PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

November 15, 2026

40th Anniversary of the ELCIC

Sunday, November 15, 2026

(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude *"Meditation"* W. Reed

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 688 *"Lord of Light"*

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Anthem *"Sithi Bonga"* G. Mxadana

Word

First Reading Ephesians 4:1-7

Psalm 90:1-8,12 (see page 4) *(sung responsively)*

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

*Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day (see page 5) *"God's Work, Our Hands"*

*Anniversary Litany (see page 6)

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

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Hymn 674 *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"*

*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord's Prayer *(Our Father in heaven…)* p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Sending Hymn 546 *"To Be Your Presence"*

*Dismissal **A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *"Trumpet Voluntary"* J. Stanley

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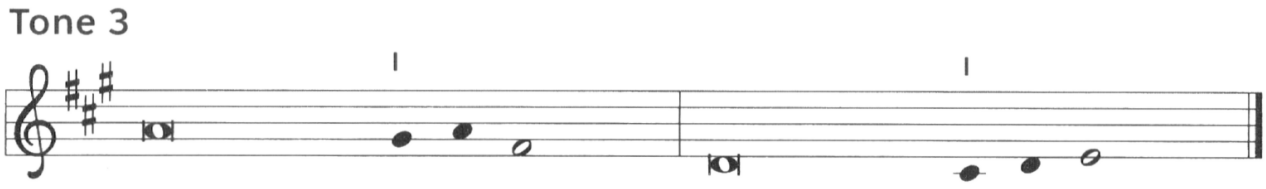
Today, we gather in thanksgiving and celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. We give thanks for the generations who have journeyed in faith before us, for the gifts God has entrusted to us, and for the ways we continue to participate in God's mission in the world. As we look back with gratitude and forward with hope, we are reminded that we are one body, called to be a diverse and inclusive community, to seek justice and reconciliation, to listen to new voices, and to journey together in the footsteps of grace.

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 90:1-8,12



[1]Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

[2]Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.

[3]You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."

[4]For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;

[5]you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

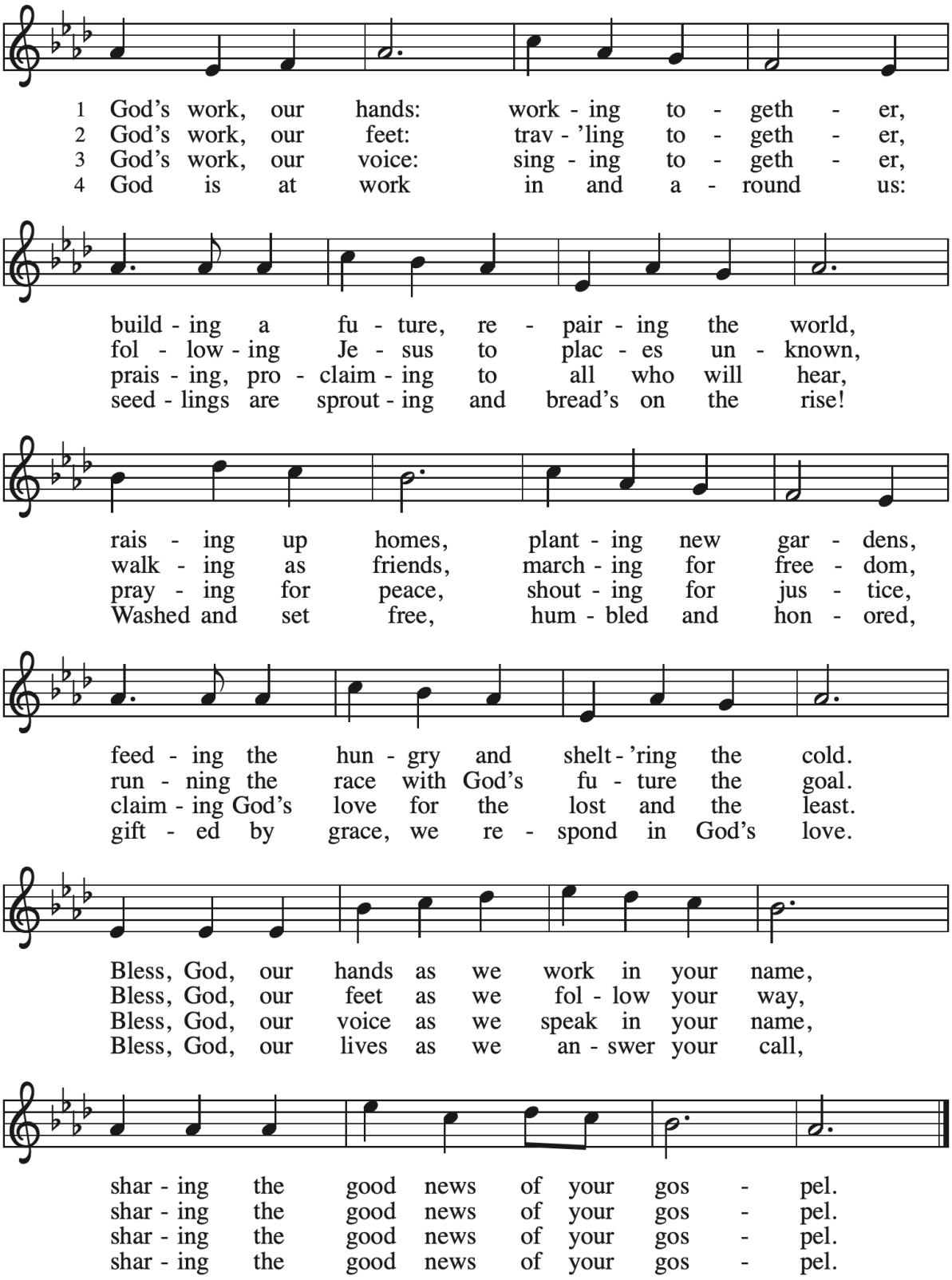
[6]in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

[7]For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

[8]Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.

[12]So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

God's Work, Our Hands



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
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ELCIC 40th Anniversary Litany

L: We celebrate and rejoice
A: in the gifts which God has given us to carry out God's mission in the world today.

L: Journeying forward together
A: we discern through prayer, study, and conversation what it is to live faithfully under the cross at this time and place, seeing the world through the event of the cross.

L: Journeying forward together,
A: we are called to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all people and upholds life-giving relationships.

L: Journeying forward together,
A: we seek to offer the world a witness and ministry which is missional, diaconal, and prophetic.

L: Journeying forward together
A: we are invited to attend to new voices,
L: shape a more robust laity,
A: become more nimble,
L: encourage collaborative leadership,
A: and nurture intentional partnerships.

L: Journeying forward together,
A: we work in collaboration and joint action
L: with full communion, ecumenical, and interfaith partners
A: with humility and attentiveness to the cries of the world.

L: "There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

As One Body through One Spirit together in One Hope, we pray:
We give you thanks, O God,

that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth,

A: you feed and shape us
through the holy meal,

L: you form within us new hearts,

A: you build up the one body,

L: you anoint us to be agents of justice

A: and reconciliation for the sake of the world.

A: Stir up in us now the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

L: God is.
Love does.

A: In the footsteps of grace we follow.
Thanks be to God!

Source: Prayers of the People
**From CLAY 2025 Rooted & Rising - This prayer uses the unedited responses of youth participants to the following questions:*
1. What is a key message of Jesus that you think the church has forgotten and needs to remember?
2. What is one gift you see in the church that you want to draw the church's attention to?

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Drew Aarssen

Lector: Kim Schaner

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

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, Meghan, Judy, Maureen, Joan, Jeanette, Anneke, Gary and Kevin.

Sithi Bonga comes to us from the Zulu community in South Africa. The Zulu text Sithi bonga Njengenyoni enhle hlabelela is translated as "We are thankful like a pretty bird, we sing praises". Nothing of earth's pleasures can surpass such singing, so like birds of heaven we sing praise.

General Announcements

The 2027 Offering Envelope Boxes will be available for pick up starting Sunday November 29, 2026, outside the church office.

Town Hall - Join us after worship for a brief update and discussion about our Congregational Priorities.

Church Breakfast Group meets Tuesday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Our November speaker will be from Hospice Waterloo Region. This is a follow up to the presentation we had about two years ago which explained the role of hospice in our community. The topic now will be advance care planning. We will learn how health care decision making works in Ontario when a patient is unable to make their own health care decisions and how important it is to choose and communicate with a substitute decision maker in advance.

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

Facebook Instagram YouTube Donate

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.

the ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE 54 BENTON

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

November 15: Children's Programming & Town Hall

November 18: Organ Recital & Soup at Noon

November 22: During Worship announcements: an update on the Martin Luther University College's Face to Faith Fund, which we supported with a 4-year grant from our property sale tithe, with special guests Dean Daranne Harris and Marie, the scholarship recipient from Cameroon.

November 29: Children's Programming and Sharing During Worship from Marillac Place

November 29: Advent Carol Service at 7 pm

December 2: Advent Social

December 6: Children's Programming & Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

December 13: Pageant

December 24: German Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

December 24: English Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 pm

December 25: Christmas Day Service at 9:30 am

December 31: New Year's Eve Service at 4:30 pm

ST. MATTHEWS
presents

Fall 2026 Organ Recital & Soup



Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 12 noon

Nicole Hamilton, soprano

with

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

the ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE
54 BENTON KITCHENER

More information: www.stmatthewscentre.com

ST. MATTHEWS

Advent Social

DECEMBER 2

11 AM - 2 PM

TURKEY LUNCHEON **$20**

MEAL SERVED AT NOON

Join us for a festive social time with a turkey feast,
Christmas Sing-Along and good friends.
Holy Communion at 1:30 pm.

RSVP: By November 26
519.742.0462 or info@stmattskw.com

ST. MATTHEWS
presents

Advent Carol Service

To Thee All Angels Cry Aloud

featuring selections from

Handel's Dettingen Te Deum



Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 7 pm

Freewill Offering

the ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE
54 BENTON
KITCHENER

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
54 Benton Street, Kitchener
stmattskw.com