



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

01-23-2022

"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)**

A
CTIVE

C
HRISTIANS

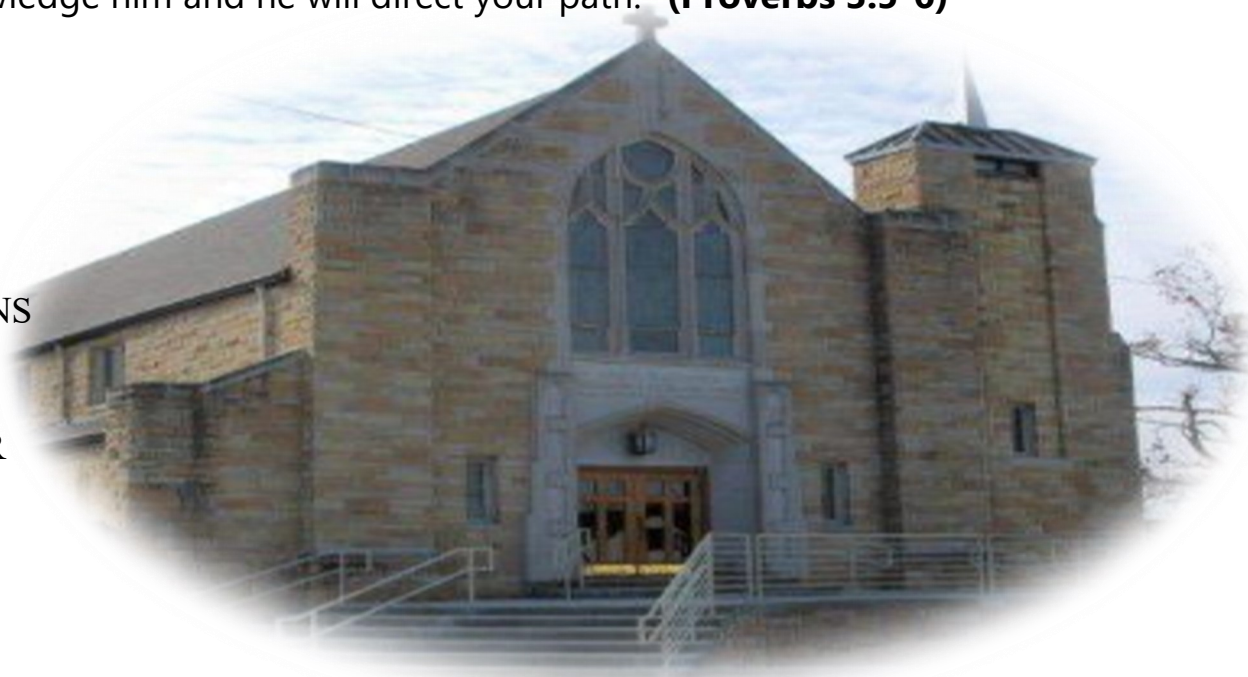
T
OGETHER

I
N

O
UTREACH

&

N
URTURE



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

Facebook page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton

Rev. Christopher LaBoube, Pastor

Pastor's Cell: 712-840-1652

Jeff Krusen, Head Elder (712) 840-9821

Mark Witzel, President (760)500-8902

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



3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
23 January 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 / Psalm 19:(1–6) 7–14 / 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a / Luke 4:16–30

Sermon Title: Suffering Together, Being Honored Together

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

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

One thing I don’t understand about church members—not just in this congregation, but many congregations, that I have visited—is how too many Christians seem to think—or act like they don’t belong to the Body of Christ—that they are simply a member of a civic organization. The church isn’t a civic organization. The church is the visible representation of the Body of Christ here on earth in this place of Mapleton, Iowa.

When you join our congregation or any LCMS congregation, you’re saying that you believe what the LCMS teaches from the Bible. Once you “join the church,” then Paul tells you what to do next—use the Spiritual gifts that God has nurtured in you to glorify God and to build of the Body of Christ here in Mapleton, Iowa. So, are you using your Spiritual gifts to the benefit of every other believer in our congregation?

Last Sunday we talked about Spiritual gifts which God gives to each believer according to what God knows that person needs. God does not give the same spiritual gifts to every believer. He gives the gift of teaching to some believers. He gives the gift of understanding finances to a couple of people. He gives different gifts to different people so that those people will use their spiritual gift to glorify God and to build up the Body of Christ.

If you’re not using the Spiritual Gifts that God has given you, then why are you withholding your Spiritual Gift, and not using the to glorify God and to build up the Body of Christ. Paul tells us in our Epistle lesson this morning from First Corinthians chapter twelve the importance of acknowledging—and living as though you are a member of this Christian congregation here in Mapleton, Iowa.

“¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

When you were baptized in the Name of the Triune God, and you receive the Holy Spirit, then you have life in Christ Jesus. As a member of the Body of Christ, you have been joined to the Trinity, and you have been joined to the Body of Believers here in Mapleton, Iowa. *“¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.” (1 Corinthians 12:13-14)*

Just as our physical bodies are made up of many parts—all different kinds of parts, which all

do some specific function—so the Body of Christ does not consist of just one person or position in this specific place.

“¹⁵ If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:15-20)

If the whole church had only pastors, then that might be a little weird. Everyone knows that when pastors start talking, they might not be able to stop, which means a church full of pastors would last for hours, and no one wants that. If the whole church were made up of teachers for the children’s Sunday School class, for the teen Bible study and for the Confirmation class, then who would the teachers be teaching—other teachers?!?!?

Of course, we can go the other way—which is the point Paul is trying to make: *“¹⁵ If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?”* (1 Corinthians 12:15-17)

If a church member said that he didn’t have the Spiritual gift of serving in some capacity, and then that church member stopped attending worship, because he said he wasn’t able to serve in any capacity, then he would simply stay home and pout!

That’s kind of ridiculous. That’s the point that Paul is making. If one church member defines, who she is based on what Spiritual Gift she doesn’t have, then she is making a really bad comparison. God brings every single believer to this congregation, who he wants to be here.

Now, it’s unfortunate, that some believers got mad and stormed out without ever working to reconcile the problem. And there are some believers, who God has brought to our congregation, who have decided to stay home and away from the rest of the congregation for a variety of reasons.

That just means that the people, who have decided to stay home and watch the pastor preach a sermon online, are actually hurting themselves and hurting the rest of the congregation. *“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”* This isn’t how God designed the local church—our church—as a representation of the Body of Christ here in Mapleton, Iowa. God desires all believers to use the gifts that he has given to glorify God and to build up the Body of Christ. Of course, the Body of Christ will struggle with all kinds of problems. Paul points out this fact in the next couple of verses:

“²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one

another. ²⁶ *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*” (1 Corinthians 12:21-26)

Think of what Paul is saying this way: I’m not young, so therefore I can’t be an elder. I’m not young, so therefore I can’t teach adult Bible class. I’m not young, so therefore I can’t help. But my question to that is, why are you concluding what you can’t do based on what you are not?

God has given ALL believers—every single member of this congregation—the gift or gifts that will glorify God and build up the Body of Christ. And every believer is important and necessary to this congregation. Of course, when some members stay away, they are only hurting themselves and the rest of us, because we are not receiving the blessings of that person’s Spiritual Gift.

“But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

God knew who needs to belong to this congregation long before this building was ever built. God brought all the people here, who he has given a Spiritual Gift, so that person will use his spiritual gift to glorify God and build up the Body of Christ. And when we use our Spiritual Gifts the way God wants us to use them, then we are living according to the Second Greatest Commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.

“²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12:27-28)

To wrap up this section, Paul then talks about specific gifts that God has given to members of the church—this congregation and all Bible-believing congregations. God made some believers to be apostles. An apostle is a believer, who is set apart to go and preach and teach the Good news of Jesus Christ to people, who don’t believe in God. The first twelve men, who Jesus picked to follow him, were called apostles. They were also called disciples since they were learning from Jesus.

God then made some believers prophets and teachers. Prophets are believers, who are given a message by God the Holy Spirit to tell other people—sometimes the message is for other believers and sometimes the message is for unbelievers. And when God made some believers teachers, he’s talking about men and women in the church, who have been give the gift of teaching and leading others in the truth from God’s Word.

Paul then goes on to talk about God giving some believers the ability to perform miracles and to heal. Of course, all miracles and all healing comes from God alone. God sometimes gives some believers the opportunity for him to work through them so that unbelievers will see the miracle and hopefully give God all the glory and thanks for the miracle or healing.

God also gives some believers the gift of administration and various kinds of tongues. In the church, there is always a need for one or two believers, who have the gift of taking care of paperwork, being able to do computer work, being able to make bulletins and mailings for shut-ins, and so on.

And along with the gift of administration, God also gives some believers the ability to speak and/or understand different languages. In some areas of Iowa, there are pockets of people, who are from Mexico and Latin America, who are Sudan and other African nations, and who are from many other places around the world.

And God gives some believers the gift of being able to communicate with these non-native English-speaking people. After all, the Great Commission is all about going into all the world, and preaching and teaching about God and His Holy Word so that more people will know Jesus.

Paul then ends this section with some rhetorical questions: “*Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*” (1 Corinthians 12:29-31a)

As I mentioned earlier, it would be ridiculous if the church was made up of only pastors—or made up of only teachers. Paul also points out that all believers do not have the same spiritual gifts—for a reason. God knows WHO needs WHAT spiritual gift in order to glorify God and to build up the Body of Christ. That’s why the church is not made up of all apostles—and not made up of all prophets—and not all believers have the same spiritual gift.

Instead, Paul encourages all believers this way: *³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*” Paul wants all believers to seek Jesus and him alone, and let God take care of which spiritual gift he wants to give you.

So when Paul ends this section of chapter twelve, he wants the believers in Corinth to follow his example. And Paul says that he will then show the believers “...*a still more excellent way.*” This excellent way he talks about in First Corinthians chapter thirteen. Paul begins chapter thirteen by talking about love being the most excellent way.

When Paul talks about love, he’s talking about living out the Second Greatest Commandment: love your neighbor as yourself. And how do you love your neighbor as yourself? You treat your neighbor the way that you want to be treated. When you treat your neighbor the way you want to be treated, then you are loving your neighbor as yourself. And this is the most excellent way.

Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen. Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superbowl Your church envelopes are at the back of the church for 2022, please pick them up on your way out of church.

Superbowl subs are being sold 6" \$8.00 12" \$15.00 you may buy at the back of the church. Delivery in town of Mapleton only for an extra \$3. Orders will be taken until Feb. 10th.

The bulletin will be looking different because a monthly **news letter will be started in February**, so watch for the changes. Please anyone wishing to support this newsletter are welcome to do this, the cost will be approximately \$35.00 if you want it to be in memory of a loved one or on an anniversary you are celebrating just contact the church office, like before it will be much appreciated.

January 29: **WINTER GAMES FAMILY FUNFEST**

Join us from 10:00A.M. to 2:00P.M. for some Family Winter Fun during the University Of Okoboji Winter Games. Events to include our renowned Ping Pong Tournament, Sledding, Inflatables, Yard Games, Face Painting, Hot Chocolate and S'mores, and Sleigh Rides (weather permitting). A meal will be available.

Voters meeting scheduled for January 30th after services.

Screens

C = Communion

Elders

| | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 01-23-2022 | Dennis Muckey | 712-840-6914 |
|------------|---------------|--------------|

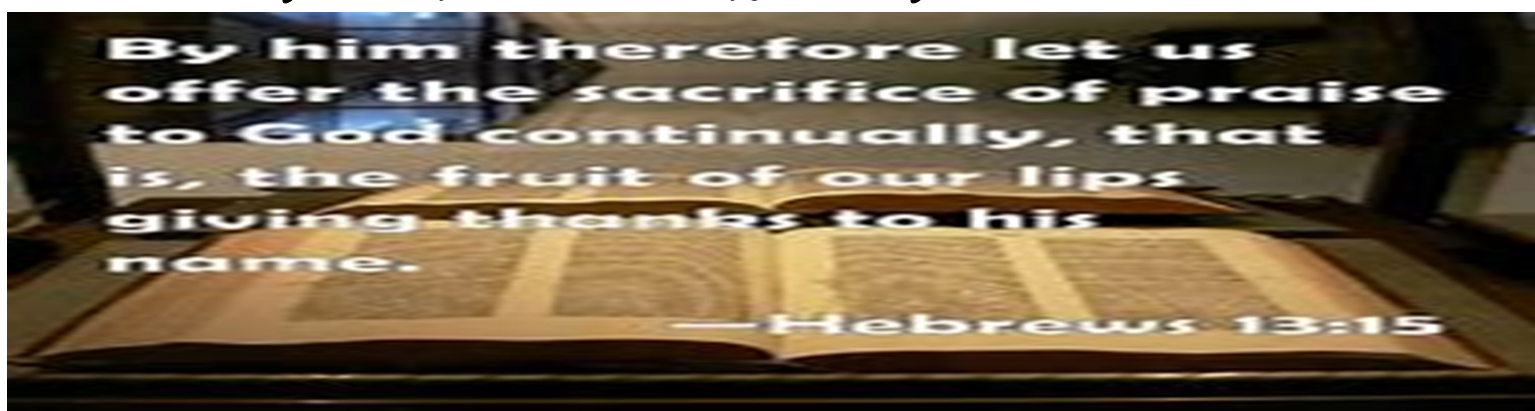
| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 01-23-2022 | Jeff Krusen | 712-840-9821 |
|------------|-------------|--------------|

Lay Readers

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 01-23-2022 | Joe Hogan | 712-420-0775 |
|------------|-----------|--------------|

| | | | |
|------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| 01-02-2022 | C | JANUARY | Altar Guild |
| 01-09-2022 | | Amy Meseck | 712-269-8939 |
| 01-16-2022 | C | Brenda Brown | 712- 880-1502 |
| 01-23-2022 | | Janeal Holmes | 712-899-8095 |

LCMS Memory Verse for the Week of January 23, 2022 Hebrews 13:15



| | <u>Week of Schedule 01-24 to 01-30</u> |
|--------|---|
| Mon 24 | Pastors Family Day |
| Wed 26 | Confirmation Class 6:00 pm |
| Sun 30 | 4th Sun. after Epiphany Services 9:30 am Elder: Duane Hamann Reader: Mark Witzel Screens: Joe Hogan Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Class 10:45 a.m. |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Needed per Week | \$3,225.02 |
| Church offering 01-16-22 | No report |
| Church attendance 01-16-22 | 22 |
| Bible Class 01-16-22 | 3 |
| Sunday School 01-16-22 | NA |

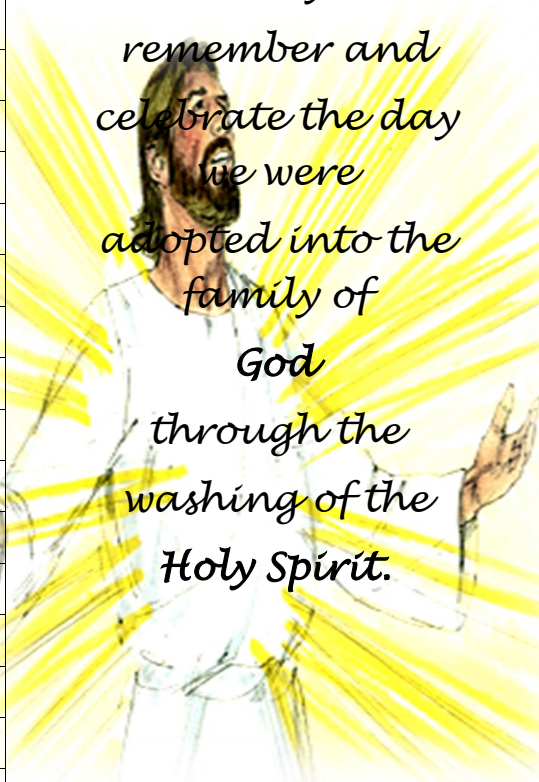
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Robert Andre | Jan 17, 1947 |
| Virgil Gronwoldt | Jan 03, 1961 |
| Judy Kuehl | Jan 23, 1945 |
| Melinda Namanny | Jan 25, 1958 |
| Tari Miller | Jan 07, 1994 |
| Zachary Arndt | Jan 17, 1990 |
| Kaylee Brodersen | Jan 31, 2005 |
| Jessica Bruhn | Jan 14, 1986 |
| Joshua Creswell | Jan 04, 1984 |
| Shelby Davis | Jan 27, 2002 |
| Derek Frahm | Jan 28, 1988 |
| Kevin Goslar | Jan 22, 1972 |
| Marshall Goslar | Jan 31, 1973 |
| Katelynn Hamann | Jan 01, 1992 |
| Misty Hinrickson | Jan 02, 1973 |
| Scott Jacobson | Jan 19, 1975 |
| Eric Jacoby | Jan 02, 1975 |
| Berdina Jochims | Jan 14, 1953 |
| Christopher Jochims | Jan 12, 1976 |
| Sharon Kruse | Jan 11, 1954 |
| Aaron Krusen | Jan 22, 1972 |
| Eugene Means | Jan 09, 1947 |
| Gavin Nevins | Jan 23, 1944 |
| Jonathan Pickel | Jan 04, 1996 |
| Derek Pithan | Jan 14, 2013 |
| Emma Pithan | Jan 08, 2009 |
| Gage Rotnicke | Jan 23, 2000 |
| Scout Rotnicke | Jan 01, 1998 |
| DeRae Schauer | Jan 15, 1986 |
| Paige Schmidt | Jan 11, 2006 |
| Troy Schmidt | Jan 27, 2009 |
| Jeffrey Scott | Jan 03, 1969 |

Walk in Love
Be Kind to
one another, Be Positive!



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



JANUARY BAPTISMS

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Robert Andre | Jan 17, 1947 |
| Eva Bridgeman | Jan 10, 2021 |
| Hudson Bruhn | Jan 22, 2012 |
| Presley Bruhn | Jan 10, 2010 |
| Brenda Davis | Jan 15, 1972 |
| Shane Davis | Jan 27, 1974 |
| James Else | Jan 01, 1954 |
| Robbie Frahm | Jan 31, 1988 |
| Donald Fritz | Jan 21, 1973 |
| Janeal Holmes | Jan 20, 1952 |
| Caitlyn Jacobson | Jan 01, 2006 |
| Natalie Jacobson | Jan 01, 2006 |
| Ryan Jacobson | Jan 09, 1983 |
| Berdina Jochims | Jan 31, 1954 |
| Cindy Jochims | Jan 20, 1972 |
| Erika McGrain | Jan 29, 1994 |
| Melinda Namanny | Jan 22, 1989 |
| Steve Pickel | Jan 07, 1973 |
| Kurt Schmidt | Jan 04, 1981 |
| Paige Schmidt | Jan 22, 2006 |
| Selma Schrader | Jan 26, 1930 |
| Nicholas Wood | Jan 03, 1988 |
| Terrance Wood | Jan 03, 1988 |

80 + Birthday

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Florice Dose | Jan 09, 1935 | 87 |
| Carol Dose | Jan 22, 1934 | 88 |
| Marlene Phillips | Jan 17, 1936 | 86 |
| Roberta Conyers | Jan 25, 1936 | 86 |
| Myrna Gosch | Jan 09, 1941 | 81 |

God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Dennis and Pam JAHN | Jan 05, 1975 47 yrs. |
| Christopher and Christina LaBoube | Jan 10, 2015 7 yrs. |



Please Give the office a call

| |
|--------------------------|
| Before going to hospital |
| Private communion |
| Address or name changes |
| Death in the family |
| Birth of your baby |
| Making wedding plans |





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

Carol Dose
 Alan Bruhn

Myrna Gosch
 Fred Fletcher

Melvin Schrader
 Fern Jacobsen

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Ron Kraffle friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jerri Haindfield** daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Dis Reitz**, husband of Caroline ; friend of Kay Johnson. **Pam Clausen**, daughter of Fern Jacobsen; **Sharon Kuehl Henning** niece of Judy & Gary Kuehl; **Beth Weber**, cousin of Dean and Ramona Weber; **Tracey Koett** daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann.

Those who serve in the military:

Triston Twedt (great-grandson of Alice and the late Keith Miller) serving with the Army at Ft. Lewis, WA

Ryan Trucke (son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson) serving with U.S. Air Force at FE Warren AFB in Wyoming (wife and child are here). Ryan is at this address: Prince Sultan AFB, Saudia Arabia 378ECF-CEOIU Unit 61362 APO, AE 09877 (here for only 6 months)
His birthday is Feb 3, send him a card!

Jackie Cardwell (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen) serving U.S. Airforce at 17728 Margo St Omaha, NE 68136

Marcus Roupe serving in Cuba (nephew of Marilyn & Duane Hamann) PSC201 Box 6997 APO AE 09522

St. Matthew's Prayer List that are confined to their homes

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

Bonnie Banks 87 yrs. Jun 2, 1934

Main Street Apartments
 516 Main Street Apt 2
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Delores Boysen 82 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939

31153 Juinter Ave.
 Hinton, IA 51024

Delbert Kroll 88 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933

815 Ring Street
 Mapleton IA 51034

Phyllis Fick 93 yrs. Jun 3, 1928

Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
 404 1st St.
 Battle Creek, IA 51006

George Koithan 89 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932

Sunrise Ave.
 Maple Heights Nursing Home 51034

Carol Dose 87 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934
 Sunrise Ave.

Maple Heights Nursing Home
 51034

Myrna Gosch 80 yrs. Jan 9, 1941

Pleasant View Care Center
 200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
 Whiting, IA 51063

Melvin Schrader 95 Oct. 29, 1926

21 Ohm Drive
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Selma Schrader 92 yrs. Nov. 12, 1929

21 Ohm Drive
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Our prayer List

Nazaria Kaderabek

310 S. 6th St.

Mapleton, IA 51034

Fern Jacobsen

Main Street Apartments

516 Main Street Apt 3

Mapleton, IA 51034

Alan Bruhn

14535 Walnut Ave

Mapleton, IA 51034

Sharon Kuehl Henning

312 Highcroft

Window MN 56101

Cecil, Fred Fletcher

1225 B Ave.

Danbury, IA 51019

*Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace,
 Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control,
 Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded!*



Our New Banner in Church.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (John 15: 1-2). These words are very important in the life of each Christian. Let us look more closely at the truth that Jesus Christ says: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15: 5). Jesus the true vine. Let's take a closer look and analyze what is the vine and branches meaning in the Bible?

Vine and Branches Meaning: What is connection?

The first statement indicates an inseparable connection between the branches and the main vine. If we take it literally, then it turns out that we must be one with Jesus. With great reverence and fear, we must realize that Jesus calls us friends and has the greatest honor, allowing us to be branches on Him, as in a vine. Now we must conclude what we should be in our lives if we are branches of the vine of

Christ. It is unlikely that any of us have seen an apple tree, from the trunk of which would grow branches of nettle. This is impossible because of the heterogeneity of the plants, so having a great advantage, grow on the vine – we will match our own higher genus!

Vine and Branches Meaning: Common Root

The second natural conclusion, which can be made from the words "I am the vine, and you are the branches," is the commonality of the root. Consequently, all the juices that enter through the root to the vine must pass to the branches. If you think about how this can reflect our everyday reality, then you can judge this. In our life, there are various events, and in daily life, we often face the need for choice. This verse from the Gospel of John shows that Jesus Christ and we should have common interests in everything: what is useful for the vine, it is also useful for the branches. After all, there is no such thing that the root feed on juices alone, and the tree crown is different. No, they have everything in common. Therefore, if you feel that your interests do not correspond to Christ, think, maybe you're not on the vine? Maybe you already is a wild branch, and have no relation to the beautiful plant of God?

Vine and Branches Meaning: Necessary Pruning

The third and most important truth of Jesus' words is that "... every branch that brings forth fruit cleanses so that it will bear more fruit." In other words, if you are in the right condition and bear fruit for the kingdom of God, then necessary pruning is waiting for you. Many believe that the Lord realizes it with the help of hard and ruthless pruning down. Of course, it can not be denied that often such interference from above into our lives does not have effect as we would like. However, in no case should you think that God is pleased when we suffer! No! The Lord wants us to be more fruitful, so He does everything that is required of the gardener. But we also know that "... He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength" (1 Cor. 10: 13). Therefore, we will rejoice when the caring gardener shows his care, we know that He will not cause us unnecessary pain or unnecessary suffering. Glory be to Him for that!

Vine and Branches Meaning: Bear Fruits

The fourth conclusion is that "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15: 5). This is an extremely important detail! Some think that they can bear fruit, being somewhere outside Christ. To this is the unambiguous assertion of our Savior: "A branch can not bear fruit of itself." Immediately remember the words of Paul: "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (1 Cor 4: 7). Any of our talents or abilities are from God and to Him. Let us devote ourselves to Him without a trace, realizing that if we have fruit in our Christian life, it is not our merit. By ourselves we could not bring anything. Being on the vine and eating from it, we bear fruit precisely because of it. Glory to Christ that He makes us able to produce fruit. And He still rewards for it as if it is our merit! Finally, I would like to appeal to those who do not belong to the church of the Lamb. And of course to those who are only a formal Christians. Such a sentence awaits: **"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned."** (John 15: 6). Keep in mind that the particularly terrible situation is not for those who are not on the vine at all. This situation is for those who, being in a holy place, eating juices and posing as part of a vine – do not bear fruit! It is written, "Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away" (John 15: 2). How terrible it is to live a Christian life but don't be close to the Lord. Hearing the words "I never knew you", many will understand the insanity of fruitless finding on the vine, but it will be too late – they will be cut off and thrown into the fire. May God save us from this fate. Amen.



St Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Street

Mapleton, IA 51034

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

Rev. Christopher LaBoube, Pastor

Worship time: Sunday



9:30am Worship Service

10:45 Bible Class

10:45 Sunday School

In His Footsteps:

Meet each new day
knowing that God is
by your side and will
lead you every step
of the way.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS By READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: **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.



Dear Lord, Thank you for spelling it out for us: there will always be trouble in the world. Strengthen us to stay strong in the midst of hardships. Equip us to encourage each other along the way. Pour out more love on us and help us to see each other with your eyes. In Jesus' name, Amen