

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

57 Griffith Street
Welland, ON L3B 4G6

Email: stmatts@cogeco.net
Website: stmatthewswelland.com
905-734-4746

St. Matthew's 150th Celebration Newsletter – February 27, 2026

These are the words spoken by Reverend Frederick Ebinger on 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.”
Reverend Frederick Ebinger.

CONGRATULATIONS ST. MATTHEW'S!

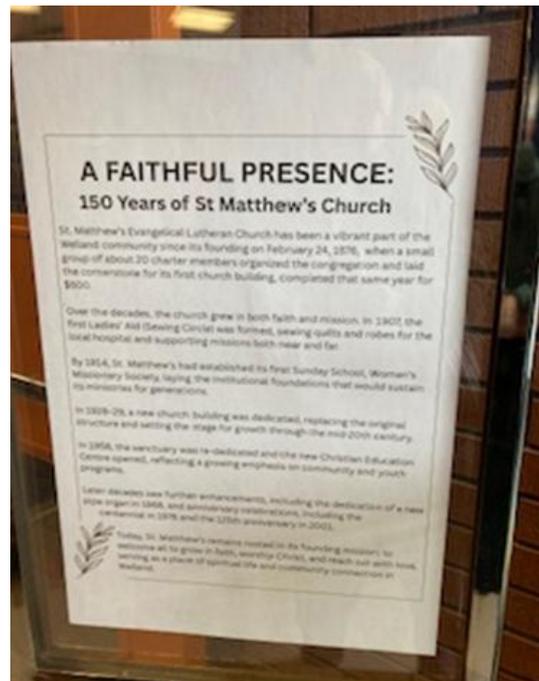
We are now 150 years old! Since February 24th, 2026. It was on February 24, 1876 that 12 German - speaking settlers organized into St. Matthew's German Evangelical Lutheran Church. The original Church building was built on our current site, 59 Griffith St., on property purchased for \$75. The Church's cornerstone was laid on May 7, 1876, and the cost of the building was \$650. That building was sold for \$225 and moved to the corner of Empire and East Main Streets, and a new Church was built, its cornerstone being laid Aug. 19, 1928....and, as they say,....all the rest is history!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

“In response to God's love, St. Matthew's is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to others.”



We extend our thanks to Welland's Historical Museum's Executive Director, Lisa Mooney, for her excellent exhibit highlighting some of the ways our members have endeavoured to live out our mission statement "In response to God's love, St. Matthew's is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone."



The items in the case represent our tradition of care through Social Ministry and Community Outreach. Layettes for babies (diapers, blankets, sleepers and sweaters) for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, local families in need, and Elisha House. Hygiene items and hundreds of warm hand knitted hats that have been given to local residents without shelter. Twelve years of providing free bike clinics and BQs for our neighbours.

A Day of Celebration!



Marilyn Schultz receiving the plaque from Vice Mayor Leo Van Vliet.



Carole McLeod, Vice Mayor Leo Van Vliet, Pastor Bart Coleman and Ward 3 Councillor Sharmila Setaram.



Cake cutting by Ward 3 Councillor Sharmila Setaram.

St. Matthew's 150th Anniversary Project

In January, Church Council approved the supporting of Hospice Niagara, Walker House Welland as our Anniversary Project for 2026. Because St. Matthew's has been blessed over these many years, our giving back to the community seems appropriate.

On Sunday, January 22nd, we invited Joy Friesen, Director of Community Programs for Hospice Niagara, to speak to us, to help us understand how the program works and what its needs are. It was enlightening to hear the scope of how Hospice helps palliative patients from the diagnosis of their illness, through the dying process to the bereavement care for the patient's family, children, youth and adults. In addition, terminally ill patients who are still able to live at home, may participate in day programmes including music, painting, crafts and journaling. While there, patients are provided with free meals and snacks, and their caregivers receive some needed respite.

In Welland, 10 hospice beds were opened last August, and 50 patients have been cared for since then. Rooms are tastefully decorated, giving a relaxed and peaceful space. They are also equipped with pull out couches and shower facilities for families staying with their loved ones. Meals are provided for them from the large kitchen with its own chef. Another very unique feature is that each room has its own patio and small garden, with doors large enough to allow a bed to be wheeled outside so that the patient can bask in the sunshine if they wish.

All Hospice programs and services are offered at no cost to families across Niagara. The government funds only 40% of the cost of Hospice Niagara; the remaining 60% is obtained through fund raising and donations.

St. Matthew's has a long and rich legacy of reaching out to our neighbours, including the furnishing of a Quiet Room in the Welland Emergency Department in 2021, honouring our 125th anniversary. We are fortunate to have the Hospice Niagara - Walker House Welland in our city and the opportunity to offer support. You can be a partner in this caring outreach by donating throughout the year. Together we will make a difference.

Submitted by Marilyn Schultz on behalf of the Church Council



A big **thank you** to all who helped with the anniversary luncheon last Sunday:

- those who set up tables and memorabilia displays
- those who took photos and Bob H for the display videos
- those who brought delicious food for our potluck lunch
- those who tended the kitchen, picked up food and helped to get it out to the buffet table
- the amazing crew who cleaned up afterwards!

It was heartwarming to see people just pitch in and help! Co-operation and teamwork made for a successful event.

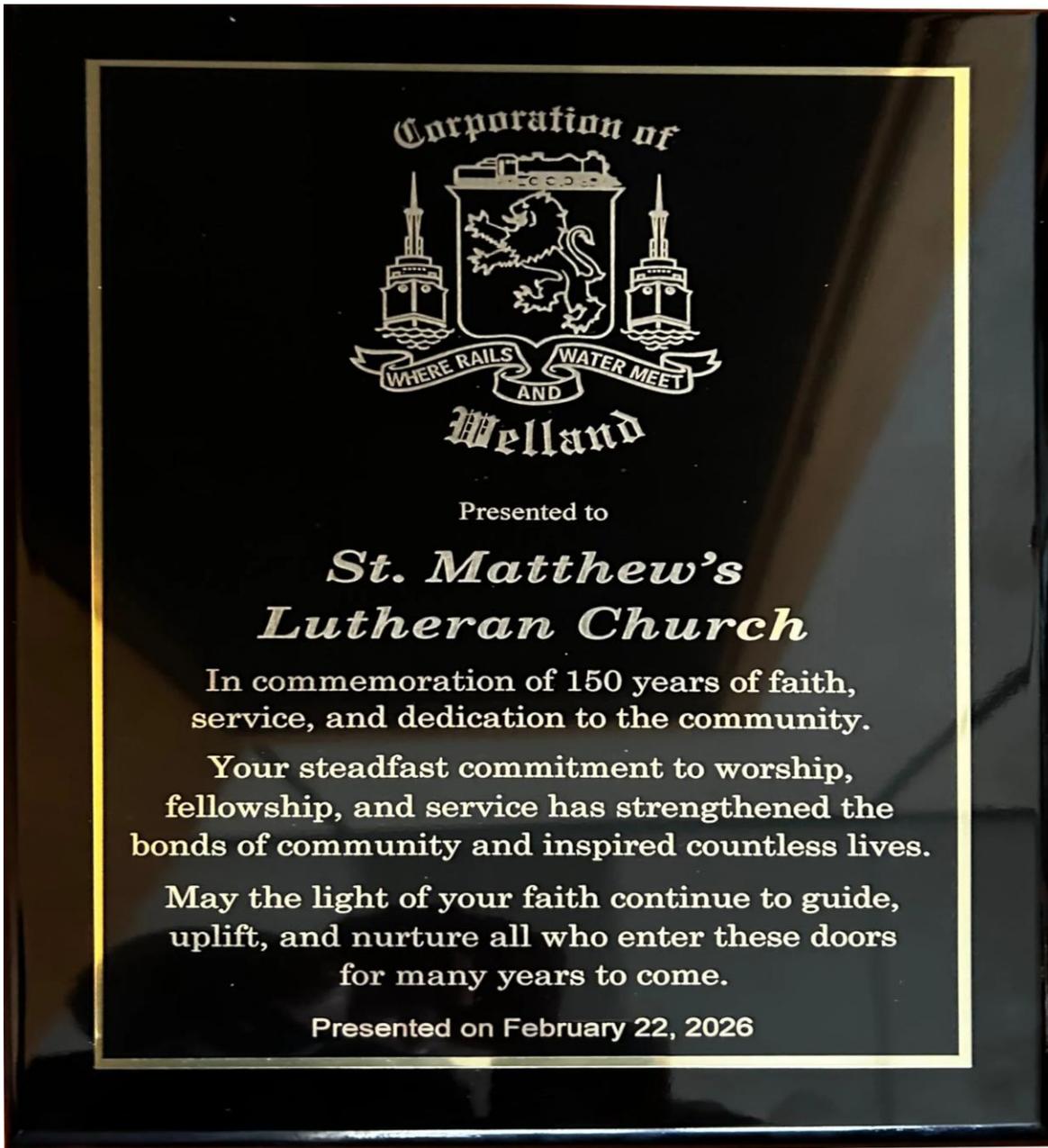
With appreciation and thanks from
The Anniversary Committee

A letter from Vice Mayor Leo Van Vliet

It was my pleasure to be able to present the plaque on behalf of the Mayor and Council. I have been concerned for a long time about the decline of church memberships and attendance. It is with pride that I observe a church that has survived 150 years. My personal observation is that St. Mathhew's has a strong commitment from all members and everyone stays involved.

God Bless and please continue the path you are on.

Leo Van Vliet
Councillor, Ward 2
Vice Mayor, City of Welland



This plaque will be displayed on the left side of our Church's sanctuary.