
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

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



ADDRESS:

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

CONTACT US:

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

OUR PASTOR:

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

OUR STAFF:

Johnny Eng, Deacon
Cell- (218) 310-1385
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Jen Prachar, Office Manager
Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

Sybil Halvorson,
Little Esko Lutheran Preschool Director
Mae Garson, Assistant Teacher
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“I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

These are the last words of Matthew’s gospel. Jesus has completed his mission of salvation and is returning to the Father. These last words are some of the most comforting words we can hear in our faith lives. What a comfort it is to know that Jesus is with us always by His Holy Spirit. These words from the mouth of Jesus - promise us here that his love, his friendship, and his mercy will remain with us always, until the end of the age.

“I am with you always...” was promise made to Jesus’ disciples both then and now. Just before Jesus says these words, he has given us our marching orders as well. He has given us our mission as his disciples in every age, until the end of time. **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:19).**

Jesus, in His life among us, revealed the errors of our ways and made the ways of God visible to us in His words and His deeds. We also see that the people of his own home town rejected him. He endured the anger, and the denials of the religious leaders. He even knew the pain of abandonment by those he loved at his arrest, even that of Peter’s threefold denial. And still, in the midst of his suffering and death, He showed us that the core of God’s love (and of our love for one another), is always the healing and the liberating power of forgiveness.

Who could know better than Jesus, the trials that His disciples would encounter on their mission roads? He knew them then, and He knows us now, intimately. He knows our weaknesses. He knows that we are often filled with doubt and with fears. But He knows our hearts too. He knows that we desire to be his good and faithful disciples in this world. He knows what we need. He knows that our mission is not, nor will it ever be, easy. This is why he made this promise to be with us “to the end of the age,” at the end of Matthew’s gospel.

We can believe and take hope in the promise of Christ. When we willingly follow in the way of Jesus, He is with us. When we stumble or fall, He does not abandon us, but waits faithfully for our hearts to turn back to him and then he enfolds us instantly in his

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graceful and loving embrace. To believe this is to know the peace that surpasses all understanding that can come from Him alone.

May you continue to pray for St. Matthews. Thanking God for all that He is doing in the lives of our members. And when we worry about the future – even our most trying hours, Jesus helps us to know that He is with us. He strengthens us with this faith. In our hours of contentment and joy, Jesus helps us to know that it is all a gift from Him! Allowing us to share praise of all that He does for us and His presence in our lives! **“I am with you always...”**

Pastor John Pasche

Update from the Call Committee - Congregational Meeting Scheduled

The Call Committee has concluded their interviews with potential candidates from the call list received from the district. At this time, the committee is calling for a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 31 after the 9:00 a.m. service to conduct a ballot vote. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this very important meeting.

Information on the pastoral candidates is available to review in the church office. Since this information is confidential, it cannot leave the church.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support –

The Call Committee

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

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion and Potluck Brunch

Outdoor Worship at Northridge Park, Esko
Sunday, August 21st at 9 am

Potluck Brunch following service.

Bring your lawn chair and your family, friends and neighbors to worship outside in our beautiful summer weather. Stay for potluck brunch and fellowship following the service. Paper products and beverages will be provided.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WORSHIP:

Sundays

- 9 am worship in the sanctuary or Family Life Center
- 9 am worship at Northridge Park, Esko on August 21st
- 9 am worship services online via Facebook
- 9:30 am - TV option Channel 6 (KBJR) airs "My Savior Lives"

BIBLE STUDY:

Tuesdays

- 7 am - Men's Bible Study in the Fireside Room
- Tuesdays 9 am - "Coffee with Pastor" online via Facebook



A HUGE thank you for supporting the youth trip to Houston, Texas. The trip would not have been possible without the support of the congregation. We spent the week digging into God's word and attending breakout sessions learning how God is "in all things." We did a servant project at the Houston Food Bank, had some time to explore Galveston Beach and tour NASA. We are thankful for the time spent growing in our faith.

Summer Office Hours:

Monday 8AM-2PM

Tuesday 8AM-2PM

Wednesday 8AM-2PM

Thursday 8AM-12PM

Friday 8AM-2PM



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.



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

Preschool News

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 are several children registered but there are many openings still available. LELP admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

At the July meeting, the LELP board of directors voted to operate the preschool as a morning-only program. The afternoon session (also known as extended care) has not been utilized by enough families to be self-sustaining.

Additionally, not a single application was received for the afternoon teacher position.

Please support LELP through your Amazon purchases. 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. LELP has posted a wishlist, which can be found through a search on Amazon.

LELP staff, families and board members are grateful for your prayers. As a ministry of St. Matthews, we continue to need additional board members. Snowbirds and frequent travelers are welcome as meetings can be held via Zoom.

Esko Fun Days Parade & Picnic Lunch

Saturday, August 6, 2021

11:30 am Parade

(Line Up at 11:00 am in St. Matthews Parking Lot)

We would like to have St. Matthews represented in the parade. If you have an interest, please contact the church office at (218) 879-3510.

After the parade, lunch will be served at Northridge Park. The menu includes shredded pork sandwiches, nachos with pork, hotdogs and root beer floats. Lunch is sponsored by the Youth of St. Matthews.





**CROSSROADS
MINISTRY**

Auditions for our upcoming musical will take place on Wednesday, August 24th from 5-8pm + Thursday, August 25th from 12:30-3:30pm. You will need to sign up for a time if you would like to have a part. Auditions are open to any 7-12th grader (not just St. Matthews members). If you are interested in sharing your talents, please contact Drew Prachar or Isaac Wisted.



Crossroads Ministry aims to provide an opportunity for youth to share their God given talents with the community. Whether it's singing, dancing, acting or something behind the scenes, we strive to do it all for the glory of the LORD. In addition, we want to provide a space for youth to develop life-long skills, form new friendships and grow in their identity in Christ.

"STAND AT THE CROSSROADS & LOOK; ASK FOR THE ANCIENT PATHS, ASK WHERE THE GOOD WAY IS, & WALK IN IT, & YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS." JEREMIAH 6:16

Together in Christ
Life-long Learning
for
Life-long Faith
Let's grow together!

St. Matthews' Sunday School will begin Sunday September 11th at 9:15. Join us for church service at 8 or 10:30 and then come after the second service for a barbecue and ice cream social to kick off the new Sunday School year!



St. Matthews Offering Income

July 20, 2022

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	\$24,200	\$28,600	\$(4,400)*

*3 out of 4 weeks

Giving last year to date: \$23,200

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



July

Funeral

July 2, 2022

Patricia "Patty" Lila Murto

May God comfort Patty's family through the living Lord Jesus.



**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.

August 7 Pastor Matt Kohl, Cloquet

August 14 Pastor John Bonk, Two Harbors

August 21 Pastor Don Stauty, Virginia/Aurora

August 28 Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf, Ely

September 4 Pastor Brad Felix, Virginia

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



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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Kari Straub, Kristi Modich, Otto Thompson
- 2- Emma Calverly, Avery Martineau, Emmitt Hallgren
- 3- Nikki Czerwiński, Jayce Koskela
- 4- David Reuer, Christine Siciliano, Grace Rosendahl, Finn Much
- 5- Emilia Pianalto, Heather Linder
- 6- Margaret Colberg, Donald Lanhart, Rachel Peterson
- 7- Peter Young, Tiffany Weber
- 8- Peter LaCourse, Madyson Lawrey, Eli Erickson, Dalton Spindler, Trevor Mrozik, Emily Pfisthner
- 9- Christine Abell, Becky Schmidt
- 10- Michaela Olson, David Jauhola, Cherri Sykes, Eric Welman
- 11- Earl Brinkley, Terri Lennartson, David Lindstrom, Jennifer Workman
- 12- David Stokes, Sara Prosen, Jason Marsh
- 13- Becky Christensen, Jennifer Carlson
- 14- Mason Lane 15- Lilia Bissonette 16- Sophia Kangas
- 17- Dawson Prachar, Jeremy Straub, Cale Haugen, Kaydence Lammi
- 18- Noah Hansen, Laurene Hutchison
- 19- Nicole Mismash, Paiton Plante
- 20- Ayden Chopskie 21- Staci Wisted
- 22- Natalie Forslund, Luca Giancola
- 23- Janet Economy, Olivia Jacobi, Jenna Sturm
- 24- Melinda Beare
- 25- Gary Hughes, Brennan Gerard, Tanner Stokes
- 26- Gerry Bohren, Mark Rossetti, Dan Linder, Liam Lane
- 27- Niika Stahlbusch
- 28- Valarie Fuchs, Shelly Colse 29- Travis Mangan Jr.
- 30- Lindsay Pantsar, Mike Rush, Lucas Hanson, Thurston Lick
- 31- Elaine Lindquist, Bryan Hipp, John Murray



CITY ON THE HILL MUSIC FEST - AUGUST 5th & 6th, 2022

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.

**WOOD CITY
WORSHIP FESTIVAL
CLOQUET MN**

10:00AM - KBM WORSHIP
12:15PM - OLD MAN DOWN
1:30PM - DEREK CHARLES JOHNSON
2:45PM - DGT WORSHIP
4:15PM - TRAMPOLINES
5:30PM - PRESENCE MUSIC
7:00PM - BETHANY WORSHIP
8:30PM - CORY ASBURY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH
**AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK,
CLOQUET, MN**

**ESKO
COMMUNITY
RUMMAGE
SALE**

**THURSDAY-
SATURDAY
September 15-17**

If you would like to get your address added to the map, please send the following info along with \$5 to St. Matthews Church at 4 Elizabeth Ave Esko, MN 55733

- *Address
- *Dates & times of sale
- *Brief description of items for sale

Stewardship Corner

The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

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 as of June 30 is \$148,152 after the sales proceeds from the parsonage. Any surplus funds at the end of our fiscal year (June 30) will be discussed with the congregation at the annual budget meeting.

Church Operating Expenses Paid:	March	April	May	June	Total
Salaries	17,528	16,634	16,593	13,514	174,641
Benefits	4,469	4,841	3,398	3,514	52,869
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883	6,883	6,883	82,596
District/Synod Support	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,498	29,500
Electricity	1,564	1,549	1,009	1,479	13,790
Christian Education	24	1,160	328	643	4,805
Church Property	2,335	1,859	1,654	3,778	20,051
Office	1,381	1,453	1,633	1,628	17,888
Worship	1,726	76	542	517	8,490
Youth	-	69	-	278	347
HRA	254	1,584	2,557	-	8,350
Heating Fuel	2,010	2,843	1,261	849	17,186
Repair and Maintenance	780	1,132	414	4,060	14,243
Outreach/Missions	-	-	3,100	192	4,132
Conferences	944	-	-	-	944
Insurance	-	-	-	12,922	12,550
Other	-	-	150	-	2,138
Total	42,398	42,583	42,022	52,755	464,520
Budgeted Needs	36,228	36,228	36,228	36,228	434,736
Brinkley Retirement luncheon and gift			4313		4313

Tim & Diane Esala

Called Back to Cambodia

Summer 2022

*So don't be anxious about tomorrow.
God will take care of your tomorrow too.
Live one day at a time.
Matthew 6:34*



We are re-learning to “embrace the ambiguity” as Stronghold’s Director, Jesse, says so often of life in this “Kingdom of Wonder” called Cambodia. Although we strive for some routine or constants to ground and comfort us with the familiar, we are confronted with the unfamiliar and/or vaguely familiar all around us. Thankfully, God is our constant...unchanging and familiar. We hold tight to Him because with God, routine can be comforting and worthwhile and change can be exhilarating and exciting.

THE REVOLVING DOOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Over the years, Stronghold has been blessed with MCN (Mission of Christ Network) mission partners, like us, serving at Stronghold in supportive roles of the Cambodian-led ministry. Although we fill in the gaps of service as needed, most of us see our primary role as teaching ESL. Because having native English speakers as ESL teachers is important, Stronghold’s goal is to always have at least one native English speaker present at Stronghold. To do that, we must coordinate our furloughs with the other mission partners. Upon arrival here, Diane shared ESL teaching with our teammate, Maria Sasieta, but Diane took over teaching all grades of ESL classes after Maria left for her furlough in early July. Although Tim’s primary role is to monitor construction, he will fill in for Maria by teaching one ESL class in the evening. Maria returns in September along with our new teammate, Zane Miller and they will then take over ESL teaching as we return for our short furlough in mid-September.

EVER-CHANGING GOVERNMENT SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Here on Fish Island, there are two primary schools (grades 1-6) and one secondary school (grades 7-9) but no high school, so students in grades 10-12 attend high school in Kampot. Our 3rd-9th grade students attend these government schools for their general education and come to Stronghold for ESL and computer classes. Currently, the primary school that most of our students attend has a split morning/afternoon sessions due to construction, so Stronghold mirrors their schedule. Unfortunately, the school flips their morning and afternoon schedule monthly so Stronghold must do the same. If that sounds confusing, you are right...which is why Diane keeps a written schedule to remind her to teach the right lesson to the right students at the right time!

OUR WEEKLY ROUTINE

Although our schedule at Stronghold changes often, we have established a Monday to Friday routine of arriving at Stronghold by 8:30am and leaving about 6pm after our last evening class. Although it may sound like a long day, there are times during the day with no classes when we can run errands or even take a nap. The heat and humidity can wear us out, so we are certainly thankful for air conditioning in the Stronghold office and in our own one-room bungalow.

Although we are often dodging big trucks and young kids driving motos, we feel safe on our daily walk to and from Stronghold as neighbors smile and greet us personally along the way. We spend most Saturdays doing laundry at Stronghold as there is a washer and plenty of outside space for drying clothes. On weekends, we often take a tuk-tuk to Kampot to shop and have dinner. Because we do not speak Khmer, we call our favorite tuk-tuk driver, Manut, who not only speaks English but also cares for us with such kindness and respect.

We try to keep Sunday as a day of rest, but we often get caught up in some activity. We hope to visit a local Khmer church once a month but because the services are all in Khmer we join our home church, Pathfinder in Ellisville, MO every Sunday evening via live streaming for morning church services. PTL for the internet!

BEYOND THE JOB DESCRIPTION

Although Tim’s primary role is to monitor the work at Stronghold’s construction site, he loves to play guitar and lead singing with the kids during devotion time in the morning, afternoon, and evening. He really enjoys singing with the kids and they enjoy his enthusiastic and dramatic style. Diane’s primary role is teaching ESL, but she too enjoys singing with kids. Because she has a deep love/need for organization, she is always knee deep in one organizing project or another at Stronghold. Thankfully, she has also organized our little one-room bungalow as well which makes living in a small space doable.



CONSTRUCTION SITE



MANUT – TUK TUK DRIVER



ESL CLASSROOM

Join us in praying for:

- Comfort and peace for our Pathfinder church family as we all grieve the sudden death of our church leader Chris Toomey in June. Praise for his victory over death through Christ Jesus.
- Safe travel and refreshing R&R for our MCN mission partners on their furloughs.
- Thanksgiving for God’s provision of financial support for us to return to Cambodia.
- Our commitment to keep the Sabbath for refreshment and renewal in body, mind and spirit.
- Boldness to live our faith out loud so that our joy in Jesus is evident without using words.
- Safety of the workers during construction of Stronghold’s new facility.

We ask you to prayerfully consider giving toward our support as we serve at Stronghold. We are halfway through our first 6-month time in Cambodia. Except for short furloughs, we expect to be here about 18 months in total. Our goal is to stay until the completion/dedication of Stronghold’s new facility.

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

Donations by Check:
Mission of Christ Network
PO Box 533
Concordia, MO 64020
(Esala on Memo Line)



Call or text us at:
636-448-6370



**ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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