



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

01-30-2022

"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}

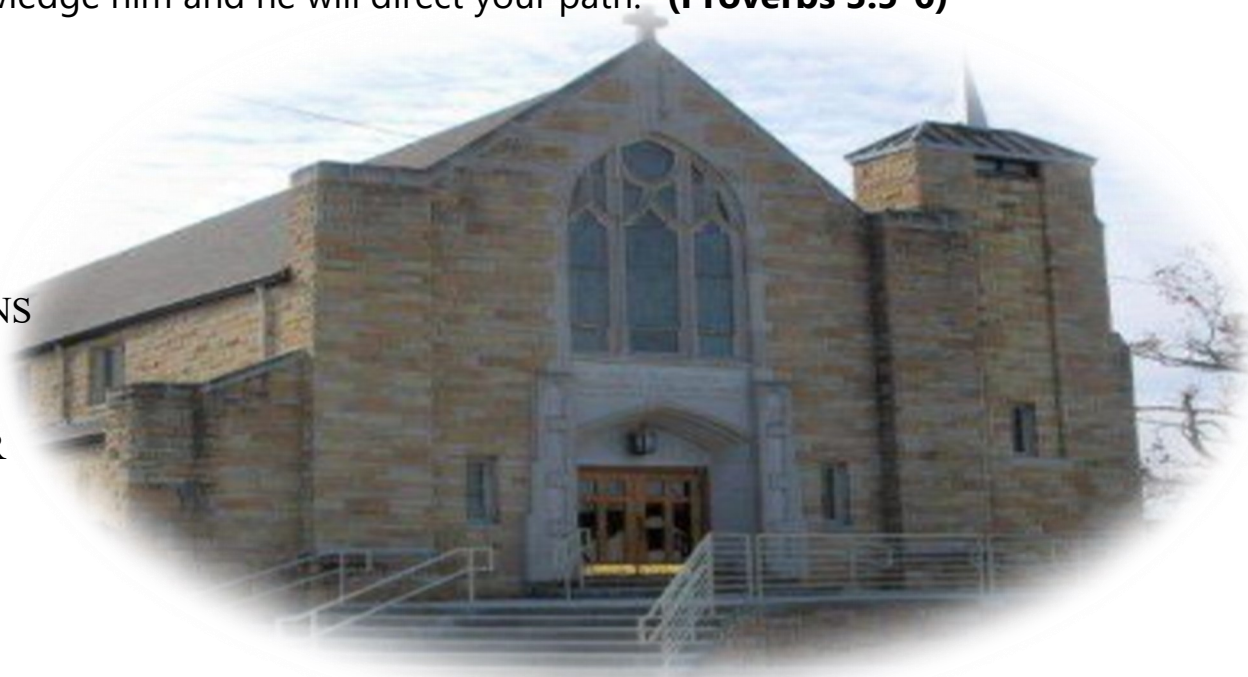
T_{OGETHER}

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

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Mark Witzel, President (760)500-8902

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(712-840-1652)cell phone

Karen Krusen

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4th Sunday after the Epiphany
30 January 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Jeremiah 1:4–10 / Psalm 71:1–6 (7–11) / 1 Corinthians 12:31b—13:13 / Luke 4:31–44

Sermon Title: Enduring to the End

Sermon Text: Romans 6:17-18

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

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 10:22b) This verse from Matthew is part of a talk Jesus gives to his disciples. He is letting them know that as soon as they head out and start preaching this message of hope and salvation found in Jesus alone, they might encounter tremendous opposition. Jesus even points out that those people closest to you might even get angry or upset with you for preaching that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. // But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 10:21-22)

SO why do we have to endure? Why can’t life just be easy and comfortable? The writer of Hebrews tells us the point of enduring: *“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”* (Hebrews 12:7)

It is because we need to be disciplined. HUH?!?!? We need to endure and we need to be disciplined?!?!?! That doesn’t make any sense? The writer in Hebrews 12 continues. *“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”* (Hebrews 12:7)

Every parent disciplines his child, and most of the time the child hates being disciplined. You probably have even heard a father say to his child before he gives the child a spanking—This is going to hurt you more than it hurts me.

Of course, the child doesn’t get it immediately. Most fathers don’t like having to punish their child, but discipline is necessary. Otherwise, how will the child learn what is right and what is wrong?

In Romans chapter 6, Paul talks about what is right and wrong. He illustrates his message by talking about the heart of the issue—being a slave to sin—and being free in Jesus. *“But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, // and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”* (Romans 6:17-18)

All of us, who confess Jesus as our LORD and our Savior, we are no longer slaves to sin. We are free men and women or as Paul says—we are slaves of RIGHTEOUSNESS. We are slaves bound to Jesus Christ.

How did we go from being slaves to sin to being slaves of RIGHTEOUSNESS? Jesus and

some Jews had this same discussion. The people answered Jesus, “*We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. // How is it that you say, “You will become free”*” // Jesus answered them, *‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.’*” (John 8:33-34)

So we were slaves to sin, because sin is part of our human nature. It’s as though we don’t really need to PRACTICE sin. It comes naturally. Sin has infected every single one of us as we read in Psalm 51: “*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*” (Psalm 51.5)

Since every one of us was born with sin dwelling deep in our bones and marrow, then that means we are helpless, because there is no way that we can get rid of this sinful nature. No amount of positive thinking can help get rid of sin.

Of course, we might try to make ourselves feel better by wishing away the bad days. We might try and fill the helpless, endless hole in our soul with all kinds of junk—pornography—gossip—backbiting—lying—cheating—holding grudges and harboring anger and hatred against your neighbor or friend.

Sadly, we do all these things naturally, because this is how we came into this world—no matter how kind and wonderful your parents were to you. But Paul wants us to see that there is hope beyond our hateful, terrible attitude—which are all the results of sin. “*and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*” (Romans 6.17-18)

Here in Romans 6 verses 17 and 18, Paul uses the same word when talking about being a “slave to sin” and being a “slave of righteousness,” because the same thing is happening—you are being put forcibly under someone else’s control. // So either you are enslaved by sin—and you are forcibly under the control of Satan—or you are a “slave of righteousness” and are under the control of the Triune God.

“*But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, // and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*” (Romans 6.17-18)

Thanks be to God that you have been freed from sin, death and the devil. How so? By the person and work of Jesus. That’s it. This is what we confess in the Apostles’ Creed. Let’s look at the Meaning of the Second Article from the Small Catechism:

“I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; // not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”

SO if we are—as Paul describes us—free from sin, death and the devil, then how on earth do we keep going? How do we endure through all the trials and tribulations that are thrown at us? “*Rejoice in hope, enduring in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*” (Romans 12:12)

Now maybe that sounds flippant—like one of those Christian clichés that are tossed about in hopes of making you feel better quickly. But let’s look at what Paul suggests in light of enduring to

the end and being guaranteed salvation.

Rejoice in hope. Or as Paul says in First Thessalonians: *“Rejoice always!”* Even when things are going bad, we still have hope, and because we have hope, we can rejoice—we can praise God. Not a superficial, cotton-candy praise, but a sincere, deep-seated praise that comes from deep within our soul and spirit.

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5)

Enduring in tribulation. When things are going bad, often our natural reaction is to moan and groan—woah is me! But Paul encourages us to endure through this really difficult situation or period of time. You can endure—not because you think happy thoughts. You can endure, because of Jesus. *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”* (Psalm 23:4)

Be constant in prayer. Paul said a similar thing in First Thessalonians: *“Pray without ceasing.”* Prayer isn’t a fast-food order to God—God give me what I want NOW! Prayer is a sincere conversation with God. And don’t we all want to know for certain that God hears us? Of course, we do! This is what we pray in the Lord’s Prayer: the Introduction:

“Our Father who art in heaven. What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.”

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 10:22b) We endure to the end by these three things: *“Rejoice in hope, // enduring in tribulation, // be constant in prayer.”* (Romans 12:12)

In addition, Paul suggests other ways for you to endure to the end. *“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”* (Hebrews 12:12-14)

“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.” God has given you his Spirit to strengthen you—to give you the umph that you need to get off your duff and get moving—doing whatever it is that you are refusing to do.

“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.” (Isaiah 40:29) God cares for you more than you probably realize. You can also endure through whatever you’re struggling with when you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and remind yourself DAILY—if not hourly—all of the promises that God lavishes on you.

When you live your life as a baptized child of God, who has been redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus you can endure to the end. When you live your life focused on Jesus, then you are able to do a lot more than you ever thought you could.

“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” Strive for peace. Paul also says it this way: *“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”* (Romans 12:18)

Paul also lived in a world that was at times hostile and antagonistic towards Christians. Paul knew what persecution really was. Paul also knew that on his own, he couldn't—and he wouldn't endure to the end. Instead, Paul knew that it was only by the strength of God Almighty that he was able to endure through all sorts of trials and tribulations. This is what Paul says in Second Corinthians: *“But [God] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The grace of God ultimately helps you endure to the end. The grace of God strengthens you when you are weak. The grace of God comforts you when you're hurting or you're feeling helpless watching a family member, who is hurting. *“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”* (Matthew 10.22b)

“But [God] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” (2 Corinthians 12:9) God's grace and mercy are reason enough to praise and thank our God for all he has done for us. *“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Amen.

The peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Elders

C = Communion

01-30-2022	Duane Hamann	712-870-3450
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Lay Readers

01-30-2022	Mark Witzel	760-500-8902
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Screens

01-30-2022	Joe Hogan	712-420-0775
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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
01-30-2022			

Luther's Catechism



THE SIX CHIEF PARTS:

"Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly" (Martin Luther).

If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. (1 Timothy 4:6)

FOR SHARING

1. "It's not *what* you believe that matters; it's *that* you believe!" In what ways is this statement true of many in today's world?
2. If possible, share a memory from your confirmation instruction. What about your study of the Catechism was meaningful to you?
3. The Catechism, Luther wrote, is a summary and guide to the whole Bible. How do the Six Chief Parts summarize Christian doctrine? How does the Catechism guide us through the teachings of Holy Scripture?
4. Just as Christ is the true focus of the Scriptures, so also Christ is the center of the Catechism. How does each part of the Catechism point to Jesus and His saving work?
5. Why is regular—daily!—devotion time so important for God's people? How can the Catechism be part of your regular devotions?

PRAYER Almighty God, thank You for Your Word of truth. In Your Law You show me my sin, but in the Gospel You bring me forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ. Strengthen my faith in my Savior every day as I daily study and grow in His Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**And the LORD passed by before him,
and proclaimed,
The LORD, The LORD God,
merciful and gracious, longsuffering,
and abundant in goodness and truth.**

Exodus 34:6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your church envelopes are at the back of the church for 2022, please pick them up.

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. Questions have been asked why the \$35.00, it takes paper, ink and time to publish this paper. Please direct your questions to the office, thank you. (This cost is nothing new) and it is not mandatory, thank you again for your support of the Church.

Information for the bulletin and the weekly mailing must be in the office by Wed. of the week. Please call if you e-mailed the information, because sometimes the e-mail does not come through. The information for the Monthly news letter needs to be in by the 23th of the month

	Week of Schedule 01-31 to 02-06
Mon 31	Pastors Family Day
Tues 01	Board of Elders 7 pm
Wed 02	Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
Thur	In the Word 1:30 pm
Sun 06	5th Sun. after Epiphany Services 9:30 am W/ HC Elder: Ryan Paulsen Reader: Ryan Paulsen Screens: Mark Witzel Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Church offering 01-16-22	\$1,983.00
Card money	\$31.00
Memorial money	\$1,000.00
Church offering 01-23-22	\$1,185.00
Initial offering	\$25.00
Church attendance 01-23-22	42
Bible Class 01-23-22	14
Sunday School 01-23-22	4-c 1t

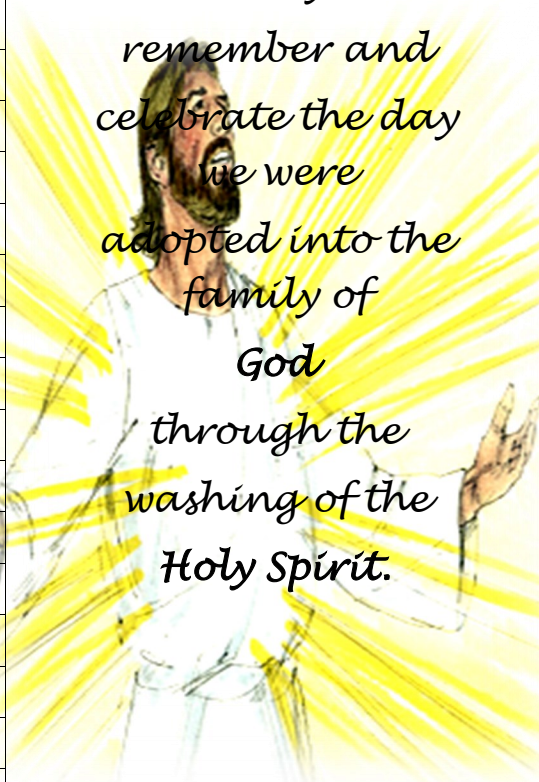
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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;

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

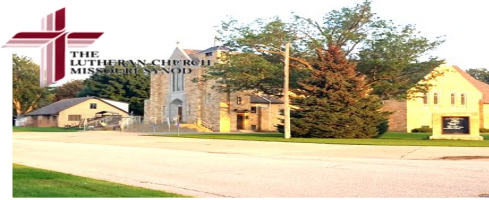
Window MN 56101

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!*



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