

St. Matthew's Good News

Pastor's Message

Pastor Fred Ludolph

I am writing this brief article almost on the eve of the congregational meeting of June 18th, the purpose of the meeting being to consider the call of a pastor to St. Matthews. As I write there is a host of things in my mind about how we do church, what the future of church is, what church will look like in 15 years — and on and on.

So first, we have to make choices. You, the congregation of St. Matthew's and I made a choice to journey together for a while. My sense is that we have both appreciated the journey, even though it was not a journey we would have planned or chosen. Some choices are forced upon us by circumstance. We pray in the funeral service, "Help us we pray in the midst of things beyond our understanding or control, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to eternal life." So we chose, because a choice was necessary, and it set us on a path, that necessarily would lead to another choice, and you will choose. Now I think of a quote that my friend Paul Bosch would frequently recall from a book, the name of which I have forgotten. An old wizard offers someone this advice — "Things fade, alternatives exclude."

I suppose that means that nothing stays the same and you can't do everything all at once. I think it also means we will never make perfect choices that control for all the variables of life and produce guaranteed outcomes for perpetuity.

So where are we? We've been called on a journey, and we have chosen to take that journey. Sometimes our steps are eager, sometimes uncertain, and sometimes reluctant. The path is not a freeway from here to there. We have to make the path by walking. And, the "WE" is very important, essential, central. Our journey is the living of relationships. The path will meander through many choices, all of which will have consequences and lead somewhere. Sometimes we'll have to back track or change direction. But, wherever we are, the most important choice will be to live the relationships with love, compassion, honesty, integrity, openness to change, and the courage to make choices.

Martin Luther had a saying about this. "Sin boldly, and believe more boldly!" I suppose that means, make your choices as best you can, and rely on the Spirit who calls, guides, redirects, and is both our destination and our home along the way.

So we're going, perhaps we should say "staying", on the journey; Into new relationships, new ways of being church. The service of morning prayer says we are called to "ventures (relationships) of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, though perils unknown, (sin boldly) Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. (believe more boldly)

Taking the next step with you,

Pastor Fred

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Contact Us

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St. Matthew's wishes to acknowledge and thank Pastor Fred Ludolph for being our interim pastor since the end of last November.

We were blessed to have him lead and support us during our saddest time. His last service at St. Matthew's will be August 13th.

We look forward to seeing Pastor Fred again at our 150th anniversary celebrations in September.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Invites you to the celebration of our
150th Anniversary on September 24, 2023.

The Holy Communion Service begins at 10:00 a.m.
with guest speaker Bishop Michael Pryse.

The service will be followed by a group photo in the courtyard
and a catered lunch in the auditorium.

Lunch \$10.00/person (Advance Tickets) Children 10 and under free.

**R.S.V.P. stmatthews@wightman.ca
by September 8, 2023**





Council/Call Committee Update

Submitted by Elaine Dippel Baetz

We are happy to announce that Pastor Lori has accepted our call, and will be joining us officially on August 29, which will be her first office day. September 3 will be her first service at St. Matthew's. Pastor Lori is very excited to be coming to serve our congregation, and to meet everyone. We also look forward to meeting her, Jenifer and their dog Luna.

St. Matthew's Church Council wishes to thank all of our Committees for their work this past year with church maintenance projects, Office upgrades and ministries beyond our church building.

Special Thanks to the following people:

- * Leroy Dietz and the Properties Committee for all the multiple tasks they perform for the maintenance and care of our church.
- * Jeremy, Ed and Sandy Fyfe for painting the nursery.
- * Les Fleming for building a handrail in the Sacristy
- * Marg Poste for maintaining our flower beds, which look amazing.

Council also continues to have conversations and suggestions regarding a memorial for honouring Pastor John. We will keep you updated.

With summer approaching, and folks on vacation, please remember that you do not have to be at service to contribute to St. Matthew's. E-Transfer, Pre-authorized payment (PAR) and mail in cheques continue to be options as well. Please call the church office for further details about these donation options. We thank all of you for your offerings and donations to St. Matthew's.



All Committee BBQ

This year's BBQ will be held on Tuesday August 15th, 5-7pm

Barb & Murray Fleming's house

148 Old Bridge Rd N, Hanover (Just off highway 4 at Grey Rd 3)

Please respond to your Committee chair to let us know how many people and spouses from will be joining us.

Please BYO Beverages, chairs, and a salad or dessert.



Going away this summer?

There are several ways to support St. Matthew's with your financial gifts while you are away.

1. By a bank E-transfer to - stmatthews@wightman.ca
2. By PAR(pre-authorized remittance from your bank) - contact our treasurer Shirley Breigs .
3. By mail (send a cheque) to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 356 9th Street, Hanover, ON N4N 3L5
4. In person at Worship - our collection plate is located in the narthex as you enter.
5. Or via the church website - use the 'Donate' button to direct you the Canada helps site to submit your donation www.stmatthewshanover.com

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Submitted by Elaine Dippel Baetz

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday was celebrated on April 23. All in attendance at our church service received a handsome, red "St. Matthew's" pen as a token of "Thanks" for volunteering. We wish to thank Carla Pepler for her gracious donation in covering the cost of all the pens distributed on Volunteer Sunday.

We wish to express our gratitude for all of the offerings received in support of St. Matthew's and its ministries. Without your help we could not support others in need.

A delicious "Thank You Cake" was served during our coffee and fellowship time. We are indeed blessed indeed to have so many volunteers share their time and talents to make St. Matthew's a wonderful church.



Sunday School

Submitted by Elaine Dippel Baetz

Our St. Matthew's Sunday School kids were excited to do some baking on June 4th, to end our Sunday School for the summer break.

Our young "bakers" delighted the congregation by baking and serving up "Chocolate Chip Cookies" and "Chocolate Bark" during our coffee and fellowship time. We gratefully acknowledge and thank Sara Breig for all her leadership with the Sunday School program at St. Matthew's. Additional thanks goes out to our teacher helpers, Lisa Davis, Yvonne Magwood, Shirley Breig and Elaine Dippel Baetz. And a big thank you to our dedicated student helper Scott Peiman for all his assistance. We hope to see everyone back in the fall on September 10, for Sunday School registration, and our annual "Sundae Sunday." *Sunday School begins on September 17, 2023.*

We wish our kids and teachers a safe and happy summer!



Outreach Activities

Submitted by Sue Seifert

Our Outreach committee has been working to raise funds and gather donations to purchase companion cats for local nursing homes. Companion Cats are designed to deliver a soothing, joyful experience that inspires smiles, laughter and fond memories for individuals with dementia. The cats feel and sound like a real cat. They respond to petting, hugging and motion much like a real one. The Outreach committee spoke to administrators at both nursing homes in Hanover. They welcome the idea of receiving some of these cats for their residents. The goal of the Outreach committee was to purchase five cats and enough funds were raised to do so. The cats were brought forward with the offering and dedicated during the Worship Service on May 7th.



The Power of Prayer

Submitted by Derek Ashton

Prayers are so powerful because God is always listening to us. May we suggest you pray for our St. Matthews family, our community and all those affected by wildfires and wars throughout the world.

To keep St. Matthew's family worship services functioning smoothly, we have many tasks assigned to volunteers. Since many of these tasks are performed away from service times, many people are not aware of who does what...it just gets done!



But.....Thank you

to those who prepare the altar, set out the communion bread and wine, greet people at our doors, operate the elevator and act as ushers, prepare powerpoint slides, organize and deliver meaningful sessions for our young people, operate the sound equipment and record and post our service on the internet, assist the pastor on the altar, share the readings for the day, act as acolytes, count our weekly offerings, mow the lawn, look after the flower beds, clean the pews after service, set out the tables and prepare and serve the refreshments in the auditorium.

Special thanks to Pastor Fred for your inspirational services and all the time beyond Sunday worship!

Special thanks to all who serve in Church Council, our Treasurer, our recording secretary, all who serve on our various committees that keep finances, property and church activities on track.

Thanks to our office manager and custodians for your care and good work.

Thanks to all who donated to the school breakfast club and those who organized and delivered meals-on-wheels. Thanks to Chef Cliff for his version of Pastor John's special spaghetti sauce.

Thanks for all donations to the Bake and Garage sales, to those who made the sale happen and cleaned up afterward. Good financial results and lots of happy customers.

Thanks to all who contribute to this newsletter, and Sandy who creates the format, edits and sends it out every second month.

Together we make a BIG difference.

If there is a special event in your life that you would like to share through this newsletter, please let us know. This could be a birthday, anniversary, memorial... anything you would like to share with your church family.