
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

A family of believers grounded in, growing in and reaching out in Christ

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St. Matthews Lutheran Church
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Brenda Hall, Office Manager
Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

“Fine, Thanks!”

“How are you doing?” Is a nice and polite way we greet someone and acknowledge his or her presence without getting ourselves too involved. We don’t want to know all the details, we just want to greet and move on. Here is a typical exchange we are involved with each day. *“How are you doing?” “Fine, thanks. And you?” “Fine, thanks.”* How would we react if they answered with anything other than, *“fine thanks”*? What would we do if someone responded, *“well my back is hurting and my gout in my feet has been acting up and my niece is pregnant again and my kids won’t listen to a thing I say and I’m not sure where God is. How about you?”*

Nowadays, how are you doing? Has taken on increased significance for us. When we ask it of someone, we truly do want to know, because we know that no one is doing, *“fine thanks”*. Everyone is struggling at some level with the changes taking place in our world. People are losing their jobs, businesses are struggling, and we are feeling isolated and cooped up and more than a little stir-crazy. I don’t know anyone who’s, *“fine thanks”*. So when we ask, how are you doing? We mean it.

That’s one of the blessings that has come out of this time of quarantine for me. Our words and actions are becoming more intentional. We’re paying more attention to our relationships. We’re making more of an effort to check in with people. I’ve done more talking on the phone, texting, video worship and Zooming than I ever had. (To be honest, I had never heard of Zoom until the Pandemic hit.) We have had the chance to reconnect with former members of the church who are spread out all over the world who are watching our Worship service on Facebook. I’ve even reconnected with long lost family and friends that I haven’t spoken to in ages.

There are indeed blessings to be found in the midst of challenges. Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord makes us lie down in green pastures and leads us beside the still

See “Fine, Thanks!” continued on page 2

waters. While I in no way believe God caused the coronavirus pandemic, I do believe God is working through it to make us lie down in green pastures. It's like overworking your body so much that you are forced through, injury or illness, to lie down and rest. We have lost our focus and overworked ourselves to the point that this pandemic feels like a good time for us to lay down and rest, and recuperate from our unhealthy schedules and habits.

And what happens when we lie down in green pastures? Psalm 23 reminds us, he restores my soul! And how can this happen in the midst of a crisis in which people are losing their jobs, their loved ones, and their sanity? These times can feel more soul crushing than soul restoring.

Where do you even begin? He tells us in Psalm 46, “Be still and know that I am God!” It begins as we meditate on God, on the Good Shepherd. You begin in the green pastures and quiet waters. It means slowing down, finding a quiet place, and just being still. Then let God and His word speak healing, comfort and power into your life and soul. Listen and meditate. These small actions won't change the world, but they might change yours. We don't take enough time to be still. And it may be a challenge right now if you have kids at home. But regardless, finding time to be still is a wonderful way to restore and reconnect with our Lord and Savior.

Take time today! Even five minutes of quiet time with God can be cleansing and renewing. Being intentional, especially during anxious times like these, can help you stay connected to God and more in tune with the needs of those around you. It may not get you to, “*fine thanks*”, but it will help you remember that God is with you, even now.

**June Worship with
Holy Communion**

10:30 am Sundays

**In the church
parking lot**



**God willing -
July Worship in
the church
Sanctuary**

Congratulations Confirmands

Gino Anthony Bertoglia	Jaida Rose Bissonette
Anabelle Sue Engen	Dylan Matthew Frank
Maxwell James Hanni	Sofie Andresen Herman
Spencer David Hipp	Bryce Robert Hiipp
Kiley Rose Issendorf	Tallon Richard Kiminski
Trent Alexander Ondrus	Bailey Marie Plante
Emmet Lawrence Prosen	Logan Matthew Sickmann
Dalton James Spindler	Jace Thompson Stewart
Tanner Robert Stokes	Ryan Paul Sturm
Declan David Sullivan	Mason Jeremy Taylor
Jayden Gage Walz.	Wyatt Alan Weber
	Isaac John Wisted

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*



St. Matthews Lutheran is Ready to Help Our Community During This Pandemic.

We have people ready to provide support services to you if you are in need of someone to help you with grocery shopping or picking up a prescription. We also will be making phone calls to check on people we know are homebound, others who might need some assistance, or simply need someone to visit with. We want to help people stay connected as much as possible during this time when we are needing to distance ourselves from others.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Please call the church office at 218-879-3510 if:

- You are in need of assistance
- You know someone we should add to our list to contact
- You want to help by making some phone calls
- You want to help deliver groceries or other things that are needed.

Let us all hold each other up in prayer at this time. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Tina Brekke, Samantha Guthrie
- 3- Karl Olesen
- 4- Wayne Francisco, Malachi Hanson, Maxwell Rahkola
- 5- Luna Asbell, Jake Seboe
- 6- Brenda Bergman, Vincent Schmidt, Natalie Greniger, Drake Schramm, Daniel Bowman
- 8- Trent Issendorf
- 9- Brett Crow, Jake Olson
- 10- Pat Olesen, Christina Walther, Melissa Towns, Gabrielle Cardinal
- 11- Kallyn Knutson, Bailey Pantsar, Wyatt Zappa
- 12- Dale Abbott, Richard Richardson
- 13- Shirley Behm, Leah Pykkonen, Nicole Contardo, Leland Hill
- 14- Aubree Lee
- 15- Aaron Young
- 16- Tom Ruemmele, Emmett Siltanen
- 17- Kelly Eng, Carol Larson, Brittany McCullough
- 18- Scott Prachar, Tony Hanni
- 19- Owen Neff, Damon Butkiewicz
- 20- Sydney Kazel
- 21- Cheryl LaCourse, Nikki Wilmes
- 22- Araya Baker, Kloe Carlson
- 23- Richard Duzan
- 24- Tyceson Johnson, Jayden Walz
- 25- Dylan Edland, Delia Forneris, Jonny Klatt
- 26- Keith Baxley, Marilyn Murphy, Owen Straub, Madison Weber, Ty Christensen
- 27- Bailey Plante, Rylie Erickson
- 28- John Lehman, Kyler Nikunen
- 29- Terry Koskela, Heidi Roemer, Terri Fredrickson

RESCHEDULED

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

The Esko Spring Rummage Sales have been cancelled. The Fall Rummage Sales are scheduled for September 17-19. St. Matthews plans on holding our sale in the fall during the Esko Sales.

St. Matthews has a part-time Office Manager position available. The job description and application are available in the church office.

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www.glasbergen.com



"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

4 Elizabeth Avenue, Esko, MN 55733

218-879-3510

www.stmatthewsesko.org

Pastor Jeff Walther 218-591-1436

Pastor Tom Brinkley 218-343-2080

Greetings and blessings!

Here are a few updates to our worship and activities schedule:

WORSHIP:

1. Parking Lot Worship in your car with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
2. Sunday mornings- St. Matthews Lutheran Church worship services will be online via Facebook at 10:30 am. on the St. Matthews Lutheran Church Facebook page until further notice.
3. On TV - Another option for worship is on television: Channel 6 (KBJR) is airing Mainstreet Living Northland every Sunday at 9:30 am.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Tuesdays 9 am - "Coffee with the Pastors" online via Facebook.
2. Sundays 8:30 am - Adult Bible Study with Pastor Jeff via zoom

YOUTH:

1. Tuesdays- June 2 and 9 - Outdoor Bible Study 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
 2. Thursdays – Outdoor Youth Group 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
 3. Lawn Chair Chats- Christina will bring a chair and come visit with you in your yard. Call or email to set-up a date and time.
- *All youth activities will be held outdoors, so dress accordingly. If the weather is extremely unfavorable - we will meet via Zoom. Christina will send out updates.
- **TO BE SURE YOU ARE RECEIVING UPDATES ABOUT YOUTH ACTIVITIES FROM CHRISTINA, TEXT YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS TO CHRISTINA 218-391-3649 waltherchristina@gmail.com.**



LCMS Service of Worship - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. televised by KBJR Channel 6 NBC

Main Street Living Northland is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran Hour Ministries (starting at 10:00 a.m.).

June 7
Pastor Don Stauty
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Virginia and
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Aurora

June 14
Pastor Brad Felix
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Virginia

June 21
Pastor Jim Anthony
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Deer River
and
Centennial Lutheran Church, Squaw Lake

June 28
Pastor Jeff Walther
St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Esko

St. Matthews

Offering Income

May 22, 2020

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	40,000	43,800	(3,800)
Aug.	37,800	43,800	(6,000)
Sep.	45,000	43,800	1,200**
Oct.	38,500	43,800	(5,300)
Nov.	40,600	43,800	(3,200)
Dec.	51,300	43,800	7,500**
Jan.	38,800	43,800	(5,000)
Feb.	38,600	43,800	(5,200)
Mar.	41,700	43,800	(2,100)**
April	55,100	43,800	11,300
May	28,400	32,800	(4,400)*
Total	455,800	470,800	(15,000)

* May 1 - 22

** 5 Sunday Month

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Keyenna Bissonette

This Fall, I plan to attend Lake Superior College with the intent to finish earning my AA Degree. After this, I would like to further my education and earn a Bachelor's Degree. Currently, I have not declared a major, but when I am finished with school I would like to work in the mission field.



Diah Butkiewicz

I'm plan on doing Cosmetology at Wisconsin Indianhead technical college in Superior. After I finish that I'm going to take some online classes and slowly work up to be a preschool teacher.

Emma Calverly

I am planning on attending Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, or Lake Superior College in the fall. I am unsure of what I would like to pursue at this time.



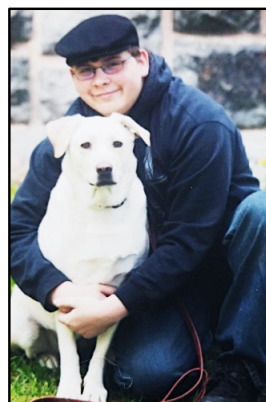
Eli Erickson

Upon graduating from Esko High School, I plan on attending Itasca Community College to obtain an Associate's Degree in engineering. After, I plan on transferring to UMD for two more years to earn a Bachelor's Degree in engineering.



Paige Kesti

I am enrolled for this Fall semester at Lake Superior College in Duluth. I am taking engineering classes for my first two years and then will transfer to a four year college.



John Stephenson

I plan on attending Lake Superior College for welding.

Lora Stodola

I plan on attending St. Scholastica in the Fall. I am pre-dentistry and will be majoring in biology.



—CLASS OF—
2020



Graduates not Pictured:

Samia Anderson
Owen Carlson
Rylie Erickson
Sophia Kangas
Gabriella Laubach
Abby Rudnicki
Trevor Spindler

Kiana Bender
Kristy DeMuth
Amber Greniger
Troy Koski
Nicole Mismash
Rowdy Sorenson
Gracie Swardwoudt

Stewardship Corner

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

See "Stewardship" continued on page 11

Members often ask how we are paying our bills when our offerings are often short of our budgeted needs. The short answer is that we need to budget for all expenses we are obligated to pay. At the end of each month, we will show how our offerings are actually being spent. Any surplus funds at the end of our fiscal year (June 30) will be used to pay down the church mortgage (\$773,559 on 4/30/20).

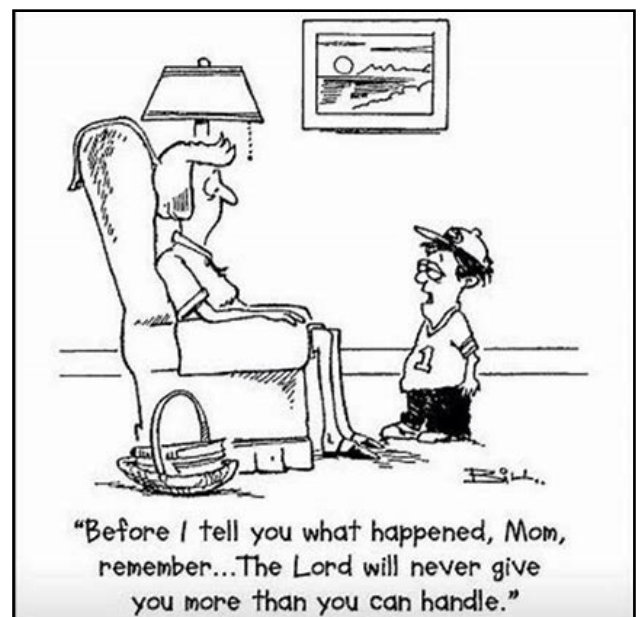
	January	February	March	April	Total
Salaries	17,548	17,566	17,196	16,866	173,509
Benefits	9,911	7,178	7,050	9,773	77,247
Debt Payments	7,166	7,166	7,426	6,883	71,637
District/Synod Support	2,083	2,083	2,083	2,083	22,825
Electricity	1,201	1,127	1,204	1,028	9,474
Christian Education	169	1,116	484	195	3,971
Church Property	253	892	507	378	7,072
Office	1516	1,482	1,955	1,472	13,943
Worship	1,377	280	81	15	4,077
Youth	0	0	0	0	573
HRA	474	440	4,146	1,307	7,388
Heating Fuel	1,269	1,553	1,685	906	7,691
Repair & Maintenance	116	453	0	0	3,956
Outreach/Missions	0	200	0	0	1,353
Conferences	0	0	100	(100)	170
Insurance	0	0	0	0	(82)
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	43,083	41,536	43,917	40,806	404,804
Budgeted Needs	43,783	43,783	43,783	43,783	437,830

“Stewardship” continued from page 9

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it’s all God’s gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I’m doing, am I doing it “for the Lord”? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus’ finished work, God is pleased with us. worship.” (Rom. 12:1)



Memorial Fund

Sincere thanks to each person who honored and remembered a loved one or a friend with a gift to The Memorial Fund in April, 2020

Gifts have been given in Memory of

Pat Bailey

Roland Uran

Undesignated Fund

Undesignated Fund

Please notify the church if you do not receive a Thank you from the family or the church for your gift.

For more information on Memorial gifts, please call a member of the Memorial Committee: Winnie Anderson, Walt & Shirley Behm, Eileen Christopherson, Elaine Lindquist, Gene & Margaret Lindquist, Florence Maki, Judy Nelson, Marilyn Pykkonen, Don & Ardy Pykkonen, or Judy Uran

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of a friend or loved-one, is welcome to do so. Please include the following information. Memorial folders are also available at the Welcome Center and on the table in the Narthex of the church. Contributions may also be made from our church website at www.stmatthewsesko.org. Select *Giving and Fees* in the top menu bar.

Memorial Fund

In Loving memory of :

In Honor of:

Given to St. Matthews Lutheran Church by:

Name _____ Address _____

Fund _____

The Face Mask project to benefit Lutheran World Relief is well underway! God has blessed us with an industrious group of seamstresses, many who are using their own “stash” of supplies. There are about 11 women involved from St. Matthews, as well as some community members. In fact, one of the seamstresses learned of the project by word-of-mouth and immediately started sewing; she completed 20 masks before the project officially started!

The need is critical, as shown in the photo of the little boys from Kenya; they are creating masks from scrap materials. Anyone with basic sewing skills can make a mask in about 30 minutes. Additional seamstresses are welcome — there is still lots of fabric available. Lutheran World Relief just announced that it has already met its challenge — it took less than a month for people to pledge 75,000 masks. As a result, they have decided to accept an additional 70,000 masks. Our project at St. Matthews will contribute about 300 masks.





*Blacklegged tick
(adult female)*

What is a tickborne disease?

People can get a tickborne disease when they are bitten by a tick that is infected with a disease agent. In Minnesota, there are about a dozen different types of ticks.

Not all of them spread disease. Three types that people may come across in Minnesota are the blacklegged (deer) tick, the American dog (wood) tick and the lone star tick. The blacklegged tick causes the most tickborne diseases in Minnesota.

People in Minnesota are often bitten by American dog ticks, but they rarely spread diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. Lone star ticks are uncommon in Minnesota, but can spread tularemia and ehrlichiosis.

What diseases can I get from blacklegged ticks in Minnesota?

- Lyme disease
- Anaplasmosis
- Babesiosis
- Ehrlichiosis
- Powassan virus disease

What symptoms should I watch for?

Many of these diseases cause similar symptoms. Initial symptoms usually show up within 2-4 weeks of being bitten by an infected blacklegged tick.

Watch for symptoms like:

- Rash
- Fever
- Muscle and joint pain

How are tickborne diseases diagnosed?

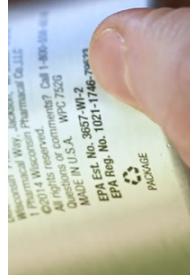
If you think you could have a tickborne disease, you should contact your doctor immediately. The doctor can determine if you have a tickborne disease based on your history of being around wooded or brushy areas, a physical exam, and possibly blood tests.

Are tickborne diseases treatable?

Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis are treated with antibiotics. Babesiosis is treated with both an antibiotic and an antiparasitic. Powassan virus is treated with supportive care only. For most people, symptoms go away after treatment. Speak with your doctor about any concerns you may have.

How can I protect myself from tickborne diseases?

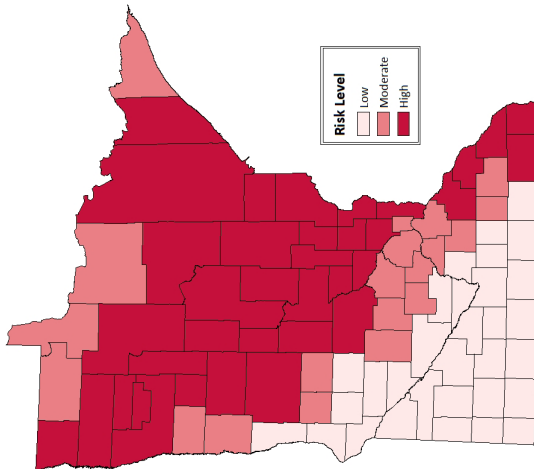
- Know where ticks live.
 - Wooded or brushy areas for the blacklegged tick
 - Wooded or grassy areas for the American dog tick
- Know when disease risk is highest.
 - May through July is when ticks are most active in Minnesota.
- Use EPA-registered tick repellents.
 - Use repellents like DEET or picaridin on skin or clothing.
 - Pre-treat clothing and gear with permethrin-based products.



*Look for an EPA
registration number
on your repellent to
know it is safe and
effective.*

- Check yourself for ticks frequently.
 - Perform tick checks at least once a day after spending time around woods.
 - Search your entire body, especially hard-to-see areas. Ticks may look like a speck of dirt or freckle on skin.
 - If you find a tick attached to you, remove it as soon as possible.
 - Use tweezers to grasp the tick close to its mouth. Pull the tick outward slowly and gently. Clean the area with soap and water.
- Maintain your yard.
 - Mow lawns and trails frequently.
 - Get rid of leaves and brush.

Minnesota Tickborne Disease Risk



How do ticks find a host and feed?

Ticks live on the ground. In order to find a host, they wait on a plant near the ground until an animal or person walks by. They grab on and climb upward until they find a good place to attach. Ticks do not jump, fly, or fall from trees.

Once a tick attaches to a host, the entire feeding process will take several days, and then the tick will drop off to complete its life cycle. During this blood meal, disease agents may be spread from the tick to a person if the tick is not removed quickly enough.

Blacklegged ticks must be attached for at least 24 hours for Lyme disease bacteria to spread. Less common tickborne diseases may take less time. Check yourself often for ticks when around wooded areas and promptly remove ticks.

Fun facts about ticks!



Blacklegged Tick
(Adult Female)

This tick is small, about the size of a sesame seed, and is most active in the spring and fall. It is found in wooded and brushy habitat throughout most of Minnesota.



Blacklegged Tick
(Adult Male)

This tick does not take a blood meal so it is unable to spread diseases such as Lyme disease.



Blacklegged Tick
(Nymph)

This tick is very small, about the size of a poppy seed, so it has a better chance of staying attached longer and spreading disease. It is most active in May, June, and July.



Blacklegged Tick
(Larva)

This is the smallest life stage of tick. This tick prefers small mammals, like mice, and rarely bites people.



Lone Star Tick
(Adult Female)

This tick is found more commonly in southern states. It is not widely established in Minnesota but may be found here.



American Dog Tick
(Adult Female)

This is a common tick that people come across in Minnesota. It is most active in May and June and can be found in grassy or wooded habitat.

*Images not to scale

ID# 57343

12/2019

Tickborne Diseases of Minnesota

VECTORBORNE DISEASES UNIT
 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/ticks





**ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
LITTLE ESKOMO LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
4 ELIZABETH AVENUE
ESKO MN 55733**

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