

# St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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

**Tom Brinkley, Pastor**

brinkley57@yahoo.com

4 Elizabeth Avenue, Esko, MN 55733 · (218) 879-3510

## October 24, 2021



### THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEWS

#### Today

8am Worship

9:15am Sunday School &  
Education Hour

9:30am "My Savior Lives"

Worship, KBJR Channel 6

10:30am Worship

(also available on Facebook Live)

#### Monday, October 25

**NO LELP**

#### Tuesday, October 26

7am Men's Bible Study

8:15-11:45am LELP

9am Coffee with the Pastor via  
Facebook Live

9:15am-1pm FEET in Basement

10am Grief Share in FSR

3-5pm T3

#### Wednesday, October 27

8:15-11:45am LELP

3:20-5pm Confirmation

5-7pm "Be Real" Youth Group in  
FLC

5:30pm Women's Bible Study in  
FSR

7pm Choir Rehearsal

\*\*\*Last Day to Order Pies from  
LELP\*\*\*

#### Thursday, October 28

8:15-11:45am LELP

9:30am Women's Bible Study

1pm Book Discussion Group in  
Fire Side Room

6pm Experience Recovery in FSR

#### Friday, October 29

8:15-11:45am LELP

#### Next Sunday, October 31

8am Worship w/Communion

9:15am Sunday School &  
Education Hour

9:30am "My Savior Lives"

Worship, KBJR Channel 6

10:30am Worship w/  
Communion

(also available on Facebook Live)

4-5:30pm Trunk or Treat

#### Sunday October 31- November 7

Kwik Trip Car Wash Fundraiser



Join us every week online at Facebook Live  
**St. Matthews Lutheran Church**

### Worship Services:

**Sundays at**

**8am & 10:30 am &  
2nd Thursday of the  
month at 2pm**

### Office Hours:

**Monday 8AM-3PM**

**Tuesday 8AM-3PM**

**Wednesday 8AM-5PM**

**Thursday 8AM-2:30PM**

**Friday 8AM-3PM**

### Church Website:

[www.stmatthewsesko.org](http://www.stmatthewsesko.org)

### Office Phone:

(218) 879-3510

### Church Email:

[stmattsesko@aol.com](mailto:stmattsesko@aol.com)

### October Altar Guild:

Carrie Bowman

(218) 879-5709



### ***We Pray for...***

Norm & Judy Burshten; Billy Ruhnke; Marlys Kilen; Verna Puline; Vern Johnsen

### ***Homebound & Nursing Home***

Margaret Colberg; Wayne Francisco;  
George Hughes; Dorothy (Pixie) Kesti;  
Deb Radosevich; Carol Trevena;  
Martha Kesti; Nancy Seppala

## **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.

- Chris Nelson
- Chris Schultz
- Dave Haugen
- Ron Eng

- Deb Haugen
- Isaac Wisted
- Joe Klatt
- Scott Prachar

- Dan Heikkenen
- Jen Prachar
- Pat Johnson
- Brenda Hall
- Sue Wischnewski

# Church Operating Expenses Paid

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	0	432	2,363	2,795
Church Property	1,392	760	859	3,011
Office	1,073	2113	943	4,129
Worship	200	253	456	909
Youth	0	0	0	0
HRA	238	0	706	944
Heating Fuel	646	202	191	1,039
Repair and Maintenance	2,213	2,500	1,210	5,923
Outreach/ Missions	0	660	150	810
Conferences	0	0	0	0
Insurance	(166)	0	0	(166)
Other	0	42	0	42
Total	32,764	33,192	35,569	101,525
Budgeted Needs	36,228	36,228	36,228	108,684

**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 for. 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) may be used to pay down the church mortgage \$652,802 as of 9-30-21.



## October

24-Jodi Grayson  
Rick Olson  
Logan Laurent  
25-Owen Wilson  
Bryce Sweere  
Marc Peterson  
27-Howard Janke  
Logan Lanthier  
Jeff Carlson  
Mitch Erickson  
28-Alex Walther  
29-John Bergman  
Dylan Prachar  
30-Jack Kuhlman  
Jayce Johanson

30-Daniel DeMuth  
Hannah Roemer  
Trishia Hipp  
31-Karen Sample

## November

1-Amelia Olson  
Joe Wischniewski  
2-Kara Plante  
Benjamin Wick  
4-Ron Norbie  
Joel Brinkley  
Katy Stoyanoff  
Carter Zzulka  
Addilyn Knox

### \*\*\*\*\*SERVING IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER\*\*\*\*\*

#### Greeters:

##### **October 24th**

8am-Cheryl Wight & Betty Arbour  
10:30am-Mike Abell Family

##### **October 31st**

8am-Keith & Reta Baxley  
10:30am-

#### Communion Servers:

##### **October 31st**

8am-Scott Prachar  
10:30am-Tim Lindquist

##### **November 7th**

8am-Jim Lovstad  
10:30am-Phil Stephenson

#### Acolytes:

##### **October 24th**

8am-Parker Sickmann  
10:30am-Hannah Roemer

##### **October 31st**

8am-Jonah Storck  
10:30am-Logan Johnsen



# Stewardship Update

October 19, 2021

	Given	Budget	Over/ (Under)
July	\$39,600	\$36,200	\$3,400
August	\$39,100	\$36,200	\$2,900**
September	\$44,800	\$36,200	\$8,600*
October	\$23,000	\$27,200	(\$4,200)*
Total	\$146,500	\$135,800	\$10,700

\*3 out of 4 weeks

\*\* 5 Sunday Month

Giving Last Year to Date: \$137,600



## FUNERAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with funerals.

If you are interested, please contact either

Kathy Peterson (218) 393-8273 or

Don Lanhart (218) 590-8253.

## LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER PARISH NURSE

Anyone interested in being St. Matthews Parish Nurse? Gerry Paulson, who was our Parish Nurse, has moved out of the area. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office at 879-3510. Thank you!

## Interested in helping with meals for those with COVID?

Kristi Schultz, call or text 218-689-0853.

Leave a message and she will get back to you in the evening!

## Memorial Committee

There is an opening for the chair of the Memorial Committee. We also hope to have more committee members.

Please call Judy Nelson (218) 590-1521

## Help needed

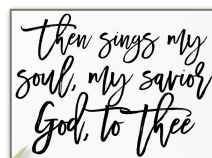
### Sunday Worship Audio/Video!



Contact Phillip Stephenson

910-459-2219

**Please join the  
St. Matthews Church  
choir as we begin again  
to MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!!**



Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7-8 pm in the sanctuary. We would love to have you join us!

Kindly bring a mask.

Thanks ~Sheri Herman



## Operation Christmas Child

Starting in January, Operation Christmas Child will be collecting items monthly throughout the

year. **For the month of October we will be collecting toys (items need to fit inside a**

**shoebox).** Suggested items are: a beautiful doll, a deflated soccer ball with pump, plush stuffed animals, puzzles, jump ropes, sticker and picture books, finger puppets, solar calculators, jewelry, deodorant, socks, hats, t-shirts, bar soap, flip flops.

**NO LIQUID ITEMS PLEASE!**

Donations can be put in the box marked "Operation Christmas Child" which is located under the mailboxes. Thanks again for being so generous!

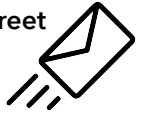




## LCMS Service of Worship

Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on KBJR Channel 6, Duluth

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



**MY SAVIOR LIVES NORTHLAND LCMS SERVICE OF WORSHIP for the Duluth region televised by KBJR Channel 6.** "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, along with a 30 minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran Ministries (starting at 10:00 a.m.). 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.

**October 24-Rev. John Bonk October 31-Rev. Matthew Kohl November 7-Rev. Don Stauty**

### **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS-9:15am in the Family Life Center**

Called - A Nurturing Your Faith Study By: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Nurturing Your Faith: Called is a four-session Bible study based on Ephesians. Individual sessions look at how we are called by God, called to faith, called to service and called to share. Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Dr. Mike Zeigler gives a video introduction to all four sessions.

### **Thursday Morning WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

Every Thursday at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room  
starting on September 23rd

### **SUNDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE**

*Studying women of the Bible*

Every Sunday at 9:15 am in Pastor  
Tom's office starting on  
September 12th

## **women's BIBLE Study**

*"Jesus in Me -  
Experiencing the Holy Spirit"*

Wednesdays  
beginning  
Sept. 15 | 5:30PM

BOOKS CAN BE ORDERED ON AMAZON: "JESUS IN  
ME- EXPERIENCING THE HOLY SPIRIT"  
BY ANNE GRAHAM-LOTZ

questions? Call Kristi Hanson  
218-391-1876



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## 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**OCTOBER 31, 4:00 - 5:30 PM**

**TRUNK OR TREAT IS BACK!**

**BBQ DINNER AVAILABLE!**

**SERVED BY OUR YOUTH!**

A cartoon illustration of a blue car's open trunk. Inside the trunk are several yellow bowls filled with colorful candy, two orange pumpkins, and other treats. The trunk is surrounded by scattered candy and small pumpkins on an orange background.

**@ ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4 ELIZABETH AVENUE, ESKO**

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

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



## 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 include 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.***

## WANTED:

Good working laptop for our Sunday School program. If you have one or would like to donate money towards one please contact Christy Rice or April Bissonette.



The Board of Christian Education is looking for someone to facilitate the

Sunday morning parent Bible study. Please contact either Christy Rice at (507) 829-8740 or April Bissonette at (218) 499-1771 if you are interested.

# NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

## "BLESSED ASSURANCE"

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS  
and praise the Lord



We are excited to offer this additional worship service with Holy Communion that will be held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2pm. This service is for those who require more stringent health & safety precautions in our church sanctuary. This will be an opportunity to worship & fellowship, following strict, Covid safety guidelines. Masks will be required & distancing will be in place. We hope you will join us!

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## 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 10am in the fireside room**

For information or to sign-up, contact the church office or KarenSue at (218) 590-1310.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE DISPLAYED ON THE BULLETIN TOWER IN THE CHURCH ENTRY, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE IT APPROVED BY THE CHURCH OFFICE + THEY WILL DISPLAY IT FOR YOU. ~THANKS



COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Tuesdays @ 9 AM

FACEBOOK LIVE



# Little Esko Lutheran Preschool *Fall Fundraiser*



**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.lutheranpreschool.com



## **Are We Having The Harvest Dinner This October?**

Due to continuing health and safety concerns as they relate to Covid, St. Matthews will not be having the Fall Harvest Dinner this year. As you may know, we have used the money raised at this dinner to help fund local projects, people, & organizations. Last time we had the dinner we were able to give \$4,500 to the following:

- MN Teen Challenge
- Damiano Center Social Services
- Local Families in Need (Christmas Baskets)
- Orphan Grain Train
- Second Harvest Foods
- Northern lakes, Duluth
- College & Seminary Students
- My Savior Lives Television Ministry
- Mission Families supported by our church
- Bethesda Lutheran Home
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Union Gospel Mission

### **How can we help these projects, people & organizations this year if we are not having our dinner?**

We are asking you to consider donating the money that you would have spent on a meal ticket, or food donation. These donations will help us to be able to give to others again this year. There will be a designated box in the narthex throughout the month of October.

Thank you for your continued support to our local people and organizations.



**rightnow  
MEDIA**

A streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible study videos for leaders to share with their people.

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church.

Text "SMC" to 49775 and you will receive a link to activate your FREE account.



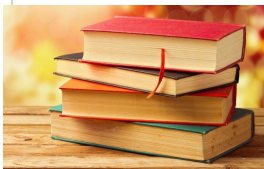
## Thrivent Action Teams Continue!



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.” (www.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.**

### **Book Discussion Group**



We will be meeting **Thursday, October 28th at 1pm** in the Fire Side Room and reading a book by Greg Finke called ***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.

**\*Thursday, November 18th at 1pm** *Lightning Strike* by William Kent Kruger

**\*Thursday, December 16th at 1pm** *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.\*\*\*

# YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAYS

## BIBLE STUDY

9:15 AM  
YOUTH ROOM

begins 9/12

LET'S GROW IN GOD'S  
WORD! JOIN US FOR SOME  
INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY,  
FELLOWSHIP & POPCORN!



TUESDAYS



## TOTALLY TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

3-5 PM  
YOUTH ROOM

begins 9/14

COME HANG OUT WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS, HAVE A SNACK, DO  
SOME HOMEWORK, PLAY SOME  
GAMES...

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

JOIN US FOR

# Be Real

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

**ST. MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP**  
Grades 7-12

**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 ARE INTERESTED  
IN HELPING OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

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# UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

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!

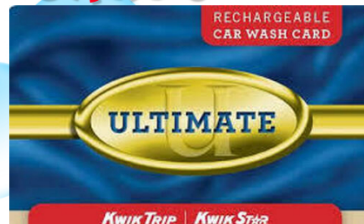
**BIDDING STARTS DECEMBER 1ST AT 6:00 pm  
AND ENDS DECEMBER 5TH AT NOON**

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

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# CAR WASH

## KWIK TRIP ULTIMATE CAR WASH CARDS



The perfect stocking stuffer or gift for those hard to buy for people on your Christmas list!

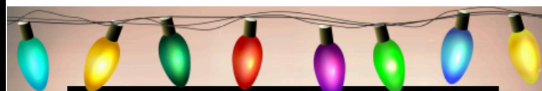
Each card sells for \$36 and is good for 5 Ultimate Car Washes at any Kwik Trip location.

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**

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## 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



## 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*

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