

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

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



ADDRESS:

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
Four Elizabeth Ave.
Esko, MN 55733

CONTACT US:

Church - (218) 879-3510
Email - stmattsesko@aol.com
Web - www.stmatthewsesko.org

OUR PASTOR:

Tom Brinkley, Pastor
Cell - (218) 343-2080
Email - Brinkley57@yahoo.com

OUR STAFF:

Jennifer Keske
Preschool Director/Teacher
Sybil Halvorson
Preschool Teacher
Church - (218) 879-3510
Email - lelpreschool@gmail.com

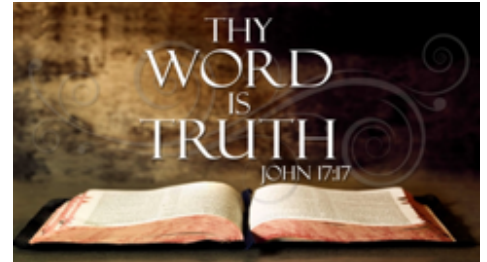
Christina Walther
Youth Coordinator and Music Leader
Cell - (218) 391-3649
Email - walthchristina@gmail.com

Johnny Eng, Deacon
Cell- (218) 310-1385
Email - jemsoco@aol.com

Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

Got Truth?

And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him, and they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do them?" Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the Baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer Me." And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But shall we say, 'From man?'"—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." (Mark 11:27b-33)



This story makes me sad. The religious leaders ask Jesus how He dares to throw the merchants out of the temple, and Jesus promises to answer if they give Him an answer first. Did God send John the Baptist, or not?

A simple question—but the religious leaders can't answer it. They are too busy calculating what the effect of their words will be. They never stop for a single moment to ask: What is the truth?

God help us in our world today, for we are in the same boat. There are far too many voices, and far too little concern for truth. We are bombarded by the world that challenges our Biblical understanding of life, family, love, forgiveness and salvation each and every day. Let us cling to the one good Truth that we know—to Jesus, who never lies to us. Let us cling to His word, which is the Truth. Then the answers become surprisingly simple: Yes, God sent John. Yes, God sent Jesus—in fact, God came into our world in Christ Jesus, who died to save us

See "Got Truth" continued on page 2

"Got Truth" continued from page 1

and rose to give us true, real life.

PRAYER: Lord, You are the Way and the Truth and the Life. Keep me with You. Amen.

Peace Be With You,

Pastor Tom

Vacation Bible School at St. Matthews!
Watch for a registration link coming soon!



NOTE: Beginning Sunday, May 30th St. Matthews will be moving to one Sunday morning worship service at 9 am. These services will also be available online via Facebook and posted to our website.



Congregational Meeting

June 13th
after 9 am Worship

Approval of the budget

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WORSHIP:

- Sundays - 9 am - Worship in the sanctuary with safety guidelines
- Sundays - 9 am worship services online via Facebook and posted to our website
- Sundays - 9:30 am - TV option Channel 6 (KBJR) airs "My Savior Lives"

BIBLE STUDY:

- Tuesdays 7 am - Men's Bible Study at church
- Tuesdays 9 am - "Coffee with Pastor" online via Facebook
- Wednesdays 5:30 pm - Women's Bible Study at church
- Thursdays 9:30 am - Women's Bible Study at church

YOUTH:

- See the "Youth Summer Schedule" in this newsletter (page 7)

Update From The Call Committee

We have received 10 nominations with 8 different names from the congregation. These nominations were sent to President Fondow. He will review these nominations to check the database to see whether these pastors are open to taking a call. Note that the database is not always up to date. We may have a candidate on the call list that we contact who tells us they are not open to taking a call at this time. President Fondow will send us a call list of potential candidates with names we have nominated and names he has added. Along with the list of names will be an information sheet on each of the pastors along with a self-evaluation tool they have filled out. This list and information will be available to the congregation. The call committee will narrow the list down and call a congregational meeting to vote on who we should place a call to.

Call Committee Members Contact List

Chair

Dan Heikkinen (218) 393-4195

Vice Chair

Dave Haugen (218) 491-1883/(218) 879-9611

Ron Eng (218) 384-4104

Deb Haugen (218) 879-9611

Joe Klatt (218) 491-1688

Jen Prachar (218) 391-0503

Chris Schultz (218) 461-7156

Isaac Wisted (218) 451-6687

Brenda Hall (218) 391-9733

Pat Johnson (218) 391-4016/(218) 879-7897

Chris Nelson (218) 380-2450

Scott Prachar (218) 391-9442

Sue Wischniewski (218) 348-6033

Church Staff/Consultants Pastor Tom Brinkley (218) 343-2080 and Christina Walther (218) 391-3649



Welcome Reception for New Members

After a long hiatus, we will finally welcome our new members who were part of the 2019 class. Join us for cake, coffee, and fellowship in the Family Life Center on June 6th after worship. There is plenty of space and we are planning on a nice day so the doors will be open to the outside for those who may want to be there. Hope to see you.

Christian Outreach Board



New Wine presents

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

When: Monday, June 21st 6:30pm

Where: St Matthews Lutheran Church

At this time the show will be held outdoors at the church, bring a bag chair for seating, some chairs will be available. In the event of rain, the performance will be moved indoors at the church, following MDH guidance as of that date.



St Matthews members of New Wine: Drew Erickson, Chad Hart, Nate Rengo

2021 is the 29th year of New Wine!



Board Members Needed

June is the end of the current board member terms, so we need new people to fill the spaces on the six boards we have at St. Matthews. Please consider getting involved in God's work through a board.

Boards include: Lay Ministry, Stewardship, Christian Education, Property, Christian Outreach and Youth

Please contact one of these boards or President Dave Haugen at 879-9611 or Ron Eng at 384-4104

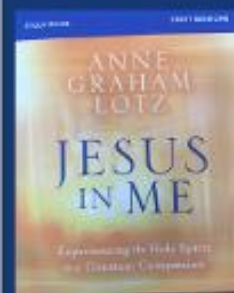
St. Matthews Women's Ministry

JESUS IN ME: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion Women's Bible Study

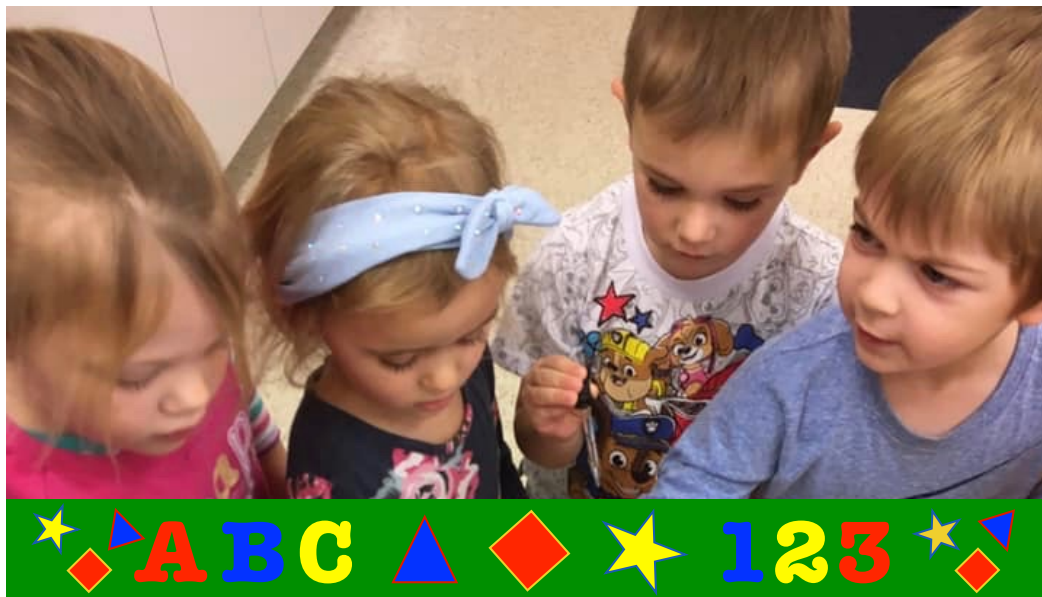
Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Beginning June 2

In the midst of life's changes and losses, we each need a friend, a confidante. Someone who will come alongside us and share every step of our journey. Someone who will listen to us, advocate for us, and comfort us. Someone we can trust.

As children of God, we have the Holy Spirit to counsel, to comfort, and to guide us. The Holy Spirit is within us at all times. In this study, BY Anne Graham Lotz, we will explore the personal and practical implications of seven aspects of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, including His presence, purpose, and power. Understanding the Holy Spirit's presence in us is life-changing.



BOOKS CAN BE ORDERED INDIVIDUALLY ONLINE AT [AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com)



Now Accepting 2021-22 Registrations Little Eskomo Lutheran Preschool

- Theme-based Christian curriculum
- Strong focus on school-readiness skills
- Weekly music specialist
- M/W/F morning class for 4-year-olds with option to add T/Th
- T/Th morning class for 3-year olds
- Extended care options available
- Fully licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Positive and safe learning environment

*A faith-based learning program
for children ages 3-4 years*

Starting at
\$109
Per Month

St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Esko
879-3510
www.stmatthewsesko.org
stmattsesko@aol.com

Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

LELP admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

An Opportunity to Serve

Our preschool is looking for board members. The preschool meets once a month for about an hour. The meetings include helping out the teachers, giving input on ideas, etc. If you have an interest in serving as a board member, please contact our preschool at lelpreschool@gmail.com or call the office at (218) 879-3510.

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN

END OF SCHOOL YEAR MINI LOCK-IN



FOR YOUTH FINISHING
GRADES 6-12

FREE!

- ✓ FOOD
- ✓ GAMES
- ✓ MUSIC
- ✓ FUN WITH FRIENDS

JUNE 9, 12:30 - 3:00 PM

QUESTIONS? CALL CHRISTINA 879-3510

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Camp Scholarships Available

To **St. Matthews Youth** who wish to go to Bible camp this summer: the LWML will be giving scholarships to those who fill out a form stating why they want to go to camp; the form will be on the bulletin board in the entry. \$25 will be given to those going to a day Bible camp. \$50 will be given to those going to an overnight Bible camp. Only one scholarship per student is available.



Lutheran Island Camp God of Wonder Summer Camp 2021

Lutheran Island Camp is ready roll out camp season.

Camps are available June 11 - August 8.

Specific dates and times are available at islandcamp.org

ST. MATTHEWS DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT!



Wed, June 30 - 9:30 pm

**IN THE
PARKING
LOT**

MOVIE IS FREE!
CONCESSIONS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

A FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Sponsored by St. Matthews Youth Group

ST. MATTHEWS YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

SIGN-UP FOR EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS ONLINE:

stmatthewsesko.org (Activities/Youth Group/Signup)

Contact Christina with any questions • 218-391-3649 • waltherchristina@gmail.com

JUNE

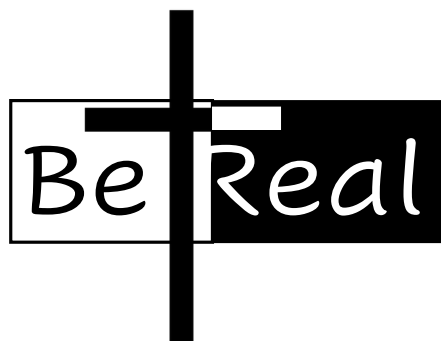
3	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
6	Café Connections	9:00 am
9	Mini Lock-in	12:30-3:00 pm
15	Godly Guys and Girls (Grades 7-9 – Meet at Jay Cooke Visitor Center)	11:30 am-1:00 pm
17	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
19	Online Pink Zebra Sales begin	
20	Café Connections	9:00 am
21-26	Vacation Bible School	
26	Air Show	more info to come
27	Online Pink Zebra Sales close	
30	Warming House Wisdom (Grades 10-12 – Meet at the Warming House)	1:00-2:30 pm
30	Outdoor Movie & Concessions	9:30 pm

JULY

1	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
4	Café Connections	9:00 am
7	Godly Guys & Girls (Grades 7-9 – Meet at the Warming House)	3-4:30 pm
8	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
9-16	Youth Leadership Training – Houston, TX	
18	Café Connections	9:00 am
21	Outdoor Movie & Concessions	9:30 pm
22	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
24	Campfire and Games	more info to come
27	Warming House Wisdom (Grades 10-12 – Meet at the Warming House)	1:00-2:30 pm
29	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm

AUGUST

1	Café Connections	9:00 am
5	Bingo & Ice Cream@ Northridge	6:30-8:30 pm
7	Esko Fun Day BBQ	11:30 am – 1:30 pm
10	Godly Guys & Girls (Grades 7-9 – Meet at church)	3:00-4:30 pm
12	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
15	Café Connections	9:00 am
18	Outdoor Movie & Church Picnic	6:30 pm
19	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
25	Warming House Wisdom (Grades 10-12 – Meet at the Warming House)	1:00-2:30 pm
26	Youth Group	6-7:30 pm
28	Special Event	more info to come



Connecting Youth to Christ
for Life!

**All activities are for grades 7-12
unless otherwise noted.**

Other activities may pop up
over the summer.

Some possibilities are:

- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Hiking
- Biking
- Chill at the Lake
- Sports
- Parent/Youth Seminar

**Feel free to contact Christina with
more ideas or to set something up!**

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Anita Ettinger
- 2- Tina Brekke
- 3- Karl Olesen, Janet Hakala, Emma Peterson
- 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, Lucas Lane, Jake Olson
- 10- Pat Olesen, Christina Walther, Gabrielle Cardinal
- 11- Kallyn Knutson, Bailey Pantsar, Wyatt Zappa
- 12- Richard Richardson
- 13- Shirley Behm, Leah Pykkonen, Nicole Contardo, Leland Hill
- 15- Aaron Young
- 16- Tom Ruemmele, Emmett Siltanen
- 17- Kelly Eng, Carol Larson, Brittany McCullough
- 18- Scott Prachar, Tony Hanni
- 19- Damon Butkiewicz
- 20- Sydney Kazel
- 21- Cheryl LaCourse, Diah Butkiewicz, Nikki Wilmes
- 22- Kloe Carlson
- 23- Richard Duzan
- 24- Tyceson Johnson, Jayden Walz
- 25- Dylan Edland, 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, Terri Fredrickson, Heidi Roemer



Baptism

May 25, 2021

Kensley Nicole
Skyberg

St. Matthews Offering Income

May 18, 2021

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	39,700	42,900	(3,200)
Aug.	39,400	42,900	(3,500)**
Sept.	36,500	42,900	(6,400)
Oct.	34,000	42,900	(8,900)
Nov.	48,700	42,900	5,800**
Dec.	52,900	42,900	10,000
Jan.	36,900	42,900	(6,000)
Feb.	39,600	42,900	(3,300)
March	46,800	42,900	3,900**
April	46,800	42,900	3,900
May	27,900	32,200	(4,300)*
	449,200	461,200	(12,000)

*3 out of 4 weeks

** 5 Sunday month

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



Please send contributions c/o:
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
2012 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55812

LCMS Worship - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., KBJR Channel 6, Duluth

My Savior Lives Northland is a locally produced, regionally recognized TV program with a message for the world. The service includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. My Savior Lives Northland is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations.

June 6

An updated June list of pastors and preaching dates was not available at the time of this printing. Check mslnorthland.com for updates.

Pastor Matt Kohl, Cloquet

Volunteer Ushers Needed!

Church services have many moving parts and things that need attention for all to go well! One way you could become involved as an individual or family is to volunteer as an usher for a service. No experience necessary!

During this period of covid restrictions ushers are needed to greet attendees, request that they sign the attendance record and hand out bulletins (and communion cups on communion Sunday) prior to service. If you are interested, just curious, have a specific Sunday or a service at which you'd like to serve, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or contact Rachel Peterson at (715) 558-8463 or rachelraepeterson@yahoo.com

Information from the Christian Outreach Board

For your awareness, the LCMS has for many years spoken out publicly about life issues in general, and abortion in particular. In more recent years, our Synod's focus has expanded to include an active opposition to physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia (PAS/E). If you are interested in educating yourself on the Synod's position, use the link <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/engaged-in-mission/2021/2/10/public-policy-update-take-a-stand-for-life>. To review MN legislation under consideration enter MN SF 1352 2021 – 2022 into your web browser or for its companion bill MN HF 1358 2021 – 2022.

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 (\$673,359 as of 4/30/21).

Church Operating Expenses Paid:	January	February	March	April		Total
Salaries	12,630	12,615	13,426	13,146		141,480
Benefits	6,613	5,408	5,335	6,645		64,203
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883	6,883	6,883		68,830
District/Synod Support	2,083	2,083	2,083	2,083		22,834
Electricity	1,201	1,237	1,447	1,002		9,268
Christian Education	485	132	168	782		3,847
Church Property	751	771	873	546		6,977
Office	1,360	1,689	1,716	1,065		14,359
Worship	676	889	263	183		4,987
Youth	-	-	-	-		36
HRA	949	1,055	1,438	577		5,013
Heating Fuel	1,437	1,335	1,249	1,098		7,613
Repair and Maintenance	-	-	-	-		4,939
Outreach/ Missions	-	2,518	-	-		3,447
Conferences	-	-	-	-		50
Insurance	-	-	-	-		(81)
Other	-	55	-	-		1,988
Total	35,068	36,670	34,881	34,010		359,790
Budgeted Needs	42,916	42,916	42,916	42,916		429,160

Stewardship Corner

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.16
ESKO, MN 55733