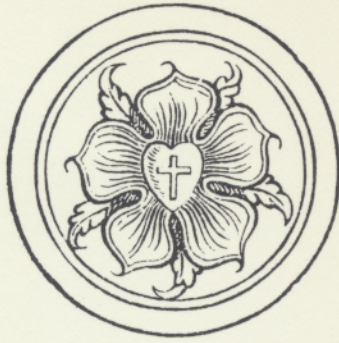


# GOLDEN HOURS 60th Anniversary

1930-1990





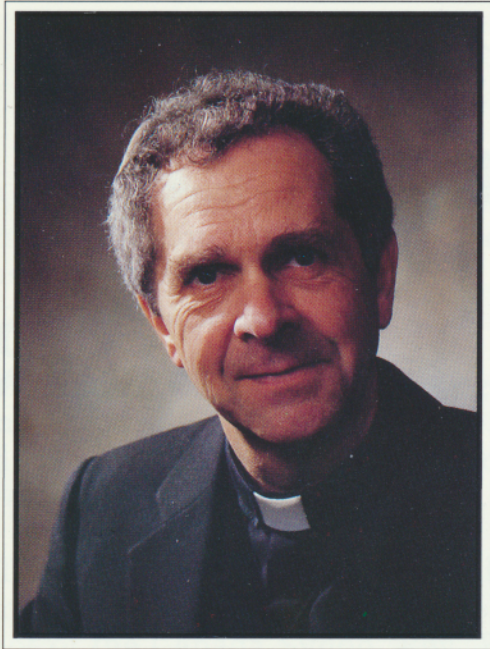
Luther's Coat of Arms  
Emblem of the Golden Hour

"The Christian's heart doth always rest  
Upon a bed of roses,  
And even beneath the Cross of Christ  
In peace and joy reposes"

This booklet is dedicated to all listeners and friends of the Golden Hour.

It is published for the Radio Committee of  
St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Kitchener, Ontario, 1990.

"If any little word of mine  
Can make some life the brighter  
If any little song of mine  
May make some heart the lighter  
God let me speak that little word  
And take my bit of singing  
And plant it in some lonely vale  
To set the echos ringing."



*Pastor Harold Brill*

The sharing of God's love in Jesus through words and music has been the sole purpose of the Golden Hour broadcast for 60 years. As this anniversary is celebrated, St. Matthews is grateful for the support of countless people throughout the years, as well as CFCA who have made the broadcast possible.

It is my prayer that this broadcast will continue for years to come and be a blessing to all who hear.

*"So when the precious seed is sown,  
Your quick'ning grace bestow,  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know."*

*Pastor Harold Brill*



*Pastor Barbara Weatherall*

For the members of St. Matthews, and for the extended congregation who join us for worship each Sunday through our Radio Broadcast — this 60th Anniversary is a joyous achievement.

It has been a privilege and a blessing for me to have shared a few years in the continuing history of the Golden Hour.

I congratulate all of you who have so faithfully served in this inclusive outreach ministry.

*Pastor Barbara Weatherall*

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# HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN HOUR

“Welcome to a glad and golden hour with God from St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario.” This familiar greeting begins the broadcast of the regular Sunday morning worship service. It all began 60 years ago. From the 1938 annual report of the congregation come these words written by Dr. John Schmieder.

“In 1930, exactly on the 23rd of February, St. Matthews began broadcasting her Sunday morning service, and thus, even in these evil years of depression, has enjoyed under the providence of God an enlargement of her great spiritual mission in a manner and to a degree that was undreamed of years ago.”

The original intent of the Golden Hour is expressed in these words, “Kirche Daheim exists for the sole purpose of bringing the blessings of the church to the homes of the sick, the aged, the shut in. It has served without interruption since February 23, 1930. It brings cheer and comfort to thousands each week”.

From letters received, today’s listeners to the broadcast include not only those mentioned in the original intent, but also many who are searching for meaning in life and a God relationship.

The broadcast name was suggested by members of the radio congregation in 1940. The familiar lines of Edmund Hamilton Sears’ hymn give the name that was finally chosen.

*“And you, beneath life’s crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with  
painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear  
the angels sing!”*

The first radio committee had 6 members, made up of Dr. Schmieder, Pastor; Chairman A.W. Sandrock; Secretary C.N. Weber; Treasurer Carl Kruse; Electricians Herb Hollinger and Alf Heller.

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# ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH

## THE HOME OF THE GOLDEN HOUR

Facts and Features by Samuel Weicker

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, at the corner of Benton and Church Streets, prominently overlooks the core of the City of Kitchener, Ontario.

GOLDEN HOUR, the Sunday morning broadcast of our 11 a.m. service, has emitted from St. Matthews every Sunday since February 23, 1930.

THE STORY of St. Matthews is one of phenomenal growth. Organized by the President of the Canada Synod, Rev. Emil Hoffmann, on Feb. 23, 1904, it reported an initial enrollment of 579 members.

THE CORNER-STONE for the stately Gothic Edifice was laid on May 24, 1914.

THE DEDICATION SERVICE for the new house of worship was held on March 7, 1915. Seating in the Church Nave originally accommodated 900 adults. In recent years two full rows of pews were removed to allow for more comfortable kneeling during the Confessional part of the service. The rows of folding seats were removed from both galleries with the installation of gallery pews. These removals reduced the comfortable seating to 810 adults. Since 1932 a total of 66 services were recorded with an attendance of over 810, 30 of these were over 900, 14 over 1,000, 3 over 1,100 and the Christmas service with Sunday School in 1932 numbered 1,300 in attendance.

OUR BELL, the largest swinging bell in Ontario, and possibly in Canada, was dedicated April 24, 1924. Despite its 6,000

pound weight, the 63" diameter, 53" high bell can easily be rung by a rope around a 96" diameter pulley. The metal composition is 78% copper and 22% tin. It was cast by Ulrich Brothers, Apolda, Thuringia, Germany. Its voice is heard over the entire city, inviting the populace to worship. Since the advent of the broadcasting of our services the ringing of the bell has been the symbol of our GOLDEN HOUR.

DECORATION of the interior of our ten year old Church was accomplished during the summer of 1925 by P.G. Browne of Toronto. The Ascending Christ is illustrated in the center of the Chancel front wall, flanked by an Angel on either side. The side walls of the Chancel contained life size illustrations of the Twelve Apostles with their names at the base. The left front wall of the Nave illustrated children coming to Jesus for blessing while the opposite wall showed people coming to Jesus for healing. Eight scenes depicting events in the life of Christ are painted on the various sections of the Church ceiling. Artistic designs feature the rest of the decors.

THORWALDEN'S CHRISTUS reproduction was set in the new Gothic Reredos of the Chancel walls. A brass crucifix and candlesticks, sterling silver communion vessels, Font Ewer, Alms Basins, Altar Vestments and other furnishings were donated as well as tubular chimes for the organ.



CHURCH INTERIOR



SENIOR CHORUS



GALLERY CHOIR

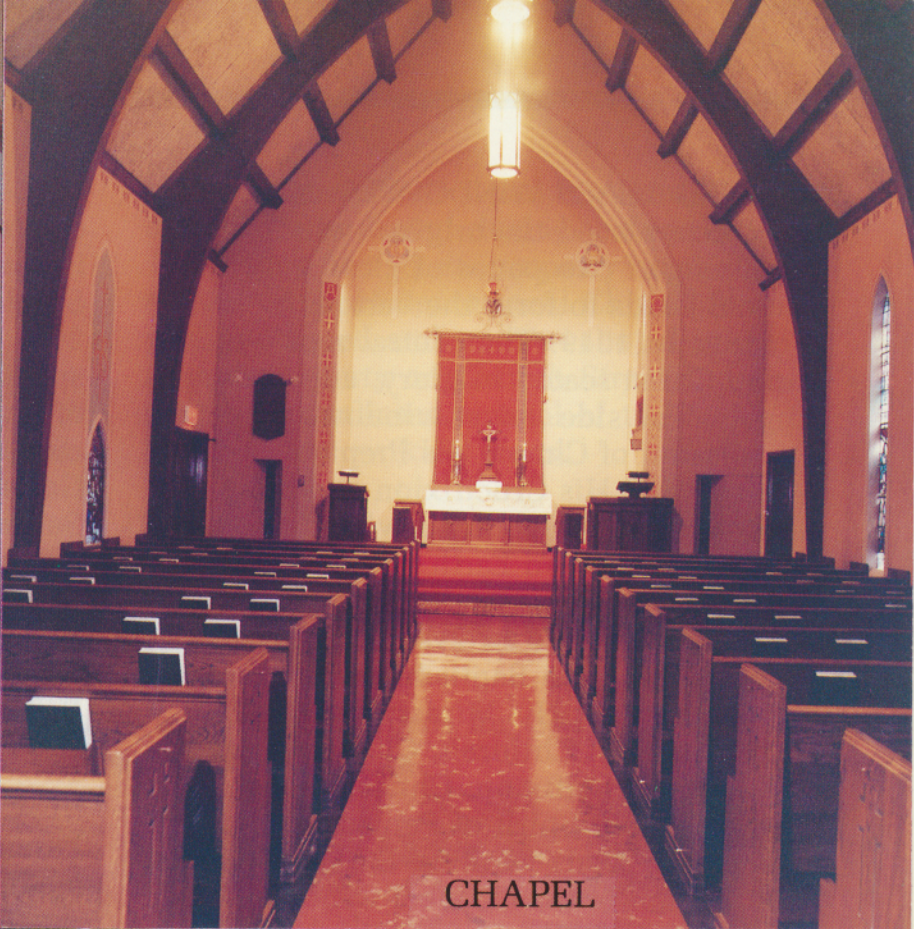


**GOLDEN HOURS**





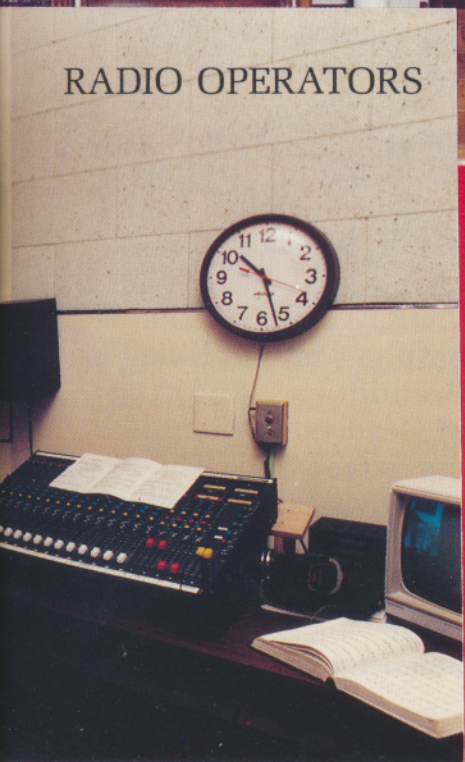
CHOIR



CHAPEL



RADIO OPERATORS



RADIO COMMITTEE

60th  
ANNIVERSARY

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STAINED GLASS WINDOWS in the Chancel replaced the original windows consisting of two panes of glass with colored beads to form the various artistic pictures, in 1949. The central rose window shows Christ seated in glory, adorned by Angels. The side lancet windows depict the Mission of Christ, His Preparation, His Ministry and His Crucifixion and His Resurrection. Surmounted with the message "Peace on Earth — Goodwill to Men", the twelve medallions depict the Birth of Christ, the twelve year old Christ in the temple, the Baptism of Christ, the Transfiguration, His Ministry of Healing, His Blessing of Children, Christ before Pilate, His Crucifixion, Christ at Jacob's Well, the Holy Spirit of Pentecost, the Last Supper and Jesus washing the feet of Peter. Illumination of the Chancel windows was provided in 1979.

ORGAN was rebuilt by Casavent and rededicated June 4, 1944. The 2,658 pipes are controlled by 52 stops and 22 couplers. An Echo organ was installed in the front of the Church and the chimes re-located to that area. Carved wooden Angels with trumpets are mounted in front of both sets of pipes. Speakers for amplification were re-located to the same area. Improvements to the organ have been done on several occasions.

ATTENDANCE at our services has been recorded since May 1932, following a suggestion at the Annual Congregation Meeting of that year that we discontinue our radio broadcasting, fearing that our members would remain home to listen to the broadcast rather than attend the service. William Weicker was asked to devise a method of tabulating the attendance. His plan of recording the men, women and children in each pew has been continued with monthly reports and comparisons given the Church Council as

well as to the Annual Meetings of the congregation. Despite many various influences throughout the years, our average Sunday attendance has remained at about 20% of our baptized membership. Of special interest is that the general average of genders has remained at about 36% for men, 58% for women and 6% for children. German services were discontinued in September 1939 due to the start of the Second World War.

CHURCH HOUSE need was emphasized in 1927 for our 2,604 membership, 704 of who were in the Sunday School. With a continued growth to 926 teachers and officers in our Sunday Schools, meeting in the Church proper as well as the Church basement, need for a Church House was again emphasized, but adjoining properties were not available until after the death of the owners. Plans for a 2 storey building on a newly acquired property behind the Church were turned down by the congregation in 1932. Acquisition of the adjoining property in 1948 permitted earnest planning for a Church House. Ground-breaking occurred May 6, 1951. Corner-Stone laying on Nov. 12, 1951 and the Dedication Oct. 19, 1952. When the Sunday School moved into the new building planned accommodation was not sufficient for the many classes. An additional room had to be completed.

CHAPEL furniture, the organ, the hand-loomed Dossal as well as the furnishings throughout the entire Church House were supplied as Memorials or Special Gifts.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS in the Chapel are based on hymns of the Church: Silent Night, Holy Night, Beautiful Saviour King of Creation, O Sacred Head now Wounded and A Mighty Fortress is Our God. The 23 other stained glass windows throughout the Church House illustrate Biblical Scenes as well as the various Apostles.



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LOAVES AND FISHES, the thrice weekly noon hour meals for seniors, was introduced March 1, 1972, offering good meals, fellowship and entertainment Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

PARKING in 1958 the 14,500 sq. ft. property beside the Church was purchased

and developed into a parking lot with most of the spaces rented during the week. In 1963 the 7,590 sq. ft. property on the south corner of Benton and Church Streets was purchased and in 1964 the adjacent double property on Church Street and at its rear was purchased, a total of 18,965 sq. ft. for proposed parking areas.

## THE 60th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

**Theme: A celebration of thanksgiving through music and words for God's faithfulness throughout these years of broadcasting.**

### ORGAN RECITAL

- (a) Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major, BWV 553 ("St. Anne") J.S. Bach
- (b) Sonata VI in D minor, based on "The Lord's Prayer"  
Felix Mendelssohn  
Chorale with four variations  
Fugue  
Finale (Andante)
- (c) Triumphal March, Alexandre Guilmant

### THE SERVICE

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Announcements

Introit "Sing Joyfully!" (Ps. 100)

John Estacio (commissioned by  
St. Matthews Senior Choir)

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

Entrance Hymn

"Glories of Your Name Are Spoken"

Glories of your name are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken

Formed you for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
You may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply your sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, while such a river  
Ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,  
See the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a cov'ring,  
Showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner  
Light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna  
Which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in your name.  
Fading are the worldlings' pleasures

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All their boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasures  
None but Zion's children know.

The Apostolic Greeting

The Hymn of Praise

Pastor:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Congregation:

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God  
and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand  
of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Prayer of the Day

Combined Senior & Gallery Choirs:

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

The First Lesson — Exodus 24:12, 15-18

Gallery Choir —

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Second Lesson — 2 Peter 1:16-21

The Alleluia Verse

The Gospel — Matthew 17:1-9

Greetings from: Don Willcox, CFCA  
Mayor Dom Cardillo  
Bishop William Huras

Hymn — “Spread, Oh, Spread,  
Almighty Word”

Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,  
Spread the reign of God the Lord;  
Tell how his own Son he gave,  
All from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's grace,  
Who, to save our human race  
And to pay rebellion's price,  
Gave himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n  
Now to guide us on to heav'n,  
Strong and holy, just and true,  
Working both to will and do.

Lord of harvest, great and kind,  
Rouse to action heart and mind;  
Let the gath'ring nations all  
See your light and heed your call.

## **SERMON — Pastor Brill**

Hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom his world rejoices:  
Who from our mothers' arms,  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours to-day.

Oh, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all harm  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

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## WE RESPOND TO GOD

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

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 Pontious 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.

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. Amen

### The Offering

Anthem: "Let All the World in  
Every Corner Sing"

— Ralph Vaughan Williams

### The Offertory

#### The Prayers

#### The Benediction

#### The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God"

— J. Pachelbel

Organ and Brass

Flowers on the altar have been placed on  
this special occasion by CFCA-FM.

Broadcast of the Golden Hour this  
Anniversary Sunday has been dedicated to  
the glory of God in loving memory of Art  
Sandrock who entered the life eternal on  
February 12, 1980, by his children and  
grandchildren.

Our appreciation is extended to the  
following members of the Brass Quartet for  
their participation in the service this  
Sunday:

Trumpets: Anita McAlister

Randy Brown

French Horn: Joy Montgomery

Trombone: Colin Traquair

Also to CFCA-FM for underwriting part  
of the cost of this anniversary booklet.

*CFCA-FM*  
*congratulates*  
*St. Matthews*  
*Lutheran Church*  
*on the occasion*  
*of its*  
*60th Anniversary*  
*of*  
*radio broadcasting*  
**1930-1990**



## GOLDEN HOUR'S 60th Anniversary

Now we join in celebration,  
For sixty years of GOLDEN HOURS  
Sending the service far and wide,  
To have the shut-ins by our side.

Throughout the years many pastors came,  
Your saints have dwelt secure;  
Our mighty church is still the same  
And our defence is sure.

Sixty long years in your sight,  
Is like an evening gone —  
Our many members saw the light,  
Before the break of dawn.

Thy word, O Lord, like gentle dews;  
Falls soft on hearts that pine,  
Lord, to Thy shut-ins ne'er refuse  
This heavenly balm of Thine.

And now we hope to carry on  
For many years to come,  
Be our help to cheer and bless,  
While we grow in holiness.

M. Neeb  
Feb. 25/90