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# ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

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*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](mailto:stmattsesko@aol.com)  
Web - [www.stmatthewsesko.org](http://www.stmatthewsesko.org)

## **OUR PASTOR:**

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

## **OUR STAFF:**

Jennifer Keske  
Preschool Director/Teacher  
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Jen Prachar, Office Manager  
Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

## **How Big is God?**

Is that a question we can even answer? The whole topic of God seems to get lost in the hustle and bustle that summer brings on. This Saturday alone I am scheduled to be 3 different places and asked about going to 4 others.

Then there are the vacations, of which my family and I have just returned from our first big family vacation. Problems abounded but were overcome and Evelyn hit it with the simplicity of a child that we so often ignore. If you have snack, it is okay. Well, not exactly that simple but you get the point.

So, there we were out in Montana at Glacier National Park getting the opportunity to see God's artistry in all its splendor, but for some reason we only saw squirrels for wildlife on our walks. The ice-cold water running off the snowcapped mountains. The family pictures in front of waterfalls and mountains. And the resiliency of people as we get out and stretch our legs as if emerging from a long winter slumber.

Getting back, I had a day to recuperate then jump into VBS. This year's topic is treasure. Talking about how we are God's treasure and learning how much God loves us. Treasure, that is a word that seems to be less used as we get older. We talk a lot more about goals and accomplishments than we do about finding treasure. But if we talk to a kid, their eyes light up and you can see the excitement.

Coming back from Glacier National Park to VBS and going from God's creation to how much God loves each and every one of us kinda gets my head spinning. Then to think about the VBS message today that God hears us, individually. Even though we are talking at the same time as millions of other people. I have a hard time if two people are talking at the same time to hear them both, three forget it.

The amazing power and love of God is on display every day right here, where you are now. It is always all around us. But one of the biggest things I learned today is

*See "How Big is God?" continued on page 2*

*"How Big is God?" continued from page 1*

that even though God is bigger than I can really grasp, He shares His love for us, through us. We are His vessels for the world, and a simple act of kindness, acceptance, and yes, tolerance, are all sharing the love He has for us.

How big is God? He is so big that He delights in the small details. He knows what you had for breakfast, He knows what you are thinking, He knows what I'm going to forget to do and loves us still. May the grace, mercy, and love of our heavenly Father fill our hearts and minds to overflowing that we may share that peace that flows from Him with those around us.

Deacon Johnny

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## 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

### YOUTH:

- See the "Youth Summer Schedule" in this newsletter (page 4)

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## Coming in August

Outdoor Worship at St. Matthews  
August 1st at 9 am



Bring your lawn chair and your family, friends and neighbors to worship outside in our beautiful summer weather.

## NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

We have received the much awaited list of potential candidates from President Fondow. The list consists of 14 men from the field. We received a personal information form and self- evaluation tool for most of the candidates. This list and information are available to the congregation in the church office. Please note that this information is to be kept confidential among the congregational members. The call committee will be doing research on each of the candidates and narrowing the list down. We will contact our top candidates to see if they are willing to receive a call and interview with our committee. Once this has been done, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on who we should place a call to. Please reach out to any of the committee members with any questions or input.

- Sue Wischnewski
  - Brenda Hall
  - Dave Haugen
  - Scott Prachar
  - Chris Schultz
  - Dan Heikkinen
  - Pat Johnson
  - Ron Eng
  - Chris Nelson
  - Jen Prachar
  - Isaac Wisted
  - Joe Klatt
  - Deb Haugen
- 



## 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



# Be Real JULY YOUTH EVENTS

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	7:30 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

ST MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP PRESENTS

*Gear Up For*

## Godly Guys & Girls

COME GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER & GROW IN YOUR FAITH

*Grades 7-9*

**7TH JUL**

MEET AT THE WARMING HOUSE  
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

- \* BRING A FRIEND
- \* ENJOY AN ICE CREAM TREAT



Join us for a

## CAMPFIRE & GAMES

Grades 7-12

**JULY 24, 6:30 - 9:00 PM**

Bring a Camp chair!  
The Schultz's  
320 Erkkila Rd, Esko

QUESTIONS? Call Christina 218-391-3649



### Blood Drive

#### At St. Matthews

Tuesday, July 27

11 am-6 pm

Call Carrie Bowman at (218) 879-5709 if you have an interest in donating blood.

Thank you!



*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  
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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.



If you would like to help spread God's word through LELP, join our board! We need three St. Matthews members, and especially people with accounting and management skills.  
[lelpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:lelpreschool@gmail.com)





## Lutheran Island Camp God of Wonder Summer Camp 2021

Camps are available June 11 - August 8.

Specific dates and times are available at [islandcamp.org](http://islandcamp.org)

## 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.



**CITY ON THE HILL  
MUSIC FEST -  
AUGUST 6th & 7th, 2021**

City On The Hill Music Fest will bring together people of faith for 2 DAYS of fellowship and music at beautiful Bayfront Festival Park in Duluth, MN.



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.

July 4

Pastor Rick Williams

An updated July list of pastors and preaching dates was not available at the time of this printing. Check [mslnorthland.com](http://mslnorthland.com) for updates.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Laura Hansen
- 2- Mary Brinkley, David Malenius
- 3- Patti Anderson
- 4- Marilyn Pykkonen, Greg Sather, Kinsley DeBondt, Jason Hill
- 6- Ashley Schultz, Wayne Laakso, Darlene Rossetti, Curt Olson
- 7- Marisa Schmidt, Otto Krueger
- 9- Ruth Janke, Hunter Johnson
- 10- Nathaniel Johnson, Rilee Durovec, Benjamin Larson, Taylor Stewart
- 11- Elaine Lindell
- 12- Judy Juntunen
- 13- Dorothy Kesti, Brent Pykkonen, Cal Christensen
- 14- Judith Oman, Zoey Stuber, Wyatt Stankiewicz
- 15- Jared Harms
- 16- Grace Shannon, Alec Halvorson, Annika Halvorson
- 17- Paul Sample Sr., Madison Mosack, Emily Krueger
- 19- Elissa Ellefson, Rachel Warpeha, Alivia Siciliano
- 20- Sue Solomon
- 21- Tenly Stewart, John Oltmanns
- 22- Linda Grayson, Nicholas Leppanen
- 23- Jordan Stodola
- 24- Mitch Reuer, Stacy Seboe, Kelsey Stephenson
- 25- Sean Peterson
- 28- John Pykkonen
- 30- Kaisa McCullough
- 31- Joe Kangas



## Baptisms

June 4, 2021  
Elma Mae Stahlbusch

June 20, 2021  
Nykeira Louise Diver

## Funeral

May 28, 2021  
John Maki

## St. Matthews Offering Income

June 15, 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	37,100	42,900	(5,800)
June	27,500	25,700	1,800*
	485,900	497,600	(11,700)

\*3 out of 5 weeks

\*\* 5 Sunday month



## Stewardship Corner

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



St. Matthews plays softball on Monday evenings at Pinehurst Park in Cloquet. Check out the calendar for times. Come and play or come and cheer!

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 (\$669,282 as of 5/31/21).

Church Operating Expenses Paid:	March	April	May	Total
Salaries	13,426	13,146	12,430	153,910
Benefits	5,335	6,645	5,243	69,446
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883	6,883	75,713
District/Synod Support	2,083	2,083	2,083	24,917
Electricity	1,447	1,002	955	10,223
Christian Education	168	782	630	4,477
Church Property	873	546	607	7,584
Office	1,716	1,065	1,867	16,226
Worship	263	183	1,300	6,287
Youth	-	-	-	36
HRA	1,438	577	54	5,067
Heating Fuel	1,249	1,098	720	8,333
Repair and Maintenance	-	-	15	4,954
Outreach/ Missions	-	-	-	3,447
Conferences	-	-	-	50
Insurance	-	-	-	(81)
Other	-	-	100	2,088
Total	34,881	34,010	32,887	392,677
Budgeted Needs	42,916	42,916	42,916	472,076

# 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 & May 2021*

## Gifts have been given in Memory of

Afton Schmidtke  
Afton Schmidtke  
Jodie Shelton  
Raymond Tan  
Clifford Trevena

Music Fund  
Sunday School Fund (Pre K-Grade 3)  
Undesignated Fund  
Undesignated Fund  
Sunday School Fund

**Funds** were transferred according to the wishes of family and friends.

A donation was made to MAF in memory of Paulette Hill

A donation was made to the Cemetery Fund for the Cemetery Memorial Monument in memory of Ardy Pykkonen

A donation was made to the Sunday School for Pre K-Grade 3 in memory of Afton Schmidtke.

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, 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](http://www.stmatthewsesko.org). Select *Giving and Fees* in the top menu bar.

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## **Memorial Fund**

In Loving memory of

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In Honor of

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Given to St. Matthews Lutheran Church by

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fund \_\_\_\_\_

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