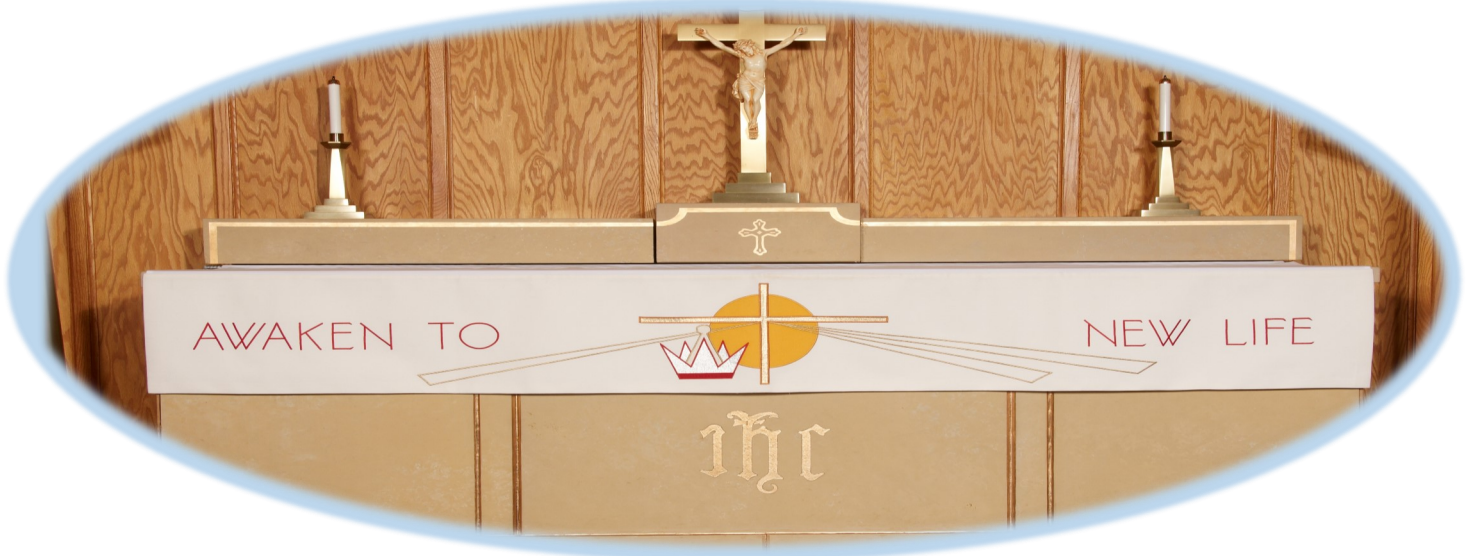


St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

January 10, 2021

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all you ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

FB page: [St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton](https://www.facebook.com/St.Matthew.Lutheran-Mapleton)

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Pastor

(712-840-1652)cell phone

Karen Krusen

*Office Administrator Assistant
(volunteer)*

(712) 881-2243-office phone

(712) 840-9059 cell phone



Baptism of our Lord / Epiphany Sunday
10 January 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Genesis 1:1–5 / Psalm 29 / Romans 6:1–11 / Mark 1:4–11

Sermon Title: Baptized for the Forgiveness of Your Sins
Sermon Text: Mark 1:4-11

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ.” (2 Tim. 1:2) Amen.

Today is the first Sunday after the Epiphany which was this past Wednesday, January 6. Our lesson today focuses on Jesus and his baptism. Now, you might wonder, why on earth did Jesus need to be baptized? Jesus was baptized, not to receive forgiveness of his own sins, because Jesus was perfect in every way and he never sinned. Jesus was baptized in order to receive forgiveness of every sin for every single person on this planet—the sins which he carried to the cross where he was crucified.

Our Gospel takes place on the banks of the Jordan River. *“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.” (Mark 1:4-5)*

John the Baptist was called by God to be the forerunner—the messenger—to go before the Messiah—to prepare the people to receive Jesus. This was John’s focused ministry. John did this by preaching and teaching from the Bible all that God promised to do by sending us Jesus.

John’s ministry also included baptizing people to get the people to repent of their sins—to confess what they have done wrong against God and against someone else. And, we see from Scripture this is exactly what was happening. *“And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.” (Mark 1:4-5)*

So John’s baptism was not the same as the baptism we do today. John’s baptism was to get people to see that they have done or said things against God and against some else, and then to prepare their hearts to receive God’s gracious forgiveness.

John’s baptism was an opportunity for the people to repent of their sins. And no time in his ministry baptizing people did John say that his work was God’s work. John kept pointing people to Jesus even when he was baptizing people. John baptized people so that they would see that their hearts, souls and minds were not clean and pure and holy in God’s eyes.

On the contrary, John knew that all people’s hearts, souls and minds were corrupted since birth. John knew this is what is taught all throughout the Old Testament—and what is still taught all throughout the New Testament.

“⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’” (Mark 1:6-8)

Many people thought that John was the Prophet Elijah—who was promised to return and prepare the people to receive Jesus. John was thought also to be “The Prophet”—a man whom Moses preached about—a man, who would be the Messiah. John was none of these people, and he denied it every time.

It was natural that a lot of people were confused—thinking that John was the promised Messiah. John had come on the scene preaching and teaching God’s Word. He could have been the Messiah, but John denied this every single time. John was sent as a messenger. John was to prepare the people to receive the Messiah and his teachings.

One visual clue that John might be the Messiah is that he wore the same kind of outfit that the Prophet Elijah and many other Old Testament prophets had worn centuries before. Also, the Prophet Malachi preached that Elijah would rise again from the dead and come before the Messiah to prepare the people to receive Jesus.

A couple of chapters later in Mark chapter 9, Jesus reminds the people that the Scriptures teach that Elijah would come before the Messiah. That prophecy is written at the end of Book of Malachi. So, it was understandable that the people were convinced that John WAS the Messiah.

⁹ *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*
¹⁰ *And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.* ¹¹ *And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”* (Mark 1:4-11)

Back in Matthew’s Gospel, we see how John doesn’t want to baptize Jesus, but says that he needs to be baptized by Jesus himself. *“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented.”* (Matthew 3.13-15)

So, when Jesus comes to the Jordan River where there is already a large crowd gathered on the shore, Jesus lines up to be baptized by John. John knows that this Jesus is the promised Messiah, and therefore feels completely unworthy to baptize Jesus. This is why John tells Jesus that he should be the one baptizing—not himself, John the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

But Jesus needs John to baptize him. Jesus needs to be baptized, because Jesus is carrying the sins of the whole world on himself. Since Jesus is carrying the sins of every single person in the world, he needs to be baptized for the forgiveness of ALL THOSE SINS—your sins and mine.

As Jesus comes out of the water after being baptized, the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—presents himself. Jesus—the Son of God Almighty—was standing in the Jordan River next to his cousin, John.

Then, God the Father spoke from heaven: *“And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”* And God the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity—comes on the scene in the form of a dove. Sure, some may wonder if it was really a dove, but Scripture clearly tells us that the Holy Spirit took the form of a dove. Therefore, after Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, all three persons of the Trinity are present—a sudden and glorious event for all to see and experience and know that this Jesus, who was just baptized, is truly the promised Messiah.

And the Scriptures teach us that it is very important for all believers in Jesus to be baptized as they are able. About five years or so after Jesus ascended into heaven, Paul wrote his letter to the

Christians at Rome. In Romans chapter six, he talks a lot about the importance of baptism.

“³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4)

The Small Catechism explains then *“What does such baptising with water indicate?”* It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” (Small Catechism: Baptism: Fourth)

Baptism is a means by which God works to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but also to remind us daily of his work in us. God encourages us to be baptized so that will strive daily by the work of the Holy Spirit to live the way he has outlined in the Bible.

Of course, baptism is not a magic spell. It’s not a ritual that you do and then go on your way. *“How can (baptismal) water do such great things?”* Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a lifegiving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.” (Small Catechism: Baptism: Third)

In Romans chapter six, Paul continues talking about how at our baptism, our old, sinful, hateful man has been drowned and died, and that a new man has risen to life and purity forever. *“⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”* (Romans 6:5-8)

You will sin every day of your life until you die and go to be with Jesus. When you sin, confess your sins and receive God’s gracious forgiveness. And after you have confessed your sins and received forgiveness, you remember what God did for you at your baptism. God gave you a new life. *“For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”*

This is the assurance you need when things are going badly—or you are nearing your life’s end. At these deep, dark moments, you can look to your baptism—look to the day and Jesus washed you clean and made you whole and holy in his sight. Therefore, you can be absolutely certain that when you die you will go and be with Jesus in heaven for all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Cling to Jesus and what he has done for you in your baptism. Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you. Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Amen.

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:

Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling his world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through his Son. Color's Purpose However, color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners, traditionally employed each Sunday, must be seen as more than an attempt to decorate, or give accent to the chancel. That is, no doubt, the view of some. It's true; interior design and decoration are important. But a greater service is demanded of our liturgical colors than merely making the surroundings "pretty." Furthermore, when altar paraments are used year after year without much attention given to their message, as well as their care, the pastor, along with his faithful altar guild would do well to throw away the key to the sacristy and refrain from using those altar cloth "decorations." Frequent instruction about the church year and its corresponding colors must go hand in hand with its weekly use

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received.

Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and his church, retold annually by the church calendar.

Symbolism of Colors It is appropriate, from time to time, to take a thoughtful and fresh look at the colors that are displayed throughout the church year. In the end, we admit, the use of paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners is an adiaphoron. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. The primary source and guarantor of their meanings is tradition. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. The value of the "Bg-BgsPwr" color scheme rests in their purpose: to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

Douglas K. Escue—pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Originally published in *Lutheran Worship Notes*, Issue 29, 1994.

God's Gift of Contentment



THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. (Exodus 20:17)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20:17)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Hebrews 13:5-6)

FOR SHARING

1. "Better a little fire to warm us than a great one to burn us." Explain the saying in the light of our materialistic culture.
2. Describe, in your own words, what it means to *covet*.
3. What sinful desire in the Garden of Eden brought sin into the world? What did Adam and Eve show by their actions?
4. St. Paul writes of Christ Jesus, "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). How does the Gospel of forgiveness and salvation bring contentment to your life?
5. Share, as time permits, how God's Word is your source of joy, encouragement, and contentment.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have blessed me in ways too numerous to count. Thank You for everything You have given me. Thank You, above all, for salvation in Christ. Strengthen me to live in love toward others so that I may rest content in Your goodness and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

We are listing

Name		Baptism
Andre	Robert	Jan 17, 1947
Bruhn	Presley	Jan 10, 2010
Bruhn	Hudson	Jan 22, 2012
Else	James	Jan 1, 1954
Holmes	Janeal	Jan 20, 1952
McGrain	Erika	Jan 29, 1994
Namanny	Melinda	Jan 22, 1989
Schmidt	Paige	Jan 22, 2006
Schmidt	Kurt	Jan 4, 1981
Schrader	Selma	Jan 26, 1930



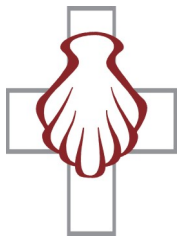
Baptismal birthdays
to remember and
celebrate the day we were
adopted into the family of God
through the washing of the Holy
Spirit.

BIRTHDAYS

Name		Birthday
Andre	Robert	Jan 17, 1947
Brodersen	Kaylee	Jan 31, 2005
Bruhn	Jessica	Jan 14, 1986
Dose	Florice	Jan 9, 1935 86
Dose	Carol	Jan 22, 1934 87
Gosch	Myrna	Jan 9, 1941 80
Goslar	Marshall	Jan 31, 1973
Gronwoldt	Virgil	Jan 3, 1961
Kuehl	Judy	Jan 23, 1945
Namanny	Melinda	Jan 25, 1958
Miller	Tari	Jan 7, 1994
Phillips	Marlene	Jan 17, 1936 85
Pithan	Derek	Jan 14, 2013
Pithan	Emma	Jan 8, 2009
Schmidt	Paige	Jan 11, 2006
Schmidt	Troy	Jan 27, 2009
Witzel	Lavone	Jan 31, 1938 83
Hamann	Katelynn	Jan 1, 1992



Dennis & Pam Jahn	01-05-1975	46 yrs.
Christopher & Christina LaBoube	01-10-2015	6 yrs.
Hans & Lavone Witzel	01-06-1957	64 yrs.



Eva Beth Bridgeman is being Baptized today. She was born on 10/26/2020 in Elkhorn, NE to Kirk Owen Bridgemen and Tosha Jo Bridgeman (Maas). Her Sponsors are Matt Stoltze and Britany Maas. The family resides at 307 S. 2nd St. Mapleton, IA 51034. Please welcome her and her family into our church family. She has been made a Child of the One True King!



God's Blessings to this family from St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (01-03-21)	
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (01-03-21)	35
VISITORS (01-03-21)	1
SUNDAY COMMUNED (01-03-21)	32
CHILDREN IN CHURCH (01-03-21)	2
BIBLE CLASS (01-03-21)	15
SUNDAY SCHOOL (01-03-21)	0

	Week of Schedule 01-11 to 01-17
Mon (11)	Pastor's Family Day
Tues (12)	Board of Directors 6 pm Circuit Pastors meeting 8 am to 12 noon
Wed (06)	Confirmation Class 6 pm to 7 pm
Sun (10)	Baptism of our Lord Church Services W/ Holy communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am

Please continue to pray for our church leaders.



"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." **Romans 12:12**

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

PRAYER WARRIORS— The prayer warriors desire to hear from you as to how they can pray for you. We have 14 prayer warriors. We welcome more men and women to join us. if you need prayer call **Alice Miller** phone number 712-880-2380.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek
Selma Schrader
Myrna Gosch
Kathy Trucke

Bud Dose
Elnora Dose
Delores Gosch
Alan Bruhn

Carol Dose
Jerry Albers
Lavonne Witzel

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Jim Kueny**, Karen's husband **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Tammy Jean Bramley**, mother of

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs. Jun 2, 1934
Main Street Apartments
516 Main Street Apt 2
Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 88 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932
1726 Marcella Heights
Carroll, IA 51040

Elnora Dose 85 yrs. May 11, 1935
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933
Ring Street
Mapleton IA 51034

Myrna Gosch 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941
Pleasant View Care Center
200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
Whiting, IA 51063

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
31153 Juinter Ave
Hinton, IA 51024

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928
Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
404 1st St.
Battle Creek, IA 51006

Carol Dose 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934
Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home

*** indicates a new address*

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded

These are addresses of God's people needing prayers and we could also send them a card telling them we are thinking about them, showing them that we care. That would brighten their day.

Nazaria Kaderabek
310 S. 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Selma Schrader
21 Ohm Drive
Mapleton, IA 51034

Delores Gosch
202 S. 2nd St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Sheri Heilman
(Sue Oberg's sister)
1721 Lincoln Street
Great Bend, KS 67530

Elnora Dose
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Lynne Smith: chose to not publish
Jazmin Mauch: chose to not publish
Ron Kraffle: chose to not publish

Lavonne Witzel
36252 Co. Hwy E 34
Castana, IA 51010

Richard Swain
407 S. 5th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

Jim Kueny
707 Oak St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Carol Dose
1 Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Mapleton, IA 51034

Myrna Gosch
Pleasant Care Center
200 Shannon Dr.
Whiting, IA 51063

Alan Bruhn
14535 Walnut Ave
Mapleton, IA 51034

Tammy Bramley
42715 210th St.
Ute, IA 51060

Jerry Albers
1313 Maple Street
Onawa, IA 51040

Kathy Trucke
303 S 7th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

Charles (Bud) Dose
302 N. 2nd Ave.
Anthon, IA 51004

God
is watching
over you.
I know because
I asked
Him to

<u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u>	Need a ride to a Dr's appt	Need of a visit
Before going to hospital	Address or name changes	Birth of your baby
Private communion	Entering armed services	Making wedding plans
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church	Death in the family	

Faith Step: Thank Jesus that when we try to hide from Him, He continues to find us and draws us into a relationship with Him.

St Matthew Lutheran Church thank these people for their dedication of their service to their Lord this past year 2020.

Please take time to thank these people because they are serving our Lord and Savior. This takes dedication and time out of their schedules.

Think of a way that you can serve your church and Jesus.

Mark Witzel President	Leo Dose elder	Julie Bollig stewardship
Ryan Paulsen Vice Pres.	Ryan Paulsen elder	Ken Krueger property
Karen Kueny secretary	Mark Witzel elder	Alan Dale property
Rita Lafrentz treasurer	Bert Schauer elder	Lin Scott property
Dawn Paulsen financial	Marla Hogan education	Dennis Miller property
Jeff Krusen head elder	Joan Chandler, outreach	Janeal Holmes property

hearted
see
friendship
happenlong
want answer
healed
broken
friendssoon
really repaired
miracle
time



St Matthew Lutheran Church
504 Walnut Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY

READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am every Sunday at the church. Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton- Our services at 9:30 am every Sunday website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org – Our services posted weekly **Mission Central...** www.missioncentral.us **Lutheran Family Service:** www.lfsiowa.org **WEB SITES:** Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org Camp Okoboji – www.campokoboji.org **“THY STRONG WORD”** is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) **“THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN -FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page **“THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR”** airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City—KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake—KAYL 101.5 FM **Lutheran Family Services:** www.lofsiowa.org **MainStreet Living**— is a Television Program that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.



Lord, I set my heart on You. You are trustworthy, faithful and the Giver of the gift of peace. Please fill me this Christmas season. As others see Your peace in me, let them recognize You as Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.