
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

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



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St. Matthews Lutheran Church
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It has been a wonderful summer in so many ways. But here the beautiful state of Minnesota – the seasons change. Summer has come and gone all too quickly. But there are wonderful things to look forward to in the Fall. I look forward to the milder climate – a break from the heat and humidity. The cooler days bring a desire to be outside. Students go back to school, football season begins (Go Gophers!), there is raking leaves and yard work to be done. King Solomon shares these words in **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

The best part about the end of the summer is that school starts and we begin a new year here at St. Matthews. Rally Day, Sunday school, Midweek classes and Little Esko Lutheran Preschool are full of familiar and new faces.

It is so exciting to be a part of the formation of these young Christians. But the truly amazing part is to see how God uses them to carry out His work. The Lord shares these words through the author of **Hebrews 12:1-2**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

It is great to be a part of that **“great cloud of witnesses.”** And St. Matthew’s takes on new meaning – a place to gather with and be strengthened by our Lord. The Lord reminds us that by His grace we are a part of an **“unshakable Kingdom.”** God’s kingdom will never perish – it is unshakable. Better yet, our Lord will continue His kingdom work through us. It is now our joy - all His baptized children belong to **“a race set before them.”**

These words are not intended to be any kind of code but rather inspiration and assurance of our Lord having a very special plan for each of us. It is necessary for each one of us to be reminded of this – everyday.

Dr. Martin Luther tells us that we need to daily recognize our baptism and the new life we now have. This is the realization

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that we do not have to be pulled down by the despair of this world – we have hope.

This past summer has been wonderful for me. But even more exciting – has been realizing the many ways God is truly moving this St. Matthews and its members. The Sunday School and Youth leaders are planning a little different approach to their lessons plans for our Sundays.

The Concordia Publishing House is offering curriculum that will allow the same lesson topic to different age groups. “**Enduring Faith**” – will allow for all education classes to share a common lesson each Sunday. This means parents can enjoy the same lesson as their students – allowing for more conversation to take place about what was learned in Sunday School. My prayer is to preach on the same text so that a further – more in-depth discussion can take place in adult Bible class.

I am so excited and truly inspired by what the future holds for St. Matthews and how God will continue to use us to extend His kingdom. We want to be the “**great cloud of witnesses**” for our students and the people of Esko and the surrounding area. We pray that the Lord would use our ministry to shed light on the hope of Christ. The Lord continues to amaze each of us as He shows us so many wonderful possibilities for ministry.

Now that the new school year has begun pray that this would be a season of spiritual growth for all of our students. Pray that they would see “**the Light of Christ**” and trust in Him. May the Lord continue to provide the strength necessary to “**run your race.**”

In His Service, Pastor John Pasche

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!

**7th and 8th Grade
Confirmation**

Parent Meeting

Wednesday, September 21 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation begins

Wednesday, September 28 2:30 -5 pm

One step in a
lifelong
adventure of
faith

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WORSHIP:

Sundays

- 9 am worship in the sanctuary or Family Life Center (September 4)
- 9 am worship service online via Facebook (September 4)
- 8 & 10:30 am worship in sanctuary (beginning September 11)
- 10:30 am worship service online via Facebook (beginning September 11)
- 9:30 am - TV option Channel 6 (KBJR) airs "My Savior Lives"

BIBLE STUDY:

Sundays

- 9:15 am Adult Bible Study with Pastor Pasche - Family Life Center (beginning September 11)
- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study with Kelly Eng - Pastor Pasche's Office (beginning September 11)

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- 5:30 pm - Women's Bible Study in the Fireside Room (beginning September 14)

YOUTH:

Sundays

- 9:15 am Sunday School - downstairs (beginning September 11)
- 9:15 am Grades 7-12 Bible Study - Youth Room (beginning September 11)

Call Committee Update

With the recent events involving Pastor Albright and his congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church in Mounds View, the Call Committee met this past week to discuss options as we move forward in this process. The committee came to an agreement that we would review pastors from previous pastoral lists provided from the district as well as approach the district to provide the committee with a new list of potential candidates.

When we began the call process almost two years ago, the committee conducted a survey to understand the pastoral needs from the congregation. The committee felt that the congregation is viewing this process with more clarity and vision, and because of this, felt it was necessary to conduct another survey. This short-form survey will be available on the table in the Narthex or the church office **beginning Sunday, September 11th**. More information will be available in the weekly bulletin as we get closer to this date. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration in filling out this survey form.

We continue to ask for your prayers and patience as we move through another step in this process. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress through announcements in the weekly bulletin.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| • 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 | | |

**Fall Office Hours:
(beginning September 6)**

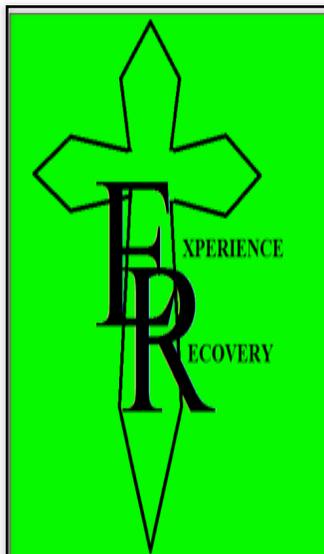
Monday 8AM-3PM

Tuesday 8AM-3PM

Wednesday 8AM-5PM

Thursday 8AM-2:30PM

Friday 8AM-3PM



Experience Recovery

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

In *Hiding From Love*, Dr. John Townsend helps you to explore thoroughly the hiding pattern you've developed & guide you toward the healing grace & truth that God has built into safe connected relationships with Himself & others.

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

Davis Helberg Community Impact Award

I am happy to announce the Reverend Doctor Jeffrey Walther as the recipient of the Davis Helberg Community Impact Award.

This award is to be given to people who have demonstrated stoic determination, tenacity of purpose, grit, bravery, resilience, and hardiness and have shown exceptional dedication to the community of Esko. Jeff Walther spent 20 years servicing this community as the leader of St Matthews Church. He and his wife of 27 years, Christina raised their children, Hannah and Alex as Eskomos. Pastor Jeff was a spiritual pillar of this community. Pastor Jeff was known to stop and talk with anyone he crossed paths with. He was a great listener intuitive about knowing when people needed someone to talk to and he had a gift for making each person he spoke with believe they were the most important person in the room. No matter how much time he had in his schedule, he never limited people when they needed to talk with him. He oftentimes would reference a biblical passage to people needing a bit of guidance and always share the perfect passage to help anyone facing difficulty. His legacy for connecting with people will always be fondly remembered.

Pastor Jeff always played a large part in Esko Fun Days activities participating in many parades, (both handing out candy and eating a bit on the route) serving at barbecues, and even sitting in the dunk tank on occasion. His passion for connecting the church to the community remains a mainstay of this week's activities and I could never manage all the events without the continued support of St. Matthews Church.

Jeff's love of nature combined with his faith in his doctoral thesis. *The Wonders of God and the Wonders of Creation* was published in May of 2020. Hannah spoke of the eagle that soared over the church the day of her father's drive by visitation. She was confident her dad was watching over her family that day. I had a similar experience. The day I heard that Jeff had passed, I drove to work feeling so sad for my friend and mentor Christina. As I walked from my car into the building that day, an eagle soared overhead. It was nature bringing me peace and faith in a time of sadness. I am honored to be giving this award to Christina, Hannah and Alex today to honor the memory of Jeff knowing his legacy will live in the hearts of all of us.

-Michele Carlson, Esko Community Education

RALLY FUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
 Sunday school starts at 9:15am

Come join us for some fun games & good food following the 10:30am service. Let's kick off our Sunday school year with a bang! Enjoy a BBQ & don't forget to stay for ICE CREAM!!

ATTENTION ADULTS!

JOIN US FOR

BIBLE Study

SUNDAYS | 9:15 AM
 in the Family Life Center

Sunday school is not just for kids. We are starting a new curriculum for all ages called Life-long Learning for Life-long Faith. Pastor John will be leading this study. This is for everyone, whether you have studied the Bible a great deal or if you are just starting out-this study is for you! See you there!

CROSSTROADS MINISTRY

UPDATE:

A very successful round of auditions was held, bringing in kids from multiple school districts. We are all very eager to begin rehearsals in September. Our wonder team of directors have been hard at work, making this production a possibility. YOUTH- It's not too late to join! If you would like to be involved, please contact Drew Prchar at (218)-391-5449.

IMPORTANT DATES:

First Practice
 September 11th

Show Dates
 Dec. 8th-11th

HOW CAN THE CONGREGATION BE INVOLVED?

First thing you can do is pray for this ministry and that it will be a blessing for all those involved. Secondly, if you have talents that you can share, please reach out to us. We would love your help! Lastly, if you have it on your heart to give financially, we are accepting donations to help cover the costs of putting on this production.

Sunday Morning Women's Bible Study - Pastor Pasche's office

Join Kelly Eng at 9:15! We'll be using Right Now Media to go through The Book of 1 Corinthians by Jennie Allen.

Christianity calls us to sacrifice instead of living for oneself. We have to choose one or the other—we can't do both. The Christians in Corinth tried to live the Christian life in a worldly way. Paul wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to a divided and self-centered people to remind them to follow Jesus and only Jesus.

In this 12-part series, author and speaker Jennie Allen walks into the messy lives of the Corinthians and takes us through Paul's words to the conflicted church. We'll see how the truth of the gospel and the Spirit of God can empower us to choose to follow Jesus every day of our lives.

Girlfriends Bible Study

We all have it. That one thing that's keeping us from a fuller life. It could be a habit to break, a goal to accomplish or a lingering project to complete. What if we like Nehemiah persevered with single-minded focus and trusted God to accomplish something incredible?

Girlfriends Bible study will begin, September 14, 5:30 to 6:50. All women are welcome to join us! The study also includes a video teaching. Contact Kristi Hanson 218-391-1976 if you want to purchase a book, \$16.89 including tax. Or you can order one yourself from Amazon or ConcordiaPublishing House.



**St. Matthews
Offering Income**

August 21, 2022

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	\$33,400	\$38,200	\$(4,800)
August	\$27,400	\$30,500	\$(3,100)*
	60,800	68,700	(7,900)

*4 out of 5 weeks

Giving last year to date: \$69,300

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



August

Baptism

August 24, 2022
Ethan Rick Godfrey and
Mason Wayne Godfrey

August 27, 2022
Josephine Joy Eskuri Lantry

May God Keep Ethan, Mason and Josephine
in His grace into life everlasting.

Wedding

August 12, 2022
Emma Rice and Andrew Anderson

May God bless Emma and Andrew's
marriage.



**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 area LCMS pastors. 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.

September 4 Pastor Brad Felix, Virginia

September 11 Pastor Arleigh vonSeggern, Cable

September 18 Pastor Richard Williams, Ashland

September 25 Pastor Matthew Gunia, Ironwood

October 2 Pastor Stafford Thompson, Munger

October 9 Pastor Matt Kohl, Cloquet

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



Inviting all singers 9th grade and older to be a part of

St. Matthews Choir

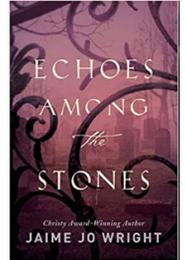
Practices start Wednesday, September 7th
@ 7pm & will be every Wednesday @ 7pm
following. Contact Sheri Herman with
questions @ (908) 910-0782

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Steve Sykes
- 2- James Bergstedt, Kelli Pantsar, Jameson Nickila, Bob DeCaigny 3- Jake Erickson
- 4- Nicole Pierre, Jade Alvillar, Sasha Ruemmele
- 5- Miriam Bianconi, Matthew McCullough, Eli Mattson
- 7- Benjamen Schramm, Noreen Kersting
- 8- Rick Liljegren, John Pagelkopf. 9- Olivia Rengo, Jeff Stephenson, Tom Mosack
- 10- Melissa Olson, Eric Berg
- 11- Jamie Eskuri, Avry Dammer, Declan Sullivan, Rylan Hennessy, Brent Warren, Grace McIlvain
- 12- Aaron Hansen, Maili Juntunen, Ahna Brekke, Rainee Johnson, Eilee Straub, Sam Haugen, Jeremy Fuchs
- 14- Susan Jensen, Ryan Hall, Melyna Hester-Lowry
- 15- Tia Bertogliat, Austin Carlson, Jax Stahlbush, Layla Hanson, Layton Fuchs
- 16- Eila Juntunen, Jessica Maki, Marilu Johnsen, Harrison Hallgren 17- Reta Baxley, Michael (MJ) Urie
- 18- Joe Davidson, Jason Sickmann, Sophia Abell
- 19- Richard Okerlund, Darlene Okerland, Ross Peterson, Natalie Rice, Brittany Klatt
- 20- Mike Guite, Sophia Frank, Aaron Martineau, Jenn McLeod, Avery Peterson, Trevor Spindler
- 21- Brenda Rengo, Deb Hustad
- 22- Phyllis Bohren, Aubree Kern, Ashlynn Beare
- 23- Sue Olson, Lincoln Mass
- 24- Madalee Sorenson, Megan Chopskie, Jordan Chopskie, Jason Rice, Leo Dammer, Jonas Peterson
- 25- Dale Granholm, Joy Eskuri, Raegen Olson
- 26- Karson Kuhlman, Parker Hill, Christy Rice
- 27- Betty Arbour, Eloise Modich, Diane Weber
- 28- Pam Husom
- 30- Brenda Hall, Terri Barnes, Piper Rice, Deb Haugen, Abby Rudnicki

Book Discussion Group

We will have our first Fall meeting Thursday, September 22nd at 1pm in the Fireside Room. We will be reading and discussing "Echoes Among the Stones" by Jaime Jo Wright. Please call or text Judy if you would like her to order a book.



We will also discuss and choose some of the books to read during the coming year. Please bring any suggestions. Judy Nelson 218-590-1521.



	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Address*Dates & times of sale*Brief description of items for sale
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Little Esko Lutheran preschool is accepting enrollment throughout the school year for children that are 3 by September 1. Information can be found on the St Matthews webpage under the Preschool Tab.

What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

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 July 31 is \$141,887 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:	July		Total
Salaries	7,701		7,701
Benefits	909		909
Debt Payments	6,883		6,883
District/Synod Support	2,500		2,500
Electricity	2,134		2,134
Christian Education	-		-
Church Property	2,720		2,720
Office	1,480		1,480
Worship	-		-
Youth	-		-
HRA	-		-
Heating Fuel	-		-
Repair and Maintenance	-		-
Outreach/Missions	154		154
Conferences	-		-
Insurance	-		-
Other	-		-
Total	24,481		24,481
Budgeted Needs	38,165		38,165
Non-Budgeted:			
Landscaping	5000		5000
Christian Education Materials	628		628
Cemetery Lawn Mowing	175		175



Dear Friends,

It is absolutely freezing in our part of the southern hemisphere. What I mean, is that it sometimes gets below 10C which feels close enough to freezing for a tropical island! Getting the kids out of bed in the morning has been a challenge, but we've been enjoying huddling around the fireplace to read in the evening.

In spite of all that is wrong with the world, God's goodness still shines through in a glimpse of an isolated waterfall in the forest, or breaching whales in the ocean, or the smiles of our passengers in our airplane as they bring or receive help and hope. One of those smiles was recently seen on a girl named Sara. Here is her story:

Thirteen-year-old Sara was badly burned while playing, which left her arm fused to her torso. Three years later MAF had the joy of flying Sara home after a life-changing surgery at HVM hospital, Mandritsara, to release her arm.

Sara lives with her mother, Vivian, and her three brothers about 60km north of Antananarivo. She had been playing under the living room table with her siblings in 2019 when an oil lamp tipped over and set the table and Sara on fire. Local hospitals attempted to treat her injuries but without success.

Life has been hard for the family. Vivian is partially blind and unable to work. Earlier this year they lost their home to a cyclone, and they have not had the funds to rebuild their home in addition to paying for Sara's earlier operation. But hope appeared on the horizon.

Nehemia, a Christian relief organization, received funds to send Sara, now sixteen, for treatment at the HVM hospital, Mandritsara, well known for its medical expertise and care.

Sara and Vivian left home via taxi-brousse (bush taxi/bus) as soon as they could, travelling the 558km overland to reach the hospital. Doctor Jeshiah Thiessen, who performed the operation, shared, "Sarah's mother called us the day they left, three hours into the trip, asking if it was normal that they hadn't arrived yet. We had to explain that the trip would take 56 hours and not three hours." Though the trip was long, thankfully they arrived safely.

After the successful operation, and eight weeks recovering in Mandritsara, MAF was called upon to fly Sara and Vivian home. It was their first experience in a plane, and they were more than delighted!



The flight took just 1 hour and 20 minutes, in contrast to the 56-hour overland journey they had taken earlier. Three different organizations participated in transforming Sara's life and returning her home safely. As Patrick Keller, MAF's Country Director, shares, "We cannot do all, but we can do our part. That is what is beautiful about working together with other organizations."

~Story by Irina Randriamandrato

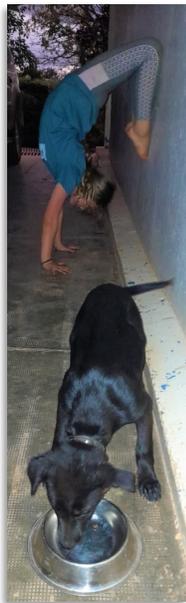


Enjoying a sample of delicious Malagasy cuisine at an Independence Day celebration hosted by YWAM.



“Dad—there’s a puppy on the street!” Parental resistance was futile and she was christened “Nugget” of The Wingfeather Saga fame.

Renée—feeding the dogs



As promised—a long overdue update from Kristen:

A few years ago I was working towards my licensure in elementary education. I felt it was a good fit, since it would likely provide an opportunity for our kids to attend a good school (international schools will often provide free or reduced tuition for teachers’ kids) and I thought it would be neat to work at the same place where our kids were. Then COVID hit and my practicum was put on hold due to health policies at the one international school here in Tana. I was able to continue substitute teaching for a short time, but stopped that fairly quickly when I realized that masks exacerbated my difficulty hearing due to my hearing loss. I stepped back from teaching, and was thankful to have my little online bookkeeping business to give me something to do during the ups and downs of COVID lockdowns!

At the end of 2020, a friend encouraged me to take a life coaching course, and I loved it. Since coming back from our home assignment last year, I have started volunteering once a week at a YWAM base near Tana, where I offer life coaching to the YWAM staff. Every Monday I attend their weekly worship time, followed by a short coffee fellowship time, and followed by a couple hours of coaching individuals. Sometimes I coach in English or French, but most of the time it is in Malagasy with an interpreter (my British friend who has been here with YWAM for decades and is the only non-Malagasy person at that base). The person being coached chooses the topic, whether personal or ministry-related, and I have the honor of listening and asking questions, helping them consider new possibilities of how to work towards their goals. It is an absolute joy to hear the hearts of these men and women who are on fire to serve Jesus here as missionaries to their own people.

This coaching experience has prompted me to pursue another lifelong dream— becoming a counselor. In March I started an MA in Counseling through Crown College in Minnesota. The content is fascinating and I cannot wait to put it into practice! We’re praying about opportunities here to be a school counselor in the future.

Ryan Kristen Caleb Renée J OEL

Contact Us:

ryan.unger@mafint.org; kristen.unger@mafint.org



ryanunger8

Contact MAF

In Canada: Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada
102-195 Hanlon Creek Blvd. Guelph, ON N1C 0A1
toll-free 1.877.351.9344 **local** 519.821.3914
website www.mafc.org **e-mail** info@mafc.org



Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada is a registered Canadian charity (number 12994 2561 RR0001) and a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

Each gift allocated toward an MAF board-approved program will be used as allocated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, additional allocated gifts will be used where most needed.

In the United States: Mission Aviation Fellowship
PO Box 47, Nampa, ID 83653 USA
toll-free 1.800.359.7623 **local** 208.498.0800
website www.maf.org **e-mail** info@mafc.org



MAF-US is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charity and a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.





**ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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