

**Celebrate Centre for
Christian Studies
Sunday**



**CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIAN STUDIES**
Imagine Church Differently

St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry, Winnipeg

Belonging is a core human need. Simple gestures say, “you matter”: a hearty welcome, accompanied by a sandwich, cup of coffee and friendly conversation. St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry in Winnipeg's westend has been a home-away-from home for some of the city's most vulnerable for over 40 years.

Josh Ward is the Community Minister at St. Matthews Maryland and a graduate of the Centre for Christian Studies. His first connection with St. Matts was through a field placement for social ministry with CCS.

"The greatest gift that the Centre for Christian Studies has given me is preparation to be here -- the ability to be flexible and roll with the punches and keep moving no matter what. CCS helped me expand on ability, confidence and creativity.

"Everything we do here at St. Matthews is about relationship. In a way all these things we do together -- play cards, share a cup of coffee, sit in circle together -- are training for these moments. We're a place where people can belong. On the good days being here feels like a social club. All in the service of building relationship so when hard times come, people know where they belong. Someone in distress, that could be mental health, that could be feeling suicidal, they'll come to us because we've built the relationship."

Your donation to the Centre for Christian Studies helps students like Josh create community for people who would otherwise be lonely and hungry. Thank you!



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Alana inspires children and youth to create change through the Go Project. Kim shares listening and prayer with people going through shadow times in her congregation, and Don has a heart for people struggling with addictions. These students each have a calling to take Jesus' where it is most needed. **God's world needs leaders like this.**

Your church has made it possible for these students to learn at the Centre for Christian Studies.

With your support students are encouraged to lead inside the church and within the community; in personal reflection and active service; in spirituality, worship and academic study. They are invited to follow Jesus into the community and to the margins of our society, building bridges between the church and the world. They imagine church differently.

Congregations like you are essential to identifying, calling, funding, training, accompanying, and supporting the ministry of people who come to the Centre for Christian Studies. Thank you for all you do.