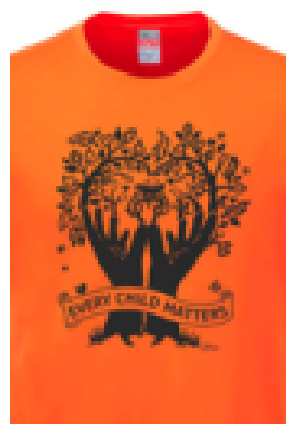
T-shirts, Sweatshirt and Tote Bags available for purchase

Lana, an artistic creator from Kitchener-Waterloo, draws inspiration from her Indigenous and German heritage. She manages the Feather & Cross organization's hub at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, promoting Indigenous perspectives within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Her design, "Every Child Matters: The Tree of Life," features hands as the trunk and roots nurturing a nest of birds, symbolizing the duty to protect life and also representing the Holy Trinity. The design incorporates a central heart, heart-shaped leaves, seven feathers honouring the Seven Sacred Teachings, and fish-shaped leaves representing interconnectedness and the importance of water. Anchored by the "EVERY CHILD MATTERS" banner, it highlights the collective responsibility to support individuals in a values-based community.



**Eastern Synod | Powered by
T-Shirt Elephant**



**\$2 from every
item goes to
Phyllis
Webstad
Foundation**



ST. MATTHEWS
presents



Diego Carneiro, cello



Orchestrating Peace through Music

Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 3 pm



In support of



Orquesta
Joven del
Ecuador

Youth Orchestra of Ecuador



amazonarts.org

Suggested donation: \$20

St. Matthews Centre, 54 Benton St, Kitchener

www.stmatthewscentre.com



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER**

N2G 3H2

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