

1876 – 2001
125TH ANNIVERSARY
SOUVENIR BOOKLET



ST. MATTHEW'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELLAND, ONTARIO

“CELEBRATING GOD’S LOVE”



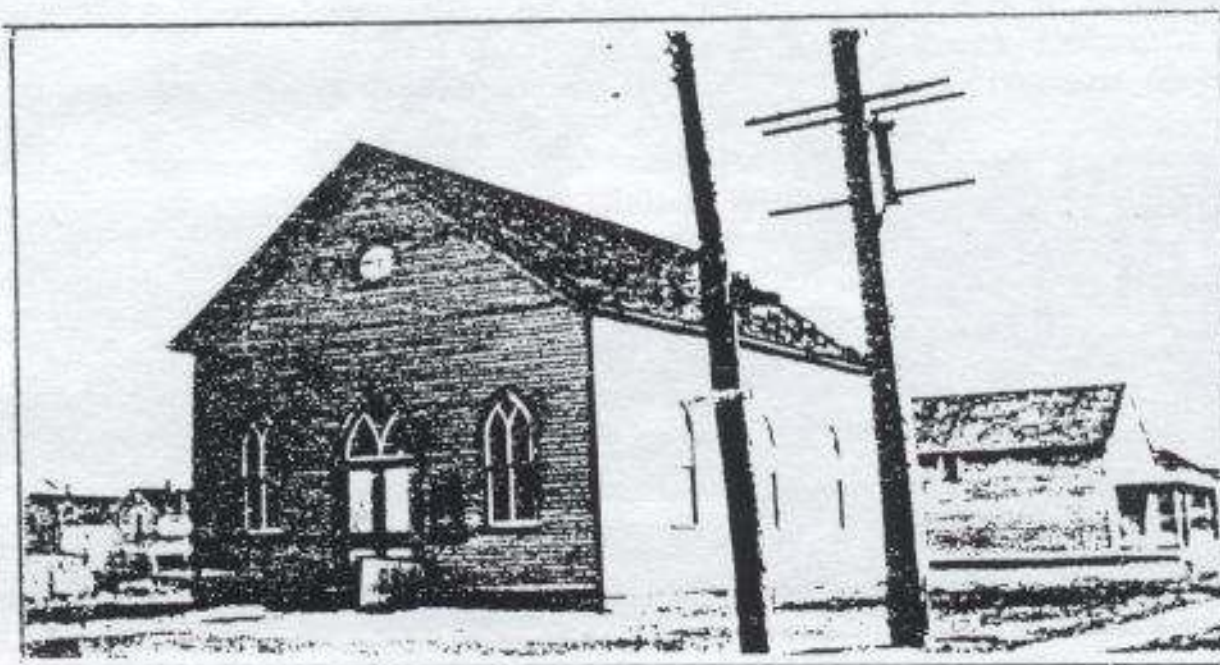
Dedicated to the Glory of God
and in loving memory
of the faithful departed
of St. Matthew's Evangelical
Lutheran Church.

St. Matthew's – How We Started

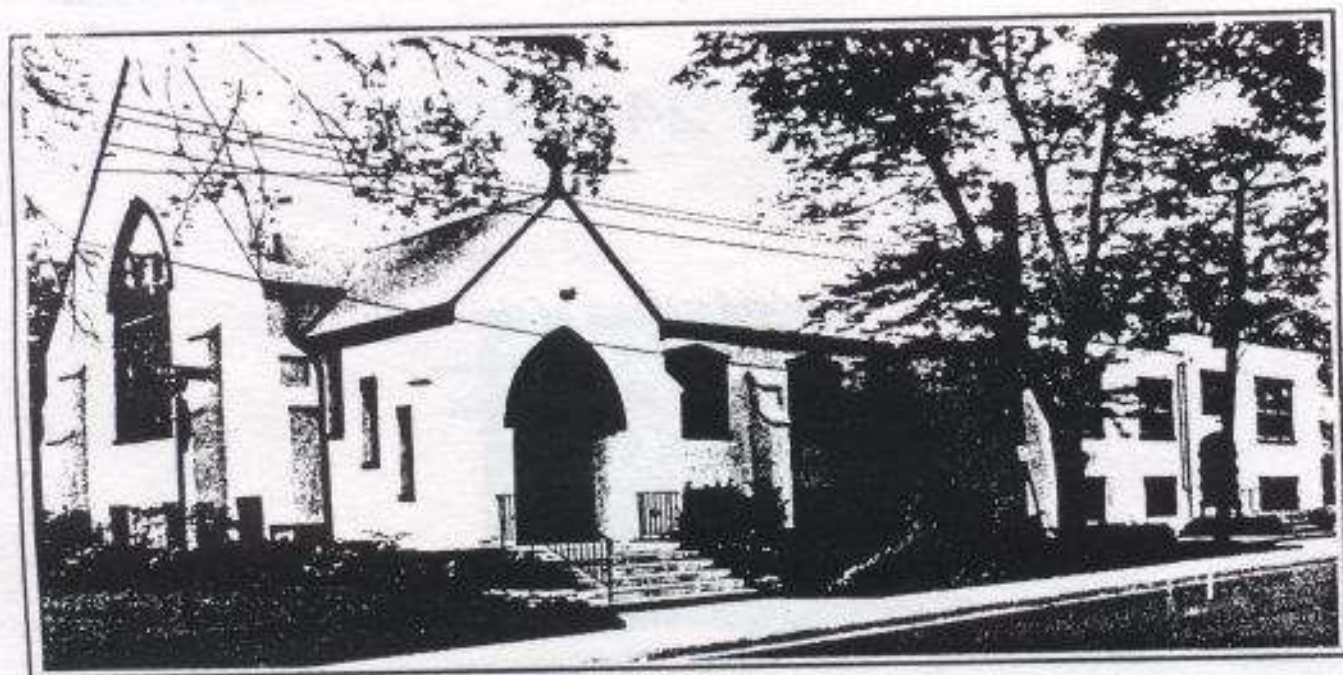
February 24, 1876

"In consideration of the sum of seventy five dollars.... all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises in the Village of Welland, in the County of Welland and being composed of part of lot number twenty five in the eighth concession of Crowland and more particularly described as lot nineteen on the South Side of Griffith Street."

In The Beginning . . .



Is Now . . .



And Ever Shall Be . . .



WE REMEMBER

by Sid Crow

On February 24, 1876, a group of twelve zealous Lutherans pooled their resources and bought a corner lot on Griffith Street for \$75.00. On May 7, 1876 the cornerstone was laid and the church was completed later that year at a cost of \$650.00. This was the humble beginning of the Church we know today. It was not easy! For fifty years, they were served by itinerant "Circuit Riders" and it was not until 1926 that St. Matthew's called its first resident pastor, the Rev. S. W. Gartung. He promptly led the Church in the construction of the present building which was dedicated on December 2, 1928. The balance of his Pastorate was spent fighting the Great Depression.

The next decade saw the celebration of the Church's Sixtieth Anniversary, with the usual special events. It also saw the beginning of World War Two, during which many of our youth responded to the patriotic call.

During the post-war years, our numbers were swelled by an influx of immigrants from Europe. Their arrival contributed to an era of considerable progress. It became necessary to hold two Services each Sunday. The Sunday School ballooned to the point that the house next door to the Church was bought for use as Sunday School rooms. Also, at this time, alterations were made to the Church to provide additional space. A Christian Education Centre and Fellowship Hall were constructed and dedicated in 1958.

In 1976 a number of Special Services and social events were held to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of St. Matthew's. These activities were well attended and featured Clergy from neighbouring churches and, on one occasion, seven former pastors returned to bring greetings and to reminisce.

During 1978, Commemorative Services were held for the 50th Anniversary of the present building. Members of the Reeb, Tufts, Esser, Dobrindt and Rockel families, who were involved in the 1928 building program, took part.

In 1994, a "History of St. Matthew's" was produced and together with appropriate gifts, was dedicated by Bishop William Huras on the 118th Anniversary of the Church. This event marked the high point of Pastor Keith Crouse's ministry at St. Matthew's. He left in September 1996 to accept a call to Eganville, Ontario.

He was succeeded in June 1997 by the Rev. Kevin McLeod. Finding an aging congregation whose youth had left for university and employment elsewhere, he set about rebuilding the Sunday School and breathing new life into the membership.

As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. Matthew's, we give thanks to God for His many blessings over the past years and face the future with renewed enthusiasm.

125th Anniversary Committee



Left to Right - Linda Hood, Kim Fretz, Mary Anne Christoff (Chair)
Jack Galbraith. Absent when photo taken - Donna Rosbak

The 125th Anniversary Committee was formed in the summer of 2000 and met at least once a month thereafter to plan the celebrations for our 125th Anniversary Year, 2001. With input from a congregational survey and the considerable help of every church organization, the committee was able to coordinate a year-long series of events designed not only to celebrate the history and traditions of St. Matthew's, but also to provide opportunities to have fun together as a church family, "Celebrating God's Love".

125TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Jan. 14	Dedication of Renovations
Jan. 19	Fun and Games
Feb. 13	Fun and Games
Feb. 24	Hymn Sing and Dessert Party
Feb. 25	Anniversary Service & Luncheon

Apr. 14 Easter Baskets to Shut-ins

May 6 Blossom Time Luncheon

May 27 Art on the Sidewalk

June 10 Church in the Park and
Church Picnic

June 22 Strawberry Social

July 15 Mini-Putt and B.B.Q.

Aug. 11 Golf Tournament

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Sept. 28	Meet and Greet Kick-off
Sept. 29	Banquet at Club Social
Sept. 30	Homecoming Service with Bishop Pryse and Pot Luck Luncheon

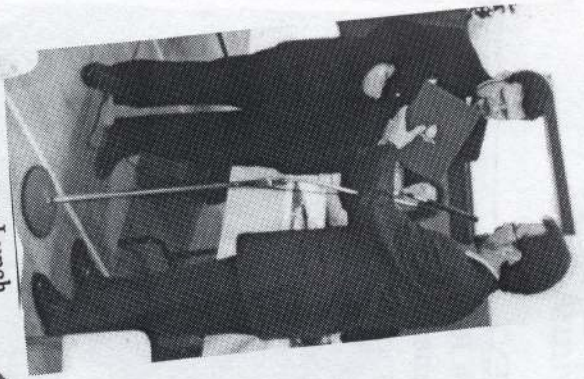
Oct. 13 Volley Ball

Nov. 17 Schlachfest at Club Rheingold

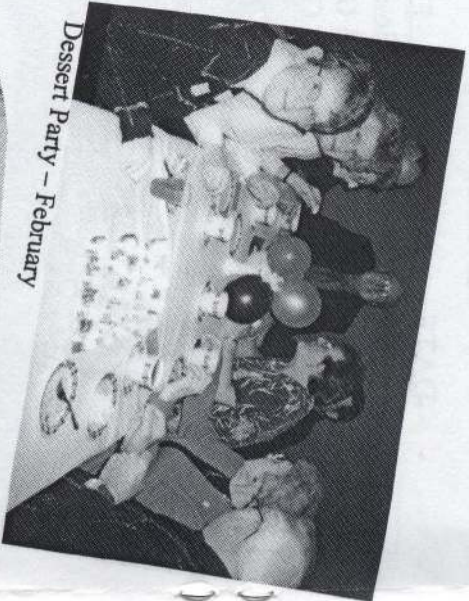
Nov. 23 Volley Ball

Dec. 14 Christmas Carols In the Church

125th Anniversary Highlights



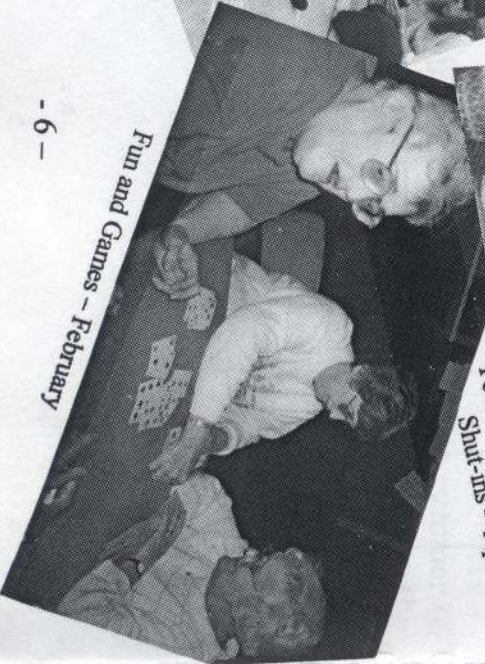
Anniversary Lunch
February



Dessert Party - February



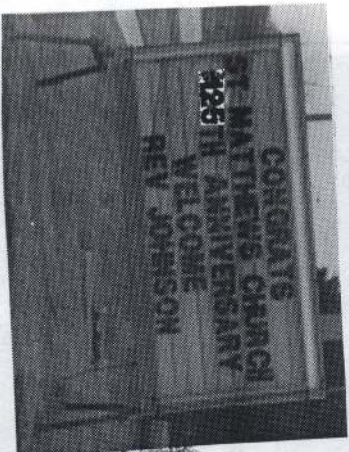
Youth - Easter Baskets for
Shut-ins - April



Fun and Games - February



Altar Guild - Spring Lunch - May



Church Picnic - June



Golf Tournament - August



ELW - Strawberry Social - June



Mini-Putt & BBQ
July

MINISTERS WHO HAVE

1876



Our Founding Pastor
The Rev. Frederick Ebinger
1876-1878



Our First Resident Pastor
The Rev. S. W. Gartung
1926-1936



The Rev. Seymour Cooper
1937-1942



The Rev. Fred Mueller
1942-1945



The Rev. Carl Crommiller
1945-1953

Between 1878 and 1926 the following ministers served:

M. Meyer 1878-1880
M. Chamberlin 1880-1881
T. Snider 1881-1885
J. Badke 1886-1888
T. Snider 1888-1913
W. H. Knauff 1913-1914
J. Beiber 1914
H. A. Kunkle 1914-1915
W. H. Knauff 1915-1919
J. F. Berman 1920-1923
W. A. Schmidt 1923-1925

— 2001

SERVED ST. MATTHEW'S



Our Present Pastor
The Rev. Kevin McLeod
1997 -



The Rev. Mark Innes
1960-1963



The Rev. Richard Tubbe
1954-1960



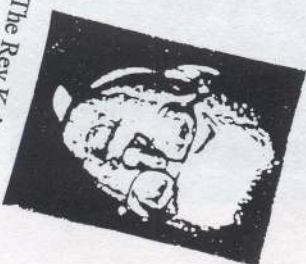
The Rev. Paul Burgoyne
1973-1982



The Rev. Harold Lindeman
1965-1972



The Rev. Paul Fischer
1964-1965



The Rev. Keith Crouse
1982-1996



LOOKING AHEAD

One hundred and twenty-five years ago there was a faith and a fortitude that brought St. Matthew's Lutheran Church into existence. The history books show that there were up and down times for the congregation. Well here we are in the year of our Lord 2001 and we see the fruits of the labour in the past century and a quarter.

We have created a church home that is worthy of being called a community of disciples. Our members are involved in community organizations; we help build the city through Neighbour Link, the Community Resource & Action Centre, and our funding of the Quiet Room in the new Emergency department at the Welland Hospital, to name a few. We are forging closer ecumenical ties with the churches of the city and we are proud to be in Full Communion with the Anglican Church of Canada as of July 2001. Our Sunday School is vibrant, our youth are brilliant, and our seniors keep us all young at heart.

Now we move forward through the next 25 years. What do those years hold for us? Where will the church be then? Every day I am heartened by this quote that I read: "If the Church is to rise to its fullest stature in God, if it is to enjoy the abundant life, if it is to meet all foes in the spirit of triumph, it must rely, not upon its numbers or skills, but upon the power of the Holy Spirit." (Arthur J. Moore)

As we enter this new millennium, may we heed these words of the Lord to Jeremiah and the people in exile: "For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you... plans to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) I can't wait to see what happens!

Pastor Kevin McLeod +

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH COUNCIL - 2001



1st Row-Edith Rominger, Sinikka Speck, Donna Rosbak (Chair), Helga Moeller, Margaret Galbraith

2nd Row-Norman McLeod (Vice-Chair), Roger Kleinsmith, Morley Yungblut
Eleanor Kushnir (Secretary)

*Absent when photo taken - Earl Smith, Robert Hansen,
-12- Martha Schatrack*

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER*

Almighty God, watchful and caring, our source and our end, the gatherer of all good memories, the spirits of many ancestors join us here in this sacred place of the parish of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. We have come to celebrate a history, a gathering of the memories of many decades.

You have been a companion for all: every grandfather and grandmother, every student and teacher, every youth and single person, every pastor and spouse, every father and mother, brother and sister.

You have been the breath of life for everyone who has birthed a child, wedded a lover, or buried a dear one.

You have sown the deep seeds of faith in the waters of countless baptisms, kept alive a parish for one hundred and twenty-five years through the fidelity of those who prayed here, and the generosity of those who served here.

May we take hope and find courage in what we celebrate this year: the strong faith of our ancestors, the friendship of neighbours and relatives, the generous leadership of pastors, the goodness of each one willing to reach out and be there in a time of need.

Accept us now, as we give thanks to you for this place where we have come to praise your name, to ask your forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your word, and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illumine and to bless your people. This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*Taken from "Out of the Ordinary" © 2000 by Joyce Rupp. Used by permission of Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.

Adapted by Pastor Kevin McLeod for our 125th Anniversary Year, and offered at each anniversary event held at St. Matthew's throughout the year.

