
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

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

ADDRESS:

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
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Esko, MN 55733

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Jen Prachar, Office Manager
Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

In All Things Give Thanks

Give thanks, with a grateful heart
Give thanks, to the Holy One
Give thanks, because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

These words from the song "Give Thanks", by Henry Smith, are certainly pertinent for this time of the year. As I begin to think about and prepare for our family Thanksgiving celebration, it causes me to pause and contemplate all that I am thankful for. I am thankful for my beautiful children Hannah and Alex and the wonderful 28 years I had with Jeff. I am thankful for family and friends who continue to support me with love and care. I am thankful that I have found a lovely, comfortable home to live in. I am thankful for the St. Matthews Church family and my new neighbors. Yes, I am even thankful for Alex's 9 month old puppy, Grizzly, that chewed up two TV remotes, and for my dog, Fritz, that tends to bark at anything and everything.

When I was growing up, my family gathered at my Grandparents house in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, for our Thanksgiving dinner. My siblings and I would help Grandma set the table with her fine china and green goblets. Grandpa would carve the turkey as Grandma pulled her fresh rolls, my favorite, out of the oven. As we sat down at the table, we would each share something that we were thankful for. One year, my mom even made us all pilgrim hats to wear. (That would be a funny picture to pull out again!)

As Jeff and I started our own family and began traditions with his family as well, I remember being together at the Walther home in Wadena. Extended family would come and there would be many people packed into a small house, that was usually heated to about 85 degrees. The food was delicious and plentiful and the time with family was even better. My favorite part probably came after dinner as we visited, played cards, took naps, and went for a walk. Then we had our second dinner or people packed some food for their ride home. The next day was the

"Give Thanks" continued on page 2

"Give Thanks" continued from page 1

annual visit to the Arts and Crafts Festival at the Wadena school, where Jeff's mom and I usually found some early Christmas presents (often for each other). I am certainly thankful for those memories, for those times that we were able to be together.

But what about other times? Am I supposed to be thankful as I remember loved ones that will not be with me this Thanksgiving? What about when people continue to get sick from Covid and other illnesses? Am I supposed to be thankful when I continue to hear about violence and hatred around the world? Or, when I hear of broken relationships and hardships of those I love? Am I supposed to be thankful then, too?

The Bible gives us many accounts of people being thankful to our Lord. In 1 Samuel, we read how Hannah prayed to God for a child, and said that she would give that child to the Lord for His service. When her son, Samuel, was born she gave him to be raised by the church. Though she no longer had her son with her, Hannah thanked and praised God with all her heart, for an answer to her prayer. Samuel went on to become a great prophet.

We read in the Psalms about David who, even in the darkest seasons of his life, was able to focus on the goodness of God. No matter what was happening in his life, David always praised God. What an example for us. Praising God at all times isn't necessarily easy, but it is needed.

We are instructed in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 that we are to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." We can do this, despite everything that we face in this world because we are "...receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Amidst our times of suffering, sickness, trouble and sadness, let us focus on those things that we have been given; the people, and experiences around us and, most importantly the amazing God that loves us and provides for us now and always! Certainly, this is not always easy to do, but God promises that He is with us always. His love will never end.

If you've heard Chris Tomlin's song *"His Love Endures Forever"* he sings the words of Psalm 106:1 - "Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King. His love endures forever". Let us go then, through each day, and "rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's blessing to you this season of Thanksgiving. May we remain thankful for all that God has given us, and have peace in the knowledge of His continued grace and goodness.



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH 6:30 PM



The Bright Star of Bethlehem

Midweek Advent Worship Services

Wednesdays, December 1st, 8th, 15th at 6:30 p.m.



See the birthplace of Christ in a whole new way this Advent season with The Bright Star of Bethlehem weekly Advent series. Each week in this series parishioners will learn more about the little town where Jesus was born so long ago, and what Jesus, who is the Bright Star of Bethlehem, reveals to us even today.

Wednesday, December 1

Jesus comes to Bethlehem to be born a star - the Star of Creation, and the ruler over heaven and earth. His presence brings light to the world, which is his creation. We were created in his image to shine forth with his love into the dark streets of our own cities and towns.

Wednesday, December 8

Jesus comes to Bethlehem to shine as the star of Hope to a people long forsaken. The fears of all the years are washed away by the sure hope of his salvation, which we are blessed to share with the lonely and the least among us.

Wednesday, December 15

Jesus comes to Bethlehem to enlighten the world as the Star of Joy. The great glad tidings he has to tell bring a smile to our faces as we radiate to others his good gifts of forgiveness, freedom from death and everlasting life.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WORSHIP:

- Sundays 8 & 10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 am worship services online via Facebook
- Sundays - 9:30 am - TV option Channel 6 (KBJR) airs "My Savior Lives"
- 2nd Thursday each month - 2 pm Blessed Assurance worship with Holy Communion (for those with stringent health & safety precautions - Masks and social distancing required for this service)
- Wednesday, November 24 - 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Wednesday, December 1 - 6:30 pm Advent Worship

BIBLE STUDY:

- Sundays 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study in the Family Life Center
- Sundays 9:15 am - Women's Bible Study "Women of the Bible" Pastor's Office
- Tuesdays 7 am - Men's Bible Study in the Fireside Room
- Tuesdays 9 am - "Coffee with Pastor" online via Facebook
- Wednesdays 5:30 pm - Women's Bible Study "Jesus in Me- Experiencing the Holy Spirit" in the Fireside Room
- Thursdays 9:30 am - Women's Bible Study "The Book of Isaiah" in the Fireside Room

YOUTH:

- Sundays 9:15 am - age 3 - 6th grade Sunday School downstairs
- Sundays 9:15 am - Grades 7-12 Bible Study in the Youth Room
- Tuesdays 3-5 pm - T3 Grades 7-12 in the Youth Room
- Wednesdays 3:20-5 pm 7th and 8th grade Confirmation in the Family Life Center/Downstairs
- Wednesdays 5-7 pm Grades 7-12 Be Real





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

Preschool News

If you are reading this newsletter before October 27....then please consider participating in our annual Pie Fundraiser. The preschool is taking orders for six types of delicious pies from Betty's Pies in Two Harbors. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for the preschool, and also provides you with an easy contribution for your family's Thanksgiving celebration! You can place an order through the church office; deadline is October 27.

And if you missed our pie fundraiser, would you consider becoming a substitute teacher? The school only has two people on its substitute list, and although subs aren't used very often, the staff would feel much better having a longer list. No experience is necessary, but previous daycare or teaching experience would be an added bonus. For more information, email the school at lelpreschool@gmail.com.

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

**Little Esko Lutheran Preschool
Fall Fundraiser**

Betty's Pies
WORLD FAMOUS SINCE 1956

Order your desserts now for Thanksgiving!
LELP is selling 6 kinds of Betty's Pies for \$19 each
*French Silk *Pumpkin *Carmel Apple Crunch
*Great Lakes Crunch *Strawberry Rhubarb *Blueberry

**Order your pies through the church office at
(218) 879-3510 by Wednesday, October 27th.
Pick up your pies on Saturday, November 20th from 10:30am-noon at the church.**

Thank you for supporting LELP!

www.willpostmywall.com

CAR WASH

**KWIK TRIP
ULTIMATE CAR WASH
CARDS**

RECHARGEABLE
CAR WASH CARD

ULTIMATE

KwikTrip | KwikStar

The perfect stocking stuffer or gift for those hard to buy for people on your Christmas list!
Each card sells for \$36 and is good for 5 Ultimate Car Washes at any Kwik Trip location.
Orders will be collected October 31st through November 7th & cards will be available the week of November 22nd.

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE YOUTH GROUP'S TRIP TO NYG
Made with PosterMyWall.com

News From The Call Committee

Pastor Noah Wehrspann informed us that he is declining the call to St. Matthews Church as he is still feeling called to serve his current congregation. While it has been disheartening that we have yet to fill the open pastor position, we can have faith in knowing that God has a plan and that we can put our trust in Him to see us through this process. We are asking the congregation if you know of a pastor outside the Lake Superior district that you would like to make a call to, that you would fill out a nomination form. Copies of this form can be found in the church office. We will need all nomination forms returned to the church office by Monday, November 8th. All forms will be submitted to and reviewed by President Fondow. He will provide us with a call list of approved nominations, as well as, names he would recommend. The call committee will narrow the call list down to 3 to 6 names to bring forward to the congregation. Be on the lookout for further details regarding a congregational meeting to discuss these nominations and to take a vote on who we would like to make a call to. We ask for continued prayers that God would be with us as we continue to do His work.

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



Family Sunday School November 14th at 9:15AM Operation Christmas Child

Bring joy and hope to children around the world through gift filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 100 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ.

The shoe boxes are provided, although you may personalize your own box. Fill the box with toys and other presents - and it turns into an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope, and a chance to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Gift Suggestions

Toys: include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy trucks, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Hygiene items: toothbrush, mild soap bars (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlight (with extra batteries)

A personal note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (if you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Include \$9 Donation per Box: to help cover shipping and other costs related to delivering your gift box to a child overseas.

Please join us on Sunday, November 14th during Family Sunday school to put the Operation Christmas Child boxes together.

JOIN THE GIVING CHALLENGE!



With Thanksgiving approaching, St. Matthews is going to join the Northland Region Thrivent Member Network challenge to make a difference by collecting food for our local food shelf, the Salvation Army in Cloquet.

We have applied for a Generosity Multiplier Gift from Thrivent. If we complete the challenge, we will be donating food to the food shelf, and they will also receive \$500.

We must meet the following requirements:

1. Between November 1st-24th, collect at least 500 non-perishable food items. There is a food bin under the mailboxes in the gathering space.
2. Create a poster featuring the following information: date, your group name and city, number of food items and the name of your local food shelf.
3. On Wednesday, November 24th at 6:00 pm we will take a photo of the food stacked in a creative pyramid, our poster featuring the information above and anyone interested in being in the picture wearing a Thrivent shirt. We have shirts available if you do not have one.
4. We post our picture on the wall of the Northland Region Thrivent Member Network Facebook page ([https:// www.facebook.com/Northland.Thrivent](https://www.facebook.com/Northland.Thrivent)).

Please join us and get involved in this awesome giving challenge! If you have any questions, or need us to pick up your food donation, contact Christina Walther 218-391-3649, Ron Eng or the Church office 218-879-3510.

Thrivent Action Teams Continue!



Supporting our church and community is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. "Apply to lead a group in a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. Then, gather a team of volunteers to make an impact together. Thrivent provides a customized kit of resources to get you started. Your team provides the passion to bring it to life." (thrivent.com)

Don't forget to use the Thrivent Project Board in the gathering space. This is a way for us to get involved in activities and projects in the church and community. If you have an activity, put it on the board. If you need an action team for a project, put it on the board. If we all check the board regularly to get involved and use the awesome Thrivent Seed Money available to us, we can continue to do great things! **Check the board today for upcoming projects that need your participation and support.**



REAL FAITH **REAL FRIENDS** **REAL SUPPORT**

JOIN US FOR

Be Real

ST. MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP
Grades 7-12

5:00 PM MEAL
5:30 - 7 PM MUSIC GAMES ACTIVITIES

NEW DAY & TIME!

Wednesdays 5-7pm
St. Matthews Family Life Center

REAL FUN **REAL TOPICS** **REAL SERVING**

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HELP NEEDED WITH YOUTH GROUP MEALS

We are now providing a meal as part of youth group on Wednesday evenings. You can help in any of the following ways:

- *prepare the meals—do you love to cook?
- *donate money to purchase groceries to make the meals
- *apply for Thrivent action team dollars to be used to purchase groceries
- *help serve meals

TALK TO CHRISTINA IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE WILLING TO HELP



OCTOBER 31, 4:00 - 5:30 PM

TRUNK OR TREAT IS BACK!

BBQ DINNER AVAILABLE!

SERVED BY OUR YOUTH!



@ ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
4 ELIZABETH AVENUE, ESKO

COME FOR TREATS OR BRING YOUR CAR TO HAND OUT TREATS!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will meet Thursday October 28th at 1pm. We will be reading a book by Greg Finke *Joining Jesus on His Mission; How to Be an Everyday Missionary*.

We also chose the books to discuss and the dates to meet for the next several months. This will make it easier to get books from the library, or read ahead.

We will meet at 1:00pm at church.

Thursday, Oct. 28 *Joining Jesus on His Mission; How to Be an Everyday Missionary*

Thursday Nov. 18th *Lightning Strike* by William Kent Kruger

Thursday Dec. 16th *Christmas Angel Project* by Melody Carlson

January – date to be decided *If I felt Alone; One Woman's Struggle with Corporate Deception, an Undiagnosed Medical Condition, Chemical Poisoning and Environmental Illness* by Elaine Osborne.

To request that a book be ordered or for information call - Judy Nelson 218 590 1521



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.

November 7 Pastor Don Stauty, Virginia/ Aurora

November 14 Pastor John Bonk, Two Harbors

November 21 Pastor Stafford Thompson, Munger

November 28 Pastor Brad Felix, Virginia/Chisholm

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Amelia Olson, Joe Wischnewski
- 2- Kara Plante, Benjamin Wick
- 4- Ronald Norbie, Joel Brinkley, Katy Stoyanoff, Carter Zezulka, Addilyn Knox
- 5- Russell Plaisted
- 6- Nancy Peterson, MaKenna Gerard, Gracelynn Hill, Gabrielle Hill, Braxton Frost, Brinley Frost
- 7- Allysa Nelson
- 8- Carrie Bowman, Emily Gottschald, Kristy DeMuth, Susan Catton
- 9- Sam Rengo, Sophia Rice
- 10- Cheri Olson, Ryan Stewart
- 11- Linda Lovstad, Ruger Czerwinski, Phillip Stephenson
- 12- Jacob Lantry
- 13- Ashlynn Sellman, Isabella Lucas
- 14- Elliot Schmidt
- 15- Alyssa Granholm, Tara Young
- 16- Tim Anderson
- 17- Dachen Granholm, Jessica Sheridan
- 18- James Harms, Avery Kuklinski, Ali Krivinchuk, James Lackas, Lucas Rice
- 19- Megan Mismash, Abbey Dahlman
- 20- Lukas Johanson, David Haugen
- 21- Todd Peterson, Marcie Semerau, Taylor Wischnewski
- 23- Elizabeth Ruhnke, Carson Bober, Colin Bober
- 24- James Lindquist, Jaida Bissonette
- 27- Verna Puline
- 28- Charley Sonneman, Vernon Johnsen III
- 29- Kaitlyn Skutevik, Alina Skutevik, Jeff Pykkonen, Benjamin Campbell, Jack Retzlaff
- 30- Ron Stanius



October

Baptisms

- 2- Kai Joseph Hester-Lowry
- 22- Griffin James Siltanen
- 22- Everett Russell Rahkola

Wedding

- 9- Danielle Salo & Kyle Lutzka

Please join St. Matthew's Church Choir as we

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Wednesdays from 7-8 pm

Kindly bring a mask. Thanks, Sheri Herman

St. Matthews

Offering Income

October 19, 2021

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	39,600	36,200	3,400
Aug	39,100	36,200	2,900**
Sept	44,800	36,200	8,600
Oct.	23,000	27,200	(4,200)*
	146,500	135,800	10,700

*3 out of 4 weeks

**5 Sunday Month

Giving last year to date: \$137,600

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

BBQ LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

PULLED PORK SANDWICH OR HOTDOG
BAG OF CHIPS & BEVERAGE
DESSERT

Grab & go take out

DONATIONS ACCEPTED TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP

IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR DISPLAY FOR...



2nd Annual
TOUR OF LIGHTS

DECEMBER 16 & 19
6:30 - 8:30 PM

SPONSORED BY ST. MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP

ST. MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP SILENT AUCTION



JOIN US ON THE FACEBOOK GROUP "ST. MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP SILENT AUCTION 2021" OR COME CHECK OUT THE BASKETS IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER AFTER CHURCH ON DECEMBER 1ST OR DECEMBER 5TH & HAVE A YOUTH MEMBER HELP YOU MAKE A BID.

IT'S A PERFECT WAY TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH AND GET SOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE!

**BIDDING STARTS DECEMBER 1ST AT 6:00 pm
AND ENDS DECEMBER 5TH AT NOON**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ANY DONATIONS WE RECEIVE. CONTACT JEN PRACHAR (218)391-0503 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Let's Spread the JOY

For \$20 you can nominate an individual or family and the Youth Group will go their house and build a snowman (with a special hat for them to keep) and bring them some goodies! Fill out the nomination form and return it to the church office throughout the months of

November - March

Sponsored by St. Matthews Youth Group

Vall.com

Fun and Fellowship while supporting our youth!

Stewardship Corner

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of *all nations*" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

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The LWML group met Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

Three members were present.

Pat Johnson opened with prayer

The meeting was called to order by Pat Johnson

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Secretary's report was read.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business:

- A reminder – Fall Rally “Women of Faith” Saturday, October 16th at Our Redeemer in Cloquet.

Registration 10 am, rally 10:30-1pm. Cost \$5.

- It was decided to put off the Kitchen Shower for now.

New Business:

- Muffins for Mites did not happen on LWML Sunday. It was decided to wait until after Christmas to do this project.

- Update list of shut-ins. Should we do in-person visits this year? We will discuss this next month.

- November Meeting - Tuesday November 9th will be a meeting of the combined LWML groups. We will elect officers for all 2 year positions.

- We hope to pass out bags for the food shelf for delivery to the Salvation Army before Thanksgiving.

The mite devotion was on the LWML mission grant #2, Ministering to Returning Soldiers and Veterans, Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses Spirit Warrior, Central Maine. Mites were collected.

Pat led the Bible study – #22 The Endorphins Will Carry You from Love Rules; A Study of the Ten Commandments. This study encourages us to love more like Jesus, who died to save our souls, and learn from Him to show grace in our most important relationships.

We joined in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Nelson

Continued from page 12

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

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 (\$652,802 as of 9/30/2021).

Church Operating Expenses Paid:	July	August	September	Total
Salaries	11,942	11,624	12,693	36,259
Benefits	5,014	4,434	5,928	15,376
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883	6,883	20,649
District/Synod Support	2,417	2,417	2,417	7,251
Electricity	912	872	770	2,554
Christian Education	-	432	2,363	2,795
Church Property	1,392	760	859	3,011
Office	1,073	2,113	943	4,129
Worship	200	253	456	909
Youth	-	-	-	-
HRA	238	-	706	944
Heating Fuel	646	202	191	1,039
Repair and Maintenance	2,213	2,500	1,210	5,923
Outreach/ Missions	-	660	150	810
Conferences	-	-	-	-
Insurance	(166)	-	-	(166)
Other	-	42	-	42
Total	32,764	33,192	35,569	101,525
Budgeted Needs	36,228	36,228	36,228	108,684

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 September 2021

Gifts have been given in Memory of

Douglas Hackman
Rev. Dr. Jeff Walther
Ardy & Don Pykkonen

Undesignated Fund
Walther Fund
Pykkonen 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, Dave Haugen, 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. 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 _____



**Your journey from
mourning to joy**

**Grief Share is a special weekly
seminar and support group
designed to help you rebuild your
life. KarenSue Williams is
facilitating this group.**

Tuesdays at 10:00 am



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

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