



March 24th, 2024

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEWS

Today

Palm Sunday

8am Worship

9:15am Education Hour

9:30am "My Savior Lives"

Worship, KBJR Channel 6

10:30am Worship (also available
on Facebook Live)

Monday, March 25th

NO LELP

6:30pm Soul Sisters in FSR

Tuesday, March 26th

7am Men's Bible Study in FSR

NO LELP

8:25-1:15pm FEET in basement

9am Coffee with the Pastor via
Facebook Live

3:30-5pm T3 (7-12th Graders)

Wednesday, March 27th

NO LELP

NO Confirmation

NO Girlfriends

7pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 28th

NO LELP

6pm Experience Recovery in FSR

6:30pm Maundy Thursday

Worship w/ Communion

Friday, March 29th

NO LELP

6:30pm Good Friday Worship

Saturday, March 20th

9am Set Up for Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31st

Easter Sunday

6:30am Worship w/Communion

8am Worship w/Communion

9-10:30am Easter Breakfast in
FLC

9:30am "My Savior Lives"

Worship, KBJR Channel 6

10:30am Worship w/Communion
(also available on Facebook Live)

Pastor: Marty Mably

pastor.marty@stmatthewsesko.org

Office Hours:

Monday 8AM-3PM

Tuesday 8AM-3PM

Wednesday 8AM-5PM

Thursday 8AM-2:30PM

Friday 8AM-3PM

March Altar

Guild:

Joy Skifstad

(218) 879-3792

Church Address:

4 Elizabeth Ave

Esko, MN 55733

Church Website:

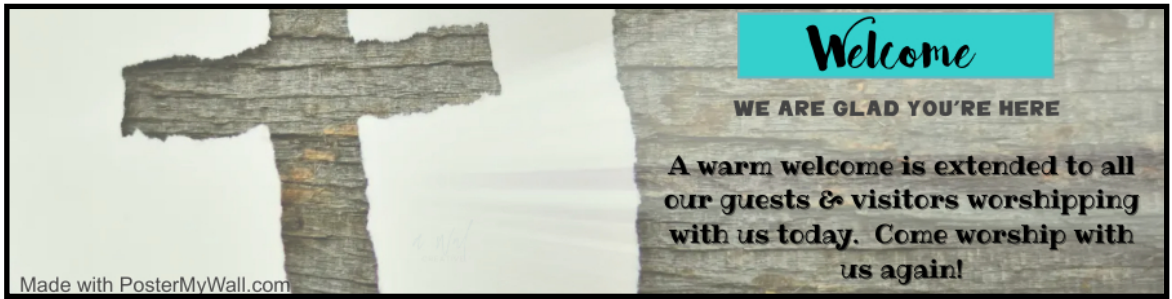
www.stmatthewsesko.org

Church Phone:

(218) 879-3510

Office Email:

stmattsesko@aol.com



We Pray for...

Dick Anderson, Keith Baxley, Dan Bodell, Easton Brown, Johnny Eng, Marge Harms, Steven Hill, Deb Hustad, Cynthia "CJ" Johnson, Keith Jutila, Diana KaPala, Noreen Kersting, Marlys Kilen, Alice Kloefer, Terry Koskela, Autumn Loge, Zealand Leuch, Greg Mattinen, Bob Murphy, Eleanore Norbie, Dick Okerlund, Jim Oesterreich, Mellie Peach, Verna Puline, Carol Putnam, Deb Radosevich, Billy Ruhnke, Kaye Ryan, Janae Sjodin, Terry Smith, Ron Stanius, Jeff Stephenson, Susan Stokes, Candice Straub, Colette Warren

Military

Emma Peterson, Dylan Klatte

Homebound & Nursing Home

Deb Radosevich; Nancy Seppala; Nancy Peterson; Dee Sprenger



Operation Christmas Child

Starting in January, Operation Christmas Child will be collecting items monthly throughout the year. ***For the month of March we will be collecting craft items.***

Suggested items are: craft and art kits, sewing kits, bead jewelry kits, paint and paint brushes, paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, stickers and play dough.

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



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

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church. Text "SMLC" to 49775 and you will receive a link to activate your FREE account.

****SERVING IN MARCH & APRIL****

Greeters:

March 24th

8am-Kim Towns &
Naomi Vagts
10:30am-Aaron & Tara
Young Family

March 31st

8am-Robert Westerlund
& Eileen Christopherson
10:30am-Jim & Joyce
Christian

April 7th

8am-Donovan & Brenda
Hall
10:30am-Jeremy & Kara
Zywicki Family

April 14th

8am-Don Juntunen
10:30am-Mitch &
Hannah Rosendahl
Family

Ushers:

March 24th

8am-Joe Kersting &
Joe Wischnewski
10:30am-Keith & Reta
Baxley

March 28th

6:30pm-Bruce & Tina
Welman

March 29th

6:30pm-Rick & Mary
Liljegren

March 31st

6:30am-Terri
Lennartson & Joe
Kersting
8am-Jorma & Deb
Rahkola
10:30am-Jake & John
Hustad

Communion

Servers:

March 28th

6:30pm-Jim Lovstad

March 31st

6:30am-Jim Lovstad

8am-Robert

Westerlund

10:30am-Joe

Wischnewski

April 7th

8am-Dan Heikkinen

10:30am-Jason Rice

Acolytes:

March 24th

8am-Eagan Harker
10:30am-Max Olson

March 28th

6:30pm-Paiton Plante

March 31st

8am-Dawson Prachar
10:30am-Kennadi
DeBondt

April 7th

8am-Jayden Mismash
10:30am-Ashlynn Beare

LOOKING FOR GREETERS!

If you would be willing to be a greeter before worship services, please sign up on the clipboard on the welcome table.

We would love to have some more individuals/families added to our greeter list. Thanks!

Fellowship Treats



If you are willing to bring in 3 dozen treats for Sunday mornings, there is a sign-up on the bulletin tower.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Fellowship Treats

April 7th	1.
	2.
April 14th	1.
	2.
April 21st	1.
	2.

Please bring 3 dozen treats by 9am Sunday. There are trays in the kitchen to put treats on if you need. If you are unable to be here at that time, please have your treats at the church by 2pm on Friday for Jen to put out.

Thanks for your willingness to help!



Stewardship Update

March 13, 2024

*2 out of 5 weeks

**5 Sunday Month

Giving Last Year To-Date: \$302,397

	Given	Budget	Over/(Under)
July	\$36,100	\$38,200	(\$2,100)**
August	\$30,884	\$38,200	(\$7,316)
September	\$35,710	\$38,200	(\$2,490)
October	\$37,030	\$38,200	(\$1,170)**
November	\$34,236	\$38,200	(\$3,964)
December	\$45,061	\$38,200	\$6,861**
January	\$33,010	\$38,200	(\$5,190)
February	\$31,951	\$38,200	(\$6,249)
March	\$14,445	\$38,200	(\$23,755)*/**
Total	\$298,427	\$343,800	(\$45,373)

Please send contributions c/o:
Mount Olive Lutheran Church



LCMS Service of Worship

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

**MY SAVIOR LIVES NORTHLAND LCMS SERVICE OF WORSHIP for the Duluth region
televised by KBJR Channel 6.** "MY SAVIOR LIVES NORTHLAND" is a locally produced,

regionally recognized TV program with a message for the world. The service includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran

Ministries (starting at 10:00 a.m.). My Savior Lives Northland is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations.

March 24th-Rev Tim Ludwig March 31st-Rev Matt Kohl April 7th-Rev Stafford Thompson

USHERS

Just a friendly reminder to make sure you are putting the offering in the safe after each service. Reach out to Beth Hanni with questions.

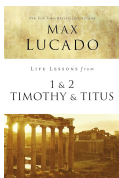
Members often ask how we are paying our bills when our offerings are often short of our budgeted needs. The short answer is that we need to budget for all expenses we are obligated to pay for. Please check out the financial board in the church entry to see how our offerings are actually being spent. Any surplus funds at the end of our fiscal year (June 30) will be discussed with the congregation at the annual budget meeting. The remaining mortgage is \$14,871 as of 3-21-24.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join the Adult Bible Study as we study the book of Revelation.

For most people, it is likely the most confusing and misunderstood book of the Bible. It can spur questions & even cause many to fear. Understood correctly, though, the book of Revelation brings confidence & peace as we live in these 'gray & latter days.' Come explore the last book written in the Bible & be comforted by its message that despite the anti-God & anti-Christian forces that are loosed in the world, God ultimately will be victorious & give victory to his saints.



Girlfriends Bible Study

Girlfriends is Wednesdays at 5:30pm in the fireside room. All women are welcome to join!

Our current study is Life Lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus. Contact Kelly Eng if you would like her to order you a copy. **We will not be meeting Wednesday, March 27th.**



Experience Recovery

For Every Hurt, Habit or Hang Up
Every Thursday at 6 pm in the
Fireside Room

We will be starting a 10-week study on March 7th that will walk us through the 12 steps to recovery. Please join us!



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



May
17-19

Men's Fishing Retreat

Where: Lutheran Island Camp on East Battle Lake, near Henning, MN
What: a weekend of fellowship, fishing, friendship & fun

How: contact Jason Rice
@ (218) 451-1903

Cost: TBD-usually around \$100-\$130
• BONUS •

Saturday morning we will be having the
4th annual Dr. Rev. Jeff Walther
Memorial Bass Tournament

What's Up 4 Youth @ St Matthews

Totally Terrific Tuesdays
NOW OPEN

Grades 7-12

Join us after school

Every Week
from 3:30-5 in youth room

Visit - Play games -
Do homework -
Have a Snack -
Hang Out



Sunday Bible Study

Grades 10-12
9:15 am

Join us in the FLC
for Bible Study on
Revelations
Grades 7-9 Meet in the Cave

Youth Group

5:00 - 6:30

Grades 7-12

Apr 17th
May 8th

Supper, Games &
Devotion
In Family Life Center

The youth are collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. There is a collection basket under the youth board in the gathering space.



Thank you 

 FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

EASTER BREAKFAST

FREE WILL OFFERING

SUNDAY,
March 31st
@ 9-10:30am

Proceeds support youth attending the
2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Join us in the
Family Life Center
or take it To-Go!



We are helping to support Community of Hope.

More information about this organization is on the bulletin tower. There is a collection box by the mailboxes for the following items:

- *Facial tissues, toilet paper, bath towels
- *Motor oil, (5-W-30) windshield washer fluid
- *Hand warmers, bottled water, protein bars & breakfast bars
- *Body wipes, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, soap & wash cloths
- *Feminine hygiene products (thin maxi Pads & light/super-size tampons)
- *Band-Aids & antibiotic ointment



Church Properties Update

A big thank you to the board of church properties members and others who helped remodel the women's bathroom in the basement. It was a much needed refresh! Funds to complete this project came from memorial funds. Be sure to check it out!



Preschool News

The preschool will be on spring break March 25-29. There was an error in the last article regarding how much money LELP netted from the Butter Braid winter fundraiser; LELP will profit \$1,500, not \$1,250 as previously reported. If your braid(s) is still in the

church freezer, please remember to pick it up today.

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Lenten supper hosted by LELP. We hope you enjoyed our alphabet soup!

In April, the preschool will hold its parent-teacher conferences and its Open House for prospective students. LELP has already registered 12 students for the 2024-25 three-day program, which would be the highest enrollment since pre-COVID. The board is excited at the prospect of LELP being fiscally stable once again.

Marketing efforts for fall enrollment will continue all spring. If you know of someone searching for a preschool, please suggest LELP. We are a four-star rated Parent Aware program, competitively priced, teach school-readiness skills and are faith-based. Check out the comments on the LELP website for more information.

ASK THE PASTOR

Do you have a Biblical or religious question you are seeking the answer to? Search no more...instead, ask the pastor! You can put your question in the box located on the table just outside the sanctuary. Keep your eye out for answers in the weekly bulletin.

Question: What is a good reference/study guide to help while reading the Bible?

There are a lot of good resources for studying the Bible. My first suggestion would be to get a good study Bible. I would suggest the Lutheran Study Bible published by Concordia Publishing House. It is not something that most people think about, but I would also suggest the most recent edition of Luther's Small Catechism by CPH, as it serves as a fantastic reference book for different topics that may arise in reading the Bible.

Question: What does it mean when Jesus is referred to as the only begotten Son of God? Is it referring to his earthly birth or his eternal relationship with God the Father?

Joy Skifstad

Awesome question, Joy!

"Begotten" is not a word used by us regularly, if ever. I know I don't. Yet, we use it in church on a weekly basis.

An old fashioned adjective, begotten is the past participle of the verb beget, which means to father or produce as offspring. Some translations use this term in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only **begotten** Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

"Begotten" is a translation of the Greek word monogenes. Ok? So what does monogenes mean? Monogenes has two primary definitions. The first definition is "pertaining to being the only one of its kind within a specific relationship." This is its meaning in Hebrews 11:17 when the writer refers to Isaac as Abraham's "only begotten son" (KJV). Abraham had more than one son, but Isaac was the only son he had by Sarah and the only son of the covenant. In other words, Isaac was unique among the other sons of Abraham, which is why monogenes is used in this context.

The second definition is "pertaining to being the only one of its kind or class, unique in kind." This is the meaning that is implied in John 3:16. John was very concerned with demonstrating that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31), and he uses monogenes to highlight Jesus as uniquely God's Son—sharing the same divine nature as God—as opposed to believers who are God's sons and daughters 'adopted' into the family by virtue of baptism and faith.

This is also why John uses a term for Jesus (the Logos, or Word) in the first chapter of his Gospel to show that Jesus, along with the Father, is Creator. All else is created. John was dealing with a false teaching very much related to the false teaching that the Nicene Creed was written to correct. The use of "begotten" in the Nicene Creed highlights the fact that Jesus is truly divine.

The false teaching that both John and The Nicene Creed exists is most well known in a very prominent teaching in the 3rd century called Arianism, called that because its most well known proponent was a church leader, Arius. Arianism held that the Logos, the Word, Jesus, had a beginning, came into being out of nothingness, and was not truly God. To correct controversies regarding the Divinity of Jesus, the Nicene Creed affirms Jesus is "begotten from the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made."