
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 PASTORS:

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

John Pasche, Vacancy Pastor
Cell- (320) 296-9877
Email - revpasche@gmail.com

OUR STAFF:

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

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

Jen Prachar, Office Manager
Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

"O Give Thanks unto the Lord"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Yes, I am getting old, and yes, I do have a head of gray hair, but the promise God gives me through the prophet Isaiah is that he is with me...even in the later years of my life.

"Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs

I will carry you!

I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry,

and will deliver you." Isaiah 46:4

I find it very hard to believe that I am about to retire. One might think such a decision would come easily. After all, I am 65 years old and don't most people retire around 65. However, this decision has been hard...very hard! It was not made lightly nor easily. Yet, after prayerful consideration, Mary and I made the decision that the time for this has indeed arrived.

God has certainly been gracious to me in allowing me to do ministry together with you for almost 19 years at St Matthews. I could not have asked for more support, love, and care from a congregation. Now I'm excited to see what God has in store for Mary and me in this next phase of our lives.

I'm certain that I'll have opportunities to express my gratitude elsewhere, both publicly and privately, but I want to share here what a privilege it has been to walk with you through so many great seasons of ministry here at St Matthews. It has been an honor to journey with you through your many personal joys and sorrows throughout the years. Those memories will always be cherished.

Mary and I will be remaining in the Cloquet area because, well, it's home. And we'll certainly be seeking new opportunities to continue to serve the Lord in the years to come. It will just be in a different capacity. We also look forward to spending more time with kids and grandkids, wherever that may be. We might even go back to Africa for a few months to visit and teach.

I want you to know that you will always be in my thoughts and prayers and I especially ask our Heavenly Father to provide stability, continuity and direction during the next months as the search for a new pastor continues.

Again, thank you for being such an awesome congregation and continue to always, *"fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."* Hebrews 12:2

In Christ and with much love,

Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom,

We rejoice with you as you celebrate your retirement. May the Lord bless you and keep you, fill your life with His joy and sustain you by His grace.



Memorial Day Worship

Monday, May 30 at 10:30 am

St. Matthews Cemetery - 202 Church Avenue

REGISTER FOR
A MONUMENTAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE!



St. Matthews Lutheran Church will be hosting VBS
June 27th-July 1st from 8:30-11:30
for children ages Preschool through those going into 6th grade.

There is also an opportunity for children going into Kindergarten-
6th grade to participate in the afternoon program Monday through
Thursday from 11:30-4pm . The afternoon program cost is \$75.

Register online at StMatthewsEsko.org or find our link on the
St. Matthews Facebook Page.



Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 26

11:30 am

Agenda:

- Budget Approval
- Election of New Officers and Board Members

Summer Office Hours:

Monday 8AM-2PM

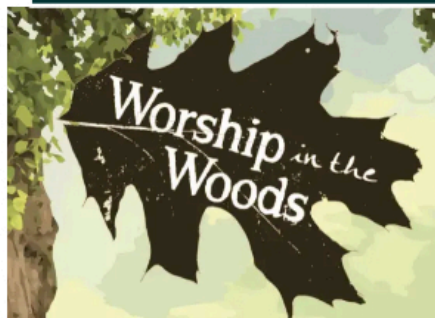
Tuesday 8AM-2PM

Wednesday 8AM-2PM

Thursday 8AM-12PM

Friday 8AM-2PM

VBS DAY CAMP IS BACK!



For Grades K-6

JUNE 27 - 30

11:30-4:00 PM

\$75 per child

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 11:30 WITH ACTIVITIES
TO FOLLOW!! REGISTRATION INFO TO COME!**

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)

BIBLE STUDY:

- Sundays 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study in the Family Life Center
- Tuesdays 7 am - Men's Bible Study in the Fireside Room
- Tuesdays 9 am - "Coffee with Pastor" online via Facebook

YOUTH:

- Sundays 9:15 am - Grades 7-12 Bible Study in the Youth Room
- VBS June 27- July 1 - Preschool through those going into 6th grade
- VBS Day Camp June 27-30 - those going into kindergarten through 6th grade

Update from the Call Committee

The Call Committee has requested a new list of pastors' names from the district as we did not feel we had enough strong candidates from the last Call list to bring forth to the congregation. We are hoping to have the new Call list in the next couple weeks. Once we get the new Call list, we will be researching each pastor and conducting interviews to narrow the list down. We will keep you updated on the process.

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

A Note From Our Youth Coordinator

After a lot of prayer and consideration I have made the decision to step down from my position as Youth Coordinator. As you know, the last year and a half have brought a lot of changes. Right now, I need some time to focus on taking care of myself emotionally, spiritually and physically. I don't know what God has in store for me moving forward, but I want to thank you all for your continued support of me and Hannah and Alex.

I am grateful for the tremendous support this congregation shows our youth! I love each of them so very much and am honored to have been a part of their faith journeys. They are such an important part of our congregation. Encouragement and mentoring by mature Christians is a gift to our youth and will help strengthen their faith and their desire to remain connected to God and a church.

I will continue to prepare for and travel with the youth to Houston for the National Youth Gathering in July. The Youth Leadership team, with the support of the Youth Board, will plan activities throughout the summer.

I look forward to continuing to worship here at St. Matthews and to be involved in music, women's Bible study, and other things as I am able. Thank you for your understanding, prayers and kindness.

-Christina

New Wine

presents....

Bright Star



at St. Matthews on
Monday, June 6th @ 6:30pm

Come support this group of high schoolers from area churches before they take their show on the road to spread the hope and forgiveness that we find in our Savior.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Members of New Wine's talented cast from St. Matthews:

Emma Cekalla, Drew Erickson, Annika Halvorson, Chad Hart, Jayce Koskela, Trevor Leach, Ben Meysembourg, Drew Prachar, Nate Rengo

Freewill
Offering

Join Us!

Church Softball 2022

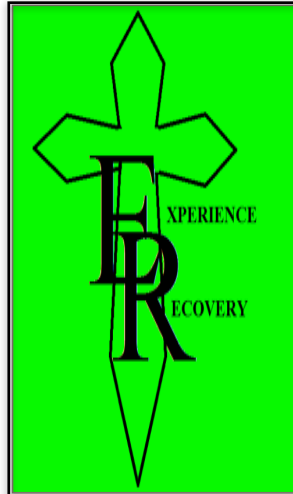
We need more players, anyone is able to play! Also anyone can come and watch/support us from the bleachers!

Where: Pinehurst Park Softball Field, Cloquet

When: Every Monday starting June 6th to end of August; exact times to be determined.

Why: To make St. Mathews better known in the community and make new Christian friends!

**Contact Mitch Rosendahl at
(320) 212-0703**



Experience Recovery

For Every Hurt, Habit, or Hang Up
Thursday Evenings at St.
Matthews
6 pm

Please contact Deacon Johnny
Eng at (218) 310-1385 with any
questions.

CHURCH FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY! EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED

Sign-up on the bulletin board in the gathering space or
call the church office. (218-879-3510)



**FOR ALL AGES – Under 16
must have an adult volunteer
with them!**

There will be two shifts on
Friday, June 17: **9am-
3:30pm** and **3pm-10pm**.

Volunteers are asked, if
possible, to attend a brief
tutorial food service
meeting on Thursday, June 16
at 5:30 pm at the DECC.

**ST. MATTHEWS WILL
RECEIVE FUNDS FOR EACH
HOUR WORKED!**

In addition, each volunteer will receive:

- Delicious Meal
- Michelina's All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner T-shirt
- Pair of Fitsoks
- (2) beverage tickets to use on Saturday, June 18 at Bayfront Park.
- Invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Party at Wade Stadium where everyone will enjoy watching the Duluth Huskies take on the Waterloo Bucks. This includes their ticket to the game, all you can eat meal and lots of fun!

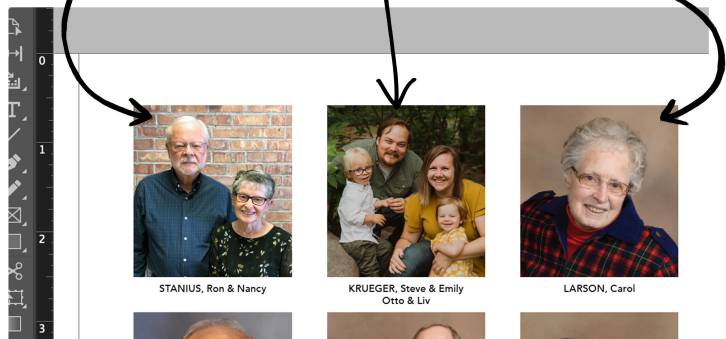
St. Matthews Pictorial Directory

The Christian Outreach Board is organizing an updated St. Matthews pictorial directory. Life Touch no longer services our area so the directory will be produced by our members. Photos can be submitted, taken for you by a member of our team (in between Sunday services) or you can opt to reuse your photo from the 2018 directory. See the examples of types of photos contained within this announcement. Please complete the form included here and drop it in the collection basket, drop it off at the office or email the information requested to SMLCdirectory2022@gmail.com.

2022 Church Directory

PHOTO OPTIONS:

1. Snap a photo at the church
2. Submit a photo to SMLCdirectory2022@gmail.com
3. Use your 2018 directory photo



*We will be making this directory in-house, as LifeTouch Photography has stopped servicing the our area



2022 Church Directory

Please fill out this information as you would like it listed in the 2022 directory

NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ ☐ CELL ☐ LANDLINE

☐ CELL ☐ LANDLINE

EMAIL _____

- ☐ Use my 2018 directory photo
- ☐ I will submit a photo to SMLCdirectory2022@gmail.com
- ☐ Please coordinate to take my photo at the church

Upcoming Directory

If you haven't already submitted your information via email, please stop by after worship service on Sunday June 5 or June 19 at our table in the gathering space to register to be included in the 2022 pictorial directory and have your picture taken or let us know to reuse your picture from the 2018 directory. If we take your picture we will send you a digital copy if you like.



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-Olson, Jake Seboe
- 6- Brenda Bergman, Vincent Schmidt, Natalie Greniger, Drake Schramm, Daniel Bowman, Audrey Marsh
- 7- Stephanie Connor 8- Trent Issendorf
- 9- Brett Crow, Lucas Lane, Jake Olson
- 10- Pat Olesen, Christina Walther, Isaiah Arntson, Gabrielle Cardinal, Micah Rosendahl
- 11- Kallyn Knutson, Bailey Pantsar
- 12- Richard Richardson, Brooklyn Sorenson
- 13- Shirley Behm, Leah Pykkonen, Nicole Contardo, Leland Hill, Gabriella Laubach
- 15- Aaron Young
- 16- Tom Ruemmele, Emmett Siltanen
- 17- Kelly Eng, Carol Larson, Brittany McCullough
- 18- Scott Prachar, Tony Hanni, Finn Axelson
- 19- Damon Butkiewicz
- 20- Sydney Kazel, John Mismash
- 21- Cheryl LaCourse, Diah Butkiewicz, Nikki Wilmes, Cecilia Hart, Wyatt Mrozik
- 22- Kloey Carlson, Dylan Vinje
- 23- Richard Duzan, Cheryl Urie, Lyndsy Lindquist
- 24- Tyceson Johnson, Jayden Walz, Trina Hultgren-Storck
- 25- Dylan Edland, Jonny Klatt, Delia Forneris
- 26- Keith Baxley, Owen Straub, Madison Weber, Amber Berg, Ty Christensen
- 27- Bailey Plante, Rylie Erickson
- 28- John Lehman, Kyler Nikunen, Scott Christensen
- 29- Terry Koskela, Terri Fredrickson, Heidi Roemer, Connie Tafs



St. Matthews Offering Income

May 24, 2022

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.	32,100	36,200	(4,100)
Nov.	42,300	36,200	6,100**
Dec.	51,700	36,200	15,500
Jan.	38,200	36,200	2,000**
Feb.	33,100	36,200	(3,100)
March	42,600	36,200	6,400
April	38,200	36,200	2,000
May	35,100	29,000	6,100*
	436,800	391,000	45,800

*4 out of 5 weeks **5 Sunday Month

Giving last year to date: \$451,500

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

Blood Drive at St. Matthews

Monday, July 18

11am - 6 pm

Contact Carrie Bowman at
(218) 879-5709 to sign up.



LCMS Worship - Sundays 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 5 Pastor Matt Kohl, Cloquet

June 12 Pastor John Bonk, Two Harbors

June 19 Pastor Don Stauty, Virginia & Aurora

June 26 Pastor Tim Ludwig, Hermantown

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



May

Baptisms

May 20

Kenna Lynn Pfisthner
Oaklynn Marie Pfisthner

May God keep Kenna and
Oaklynn his His grace into
life everlasting.

Funeral

May 16, 2022

Roy William Bohren

May God comfort this family
through the living Lord Jesus.



To St. Matthews youth who wish to go to 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 is in an envelope on the entryway bulletin tower). \$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.

Stewardship Corner

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Stewardship continued on page 10



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

Proverbs 22:6

Preschool News

School is out for the summer! Registrations are being accepted for the 2022-23 school year, which begins September 7. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Preschool page on the St. Matthews website. There already are a few children registered!

The preschool completed its final fundraiser in early May. More than 180 hanging basket certificates were sold, which netted the preschool over \$1,445. In addition, Minnesota COVID grants continue to supplement LELP's income. A total of \$ 8,500 was received last month.

Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, your purchases can help support LELP! Simply visit AmazonSmile through this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-6095137> and select Little Esko Lutheran Preschool as your charitable organization. For every eligible purchase at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to LELP. Later this summer, LELP will post a wishlist of needed items that anyone can purchase.

LELP remains in need of an Assistant Teacher and Extended Care Teacher for the fall. If you, or someone you know, are interested in either of these positions, a job description can be obtained by contacting LELP at lelpreschool@gmail.com.

LELP staff, families and board members are grateful for your prayers. LELP admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

Stewardship continued from page 9

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Women Inspired LWML

The Women Inspired group met Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room

Seven members were present.

Pat Johnson opened with prayer.

The meeting was called to order by Pat Johnson.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Correspondence – Several thank you notes for the Easter goodie bags were read.

Old Business:

Six members of our LWML attended the Spring Rally in Superior.

New Business:

The MN North District Biennial Convention will be held June 20-22 at Moorhead. Our LWML will make the Zone banner with the theme "Drawn to the Cross".

A motion was made and seconded to elect Judy Nelson as our delegate to the convention. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to provide Summer camp scholarships again this year of \$25 for day camp, \$50 for overnight camp. Motion passed.

Workers were decided and plans were made to serve cake and punch after the 10:30 service for Senior Recognition Sunday on May 15th.

We will try to make 80 backpacks by the National Convention next year to celebrate the 80th anniversary of LWML

The next meeting will be scheduled in the Fall

The mite devotion was on the LWML mission grants, *Helping single, at-risk Moms choose life through the love of Jesus, Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois, and Healthcare and medical supplies for students and community in Tanzania, Mercy Medical Care for Mwadui Lutheran School and community.*

Mites were collected.

The Bible Study was from chapter 26 in our book "*Love Rules; a Study of the Ten Commandments*" the seventh Commandment – Don't Steal, Sisters and Stealing.

We joined in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Nelson, Secretary

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. The mortgage balance at 4/30/22 is \$160,606 after the sales proceeds from the parsonage. Any surplus funds at the end of our fiscal year (June 30, 2022) will be discussed with the congregation at the annual budget meeting.

Church Operating Expenses Paid:	February	March	April		Total
Salaries	16,595	17,528	16,634		144,534
Benefits	3,398	4,469	4,841		45,957
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883	6,883		68,830
District/Synod Support	2,500	2,500	2,500		24,502
Electricity	1,807	1,564	1,549		11,302
Christian Education	-	24	1,160		3,834
Church Property	2,506	2,335	1,859		14,619
Office	1,911	1,381	1,453		14,627
Worship	242	1,726	76		7,431
Youth	-	-	69		69
HRA	-	254	1,584		5,793
Heating Fuel	3,109	2,010	2,843		15,076
Repair and Maintenance	318	780	1,132		9,769
Outreach/ Missions	-	-	-		840
Conferences	-	944	-		944
Insurance	-	-	-		(372)
Other	803	-	-		1,988
Total	40,072	42,398	42,583		369,743
Budgeted Needs	36,228	36,228	36,228		362,280

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 March and April, 2022*

Gifts have been given in Memory of

Sandy Antonson/Verna Sundeen
Sandy Antonson/Verna Sundeen
Judy Burshten
Dale Abbott
Cliff Trevena

To the

Walther Memorial Fund
Sunday School Fund
Worship Improvement Fund
Undesignated Fund
Sunday School Fund
Sunday School Fund

In Honor of the

Funds were used to purchase a Lenten season banner for the altar area. Thank you so much to the friends and family of Judy Burshten.

Funds were also used for choir supplies. Thank you so much to everyone who supports the Choir 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 in the Gathering space 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 _____

Tim & Diane Esala

Called Back to Cambodia

Spring 2022

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven.
He has made everything beautiful in its time.
Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 11*



How often we say, God's timing is perfect. God's perfect timing does two things. First it grows our faith as we are forced to wait and trust in God and second it makes certain that God alone gets the glory and praise for pulling us through. God is faithful and true – always. He makes all things beautiful in His time.

A New Season

PTL! The PAUSE button for our return to Cambodia was changed to PLAY! Our prayers for God's perfect timing in our return to Cambodia were answered!

We arrived in Phnom Penh Cambodia late on Easter night. After a day of rest and catching up with friends in Phnom Penh (Danay Mao and JP & Aimee Cima), we headed to Kampot via a 3-hour taxi ride. In our 2-1/2 year hiatus, much has changed along the way of this familiar trip. Despite the COVID shutdowns, construction obviously continued in Cambodia with noticeable modern commercial buildings in both Phnom Penh and Kampot and a much smoother ride on the newly paved roads. But the most enjoyable was our first trip across the NEW bridge from Kampot to Fish Island – with two lanes instead of one lane, concrete roadbed instead of steel plates, concrete sides instead of steel railing and it was strong and secure instead of rickety and shaky! As you know, completion of this new bridge had been delaying the start of construction for Stronghold's new facility as large trucks and construction equipment had been banned from crossing the old bridge due to the danger of collapse.

We were excited that our Stronghold team would all be together before our teammates Ashley Johnson and Maria Sasieta return to the USA. In mid-September, we will return to the USA for a short furlough before returning to Cambodia for our next 6-month stint. Tim is enjoying his role of onsite construction supervision and Diane is excited to share ESL teaching with Maria while continuing to work closely with Jesse for donor support.

A New Home

We are settled and satisfied with our "home away from home." We are finding that being older (Tim is 69 and Diane is 68) does make a difference so we are being deliberate in promoting our health and well-being. And God has honored this by blessing us with a little one room bungalow on Fish Island. It is our little oasis with LOTS of tropical plants, a beautiful covered patio with small table and chairs, and a safe and secure environment with a friendly accommodating landlord, Mr. Leng, who lives on the property with his family. Fish Island Bungalows allows us to get to know the locals as well as meet new people from all over the world who are guests there.

Although we have a lot of togetherness with only one room, it provides air conditioning for all of our home activities. Despite having no kitchen to cook, we found the cost of eating out is not much different than buying groceries. Plus, Diane hates cooking over a hot propane burner at the end of a hot day. Our teammate, Ashley Johnson, graciously passed on her apartment size refrigerator and microwave to us so we can make salads and reheat our left-overs on the nights we do not eat out. We usually enjoy a breakfast of cereal and delicious ripe Cambodian fruit eaten on our patio each morning followed by lunch at Stronghold with the kids.

Since Stronghold is only a short walk from our bungalow, we are not renting a vehicle. Tim uses Stronghold's 100cc 4-speed Honda Wave moto to go back and forth to the construction site and we take a tuk tuk to Kampot town or borrow Jesse's car if needed. Tim is learning defensive driving in a whole new way as he dodges big trucks and motos coming out of nowhere. However, Diane prefers to keep her feet firmly on the ground instead of on a moto as she is very protective of her "new" knees from being bumped by passing motos and cars.



Entrance to our bungalow



*Traveler's Palm
Welcomes us home to our little piece
of paradise at Fish Island Bungalows*



*Our gracious landlords,
Mr. Leng & his wife*



Tim on his moto



Enjoying breakfast on our patio

Join us in praying for:

- Thanksgiving for God's perfect timing and uneventful safe travel in our return to Cambodia.
- Praise for Fish Island Bungalows where God provides relaxation & refreshment amidst his beautiful creation.
- Prosperity for our landlord, Mr. Leng, and many others as tourism business recovers & returns post COVID.
- Our personal health and well-being while adjusting to climate, food and serving God in Cambodia.
- Opportunities to shine the light of Jesus into the lives of our students, families and those we meet and greet.
- The Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Cambodian people to the undeserved love of Jesus Christ.

We ask you to prayerfully consider giving toward support for our time in Cambodia – estimated 18 months total. All donations are tax-deductible and 100% goes to our support while in-country.

Partner with us as we return to Cambodia to help Stronghold's dream come true for a permanent home where children can come to play, learn and hear about Jesus, their Stronghold, Shelter and Shade.



Email us at:

esala@missionofchrist.org

On-line Donations:

www.missionofchrist.org/Esala

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