

# St. Matthew's Good News

## Pastor's Message

**Pastor Lori Pilatzke**

**St Matthew's Visioning Day ~ Sat March 02.2024**

*Special Guest Facilitator: Rev Tanya Varner*

Dear Beloved's of St Matthew's Faith Community ...

In my Prep4Sabbath email sent out Friday February 09th, I mentioned a visioning day. Whenever I arrive in a new call, I like to invite the community to gather informally to pray, to dialogue, to listen to one another, to heed the call of where God is calling us to serve. It should come as no surprise to us that how we've been the church (the people of God) for the past century has changed. We remember the glory days of Baby Boomers filling the building to the point of needing additions. Yet many of us have family who do not participate in the life of community. That does not necessarily mean they are not believers, it means that gathering in worship never rocked their holy world. And, if we are honest with ourselves, we never really went after our 'siblings in faith' to understand what didn't work for them. Please do not hear this fact as

judgement - we were not a faith tradition that was big on witness and evangelism. I don't think we were taught how to put our faith about God, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, into words - without envisioning street corner prophets with their signs of John 3.16. In fact, our worship did not include a section where worshippers could even share their own stories of how God has worked in their lives.

We support a model of church where one person does most of the talking and no-one else has an opportunity to respond to what's being said, let alone ask questions. We all learned to sit still, be quiet and if you were a child of the 60's or 70's - you were told 'children should be seen and not heard'. Maybe, the community we experience today reflects those who left because their voices were not respected or honoured. Regardless of the why - we here at St Matthew's, having just celebrated 150 years of being God in our little corner of the world, need to have a discussion about our future.

As our numbers have decreased, so too have our offerings and volunteers ... and the answer is not calling Pastor Lori to fill the church! If only it were that simple. But where is God calling us in this day? No one person can answer this question, but together - oh, the possibilities!

Please mark this day on your calendar and come ... all voices welcome. Pastor Tanya and I did seminary and were ordained together! I've asked her to come facilitate our Visioning Day so that I may participate in the day with you.

February 2023 v.5



### Contact Us

**Pastor**  
Pastor Lori P

**Office Administrator**  
Tracey Lantz

**Office Email**  
stmatthews@wightman.ca

**Website**  
[www.stmatthewshanover.com](http://www.stmatthewshanover.com)

**Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064537036150>

*(continued from page 1)*

## Pastor's Message

Pastor Lori Pilatzke



*(continued on page 2)*

I've included a bit of a bio so you have a sense of this incredible pastor who is so excited to be with us!

Pastor Tanya serves alongside the people of Trinity Lutheran in New Hamburg, and as the Dean of the Nith Valley ministry area. Ordained in 2002 with her friend and colleague pastor Lori, Tanya has served congregations in Waterloo, Woodstock, and New Hamburg. She is currently enrolled at Martin Luther University College in the PhD program for Human Relations in Pastoral Leadership. Her focus is on encouraging collaborative leadership during a time of change in the church. She also enjoys spending time with congregations who are interested in visioning new possibilities and opportunities to bear witness to Christ's light in the world. When she's not being a pastor, her treasured full time job is being a mother to two wonderful teenagers.

PS - bring a brown bag lunch or simple foods to share ... beverages will be provided!

In peace, in Christ ... Pastor Lori+



### Dates to Remember

The Confirmation class will join us as we enter these 40 days of Lent, we gather to remember that indeed, we are dust - and to dust we shall return.

Midweek Lenten Services ~ Wed's Feb 21, 28, March 06, 13, 20 @ 2pm, refreshments to follow. St Matthew's is hosting these services which will be shared with other churches from Hanover. Please join us!

|             |        |  |
|-------------|--------|--|
| Sun Feb 11  | 10am   | ~ Worship - our children will hide the "Alleluia"      |
| Tues Feb 13 | 5-7pm  | ~ Shrove Tues Pancake Supper                           |
| Wed Feb 14  | 6pm    | ~ Finance Team meets                                   |
|             | 7pm    | ~ Ash Wednesday Service - Confirmation class to attend |
| Wed Feb 21  | 2pm    | ~ Lenten Worship & fellowship                          |
| Sun Feb 25  | 10am   | ~ Worship, AGM, Potluck                                |
| Mon Feb 26  | 9.30am | ~ Food Safety Course                                   |
| Sat Mar 02  | 9.30am | ~ St Matthew's Visioning Day                           |
| Sun Mar 24  | 10 am  | ~ Palm Sunday Brunch (free will offering)              |



Please join us for brunch following worship on Palm Sunday (March 24th). Come enjoy some delicious food and great fellowship. Freewill offering. Please contact Sue Seifert (519-364-1242) if you are able to bake for this event.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake

On Thursday February 13 th , St. Matthew's hosted our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Members of our Congregation helped by setting up and decorating tables, cooking and serving sausages, flipping and serving pancakes, baking cookies and many other duties.

Our young members were on hand to help clear dishes, take down extra tables and help where needed. It was a team effort all the way.

We served over 100 people and the free will offering totalled \$1,132.40. Minus our expenses we netted over \$800.

Thanks to everyone for a most successful evening and a great way to begin our Lenten journey.





# Heaven and Nature Sing

By Nan and Charlie Van Sickle

## Sunday School Play: Heaven and Nature Sing

Our St. Matthew's Sunday School kids dazzled and shone as they performed an "Angelic Play" for members of our congregation, and online viewers on December 17, 2023. The play combined Bible readings, narration, drama sketches and lots of singing in re-telling the birth of Jesus.

The entire production was a culmination of hours of preparation and practice by the kids and teachers! We are thankful to everyone who helped in this wonderful production including the sound and music!

Thank you to everyone...especially our KIDS!!!



# St. Matthew's Women's Quilts

By Barb Flemming

By the time this newsletter goes out, some of the women of St. Matthew's will have been busy tying quilts on Wednesdays since the beginning February.

The quilts measure approximately 60" x 80". Last year, 5 quilts were donated to a new Seniors residence in Waterloo.

CLWR is no longer accepting donations of quilts or layettes as they do not have a storage facility. The Women's Center Grey Bruce will accept some of our quilts. They just need to be packed and delivered.

If anyone has other ideas and contacts for donation of quilts, suggestions would be appreciated.

A home for most of the Layette items has been found with a program called Healthy Beginnings, part of Keystone Child and Youth Family Services.

Pastor Lori will be offering a blessing on the donations some Sunday.



Thank you so much for dropping so many beautiful quilts for our agency today, Barb.

I know how much work must go into making these and please thank the wonderful members of your church who took part in creating them. The youth from Anti-Human Trafficking youth centre came by and selected about 10 for their beds and we went around and gave out about 15 to the residents in the townhouse complex you parked at (we call it "Second Stage Housing" and I am dropping off the rest to the emergency shelter today. Rest assured they will be loved and appreciated. Thank you again so very much and please forward my gratitude onto the other ladies.

With warm regards,  
Heather Sheldrick



# PASTOR JOHN MEMORIAL

## ST. MATTHEW'S QUIET ROOM

By Sue Seifert

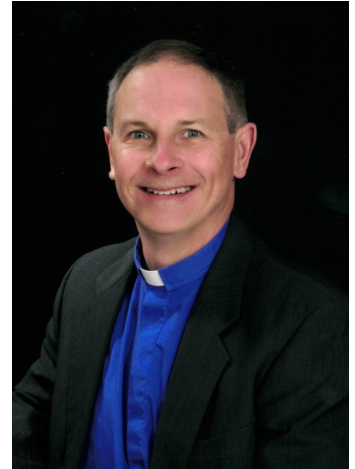
In October 2022 St. Matthew's received donations in memory of Pastor John. St. Matthew's Church Council decided to use those funds to create a "dedicated quiet room" in memory of Pastor John.

A place of comfort and hope. A place supportive of meditation, reflection and prayer. A place of pastoral service to our church and community family where the needs and nurturing of others can be met.

A plaque on the door to acknowledge Pastor John's love and commitment to the members of St. Matthew's and the community of which we are a part.

The Quiet Room is located next to the Pastor's office. Refurbishing of this room included: installing wire mold to cover data cables, painting the walls, installing new lighting in the ceiling, cleaning the carpet, purchasing new furniture, purchasing a new window blind, installing wall décor, purchasing a canvas for a wall, and a plaque for the door.

The "Quiet Room" is now complete. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to make this a reality.



# Alzheimer Society of Grey Bruce

## Visiting someone with dementia?

### Use these tips for meaningful visits

Whether you are visiting someone with dementia every day or just once in a while, making the most of your time together will mean a more meaningful visit for both of you!

A person with dementia may have many visitors and service providers dropping by. A visitor guest book can serve as a reminder of who has come to visit and how they spent their time together. For more information about creating a visitor guest book, please visit [alzheimer.ca/visitinguestbook](http://alzheimer.ca/visitinguestbook)

1. Find out the best time of day to visit. It may be during the middle of the day when the person you are visiting isn't tired yet.
2. Keep in mind that what you call the person you are visiting may have to change over time. As the dementia progresses they may not recognize you. Calling them by their first name is often the most familiar option.
3. Turn off background noise to make the visit peaceful and less confusing.
4. Encourage the person you are visiting to make decisions about how you spend time together to enhance independence and self-esteem.
5. Play a game or work on a project together as a way to connect, create a sense of purpose, and provide something to look forward to. • Do a jigsaw puzzle • Label photographs • Make a scrapbook • Bring two copies of the same newspaper or book so that you can both read and discuss it.
6. Have a relaxing visit with a movie and some treats. Quiet time during a visit can be very meaningful. Remember, not all communication is verbal.
7. Go outside to get the benefits of fresh air and exercise
8. Include others in the visit even if they can't be there physically. • Photographs • Videos • Letters • Phone call or video ca
9. Answer difficult questions the person you are visiting may have by acknowledging their feelings and reassuring them that they are safe, loved, and cared for. Common questions include asking when they can go home or where a person who died is.
10. Bring a child to visit, which can be fun and helps maintain important relationships.  
Use these tips:
  - Discuss with the child what dementia is and what to expect regarding the person you are visiting.
  - Listen to the child's feelings and concerns.
  - Explain to the child that during the visit they should speak clearly, avoid arguing, and ask for help anytime.
  - Bring along a quiet activity that the child and the person you are visiting can do together, like a jigsaw puzzle
  - Get outdoors by sitting outside, going for a walk, or even helping with some weeding if there is a garden area.
  - Have the child give something they made to the person you are visiting, like a picture or some homemade cookies.
  - Have some treats handy that the person with dementia can give to the child

*(continued on next page)*



## King Cakes for Epiphany

King cakes for Epiphany is a tradition introduced to St. Matthew's by Pastor Clyde and Midge Wentzel during the time Pastor Clyde was interim pastor here. There are three cakes shaped and decorated like crowns, and each one holds an almond as a hidden surprise. The three people who find an almond in their piece of cake get to wear a crown.



On this day of Epiphany, three kings traveled to Bethlehem, bearing gifts to the newborn baby Jesus. To honor this belief, people celebrate with king cakes, symbolizing the unity of faiths.



## Together We Make a Difference!



A number of years ago, when St. Matthew's hosted a Warming Centre one day a week during the winter months, we gathered hats, mitts and socks to give away to anyone in need. Some of those items were still packed in boxes and stored in our auditorium. When the weather began to get colder in December we took the boxes to Light on Main. We have received this note of thanks.

*St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,*

*Thanks so much for the hats, scarves and mitts which were distributed out at the Dec 13 lunch.*

*God Bless, The Light on Main Street*



# Alzheimer Society of Grey Bruce

For more information and support, connect with your local Alzheimer Society. Visit [alzheimer.ca/helpnearyou](http://alzheimer.ca/helpnearyou) or call 1-855-705-4636 (INFO). For information about moving and adjusting to a long-term care home, please visit [alzheimer.ca/longtermcare](http://alzheimer.ca/longtermcare). This list was adapted from Care UK. (2014). Listen, talk, connect: For a handy print out please use the following link.



<https://alzheimer.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MVP-E-L-2023-FINAL-WEB-MD.pdf>

## **Education Hour | Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce**

<https://alzheimer.ca/greybruce/en/help-support/programs-services/dementia-education-grey-bruce/education-hour>

Learning from your Living Room is a new series of online learning session with a wide variety of topics. Join Alzheimer Society Grey-Bruce Public Education Coordinator Sandra Hong on Zoom to learn about dementia. View our list of topics and dates below.

[Feb 28, 2023: Dementia and Sexuality](#)

[March 13, 2024: Finding Your Way - Living Safely in the the Community](#)

[April 11, 2024: Alzheimer's Disease and Supportive Communication](#)

[May 29, 2024: Searching for the Meaning Behind Behavior](#)

[June 11, 2024: The Journey of Support Starts Here](#)

[July 11, 2024: Memory & Aging \( 4 week program-July 11, 18, 25 & Aug 1, 2024\)](#)

*The Memory and Aging Program is aimed at people of retirement age or older who are interested in learning about memory changes that normally occur with age, and strategies to improve their everyday memory performance.*

### **Alzheimer Society Grey-Bruce**

753 2nd Avenue East

Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 2G9

Phone: 519-376-7230

Email : [info@alzheimergreybruce.com](mailto:info@alzheimergreybruce.com)

# Community News



The Coats for Kids program starts collecting coats when the snow starts to melt. Hanover Library is your drop off location for gently used coats to be reused by others in the Coats for Kids Coat Drive late fall. If you're cleaning out the closet you can drop those gently used coats at the Hanover library

## Save the Date!

**SAUGEEN ARTISTS GUILD**

**Free Admission**

*Spring Fling*

**ART SHOW & SALE**

Saturday May 4th, 2024 | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
St Matthew's Church, 356 9th Street, Hanover

Watercolours, acrylics, wall art, woodworking, glass work, jewelry, textile art and more!

The Outreach Committee of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church will be hosting a bake sale with tea, coffee and water available.

**A great place to pick up something special for Mother's Day!**

saugeenartists@gmail.com    @saugeenartists  
 www.saugeenartistsguild.com    Saugeen Artists Guild