

# St. Matthew's Good News

## Pastor's Message

**Pastor Lori Pilatzke**

Grace and peace to you on the Lenten journey!

There's a segment in a radio show I often listen to called, "Take whatever you have and give it away." Every day, a story of how someone went out of their way to give what they had, to bless the lives of others. Like a customer who left a HUGE tip for her server that was close to giving birth, the exact amount of their last garage bill. Or the man who gave away his shoes to an unhoused person whose shoes were tattered and worn. I am always inspired by the stories of those who are able to see beyond themselves.

This wilderness time of Lent is an invitation for us to be aware of our own privilege because of the colour of our skin, where we live or even who our parents are. The wilderness journey may even make aware our own richness in light of the world's poverty. How often do we consider the rest of humanity, while day after day we exist in our worlds of much satisfaction?

Yes, I know how hard you have worked for all you have and I'm not condemning a comfortable life ... just, don't we want this for ALL people?

I believe this Lenten season is a time to challenge us to rethink how our resources could be used to lift up others to a more humane life. This is why we are called to live the Jesus way. To see the Christ in one another, to understand that we are all siblings in this world. Lent allows us to walk these 40 days

looking outward and invites us to "Take whatever we have and give it away."

And as always, this wilderness time will end in death ... but death does not have the final say. There is more to this story that will end on Easter Sunday.

Pastor Lori +

February 24, 2026 v.11



### Contact Us

#### Pastor

Pastor Lori Pilatzke

#### Office Administrator

Melissa Malloy

#### Office Email

stmatthews@wightman.ca

#### Website

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

#### Facebook

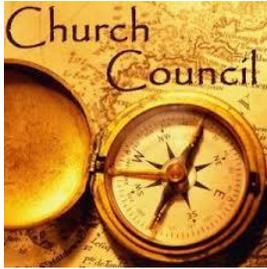
[https://www.facebook.com/p/](https://www.facebook.com/p/St-Matthews-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-Hanover-100064537036150/)

St-Matthews-Evangelical-

Lutheran-Church-Hanover-

100064537036150/





## Council Notes

**Kathy McBride**

Church Council continues to meet monthly and works with all the church committees to ensure the best decisions are made for the future of St. Matthew's. We work closely with the Finance Committee and in January reviewed all committee budgets to plan the budget for 2026 to be presented at our annual meeting on March 8.

Yvonne Magwood and Ron Davis have completed their terms on council and we thank them for their work and dedication to St. Matthew's. Four members have put their names forward to sit on council starting in March and their nominations will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on March 8.

Due to commitments of some council members on a Tuesday evening, council is going to change our meeting date to the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. This change will start with our meeting on Wednesday, March 18.

On Saturday, May 9 Council will host a meeting of the Georgian Bay Ministry Area from 10 am – 12 pm. This meeting had been postponed in November due to the weather. Churches from our area will be meeting to see ways to grow more closely together and perhaps form partnerships between congregations. Rev. Adam Snook from Synod will attend as well as Angela Yenssen.

In the Friday Buzz we will keep you updated on any activities from Council.



## Prayer Circle

**Gayle Dietz**

Pastor Lori receives prayer requests from anyone from our congregation or elsewhere, from a telephone call, a note or a simple request for us to remember someone in our prayers. Pastor Lori then calls me with the request and I in turn call the members of our committee prayer chain. All requests are confidential!

Some requests are in the public prayers on Sunday, others are with the prayer circle only . It depends on the person requesting the prayer.

The prayer circle also remembers the Pastor, the Staff, Church Council, Visioning Team, Confirmands and other St. Matthews ministries.

Please call Pastor Lori 613-735-9623 or me 519-364-2932 with your message.

*A special thank-you goes out to all the members on the Prayer Circle.*



# Our Worship Schedule

Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 ~ 1p Wednesdays in Lent @ Grace United

Mar 29 ~ 10a - Palm Sunday

Apr 02 ~ 7p - Maundy Thursday @ St Paul, Neustadt

Apr 03 ~ 10a - Good Friday

Apr 05 ~ 10am - Easter Sunday



## 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.  
25 Hanover Ecumenical Lenten Service 2pm  
28 Chili Cook off 5 p.m.

### March

4, 11, 18, 25 Hanover Ecumenical Lenten Services 2pm  
8 Annual Meeting and Potluck  
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 Sundaes 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

# Finance Committee

## Bob Farrow Chair

**Members:** Pastor Lori (Spiritual Advisor), Shirley Breig (Treasurer) Derek Ashton, Ron Davis and Bob Farrow (Chair)

The Finance Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except for June and July. Our mission is to monitor the finances of our Church including offerings, expenditures and investments. Reporting to Council any changes in these areas is an important part of our work.

Each November we meet with the Executive Personnel Committee to make a recommendation regarding employee salaries for the year ahead.

The volunteers who count the weekly offerings are part of our group. At present we have 7 people who count in pairs on a rotating basis. If we could add 1 more person to the team it would make scheduling much easier and eliminate having some members counting twice in one month. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office.

Communication is key to the successful management of St. Matthew's financial resources. Questions are always welcome please feel free to reach out to a committee member. We will do our best to provide you with an answer.

If you have an interest in being a part of our team, get in touch or come to a meeting. We'd love to have you.



# The Hanover Food Bank

## Nan and Charlie Van Sickle

Donations for the Hanover Food Bank are delivered to the Food Bank on the last week of each month.

Items now requested are:

Coffee-instant & perk  
Canned vegetables  
Fruit cups  
Mr. Noodles  
Jam  
Dish soap  
School snacks

Canned soup  
Apple sauce  
Pasta sauce  
Crackers  
Cheese Whiz  
Shampoo & Conditioner



# Sunday School Christmas Performance

## Elaine Dippel Baetz

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, our St. Matthew's Sunday School kids dazzled our congregation, as they performed the play, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.' This traditional story becomes revised in the play to be 'The Night Before Christ's Birth,' when William Peiman, the mouse is disgusted by all of the commercialism of Christmas! Lucy Bruton, our talented reader assures him that Christmas is really about the birth of Jesus, and so the story begins!

Our youngest performers Archie Bruton, and Bryce Dippel played the part of the Shepherds, along with Aidan Van Sickle the lead Shepherd, reclining for the night, just before the Angels, Maddy Leggo, Brianne Mountain and Ruby Bruton proclaim the news of Jesus' birth!

Nolan Leggo also played his part well in the role of the innkeeper, overwhelmed by all the extra visitors to Bethlehem, and how that was causing him additional headaches!

A blonde haired Mary was played by Scott Peiman, and Brent Dippel acted the part of Joseph.

A special "Thank you " to Marg Poste for her assistance with the sound system, and also to Crystal Peiman for her last minute help in providing the music for the performance.

Finally, Thank you also to the parents in bringing your children to the practices and performance. We were very proud of your kids!



## Sunday School

Yvonne Magwood

We Built An Ark!!

The Sunday school children worked together as a team to bring the Noah story into 3-D.

Our finished display included a large Ark, Noah, and his wife, pairs of the many animals that came aboard, and of course, a beautiful rainbow and dove symbolizing that "God keeps his promises and so should we."



+



## Women of Faith

Pauline Klages & Sue Seifert

In September of 2025 St. Matthew's church Women of Faith met once again to set up an organizational pattern for a Leader, Secretary and Treasurer.

Throughout the year the women continued to contribute to the many ways of the church through the Altar circle preparing the Sanctuary setting up for communion, candles and carnations for All Saints Day, as well as candles for each church member to light in memory of a loved one. We continue to provide funeral lunches with the help of many volunteers. We want to give a special thank you to these dedicated ladies who so willingly give of their time to help.

Having met a few times now, a core group of ladies have offered their time to continue contacting members of the congregation for their birthdays and help Pastor Lori with home visits and calls, as well as home communion, which certainly describes the continued energy, faith and dedication this group has.

The Women of Faith have Lenten project to help fight period poverty. Throughout the season of Lent the Women of Faith are collecting menstrual products in support of a program offered through the United Way of Bruce Grey and the Grey Bruce Community Aid Network, aimed at fighting period poverty in our community. The program provides free menstrual products to those in need. They distribute products through local libraries, food banks, and schools.

Anyone wishing to donate products can bring them to the church and place them in a laundry basket beside the items we are already collecting for the food bank.

+

# Visioning/Development Team

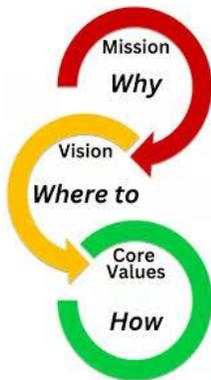
## Bob Farrow

On Saturday February 14th the members of the St. Matthews visioning team met for a celebratory luncheon at WOW Wings.

This team, comprised of Pastor Lori, Yvonne Magwood, Elaine Dippel Baetz, Angela Yensen, Nan and Charlie Van Sickle, Ed Fyfe, Derek Ashton, Barry Pratt and Bob Farrow, formed in March of 2024 was tasked with exploring opportunities and ideas for future use of surplus space within our building. They held roundtable meetings to bring together town officials, service agencies, members of other congregations and our own. Out of these meetings and other discussions a “needs” list was created to identify what the greatest challenge was facing people in Grey County and how we, as a congregation could help. It was determined that affordable housing was the logical choice based on the space available. The next step was to engage a professional architect to tour the building and give us an idea of what a re-imagined space for housing might look like.

The next step involved meeting with the Congregation and informing them of the progress and seeking their approval to move forward with the architect, explore funding sources and obtain the necessary permits and re-zoning from the Town of Hanover.

At this point the work of the visioning team was done, and a new group was formed to be known as the development team. Six members from the Visioning team chose to be part of the new group with the addition of Shannon Logie and Leroy Dietz. Certificates of merit were presented to Yvonne Magwood, Derek Ashton and Ed Fyfe for their leadership and service in bringing us this far.



February 14, 2026

## Outreach Committee

### Elaine Dippel Baetz

The Outreach Committee continues its ministry of working to make a difference in the lives of our community and congregation.

This past holiday season, Christmas cards were written and delivered to our neighbours by members of the committee. Much positive feedback was received and our neighbours were quite delighted to receive these cards.

We have also reached out to the staff of the Little Bloomer's Daycare, and invited them to some of our St. Matthew's events. Flyers of the Pancake supper and Chili Cook Off were also given to the facility for parents to be invited.

Pastor Lori has also visited some of our members who now are in nursing homes. She videotaped them as a Hello Video to share with our congregation during a Sunday service. We continue to see how we might expand upon this outreach.

Our committee has also teamed up with the St. Matthew's Women of Faith, who are hosting a "Alzheimer's Memory and Aging" presentation for our members and area churches. The presentation will take place on April 14 at 2:00 pm at St. Matthew's and will be presented by Sandra Hong.

+



## Adult Study 2026

### Derek Ashton

Our group meets twice a month on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 in the boardroom, or on Zoom.

In the Fall, we started a fascinating book called "Braiding Sweetgrass" The book is extremely well thought out and written...every chapter has phrases and ideas that affect the way we think about this world going forward.

The opinions shared in this safe space often trigger other questions or suggestions. Please do not let the words "Adult Study" scare you off. This group is welcoming. We are at different stages of life and faith and are willing to listen and learn and share our life experiences and knowledge.

If you want to learn more about life and faith, come and join us, for a trial meeting. You will find that we all share and learn together. Come and see for yourself.

+

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

## Bob Farrow

On Shrove Tuesday February 17th we hosted our annual Pancake supper. With our team of volunteers including a large number of our youth members, we served 89 sit down dinners and 10 take-out orders.

The free will offering brought in \$1194.25. All of the ingredients, pancake mix, maple syrup, fruit salad and cookies were generously donated. Therefore all the proceeds will go directly to support the ministries of St. Matthew's.

Truly a wonderful day as we celebrated the start of the Lenten season.

+



# Palm Sunday Continental Breakfast

## Sue Seifert

Please join us following worship on Palm Sunday, March 29th for a continental breakfast. If anyone is willing to donate muffins and/or a jar of homemade jam, please let Sue Seifert or Nan Van Sickle know.

We will be purchasing fruit salad, yogurt, juice and hot cross buns. Anyone wishing to contribute to the cost can do so through your offering envelope. Also please let Nan or Sue know if you are willing to help with serving or clean up.

Free-will donations will go to the work of the development team as they look for a partner to develop housing in the church.

## In Appreciation

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church would like to extend their appreciation to Linda Yensen and Laurie Deratnay for their contributions to our Church services. Thank you!



## Quilting

### Barb Fleming

Tying quilts has been a project of the Women's group for many years. Up until Covid altered many things, quilts were shipped for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. They no longer have the storage facility so different recipients of the quilts have been found. Last year a number of the quilts were taken to Manitoulin Island for distribution. Some of the ladies began tying quilts the last Wednesday in January. They work for about 2 1/2 hours on Wednesday mornings. When a quilt is tied, someone takes it home to put the binding on. About 15 quilts will be made.

Donations of cotton sheets for the back of the quilt and flannel for the middle are welcome and unfinished quilt tops or material.

There are plans to deliver them to Manitoulin again but if there is a more local need they can go there as well.

## Friday Cards and the Good Food Box

Karen Farrow



Is it Spring yet? Our faithful group of Friday card players have weathered many blustery Friday afternoons and we have continued through the winter with no cancellations. Along with playing cards, we enjoyed a social time with Hors d'oeuvres and hot apple cider to celebrate Christmas and again with little treats to celebrate Valentines Day. It's amazing how the \$2.00 entry fee and the 50/50 draw of \$1.00 per person adds up over the weeks. In February , we were able to purchase another 11 tokens for the Good Food Box. Cindy at the Salvation Army works with us to find 5 families a month who are in need.

Justin, the driver for United Way's Good Food Box, was also able to weather the blustery monthly delivery of food from the Toronto Food Terminal. Justin chooses an assortment of the freshest fruits and vegetables. Our Volunteers are sorting between 30 and 35 boxes a month. So, another huge thank you to our faithful Volunteers. On occasion a volunteer finds that they have to step down but, we have been fortunate to have Kathy, a new volunteer, join our group. We have also been fortunate to have Carolyn and Alex from the Library help every month with unloading the truck since we accepted the first delivery. A gold medal goes out to everyone.



## AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; they are self-supporting through their own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Their primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Those of us who attend the Monday morning AA meeting at St Matthew's are grateful for the room provided to us. The coffee is always on, someone brings the cream, and the table in the board room can hold up to at least 16 of us - more welcoming than square tables!

We truly feel like a family in this space and appreciate the 'anonymous' welcome from St Mathew's. Affectionately, AA

# Our Community Partners

## Hanover Library

### Carolyn Caskanette

We rent a room from St. Matthew's Church for year-round storage for our book sale items. All year the library collects books from the community, which volunteers then clean and sort for our largest fundraiser of the year. This year the book sale is taking place at Hope Community Church on Oct. 2 and 3rd, with a special preview evening on Oct. 1. If you have extra time and are interested in sorting and cleaning books we are looking for casual cleaners as well as a dedicated book sorter. E-mail [ataylor@hanover.ca](mailto:ataylor@hanover.ca) for more information.

Looking for a cultural night out? This year we are going big for National Poetry Month - we will have the Owen Sound Poet Laureate teaching a poetry workshop on April 8<sup>th</sup> and we will be having a poetry Open Mic at 6pm on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Community Hall across from the library. Anyone is welcome to come and listen or to share a poem or two. Contact [ccaskanette@hanoverlibrary.ca](mailto:ccaskanette@hanoverlibrary.ca) for more information or if you are interested in reading a poem at our open mic. All levels welcome.

Other fundraisers we are having this year include the Canadian Tire Hanging Basket Sale - we are so lucky to have a committed partner who donates from their sale year after year. The library provides the volunteers on the May long weekend and Canadian Tire gives us \$1 from every plant sale in return. We are also lucky to work with the Hanover Horticultural Society on this, they provide some much valued plant knowledge to all of the customers!

New this year we will be having an Art Show and Sale with the Saugeen Artists Guild. Keep your eyes open for more information on this exciting event. Save the date for May 23rd.

## Stamp Club

### Peter Kritz

The Saugeen Stamp Club was formed in the fall of 1998 and has been meeting continuously since that time. We are younger and older with a good mix of gender. We meet First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 except for Jan, Feb and March which is then on the 2nd Saturday at 1pm. (weather and darkness related) We also hold an exhibition on the First Saturday in May each year to show off our items and perhaps purchase new stamps or supplies. The location tends to move around. This year it will be at the Clifford community Center on May 2nd. New collectors or merely interested in the hobby are most welcome and our club is very good for mentoring and supporting new and experienced alike. We are always happy to answer questions. For more information contact Peter Kritz, Vice President, [pkritz54@gmail.com](mailto:pkritz54@gmail.com) or 519 574 6536



## SAUGEEN ARTISTS GUILD

### Saugeen Artists Guild

#### Kathie Wright

Kathie Wright is in charge of the Wednesday art group. They meet every Wednesday afternoon, for any artists to attend, whether painters, jewellers, etc. Most folks attending are painters.

We have anywhere from 8 to 15 people each week. Hot drinks are available and occasionally someone brings a snack. This spring we have 2 guest artists lined up to do a creative activity for those who want to try it.

Participants are asked to occasionally pay a loonie or toonie, and we usually have enough collected to pay the yearly rental fee for the Guild, which is over \$400. The Wednesday afternoon activity is well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

## The Saugeen Artists Guild Open Art Studio

Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,  
356 9th Street Hanover.

**"Friends of the Saugeen Artists"** meet to inspire and encourage each other in whatever creative endeavour they bring along to share and work on. Any interested artists are welcome to join us!

"Mini-lessons" are offered occasionally by members of the Guild and other artists, for participants to try different projects in a variety of media.

Contact Kathie Wright for information. [kathiewright.artist@gmail.com](mailto:kathiewright.artist@gmail.com)

c



## **Hanover Heritage Committee**

### **Al Morrow**

About ten years ago, the Hanover Heritage Committee was looking for some space to house their collection of photos, writings and artifacts. They had outgrown the small area in the attic of the town library and were in desperate need of a “home” so to speak. That is when St. Matthew’s came to the rescue and allowed us to rent the old youth room. The collection of historical memorabilia continued to grow and eventually council agreed to rent us the old choir room across the hall. This has been ideal for the town’s growing archives. The location of the elevator close by has also been a tremendous help in moving items in and out as the committee sets up displays for special occasions throughout the town. The HHC is truly indebted to the church for their kindness and cooperation in helping to preserve our local history.

One item of special importance came from St. James Anglican Church when it closed a couple of years ago. Two glass wine cups are on display in our church sanctuary and they are the same cups used in the very first communion held in a log cabin back in 1849. This was the first church service in Hanover. Council was happy to let these wonderful artifacts be displayed upstairs in the church proper. Take a look at these the next time you are in church and ask to see the archives downstairs. Many thanks to St. Matthew’s for their continued help and support in preserving Hanover’s past.

## **Hanover and District Horticultural Society**

### **Barb Fleming**

The Hanover and District Horticultural Society has been meeting in the “Scout” room for over 30 years. The meetings are currently held the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (as mentioned in the bulletin every Sunday.) Members get to enjoy a variety of speakers and volunteer opportunities for planting flower beds around town, garden tours, a mini flower show, social time, plant sales, a barbecue etc.

Membership is dirt cheap at only \$15 per year and entitles member to a 10% discount on live, regular priced plants at various garden centers. Good deal, eh? If anyone is interested in further information, contact Barb Fleming 519-364-3153. A schedule of Speakers and activities will be available later in February.