

St. Matthew's Good News

Pastor's Message

Pastor Lori Pilatzke+

Matthew 25:36

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me

Did you know ~ loneliness and social isolation are associated with increased mortality risk? Research indicates that individuals who experience loneliness are at a higher risk of premature death from various causes, including cardiovascular disease and cancer. Studies also suggest that this risk can be comparable to the effects of smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day.

Our scriptures include many calls to visit others, a time to extend compassion, hospitality and spiritual support. Mary who was pregnant with Jesus went off to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was with child. The apostle Peter travelled to Babylon in Mesopotamia, John went to Ephesus and on the Penal colony at Patmos. Folks used to travel a distance to visit with loved ones and others.

As we continue to look at our mission and ministries here at St Matthew's and ways for us to do "A New Thing" ~ let's focus a bit on Jesus' invitation to 'love one another'. Pivoting from 'clergy led' to 'lay led' - we will form a Pastoral Care Team. This team, along with me, will organize our sick and shut ins to receive visits and home communion.

Remember, if we are not connected to one another, we cannot care for each other. Especially, in these times of transition - researching new financial income options - and discerning St Matthew's legacy through mission and ministry, some things fall from our priority.

A couple of folks have indicated their support - thank you!! We will set up a time to come together to ask questions, quell your fears, and have some training this fall. Living out our baptismal promises is not easy and clearly, is a lot of work!! But I can guarantee the benefits are beyond anything you could ask for or imagine friends. I am inviting you to pray about supporting the pastoral care ministry over the summer. After you've told yourself you can't do it ~ pray 'Why do I not want to help in this important ministry'? And be still, quiet and listen. What is God asking of you?

In peace, in Christ through the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Lori+

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Contact Us

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Office Administrator

Melissa Malloy

Welcome to St. Matthew's Melissa! We are pleased to announce that Melissa is our Office Administrator at St. Matthew's. At present, her hours in the office weekly are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Melissa grew up in Arthur Ontario. She graduated from World Impact Bible Institute with a Bachelor of Theology as well as a diploma in Music Ministry. She has spent 25 years serving in churches across Ontario as well as International Missions. Melissa has two children (Destiny – age 22 & Judah – age 19) She also owns a rambunctious mini dachshund named Demi. She moved to Neustadt in the fall of 2024 and is looking forward to working as the Office Manager at St. Matthew's. She is enjoying meeting all the congregation member & getting to know them.

Pastor Fred Ludolph

Elaine Dippel-Baetz



On May 4, 2025, members from St. Matthew's joined in the festivities in Neustadt, to celebrate Pastor Fred Ludolph's retirement event.

During the saddest days, which St. Matthew's faced in coping with the loss of our beloved Pastor John, it was Pastor Fred's kindness, compassion, leadership and support that brought us out of the darkness we were experiencing.

We will always be grateful for the time we spent with Pastor Fred.

St. Matthew's wishes Pastor Fred the happiest retirement with Debbie Lou and his family!

Pictured beside with Pastor Fred is Norma Ruhl.



St. Matthew's Prayer Circle

Pastor Lori+

Since its inception over a year ago, members of the Prayer Circle have been in constant prayer!

I have asked for my name to be added to the circle - knowing there are others praying for me and for my leadership is a comfort.

As St Matthew's evolves, we ask for God's Spirit to lead and guide us. The team holds our community and wider communities in prayer as well as prayer requests for whomever asks.

If you or someone you know would benefit from knowing they are being held in "confidential" prayer - contact the office and someone will call to take your request.

Your angels of prayer.

Outreach Committee and Sunday School

Elaine Dippel-Baetz, Yvonne Magwood and Lisa Davis

On May 4, the Outreach Committee and our Sunday School Youth celebrated "Volunteer Appreciation Sunday." The Sunday School Youth coloured a beautiful banner as a "Thank You" to our St. Matthew's volunteers. Members of the Outreach Committee also baked cookies which our Youth, and Barb Fleming put in individual baggies. A "Thank You" tag created by Sandy Fyfe was also attached to each cookie bag!

At the conclusion of the service each member of the congregation was given a "Cookie Bag" by the Sunday School youth. Following the service, the Outreach Committee also served a delicious "Thank You Volunteers" cake to all! Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for organizing this event!

St. Matthew's is blessed to have such amazing volunteers and dedicated Sunday School Youth!





Adult Bible Study

Derek Ashton

In a recent sermon we learn how important it is to have some quiet time to reflect on life, to ask questions of God and to listen for his answers. Our study group may be able to help you in this change in your way of life. We are a safe place where we look at ideas or experiences.

In our meetings, to stimulate discussion, we find a book or a reported experience. People come to the session having read the information. To start, we ask who found it interesting, worthwhile etc. People share their opinions, people may ask questions or disagree and discussion follows. Afterwards, the floor is thrown open to questions or comments and will be answered to the best of our combined beliefs. All exchanges are confidential. This unstructured part of the meeting is often the most valued.

We are currently on a Summer Break and have not picked a source book for the Fall session. This September, I will be updating the congregation on what source material we will be using. Stay tuned. Perhaps the material will interest you and you will give us a trial visit!!

Summer Vacation

Sandy Fyfe (Editor)

Summer is a time for rest and renewal, but also a time for continued ministry. The church continues to be busy during these warm months. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference in the lives of those we serve. Your summer gift will help us to continue our important work. Thank you!"

Donations can be made in the following ways;

- pre-dated cheques
- PAR (please contact the office)
- E-transfer from your bank account to stmatthews@wightman.ca
- Or through the link on the church website – www.stmatthewshanover.com

Easter Moments

Yvonne Magwood

Our Sunday School children enjoyed creating these Alleluia pictures for Easter.
Submitted by Yvonne Magwood



Meals on Wheels Recognition

Barb Fleming

Congratulations to Norma Ruhl and Marina Schaus who were recognized for 20 years of service delivering Meals On Wheels for Home and Community Support Services at a Volunteer Appreciation Event. Thank you to ALL the volunteers from St Matthew's.



Quilters

Barb Fleming

The ladies of St Matthew's worked for 6 weeks this winter at tying quilts. 20 quilts were completed by these busy bees. 5 quilts were donated to Community Living. They will be donated wherever a need is determined. Suggestions would be appreciated. Thank you, Ladies!





 **Alzheimer's Prevention Day**
Learn how to dementia-proof your diet & lifestyle.

Check Your Risk

TAKE THE FREE 3 MINUTE TEST

www.alzheimersprevention.info

FOOD FOR THE BRAIN
FOUNDATION

IS4M

Alzheimer's Prevention

Are you doing the right things to prevent Alzheimer's?

A group of world-leading brain health scientists has come together to launch *Alzheimer's Prevention Day*. Taking place on May 20th the day aims to raise awareness of the scientifically proven ways Alzheimer's can be prevented.

"Alzheimer's may be entirely preventable in those 99% who do not have the rare causative genes and act early to optimize all diet and lifestyle factors." says, Patrick Holford, founder of Food for the Brain Foundation.

Dr Tommy Wood, assistant professor of neuroscience at the University of Washington, agrees. *"Several studies suggest that the majority of dementia may be preventable, including significant potential benefits from optimizing diet and lifestyle in middle age."*

"By virtue of the simple lifestyle choices we make on a daily basis, we are the architects of our brain's destiny." Says neurologist and New York Times best-selling author Dr David Perlmutter, another member of the group. *"Only 1% of Alzheimer's is caused by genes."*

"We want to encourage people to act now to improve their diet and lifestyle to prevent problems later in life. Everyone taking this test helps us to learn how to drive down future risk." says Holford.

Online test helps dementia-proof your diet & lifestyle

The 3-minute online Alzheimer's Prevention Check shows your personalized risk factors and how to dementia-proof your diet and lifestyle.

It's part of a global initiative to encourage as many as possible to get involved in prevention and join a citizen science action involving almost half a million people who

are already tracking their cognitive function over time against changes in diet and lifestyle.

Visit the alzheimersprevention.info website where you can:

- Take the free 3 minute test to 'Check Your Risk'
- Learn how to dementia-proof your diet and lifestyle
- Watch videos from world-leading brain health scientists
- Upload your own video about what you do to prevent Alzheimer's

8 Things You Can Do to Help Prevent Alzheimer's



Low Carbs & GL

Avoid sugar and eat a low glycemic load diet



Healthy Gut

A healthy gut and gums (dental health) is key



Up Brain Fats

Eat fish and supplement for omega-3 & vitamin D



Active Body

Exercise, build muscle and keep physically active



Ensure B Vitamins

Keep your homocysteine low with B vitamins



Active Mind

Keep yourself socially and intellectually active



Antioxidants

Eat antioxidants & polyphenol rich veg, berries, spices



Sleep & Calm

Sleep Well, Build Stress Resilience, Live Purposefully



Alzheimer's Prevention Day

Learn how to dementia-proof your diet & lifestyle.

FIND OUT MORE AT
www.alzheimersprevention.info

Baptism

Elaine Dippel - Baetz

On June 1, 2025, Levi John Dippel, baby son of Andrew and Andrea Dippel, and brother to Brent, Bryce and Jack was bestowed the "Gift of Baptism" by Pastor Lori.

Levi's three brothers "assisted" in the Baptism with the pouring of water on Levi's head, which they truly enjoyed doing! Baby Levi took all in without any cries of displeasure! Levi's family was immensely moved by Pastor Lori's sermon "Letter to Levi."

Thank you Pastor Lori for this most special sermon and "Letter." It has become a treasured keepsake of Levi's Christening Day.

Welcome Levi to our St. Matthew's church family!



Youth of St. Matthew's

Heidi Leggo

To the Youth of St. Matthews...

Enjoy your summer and keep thinking of events that we could do as a youth committee and or with the congregation.

This past year we did a chili cook off and karaoke and we are hoping to keep doing fun events.

If you have thoughts for events in the fall or next year text Heidi Leggo at 9054677927.





Church Council

Kathy McBride

Your Church Council has been meeting monthly and does keep in touch re emails for issues that arise between meetings. You may have noticed that we have been having issues with our sign outside the church and have been trying to get it repaired. This has been a frustrating issue with the company that installed the sign, but we hope to get it resolved soon.

There will be an all-Committee BBQ on August 20 at the residence of Murray and Barb Fleming, 148 Old Bridge Rd. N. This will be a potluck so please bring salads, desserts and the BBQ meats will be supplied.

This summer, as you may have heard, we will be sharing our building with Pathways Church while they are unable to have their services at their usual location. Nan and Charlie Van Sickle will be assisting them using the elevator, chair lift, etc. and if any questions arise while they are with us.

There will be a change in our devotional booklets come the fall. Instead of Christ in Our Home we will be ordering the devotional Our Daily Bread. You will see this change come September.

We have received an invitation to Worship and a Picnic in Neustadt on August 10, 2025, with Pastor Pam's group of churches, Neustadt, Mildmay and Walkerton. More information will be forthcoming.

For those interested in becoming a Council member we will have an orientation session in late fall to give you an idea of how Council works, what is expected and how you can contribute to making decisions re the smooth running of St. Matthew's.

Barb Fleming and Sandra Ermel are the Council representatives for the Properties Committee so if you would like to lend your talents to the Properties Committee or have any questions regarding the committee please contact them.

We will meet again in September and hope everyone has a wonderful summer!!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Bob Farrow

On Tuesday, March 4th, St. Matthews hosted our annual Pancake Supper to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. As in previous years, the meal was "free will offering " event. However, this time there was a very generous donation. One of our members (who wished to remain anonymous) offered to pay for all expenses.

The 899.00 total given at the door was submitted to support the Ministries of St. Matthews. What a wonderful gesture.

Thanks to all our volunteers who cooked sausages, mixed batter, flipped pancakes, help serve and clean up!!

Special mention goes to our youth members for their hard work and enthusiasm.

A great job by everyone!!!!



Friday Cards

Karen Farrow

We had a successful year playing Euchre and Solo. Lots of fun and laughter and on occasion some food. We were able to purchase Tokens for the Good Food Box with some of the proceeds. Come out and join us - "See you in September"!

Solo

Betty Fisher

Solo games on Thursday nights have been quite well attended. We played each week from September until June and will start again September 2nd at 7pm in the auditorium.

The Good Food Box

Karen Farrow



The choices and freshness of the food items provided for the Food Boxes remains superb. The food arrives directly from the Food Terminal in Toronto which explains the freshness of the items.

We have been receiving, sorting and distributing between 30 and 40 boxes every month and will continue through the summer months.

Now after singing the praises of the food, the cost of the boxes will increase to \$25.00 starting with the October delivery. When comparing the cost with two of our grocery stores in Hanover, the savings is between \$15 and \$20 a box. Still an amazing savings!

Our volunteers who do all the work are the best and deserve a huge THANK YOU.

Order your Good Food Box at St. Matthew's Church or the Hanover Library by the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Place your \$22.00 in an envelope with your name and phone number. Pick up is the third Thursday of the month.

Coats for Families Donations

Nan & Charlie Van Sickle

These are the coats delivered to the Salvation Army Thrift Shop for Coats for Families project on June 11/25.





Lunch on 9th

Sue Seifert

We kicked off our summer lunch program on June 18th. It was great to see a lot of returning faces and to welcome some new ones as well. We served 61 lunches which is more than we've seen on the first day in previous summers. New to folks this summer was the availability of the chair lift to assist those who have difficulty doing the stairs. Three people used the lift and each one expressed appreciation for this assistance. Next week (June 25th), since we need to stay off the auditorium floor while it dries, lunches will be provided in brown bags for take out only. We know that folks will miss the opportunity for fellowship but will still have a healthy lunch to enjoy elsewhere. We will be back to our normal routine the following week (July 2nd).

Everyone is welcome to come for lunch any Wednesday until the end of August between 11:30-12:30. There is no charge but donations are accepted from those who wish to contribute.



Congregational Pot Luck

Elaine Dippel-Baetz

On Sunday, June 15, the Outreach Committee held a congregational potluck and Hot Dog Barbecue. Thank you to members of St. Matthew's for providing an abundance of delicious salads and scrumptious desserts!

A special thank you to Charlie Van Sickle for his barbecuing skills in cooking all the hot dogs to perfection! So very much appreciated! Thanks also to Barb Fleming for providing the barbecue, and to members of the Outreach Committee for making this event such a success.



Spaghetti Supper

Bob Farrow

This years Spaghetti Supper was held on Saturday June 7th. The menu featured spaghetti with meat and plain sauce, garlic bread, Caesar salad, fruit salad and squares for dessert along with tea, coffee and juice. Over 65 meals were served in the auditorium with several take-out orders provided as well. The sale of tickets totalled \$1,340, less expenses of \$205.92 gave us a net figure of \$1,134.08 This would not have been possible without the support and hard work of our volunteers. Special thanks to our young people and to Karen Farrow for the decorations and table settings.

Time and Talents Auction

Bob Farrow

And the winning bid goes to.....! Another great success for the people of St. Matthew's. This was our second year for this event and again the response from those who donated the items and the folks who placed their bids was amazing. There were 26 items provided and after the winning bids were tallied, we realized a total of \$1,035 for St. Matthew's Ministries. Heartfelt thanks to all who were involved especially to Laurel Andrews for putting images of the items on our Facebook page and organizing the bidding forms".

Food Bank Collections

Nan & Charlie Van Sickle

A big thank you to all who contributed with donations to the Food Bank. Continued donations each month would be much appreciated !!



Sunday School

Elaine Dippel-Baetz

Sunday, June 15, marked the last day of Sunday School for the current year.

The kids enjoyed painting bird houses, with reference to Matthew 6:26 and how God cares for the little birds and “us” too!

Some active games were enjoyable noting how hard it can be to follow God’s commandments, just like keeping the balloons on the blanket. Our kids also enjoyed the hot dog barbecue.

Thanks to our teachers, Yvonne Magwood, Lisa Davis, Scott Peiman and Elaine Dippel for their dedication and time in running the Sunday School program for our youth!

A special “Thank You” to Pastor Lori as well for her leadership, and continuous support of all aspects of our Sunday School program! Our youth are in good hands!

We look forward to seeing everyone again in September!



Outreach Initiative

Elaine Dippel-Baetz

The Outreach Committee has embarked on a new project supporting those in need of clothing for all seasons.

This venture is in collaboration with Heather Soady-Easton, Case Manager, Outpatient Mental Health, Brightshores Health System in Owen Sound. Multiple bags of new clothing, in all sizes has been donated by Mark's in Hanover.

Members of the Outreach Committee began sorting the clothes. Summer items will soon be available for those who are in need. We will keep everyone informed when this occurs.

Thanks to the above sorting team, Nan Van Sickle, Barb Fleming, Heather Soady-Easton and Sue Seifert.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in September!



Palm Sunday Continental Breakfast

Sue Seifert

We had a good turnout for the continental breakfast following worship on Palm Sunday. Everyone enjoyed fresh baked hot cross buns, homemade jams and jellies, yogurt, fruit salad, muffins and pickled eggs. Thank you to those who donated food items. And a special thank you to the youth who helped with serving and clean up!

All proceeds from the free will offering, along with a \$100 grant from Serenia Life, are going to help cover the cost of confirmation camp for the four youth who will be attending this summer along with Pastor Lori. A total of \$588 was raised! Thank you everyone for supporting our youth!



Worship and Music Committee

Betty Fisher

The Worship and Music Committee meets regularly each first Tuesday of the month. We organize upcoming worship services and special programmes, lunches and after service refreshments.

After service refreshments are served by volunteers from the congregation and taking turns with kitchen help.

To volunteer for the committee please contact Betty Fisher.

Women of Faith

Pauline Klages

In Nov of 2024 Pastor Lori invited all the women of St. Matthew's to gather once again. Due to Covid and deaths within the leaders of the ELW as well as the passing of Pastor John, our interim Pastor Fred and the calling of Pastor Lori time to grieve and rest was needed. Then having attended the Spring 2023 Eastern Synod Lutheran Women's Retreat, the need to once again come together was inspired. The first gathering was very well attended with 15 ladies plus Pastor Lori showing an interest to once again gather. Pastor Lori spoke on the history of the ELW known as St Matthew's Lutheran Church Women was no longer. So with the group present it was decided we would call ourselves Women of Faith. A program team of 5 members was chosen. A discussion took place to continue with some of the former practices such as the choosing of Prayer Partners, etc. to continue. In December at the churches potluck lunch the former Prayer Partners were revealed and a new partner for 2025 was chosen. In January 2025 we met again which we shared a time of storytelling and questions from Faith Cards. The group was encouraged to add their thoughts and ideas for our time together, some suggestions were fun crafts, home visitation, lunches out, sing a long at LTC homes to mention a few. February's gathering was an afternoon enjoyed with the introduction to floor shuffleboard. The group present was then updated with upcoming events. One being the Georgian Bay Ministry Area Lutheran Women to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ayton on September 20, 2025. MARK your calendar and plan to attend. The second one was the Eastern Synod Lutheran Women's retreat at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls on June 20 - 22, 2025. Our gathering in March was a go out to Lunch for a surprise Birthday Lunch for Pastor Lori. In April we met for another fun time trying to develop our skill at floor shuffleboard. Also a few of our ladies attended the World Day of Prayer held at the Salvation Army. Betty Fisher was a participant in the program. This was well attended by area churches. On the 14th of May our Sister Women of Faith from Trinity, Ayton invited the area church women to attend their meeting. 12 ladies from our group attended. The Theme for the evening was "Who are our Neighbours". Pastor Kevin lead the devotions and held a discussion which involved all in attendance. We also played a few games with some lucky winners from Hanover. The evening was rounded out with a lovely lunch, as we all know Lutherans love to eat. Our May time together was to have been a time to see what we thought of swing bowling, but Mother Nature had other plans.



The Visioning Committee

Elaine Dippel Baetz, Bob Farrow, Yvonne Magwood

The Visioning Team has been active with ongoing meetings, collecting data, and exploring options for the potential redevelopment of our building.

On May 13, the Visioning Team met with officials from the Town of Hanover to determine what role the town might play, with regards to housing needs. Housing has been identified as the greatest need of those who are “living rough” by the Town, and also by our committee. The Town would be a willing partner and would be supportive by granting permits, re-zoning as necessary and directing us to funding grants. We are pleased with the Town’s response for potential redevelopment of our building and ministry.

The data collected by our “My Needs Summary” completed by our members, and most recently by our Sunday School youth indicates a common theme. People do like being in the sanctuary, and they like the feeling they get, when they walk into church. They love the stained glass, the wood and the wooden cross at the front of the church. Also, people do feel a “presence” in the sanctuary—a place of love, support and caring. Our members, and one in particular, Norma Ruhl, exude a welcoming “spirit” to all people, especially visitors to the church. “All are loved, All are welcome.”

The survey also indicated that there is a strong sense of community at St. Matthew’s. People care about each other, and their well-being! As one of the youth said about our congregation, “It’s like a family.”

On Sunday, June 15, Bob Farrow also provided a congregational update concerning the process followed in engaging Emma and Graham Cubitt to complete a feasibility study, and to advise us if our space was appropriate for some form of affordable housing. Emma Cubitt is a Principal of an architectural firm, specializing in supportive housing, and Graham is President of a company that supports clients in all phases of development.

Members may recall that Emma and Graham worshipped with us on May 25, and after service they toured our building and then met with the Visioning Team to discuss their findings with us at no cost to St. Matthew’s. Previously, we had received the names of two other architectural firms for consideration as Bob discussed at the congregational update. When all factors were considered including the cost, and final product, these firms would have been more costly, than the proposal given by Emma and Graham. We are pleased to be able to work with Emma and Graham.

Thanks to Angela Yenssen for her work in bringing these names forward to our Team for consideration. Spirit was working for our Team and St. Matthew’s.

Our next Visioning Team meeting will be in mid August, when we expect to have received the results of the study and plan completed by Emma and Graham Cubitt. A congregational update will follow.