



## Matthew John Koester

October 16, 1981 - October 27, 2023

Matthew Koester died unexpectedly on October 27, 2023, of what was likely a heart attack. Matt was born in Princeton, MN, on October 16, 1981. He graduated from Concordia Academy high school, where he met his future wife, Stephanie Perkins. Steph and Matt formed a close friendship playing in the Concordia Academy band, where Matt played trombone and Steph played flute. After graduating high school, Matt attended Waldorf College for two years and then earned his B.A. in Urban Studies at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Matt and Steph were married on August 25, 2007. They built a loving home together in Forest Lake, Minnesota, where they lived with their two cats, Autumn and Spring, and their dog, Buddy. Matt worked as a custodian at Hope Academy in St. Paul for many years, and recently took a new position at North Branch Area Public Schools.

Matt was a Boy Scout and earned the Eagle Scout rank. He loved going to the State Fair and traveling on family vacations. Matt and Steph loved spending time with their pets, and enjoyed taking road trips to the Minnesota's North Shore and the Western National Parks. Matt was ever loyal to his family and friends, and he was famous for his goofy humor and love of puns.

Matt is survived by his wife Stephanie, his parents Nancy and Craig Koester and his sister Emily, his grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins. He is survived by his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Sherri and Bill Perkins, sibling-in-law Matt, as well as uncles, aunts and cousins on Stephanie's side

of the family.

Matt Koester's life was short, but he was blessed with a loving wife and family, home and work. He will be deeply and sorely missed. In our grief, we give thanks that God gave us Matthew to know and to love.

Services are at Holcomb Henry Boom Purcell Funeral Home 515 Highway 96 West, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126; phone: 651-482-7606

Visitation at 9:30 AM, funeral service at 10:30 AM, interment at Roselawn Cemetery at 1:15 PM. To view the live stream: <https://youtube.com/live/hsGmKLVX9YM?feature=share>

Memorials preferred to the Matthew Koester Memorial Fund at Concordia Academy 2400 Dale St N, Roseville, MN 55113

<https://mattkoestermemorial.com>

# Tribute Wall

VH

“ So sorry for your loss, my prayers are with all you.

Vesta Hollingshad - November 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Hi Stephanie, I'm a Backseater & saw your comment in a LOP broadcast. I am so sorry for your loss., the heart stopping, overwhelming grief and horror of finding him gone. I pray God brings you comfort & strength as you struggle to get through the days ahead. Our son Matthew passed in early September & I was the one who found him. Keep the faith - we will reunite with our loved ones in Heaven some day. ❤️🙏❤️ Carol Mueller 763-458-2719

Carol Mueller - November 10, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ The death of Mathew came as a rude shock. I mirror the loss and its magnitude from working with his sister, Emily, for some eight years in Nigeria. My deepest condolences to the family. May his soul rest in peace.

Mikailu Ibrahim.

Abuja-Nigeria.

Mikailu Ibrahim - November 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Stephanie,  
I got to know Matthew more through  
Facebook. He always had a great attitude.  
May the Lord Jesus bless and keep you  
during your time of grief and mourning. The  
Holy Spirit will protect your heart.



---

DeVon Lark - November 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ It's sad to hear about this sudden death of  
John. I believe the bereaved family will find  
solace in the love they shared with him, and  
of course in God. Remain strong Emily, I can  
imagine the shock this brings. I'm so sorry for  
the loss of your brother.



---

Friday Ogbonna - November 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ We were so grateful we got to know Matt. He was a wonderful friend  
and classmate of Joseph's at Concordia Academy. What a  
wonderful high school where they both thrived. I will always  
remember and cherish Matt's memory. My condolences to your  
family.

---

Sharon Satre - November 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SY

“ Matt was a dear friend, we talked probably more than I did with Steph and she was how he and I met. It's already nit the same without his comments on almost all of my posts. We had a special bond despite the long distance. You are already sorely missed my friend.

Steph I have no words of comfort, I don't know how in this situation. How do you say sorry that you lost the love of your life. Steph instead I just want to say thank you. Thank you for bringing Matt into my life, thank you for sharing his joy. I hope you find some peace in knowing that he means the world to us as well. We love you dear. I really am sorry for your loss.

---

**Scott Yager** - November 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Thinking of you Steph



---

**Paul Dufault** - November 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ God bless



---

**Rand Kagle** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Koester & Perkins Family,

*I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to you at Matthew's passing. I will remember Matthew as a kind-hearted and thoughtful man and appreciated his sense of humor with his facebook posts over the years. I will keep you in my prayers for comfort and peace in Christ in Whom we have the sure hope of the resurrection and a blessed reunion with Matthew and all the saints in the Church triumphant.*

*Sincerely,  
Jason Havemeier  
CA alum, class of 99*

---

**Jason Havemeier** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BU

“ *Steph, I am so sorry for your loss. It's not fair. Matt was such a kind, great guy and you two were a well matched couple. Jesus bless you.*

---

**Bruce Urban** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Matt was an incredibly kind soul. My heart breaks for those who mourn his loss. May the peace of God fill your hearts. Angel Starr*

---

**Angel Starr** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Thinking of the whole family...matt was always a joy to be around...I will cherish our friendship and our memories...RIP bud....miss you!  
Carrie*

---

**Carolyn Baker** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Nancy and Craig,

*We want to send our heartfelt condolences to you, Emily and Stephanie. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

*with love and sympathy*

*Your relatives in Finland  
Madeleine and Kai Karma  
Bernice Brummer with family  
Solveig and Folke Gräsbeck*

---

**Madeleine Wickström-Karma** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *We never worried about Stephanie, knowing Matt was there. We knew she would be well taken care of. We worry now. She loves him so much. We couldn't wish for a better son in law.*

*To the Koester family:*

*Please accept our sincere condolences. May God bless and comfort you.*

*Bill and Sherri Perkins*

---

**Bill and Sherri Perkins** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JQ

“ Craig & Nancy,

*I just learned of your loss of your dear son, Mathew. What a beautiful smile he has in the photo of his obit. I can only imagine what a radiant individual he was to you and his wife, Steph, and sister, Emily. He is a child of God and brother in Christ. May the promise of the resurrection hold you all and the gift of faith bring consolation to your grief.*

*Love for the Quie's,  
Joel & Sarah*

---

**Joel Quie** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *The news of Matt's untimely passing comes as a terrible shock. Nancy, Craig, Emily and Stephanie, my heart aches with all of you. I cherish the memories of holding and rocking Matt in the hospital when he was struggling to live during his first few months. We would sing "What Child Is This," through tender tears. These moments helped to soften my heart, and to kindle in me the willingness to anticipate being a parent someday. For this I will be ever grateful to Matthew John.*

*May you each find Shalom as you navigate this tumultuous journey.*

---

**Allan M Saugstad** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ *Nancy and Craig and family, we have no words, but we are holding you close.*

---

**Katherine and Kent Eklund** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Stephanie,  
Our hearts are saddened by the loss of Matt.

*We were just all together at your dad's retirement.*

*Matt was showing us pictures of your trips. We were so impressed at all the places you went with Buddy right along with you.*

*May you feel all of our love, prayers, and support. Matt always had a smile on his face and a caring spirit.*

*May God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*Love and prayers,  
Jerry and Marikay*

---

**Jerry and Marikay** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ We have been looking at pictures of Matt when he was a boy. So many find memories. Where did the time go?



---

**Nancy Koester** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I'm so sorry for your loss..



---

**Russell Raymond** - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *Condolence.*

**Jethro** - November 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AO

“ *Steph - I'm so sorry for your loss. Matt always had a smile and a great sense of humor.*



**Aaron Olson** - November 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Stephanie, We are sorry for your loss. We are sending our love and prayers.*

*Cheryl Stephani  
Tom Samlaska*



**Cheryl Stephani** - November 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers to Matt's loved ones for comfort and peace during this difficult time.*



**Cheryl Becker** - November 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ Dear friends and family,

*We cannot believe that Matt is gone. Our hearts are broken. Yet we are surrounded by the love and support of family and friends. We are so grateful to you for all you have done for us. Matt, we miss you and love you always.*

*Mom and Dad*

---

**Nancy and Craig Koester** - November 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM



DS

“ Dear Craig and Nancy,

*Cling to whatever you need for as long as you need. This is such a horrific loss that no parent should ever have to face. But you will find resources within yourselves and from others that you never imagined existed. Bless your hearts. I will see you on Saturday.*  
*Dottie Susag*

---

**Dottie and Su;vam Sisag** - October 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ Miss your post man. You were so nice and funny.



---

**Holly Aldridge** - October 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ TO Nancy, Craig and all family & friends of Matthew - this is a shock to all of us, When someone so young passes. Although I only had a brief contact with Mathew I remember him as we all must do now. My sincere condolences to you all, and peace to all of you who know that he is with God.

---

**Mark R. Kuntz** - October 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ Matt's humor and thoughtfulness will be missed. My deepest sympathies to you, Steph, and also to the rest of the family. With Love,  
Jean



---

**Jean Yager** - October 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM