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 Avenue Esko, MN 55733

CONTACT US:

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

OUR PASTOR:

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

OUR STAFF:

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

Jen Prachar, Office Manager Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

Sybil Halvorson,
Little Esko Lutheran Preschool Director
Mae Garson, Assistant Teacher
Church - (218) 879-3510
Email - lelpreschool@gmail.com

I am excited for St. Matthews Lutheran! Rally Sunday allowed us to see that God is helping things get back to normal. I believe the phrase is the "new normal." COVID has changed things and I am not sure if things will ever be the way they were.

Rally Sunday brought in a larger attendance, more new and young faces. Our worship services are moving towards the way we had worshiped prior to COVID – but with care! We have a wonderful opportunity to love our neighbors. COVID is to be taken seriously. And as our worship practices change back – we do so with safe alternatives to care for our more cautious members.

St. Matthews has seen and endured a lot over the past few years. The one thing that has not changed is the message of the Gospel.

Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

The eternal promises of God through His Son remain as true today as the moment He spoke them to His creation! Recently our Bible study was discussing the promises God had made so long ago to Abraham.

Genesis 12 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

God made three promises to Abraham: land, descendants and that he would be a blessing to all nations. When we think about it the blessings of these promises extend far beyond Abraham's earthly life. They stretch through time from Abraham, to our present and into eternity itself – the new heavens and the new earth.

The promise of land is interesting – because at the death of Abraham – he owned nothing but a burial cave for Sarah and himself. Abraham's descendants were given the land of Israel by God – but quickly entered into a cycle of falling away from God, He would take away their land, they would repent and return to God and God in His mercy would restore their land to them.

When we first look at God's promises to Abraham – things do not seem to have worked out. God has more in mind for Abraham than we first realize. Israel thought it had received the "promised land" but we know that that is to come with the new heavens and

Continued from page 1

new earth. His descendants will number the stars – in eternity they will be one nation filling the new earth and living in the presence of God for eternity. And the only lasting blessing that came to the nations through Abraham was the coming of his descendant Jesus Christ.

God has more in mind for St. Matthews Lutheran – more than a beautiful building, thriving activities and fellowship. Through Holy Baptism God makes His promises to us – our sins are forgiven, heaven is our new home and our hearts are renewed with the gift of His faith to trust in these promises. Our Lord and His promises will not change – no matter what happens!

Pastor John Pasche



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WORSHIP:

Sundays

- 8 & 10:30 am worship in sanctuary
- 10:30 am worship service online via Facebook
- 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
- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study with Kelly Eng Pastor Pasche's Office

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

YOUTH:

Sundays

- 9:15 am Sunday School downstairs
- · 9:15 am Grades 7-12 Bible Study Youth Room

<u>Wednesdays</u>

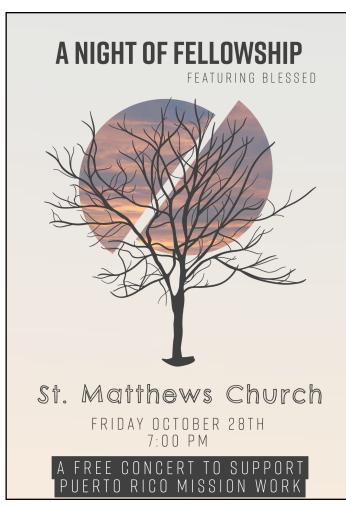
• 2:30 pm 7th and 8th grade confirmation

Fall Office Hours:

Monday 8AM-3PM
Tuesday 8AM-3PM
Wednesday 8AM-5PM
Thursday 8AM-2:30PM
Friday 8AM-3PM

Bylaws Revision

It has been awhile since our St. Matthews Bylaws have been revised for errors relative to current practices and policies. A group is being assembled to complete this task. Suggested revisions will be taken to a future congregational meeting for approval. The group formation is endorsed by the Parish Planning Council. If you are interested, please contact Bob DeCaigny at 590-2124 or bobpegbeck@aol.com.





Call Committee Update

The committee has reviewed the list of previous candidates that indicated the timing was not right to prayerfully consider a call. We have also received an updated list from the district. The next step will be for the committee to begin the process of contacting candidates and setting up interviews.

The committee recently conducted a short, five question survey which assists us in conducting interviews with potential pastoral candidates. Thank you for all who participated in completing this survey. Your input helps us to identify St. Matthews' strengths, weaknesses and direction.

As we have mentioned numerous times, this process takes time. We continue to ask for your prayers and patience as we move through another step in this process.

The Call committee.

- Sue Wischnewski
- Brenda Hall
- Dave Haugen
- Scott Prachar
- Chris Schultz

- Dan Heikkinen
- Pat Johnson
- Ron Eng
- Chris Nelson
- Jen Prachar
- Isaac Wisted
- Joe Klatt
- · Matt Wisted

ATTENTION ADULTS!

JOIN US FOR

BIBLE Study

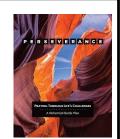
SUNDAYS 9:15 AM in the Family Life Center

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!

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- Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:50. All women are welcome to join us!

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.

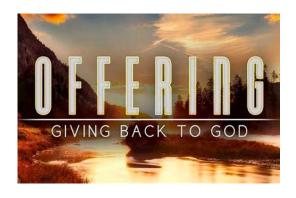


Experience Recovery

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.



St. Matthews Offering Income

September 21, 2022

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	\$33,400	\$38,200	\$(4,800)
August	\$37,400	\$38,200	\$(800)**
Sept	\$27,700	\$28,600	\$(900)*
	\$98,500	105,000	(6,500)

*3 out of 4 weeks **5 Sunday month

Giving last year to date: \$113,000



September

<u>Baptísm</u>

September 10, 2022 Alaína Apríl Scofíeld

May God Keep in Alaina in His grace into life everlasting.

<u>Funeral</u>

September 17, 2022 Carol Trevena

May God comfort the Trevena family.



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.

October 2 Pastor Stafford Thompson, Munger

October 9 Pastor Matt Kohl, Cloquet

October 16 Pastor Don Stauty, Virginia/Aurora

October 23 Pastor Arleigh von Seggern, Cable

October 30 Pastor John Bonk, Two Harbors

November 6 Pastor Brady Finnern

November 13 Pastor Brad Felix, Virginia

November 20 Pastor Matthew Gunia, Ironwood

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Brenda Fischer, Martha Stephenson
- 2- Shirley Lennartson, Theresa Wills
- 3- Matthew Frank, Auja Contardo, Reese Kuklinski, Elma Stahlbusch
- 4- Ann King, Reid Davidson, Jamie Workman, Beth Anderson
- 5- Eugene Lindquist, Chris Nelson, Jessica Pagelkopf
- 6- Martha Kesti, Joni Aldridge, Haylee Leppanen
- 7- Ethan Linder, Amy Issendorf, Ava Zywicki, Emmie Anderson, Deja Olson, Laura Hanson, Emily Hanson
- 8- Aimee Peterson, Debbie Radosevich, GiGi Toman, Debora Zauhar, Stephanie Marsh
- 9-Jayden Shelton, Cale Prosen
- 10- Austin Bentley, Melissa Martineau, Alexis Niemi, Kenzie Weber, Chris Campbell, Annarose Brantley
- 11- Eve Lehman, Tricia Bentley, Chase Walz, Liv Krueger
- 12- Parker Sickmann 13- Shawn Stewart, Ryan Lick
- 14- Angela Mismash, Jack Hakala, Austen Kovac, Macy Hanson
- 15- Cindy Purcell, Sydney Grayson, Tina Welman, Jeff Ojanen, Norah Stephenson, Hunter Dallmann, Juvie Connor
- 16- Marjie Larsen 17- Megan Abrahamson, Danielle Lane
- 18- Kaylee Anderson, Dylan Klatte
- 19- Rocci Contardo, Keith Halvorson, Selma Stephenson
- 20- Carol Granholm, Cooper Czerwinski
- 21- Benjamin Bissonette, Eli Belich
- 22- Kathy Richardson, Weston Hanni, Liam McCullough, Brett Peterson, Mitch Rosendahl 23- Nathan Bentley, Connor Dallmann
- 24- Jodi Grayson, Rick Olson, Jacob Iallonardo, Logan Laurent
- 25- Owen Wilson, Bryce Sweere, Marc Peterson 26- Annika Marsh
- 27- Howard Janke, Logan Lanthier, Jeff Carlson, Mitch Erickson
- 28- Alex Walther 29- Mollie Belich, John Bergman, Dylan Prachar
- 30-Jack Kuhlman, Jayce Johanson, Daniel DeMuth, Hannah Roemer, Trishia Hipp 31- Karen Sample

Book Discussion Group

Our October meeting will be held Thursday, October 20th at 1 pm in the Fireside Room.

Please check the Sunday Announcements for the title of the book we will be reading. For information, please call Judy Nelson 218 590 1521.

Library News

Here at St Matthews we have started in a new direction for Church services, Bible Study, and Sunday School called *Life-long Learning for Life-Long Faith*. The Library has set aside books for the topic of the week for you to check out. Please review the displays and choose a book to supplement church materials.

Basic Training for Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)

Hope Lutheran Church in Munger (Cloquet), MN is hosting a training event for the members of our sister congregations in the MNN district. On October 29th from 8:30 (check-in) to 3:00 we will be hosting Basic Training for the Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT). This is required training for those who would wish to officially join our Synod's disaster response teams that respond to various crises in the U.S, and beyond. Lunch and refreshments will be provided by the people of Hope. This is not at all a physically strenuous event and most of it is classroom material. Pre-registration is preferred and walkins are welcome. Cost is \$30 per person.

Hope Lutheran Church 4093 Munger Shaw Rd Cloquet, MN 55720

https://www.lcms-lert.org/ to preregister



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

Proverbs 22:6

Preschool News

Preschool sessions have started and the teachers are excited about the great group of kids who are enrolled. There are six children in the three-day class, and four children in the two-day class. Please help spread the word that LELP continues to have openings in every session. LELP admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

This isn't the first year that enrollment numbers have dipped; a look at past years indicate enrollment can be quite

cyclical. While low enrollment is challenging from a financial perspective, it will give LELP adequate time to complete all necessary work for the state's Parent Aware program. LELP is the sole Carlton County preschool without a Parent Aware rating. Additionally, fewer children will help both staff members better adapt to their new positions and allow for more individualized attention for each student. This is God's ministry through St. Matthews; LELP is simply His vehicle to carry it forward.

Make plans now to purchase your Thanksgiving pies through the LELP fundraiser. Once again, LELP will sell a select variety of pies from Betty's Pies. Watch the church weekly bulletin and the preschool page on the church website for sale information.

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.

The LELP board continues to needs more members from St. Matthews. Help is specifically needed to organize/plan fundraisers and develop marketing/social media materials. This would be a great intern opportunity for someone who wants to gain experience in marketing and/or event planning.

LELP staff, families and board members are grateful for your prayers.



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 August 31 is \$135,595 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	August	Total
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Salaries	7,701	7,372	15,073
Benefits	909	883	1,792
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883	13,766
District/Synod Support	2,500	2,500	5,000
Electricity	2,134	904	3,038
Christian Education	-	40	40
Church Property	2,720	2,220	4,940
Office	1,480	1,140	2,620
Worship	-	302	302
Youth	-	281	281
HRA	-	-	-
Heating Fuel	-	3	3
Repair and Maintenance	-	10,500	10,500
Outreach/ Missions	154	-	154
Conferences	-	-	-
Insurance	-	(181)	(181)
Other	-	-	-
Total	24,481	32,847	57,328
Budgeted Needs	38,165	38,165	76,330
Non-Budgeted:			
Landscaping	5000	0	5000
Christian Education Materials	0	0	0
Cemetery Lawn Mowing	175	350	525

Stewardship Corner

"We Are All Beggars"

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: "We are all beggars. This is true." And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

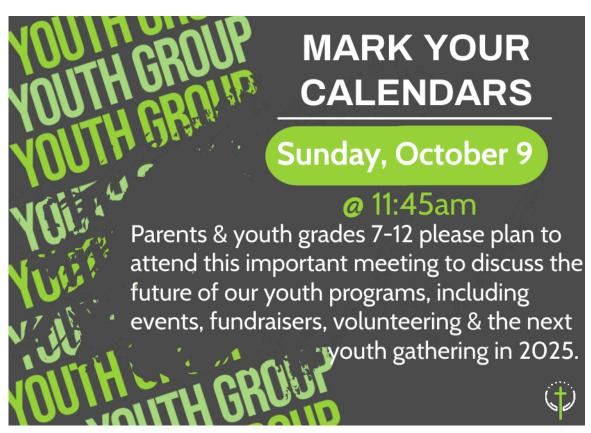
If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.







LWML FALL RALLY

LAKE SUPERIOR ZONE

Saturday, October 15, 2022 Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

2012 East Superior Street, Duluth

Registration: 10:00-10:30 a.m. - \$5

GUEST SPEAKER: Cathy LaPorte from Lake Superior Life-Care Center – "Life Support"

Lake Superior Life-Care Center is a local non-profit organization offering help to men and women facing unplanned pregnancies. They share God's love throughout our communities and provide pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, non-emergency medical care, education in parenting skills as well as life skills and material assistance for babies up to the age of 3.

INGATHERING is for Lake Superior Life-Care Center: Diapers and wipes; lotions/shampoos/soaps; formula and baby food/cereal; bottles, receiving blankets, in-season clothes for babies & toddlers (premie-4T); diaper bags. NOTE: all items should be new (not used)

"For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

HEART TO HEART

A Gathering of Women ~ Meeting in Friendship and Fellowship through Christ "Heart to Heart" will be meeting for a Fall Event on Saturday, October 1st, 2022. Time: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Location: St. Francis Catholic Church, Carlton

Guest Speaker and Musician: <u>Christina Walther</u> "Turning My Why into Wonder"

Outreach Speaker: Bruce Matuszak, Kingdom Builders Ministry, Cloquet

Please pre-register by Monday, September 26th Contact Candy Kramer 218-384-3169 218-310-1884 (cell/text)

Heart to Heart is a non-denominational friendship ministry in our area bringing women together for a time of refreshments, fellowship and fun. The goal is to offer women opportunities to impact their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed.

A \$2.00 donation for this event is appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on October 1st!



Women Inspired LWML

The Women Inspired group met Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room Six members were present.

Joy Skifstad opened with a devotion.

The meeting was called to order by Pat Johnson.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

The LWML account was reviewed.

Correspondence – A thank you was received for a Prayer Shawl, and also from The Esko Seniors for our monetary donation towards box lunches for the Esko Seniors annual picnic at Northridge

Old Business:

The new kitchen sink was discussed.

We plan make 80 backpacks by the National Convention next year to celebrate the 80th anniversary of LWML. The first sewing day will be Thursday, September 29th at 9am in the Family Life Center.

The MN North District Biennial Convention was held June 20-22 at Moorhead. Our LWML Zone banner with the theme "Drawn to the Cross" was made by members of St. Matthews. Reta Baxley and Judy Nelson gave a report.

New Business:

October 2nd is LWML Sunday. The theme is *For Us and With Us.* We will have a bake sale with ½ of the proceeds going to Mission mites and ½ going to our LWML treasury.

Other fund raisers were discussed.

The Fall Zone Rally is Saturday, October 15th at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. We will meet at St Matthews at 9:30 to carpool. Registration: 10:00 – 10:30. Cost is \$5.00. The guest speaker is Cathy LaPorte from Lake Superior Life-Care Center. The Ingathering will be diapers and wipes; lotions/soap/shampoo; formula and baby food/cereal; bottles; receiving blankets, in-season clothes size preemie to 4T; diaper bags (no used items please).

It was decided to set Saturday November 5th as Kitchen cleaning day.

The Health Fair is Saturday October 22nd, 9am – 12:30pm. Volunteers are needed.

The next meeting will be October 11th at 6:30 pm

The mite devotion was on the LWML mission grant, *Spiritually and Physically Feeding Children of Peru* through La Mision Luterana del Peru.

Mites were collected.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Nelson, Secretary



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

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