

St. Matthew's Good News

Pastor's Message

Pastor Fred Ludolph

To the people of St. Matthew Hanover,
The last nine months have been quite a ride. They began with shock and sorrow, then some scrambling to carry on, and then a plan that involved a co-operation between St. Matthews, St. Peter's Neustadt, and me.

One of the things I often heard last Advent was, "We're going to go with the flow." What I think that meant in practical terms was; Expecting things would be different, not being too critical, helping out, offering ideas and information, being flexible, seeing events and change as opportunity, being gracious - open - reasonable - and following the advice of Martin Luther, "interpreting our neighbours' actions in the kindness possible manner."

Maybe another way to think of this is through Jesus's words. Words such as; "Wherever two or three of you are gathered, I am in their midst." or "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What we saw together, was that Christ was in our midst, and that a sudden and difficult loss was the tragic end of a chapter, but not the end of the age. And never the end of the power of the Spirit working among us.

I would like to dwell on the word together for another sentence or two. St. Matthew's worked together with Synod Office, Rev. Catherine Haus, St. Peter's Neustadt, the Hanover Ministerial, and relied on many talents and skills within the congregation to support one another and make ministry continue. I mentioned on Sunday Aug 13th that the Georgian Bay Ministry area has a long history of learning and working together. In all of this being and working together, I see hope for the future and a path forward.

I want to offer my thanks to the congregation of St. Matthew's. I will remember our time together fondly. I am thankful for guidance, patience, kindness and your many expressions of gratitude along the way. Among those expressions of gratitude were some gift certificates I received from the congregation and individuals this past Sunday. One was from Vincenzo's Italian Grocery in Waterloo. Our annual trip to a cottage is coming this week and special treats from Vincenzo's are always on the cottage menu. And of course, a Tim's card is always necessary at comfort stops along the way!

I am grateful for help and support from Kathryn McBride, Tracey Lantz, Linda Bender, Assisting Ministers, church council, and others who offered support and guidance along the way.

We're all still along the way. Let's look for ways to travel together.

With gratitude,

Pastor Fred

September
2023 v.3



Contact Us

Interim Pastor
Pastor Fred Ludolph

Office Administrator
Tracey Lantz

Office Email
stmatthews@wightman.ca

Website
www.stmatthewshanover.com

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/>

St.
Sub

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**



Pastor John's Memorial **By Lorraine Morrow**

A committee consisting of Nan Van Sickle (chair), Laurel Andrews, Sue Seifert, Ed Fyfe, Ron Davis and Lorraine Morrow was appointed by Church Council to plan and create a Dedicated Quiet Room to honour and remember Pastor John.

The project is being funded by the memorial donations given in honour of Pastor John.

The room is to be:

- 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.

The Quiet Room will be located in the second pastor's office. The furniture that was in this office has been removed. The lighting will be updated and the room is being painted. The carpet will be cleaned. New furniture has been purchased. A plaque will be placed on the door to acknowledge Pastor John's love and commitment to the members of St. Matthew's and the wider community of which we are a part.

The room will be unveiled to the congregation upon completion.

Office Notes

Confirmation Classes

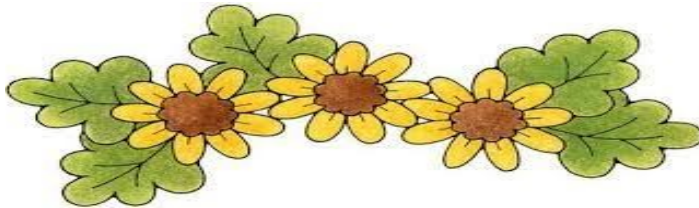
If you have someone in your life ready for confirmation classes (usually going into grade 7, born in 2011ish) please let the office know. Confirmation classes will begin soon.

Volunteers Needed!

Help is needed on Saturday September 23rd at 10am in the auditorium to set up for the luncheon. If you are able to help out please call the office

SUNDAYS – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

All roles have positions available. Usher, Greeter, Sound, Taping, Reader, Power Point Operator, Counters, Communion Prep, Assisting Ministers and Acolytes



Wanted! Flowers to adorn the church for our Anniversary Service!!!

Would you like to help adorn the church with flowers? Potted plants, a floral arrangement or a bouquet from your garden would add to the beauty of our space. Please let us know if you plan to bring flowers for September 24th by signing the list in the narthex or contacting the church office (519-364-2240) by September 15th. Would you like to recognize a friend or family member by providing the flowers in their name? Please indicate that on the sign up list and we will make special cards with their name to insert in the flowers.

You will be able to take your plant or arrangement home following the service and/or luncheon.

Please bring your plant or arrangement to the church (through the auditorium door) on Saturday September 23rd from 10-11:30 a.m.

Welcome New Member, Jack Andrew Dippel!

St. Matthew's welcomed our newest little member to the congregation on Sunday July 30. Jack Andrew Dippel was baptized by Pastor Fred, and assisted by Jack's older brothers, Brent and Bryce! Jack's parents and grandparents were honoured and thankful to have Pastor Fred perform this sacrament of baptism. Welcome Jack to our St. Matthew's church



Sunday School Revised Dates

Elaine Dippel - Baetz

Please join us for Sunday School beginning this year on September 17 with registration, and a special treat for all! On September 24, we encourage our kids to also join in on the celebrations for St. Matthew's 150th Anniversary. Sunday School will begin again formally on October 1, and follow an every other week schedule rotation. These Sunday School dates will be provided to kids and families in the future. We hope to see everyone back for Sunday School next month. Remember kids... "You can always bring a friend anytime too! "

Lunch on 9th

By Sue Seifert

This was the fourth summer (the first since Covid) that St. Matthew's reached out to the community through Lunch on 9th. The project was started in 2017 on the heels of the 2016 Vital Signs report, released by Community Foundation Grey Bruce which stated that 7% of people in Grey Bruce run out of food before they can afford to buy more and the number of individuals accessing food banks was up from the previous year. Given the current rate of inflation and high cost of food, this percentage has continued to increase.

In Hanover, Light on Main is a program in the community which provides a hot lunch every Wednesday from September to June. Lunch on 9th fills the gap during the summer months.

For eleven Wednesdays, from mid-June until the end of August, we prepared and offered healthy bagged lunches to the community. The lunch included a sandwich, raw vegetables with dip, fruit, dessert and a bottle of water. Everyone was welcome and there was no charge. Donations were gratefully accepted from those who wished or were able to give.

We served lunch to an average of 60 people each week. We saw more children this year than in any previous year.

Some who attended took their lunch to eat elsewhere. The majority stayed to eat in the auditorium and enjoy each other's company.

It is very rewarding to see the response from those who come to enjoy the lunches. Words of thanks and appreciation were expressed over and over.

A huge thank you to the 15 committed volunteers (some from St. Matthew's and some from the community) who made this ministry possible. We also gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Serenia Life for an Action Team grant to help cover expenses.



The Power of Prayer

Prayers are so powerful because God is always listening to us.

Please continue to pray for our St. Matthews family, our community and all those affected by hunger, homelessness and wars throughout the world.

Since your baptism, you have a piece of God within you. The Holy Spirit is there ...but will not interfere in your life. God has given us all free will...the ability to make decisions and act as we wish. He has given us two very important rules....to love him, and to love one another as we love ourselves.

God is love. As he shares himself, He is like a one candle lighting another. The light of the first candle is not reduced by sharing. He is very present in this world. He will hear your prayers.He will answer, in his own way. To hear him, all you need to do is to be quiet and to be attentive.

His answers can come in many forms...you may feel a warmth, like a hug. You may see something extra in a common event, that you have not seen before. You may feel the need to share with someone. As you communicate more, and more regularly, this time will become more special to you, and you will feel a change within your heart. If people ask you why you believe, you will be able to answer..."I know!" with calm and certainty.

You may also find that you want to do more to share the gifts you have....your time, your money, your thoughts,..... with your blood family, your church family, your community family and those in the rest of the world.

Perhaps surprisingly, the most difficult people to share these thoughts with can be your blood family. Even though they are the most important, it can be difficult to make the time to do so. May you find creative ways to share your experiences to be helpful to them in their journey.

The above are the meanderings of my mind, at this point in my life, as I reflect on my almost 80 years of experience. I have been so fortunate in meeting so many wonderful people, several of whom have shared their thoughts with me.

Many of these thoughts were refined in the adult study class in our church, as we shared our life experiences and beliefs with all the trusted members of the group. (continued on the next page)

The Power of Prayer cont.

Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts with you. May they cause you to ask questions, and take the time to seek answers to help you on your journey. God bless you!!

Together we can 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. Please contact Tracey, at the office.

We extend a special thank you to Pastor Fred for his efforts, time and thoughts far beyond what is required of an interim pastor. Also, we send a big thank you to the congregation of St. Peter's, Neustadt for adjusting your worship times and sharing your Pastor.

Several photos were taken that show several of the people that came to the brunch after service.....To show that all are welcome at St. Matthews, a T-Rex came with Thank you balloons for Pastor Fred!! Everyone enjoyed the sandwiches, pickles, fruit, coffee, tea and a piece of delicious cake. Thank you to all who contributed to make this event such a success!

