

St. Matthew's Good News

Pastor's Message

Pastor Lori Pilatzke

As we enter into this new church year,
I share this blessing with you.

"For A New Beginning" by John O'Donohue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you pay with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening:
Unfurl yourself to the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Pastor Lori ✚

November 2025 v.10



Contact Us

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Council Notes

Kathy McBride

Your Church Council has resumed our meetings after the summer hiatus. However, during the summer the council executive was busy updating some of our church policies, assisting Melissa with any questions she had and helping her settle into her new position.

We also welcomed Holly Fyfe into her position assisting with our media presence and helping in the office if Melissa needs to be away. We certainly appreciate their dedication to their work and the church.

Council will continue to review committee reports, make decisions on any requests from the committees and deal with any problems or outside requests as they arise. We also support Pastor Lori in her ministry in the church and community.

We are planning an information session after church one Sunday in the future to let everyone know what is involved in being a member of church council. If you are considering becoming a member of council this will be a good time to have all your questions and concerns answered. We need at least 4 dedicated individuals to sit on council starting in March, 2026. Please, look into your heart and consider this rewarding gift of your expertise to St. Matthew's.



Holly Fyfe

Media Consultant

Holly is a dedicated wife and mother with a deep passion for writing. Balancing family life with her professional ambitions, she channels her creativity into storytelling while managing the social media presence for her St Matthew's community.

As the current Media Coordinator, she oversees the Facebook page, website, and outdoor signage, ensuring that each platform resonates with St Matt's voice and engages its audience effectively. With a keen eye for detail and a love for crafting meaningful connections, she brings her personal touch to both her writing and her work in the digital world.

Worship Times for Advent

Nov 30 - 10am First Sun of Advent - Blessing and Hanging of the Greens/Congregational Potluck
 Dec 07 - 10am Second Sun of Advent
 Dec 14 - 10am Third Sun of Advent - Children's Christmas Pageant - 10am
 Dec 17 - 2 pm Pastor's Christmas
 Dec 21 - 10am Fourth Sun of Advent
 Dec 24 - 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight
 Dec 28 - 10am Lessons and Carols - 10am



2026 St. Matthew's Calendar

January

4 Epiphany – King Cakes after service
 11 Council Meeting after service to review and approve Budgets
 11 All committee reports are due for the Annual Report to office
 21 Quilting Begins

February

17 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper 5 – 6:30 p.m.
 18 Ash Wednesday service 7 p.m.
 22 Annual Meeting/worship with potluck
 25 Hanover Ecumenical Lenten Service 2pm
 28 Chili Cook off 5 p.m.

March

4, 11, 18, 25 Hanover Ecumenical Lenten Services 2pm
 29 Palm Sunday Service with continental breakfast

April

2 Maundy Thursday – (joint?) service at 7pm
 3 Good Friday Service – service at 10am
 5 Easter Sunday – service at 10am

May

3 Thanks to the Volunteers Sunday
 ?? Swing Bowling Starts
 24 - Time and Talent Silent Auction: START
 30 Spaghetti Supper

June

5 Spaghetti supper – need coordinator
 5 Time and Talent Silent Auction: End
 7 Last Day of Sunday and BBQ
 17 Lunch on 9th begins and will run through August – Wednesdays

July

Lunch on 9th continues ...

August

12 Council and Committees BBQ at Fleming's 5:30
 29 – Sept 4 Confirmation Camp at Camp Kintail

September

10 & 11 Cards start - Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons
 13 Sundae Sunday and Sunday School Registration, Blessing of the Backpacks
 27 Sunday School Begins, continues every other Sunday

October

3 Youth lead blessing of the animals (10:30 a.m.)
 9 & 10 drop off decorations for Thanksgiving Sunday
 10 Worship & Music Decorating
 11 Thanksgiving
 18 Alzheimer's Coffee Break
 25 Reformation Sunday and Confirmation
 31 Treasurer has YTD budgets available
 31 Halloween Downtown Trick or Treat

November

4 All committee meeting re: Yearly Planning – 6:30 p.m.
 1 All Saints Sunday
 22 Congregational Meeting re: Salary adjustments and other considerations
 29 First Sunday in Advent: Hanging of the Green and Potluck

December

5 Hanover Christmas Parade
 13 Sunday School Christmas Pageant
 24 Christmas Eve Service – 7 p.m. Candlelight
 27 Service of Lessons and Carols

Food Bank

Nan and Charlie Van Sickle

Thank you Nan and Charlie for your generous donation of your time and efforts to keep the needs of the Food Bank in our minds and hearts.

The Salvation Army in Hanover is located at 581 12th St., Hanover ON N4N 1W5

Phone Numbers: 519-364-3450

Email: danielle.feltham@salvationarmy.ca Website: www.salvationarmy.ca

The Salvation Army addresses the social needs of the community through the following programs:

Family Services provides counselling and emergency assistance

Food Bank by appointment ONLY

Food Preparation programs held at different times during the year

Emergency relief for fire/disaster victims

Thrift Store – Offers low cost used clothing and household items

Accepts people and students wishing to fulfill community hours

Christmas Assistance Program - Christmas meal assistance and gifts * apply Tue-Thu in Nov with ID, proof of income and major household expenses *

They accept registrations from Chesley Food Bank community and community members can make a donation at the Salvation Army or at kettle locations. Gifts can be left at community Angel Tree locations



Coats for Families

Nan and Charlie Van Sickle

St. Matthew's "Coats for Families" program is a project of the Outreach Committee, and has come to an end as of September 2025.

This project was a huge success made possible by the generosity and support of you, the members of our St. Matthew's congregation. Your assistance with this project has been a blessing to many who are finding the increasing cost of living difficult. Bless you all!

The Salvation Army still accepts donations which can be delivered to their site at the Hanover Flea Market either Wednesday or Saturday each week between 10 am and 4 pm.

Share the Warmth this Winter!

Sundae Sunday

Yvonne Magwood

A great way to start off a new school year!! All enjoyed a custom-made sundae served by our Sunday school students.



Sunday School

Elaine Dippel-Baetz

Our regular Sunday School program began on September 28, for the 2025-2026 year. We also welcomed some new little ones to Sunday School this year as well! We are also so happy that Scott is able to be with us again this year, as busy as he is! Thank you, Scott! You make a difference for us all!

Our first time began with learning all about everything that God created, as is written in Genesis. The kids learned that God created light and dark, night and day, sun, moon, stars, land, water, plants, trees, animals and sea creatures and also people. The message for our kids was that God created them as well....and that "YOU are perfect, just the way you ARE."

The kids then painted beautiful pictures of something from God's creation that had a special meaning for them. Drop by the Sunday School room to see their amazing paintings!

We are looking forward to an exciting year of Sunday School as we learn about Jesus, and how much God loves us.

Your Teachers,

Elaine Dippel Baetz, Yvonne Magwood, Lisa Davis





Fay Hill

Happy Birthday wishes were extended to Fay Hill as she celebrated a birthday on September 26. Fay enjoyed receiving many birthday wishes from her St. Matthew's church family. All the best to you in the coming year Fay!



Women of Faith

Pauline Klages

Since the beginning of summer Women of Faith provided lunch for 5 funerals.

In August a trip was made to Manitoulin Island to deliver blankets made by our ladies during the winter months along with some children's clothing, and a few knitted items for the Indigenous people in need. An email has been received stating how appreciative they were receiving the items. They also asked for the name of our group so that they could post who has donated these items. They are also looking forward to receiving another delivery I plan to do again in the summer of 2026. In September we again met as a group and decided to meet regularly every 2nd Tuesday of the month. On October 15th the ladies met for lunch at the Foundry in Durham.



Visioning Team

Yvonne Magwood

Our team is making progress! Emma Cubitt, from Invizij Architects, who toured our building in the spring, has submitted a report to our team. She has suggested two possible floor plan options for our consideration. Emma's husband, Graham from Flourish (a social purpose real estate development firm) has outlined the costs that would be involved. These folks have a long list of projects that they have successfully completed in the area including St. Mark's and St. Peter's churches in Kitchener.

Our team is planning a tour of both of these renovations on October 28 so that we are able to gather information and photos to share with our congregation and so we can all participate in making informed decisions on the future of our church building.

Our team also participated in the Georgian Bay area event that took place at St. Matthew's on September 27th organized by Angela Yenssen. Representatives from several area churches were in attendance and we were given the opportunity to interview each other. This was very interesting as we discovered many common issues and how others are managing, and new ideas that work in other congregations.

Rev. Adam Snook, Assistant to the Bishop, spoke to the group about a new type of worship model that has been introduced in the Maritimes. There is definitely strength in unity!

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Worship and Music Committee

Betty Fisher

Worship and Music Committee meets first Tuesday of the month to discuss upcoming events and services of St. Matthew's. During the summer, there were several changes with the services, due to vacation times for Pastor Lori, with our own lay members taking the lead for worship.

Our congregation supported the Community Lutheran Picnic and service at the Neustadt Lion's Park, with all enjoying a beautiful service and lovely picnic lunch. During the summer, several worship and communion services were held at various Seniors Homes for our resident members. This will continue through the winter months as well. Lunches were prepared for three funerals during the summer. Pastor Lori conducted several baptisms welcoming children into our congregation. Decorations were received and displayed for Thanksgiving Sunday by our group as well.

Upcoming events :

Remembrance of passed members during the year, with a lighted candle and a carnation to family members for All Saints Day.

Beginning in November, preparations for Advent and Christmas will be top priority.

Lunch on 9th

Sue Seifert

St. Matthew's once again offered Lunch on 9th every Wednesday during July and August. Healthy sandwich lunches were free for anyone in the community who came, although donations were gratefully accepted. Although they were welcome to take their lunch and go, we found that the majority opted to stay and eat in the auditorium. Our program was designed to meet the need of those who are hungry, but we quickly learned that the need for fellowship, conversation and someone to eat with was just as real.

Everyone who wanted a healthy meal and the company of friendly faces was welcome to come to our lunches. Our guests included those who are vulnerable in our community, hungry, precariously housed, as well as seniors and other community members. An average of 67 people attended each week. A total of 740 lunches were served throughout the 11 weeks.

A huge thank you goes out to the wonderful volunteers from St. Matthew's as well as from the community, who gave their time, their smiles and their love to make this program possible.



Collection of Creches

Laurel Andrews

In 2015, I was privileged to be part of the team that started the “Collection of Creches” display at St. Matthew’s. The idea of presenting nativities to the public was not an original one. For a number of years, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Walkerton held a display that I knew would be missed when they made the decision to discontinue having their display. So, the “Collection of Creches” was established. Our first display featured just over 100 nativities. In 2024, that number more than doubled. Over the years, we tried different ideas, but the only real focus was on the beautiful display of nativities.

This year, the LDS church will once again offer their tremendous display. The sheer numbers of nativities that they display provides the public with an unforgettable experience that leads up to the Advent Season in a dramatic way – one that focuses on the birth of Christ. The last year of their display, they shared over 3,000 nativities, making it the largest display of its kind in the world. For that reason, St. Matthew’s will not be having the Collection of Creches this year. An announcement like this can’t be made without thanking the many volunteers, who over the years helped plan the displays, decorated, catalogued incoming nativities, baked cookies when we offered refreshments, manned the elevator & stair lift, hosted showings, were part of our live nativity, put up advertising posters, moved books from the library (and back in), played music (live and taped), packed up nativities, ensuring all were returned in good condition, and did so lovingly. Of course, what made this worthwhile was the people who came and experienced what St. Matthew’s had to offer. So heartfelt thanks go to all of our guests over the years. Thank you all.

And do not be disappointed if you were hoping to share your own nativities again. They can become part of a much grander display. The LDS church is hoping to surpass their previous year’s display and would love to include yours. You can take them to their church in Walkerton at 11 Fourth Street from November 2 – 5 th . As you can imagine, they need many volunteers, so if you would like to be part of the display, you can contact Flora Nabrotzky by email at thousandsofnativities@wightman.ca or by phone at 519-392-6780. If you want to see this amazing display, the nativities will be on display from November 20 – 30. Weekdays and Sundays 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

*For a beautiful Christmas experience
tour*

THOUSANDS OF NATIVITIES

The largest display of its kind in the world!

*A combined effort of many communities schools and churches in the
Gaugeen Watershed area and beyond*

Free Admission

Open 11 days

Thursday, Nov. 20 until Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025

Hours – Weekdays and Sundays 1 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Location – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
11 Fourth Street, Walkerton

Come and enjoy a quiet walk through a whole world of nativities

You won’t want to miss this Christmas highlight!

Alzheimer's Coffee Break

Elaine Dippel-Baetz

St. Matthew's annual Alzheimer's Coffee Break was held on October 19. We collected \$710.00 in donations, another record for St. Matthew's! Members of the Outreach Committee provided the delicious baking for this event. Thank you, St. Matthew's for your ongoing generosity and support of the Alzheimer's Society of Grey-Bruce, it is much appreciated

Visiting someone with dementia? Click on the link for tips and a pamphlet to download.

<https://alzheimer.ca/sites/default/files/documents/as-meaningful-visits.pdf>

What are the 10 possible signs of dementia?

Loss of initiative

Losing interest in spending time with friends and family and in taking part in activities. Needing prompts to become involved.

Misplacing things

Putting things in strange places, like a remote in the refrigerator

Disorientation in time and place

Not knowing what day of the week it is or getting lost in a familiar place.

Changes in mood, behaviour and personality

Experiencing severe mood changes or behaving out of character, such as being suspicious or withdrawing.

Difficulty doing familiar tasks

Forgetting how to do something you've been doing your whole life, such as preparing a meal or getting dressed

Problems with abstract thinking

Having difficulty managing finances or not knowing what numbers are and how they are used.

Impaired judgement

Not recognizing a medical problem that needs attention or wearing light clothing on a cold day.

Changes in language and communication

Forgetting words, substituting words or using the wrong words that don't fit the conversation.

Memory changes that affect day-to-day abilities

Forgetting who a family member is or not remembering new information.

Changes in sight or motion

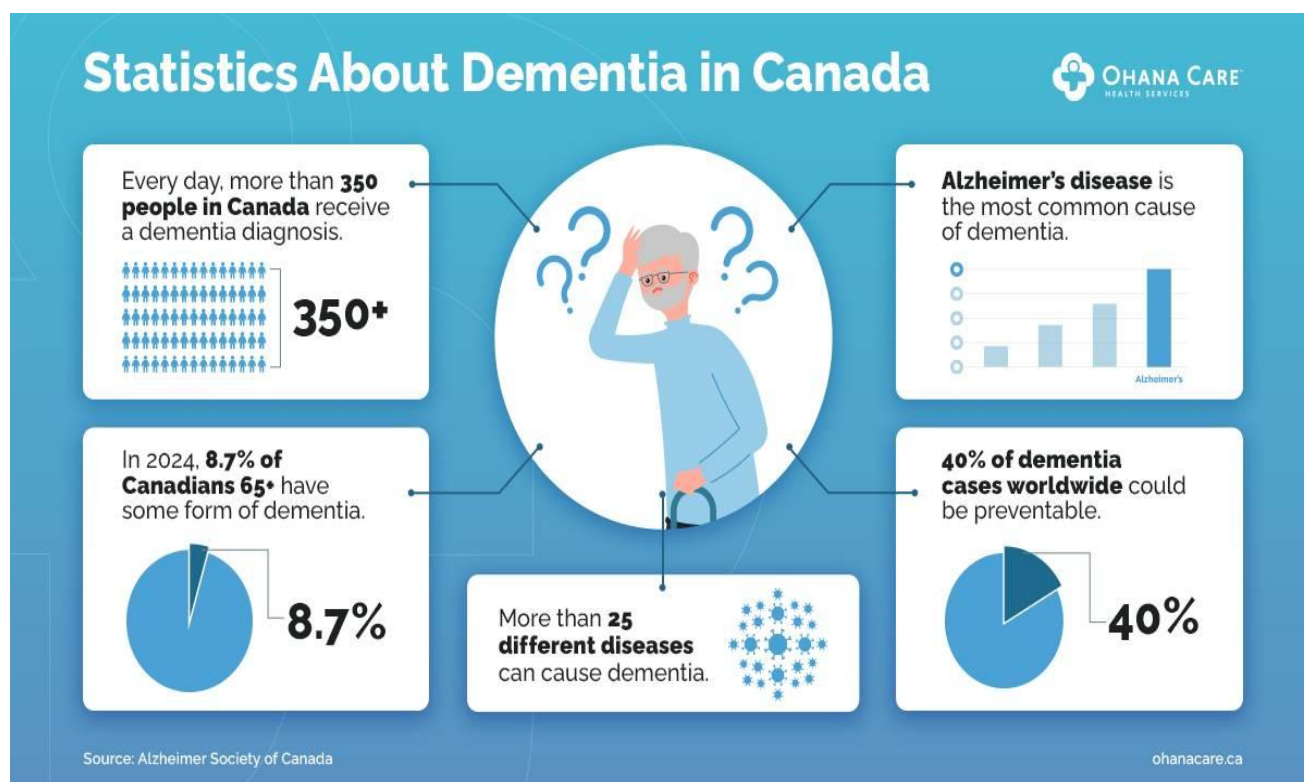
Not seeing objects when walking or difficulty placing items on a table.

For information please see the Alzheimer website for details.

<https://alzheimer.ca/greybruce/en>

Alzheimer's Coffee Break

Elaine Dippel-Baetz



Saugeen Artists Guild



Saugeen Artists Guild

CHRISTMAS SHOW & SALE

12 Jackson St. S., Walkerton, ON

*Paintings, Glass, Fabric Arts, Jewelry, Cards,
Christmas Ornaments, Woodturning & more!*

November Hours

Wed. - Sat. 10 to 5

Sun. 11 to 4

December Hours

Mon. - Sat. 10 to 5

Sun. 11 to 4



Visit Us on the Web

www.saugeenartistsguild.com

On Facebook - saugeenartists



Hanover Community Players

The School of Rock - Andrew Lloyd Webber

Tickets <https://hanovercommunityplayers.littleboxoffice.com/browse>

Opens Nov. 28th @ 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 29th @ 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 30th @ 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 4th @ 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 5th @ 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 6th @ 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 7th @ 2:00 p.m.

