

"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)



CHRISTIANS

TOGETHER

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OUTREACH

* Nurture

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034 Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163 Email: <u>office@stmatthewmapleton.org</u> website: <u>www.stmatthewmapleton.org</u> FB page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton

Rev. Christopher LaBoube (Pastor)

(712-840-1652)cell phone

Karen Krusen

Office Administrator Assistant (volunteer) (712) 881-2243-office phone

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Third Sunday in Lent 7 March 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA Acts 14:21-23 / Acts 1:15-26

Sermon Title: Pray for our Church (Submitting Church Decisions to God) Sermon Text: Acts 1:15-26

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

We continue our Lenten Season by digging into Scripture to see what it says about submitting to God in prayer. Today, I want us to look at two situations in the Book of Acts, in which the apostles prayed for specific things in their church. In other words, they submitted church decisions to God.

Our first reading is from Acts chapter 14: "²¹ When [Paul and Barnabas] had preached the gospel to [Lystra] and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed." (Acts 14:21-23)

Paul and Barnabas were traveling missionaries. Their specific work was to preach the Good News to many people and then to organize local congregations. In our text for today, we see that Paul and Barnabas were now going through and touching base with established congregations. Their hope was to "...strengthen the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

That last bit of Paul and Barnabas's work doesn't sound good. These two disciples reminded the believers then and reminds us today that "...*through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*"

We must endure through difficult times in order to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus never told us that following him would be easy peasy. He never promised that. Jesus never said that when you follow me everything will fall into your hands. No. We get to heaven by believing in Jesus Christ, and that journey to heaven will have troubles guaranteed.

So, the question begs to be asked—why believe in Jesus if my life is going to be full of trouble? Well, the best answer is if you believe in Jesus, then he says when you die, you'll go to heaven with him. If you don't believe in Jesus, then you won't go to heaven.

Just before Paul and Barnabas head off to their next destination, they set apart some leaders for the congregation. ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

They prayed about WHO should be the leaders—who should be the spiritual leaders of the congregation. They prayed and asked God, and God told them who to pick. Then, Paul and

Barnabas prayed for these elders to be God-fearing God-focused preachers and teachers of God's Word.

Then, we jump to Acts chapter one to see how Peter submitted himself to God in prayer—how he submitted church decisions to God in prayer.

⁽¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the [believers] (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ 'Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. ' ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language 'Akeldama,' that is, 'Field of Blood'.) ²⁰ 'For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it" (Ps. 69.25); and "Let another take his office." (Ps. 109.8)'" (Acts 1:15-20)

First, Peter talks about a situation in which one of the first disciples of Jesus turned bad. Judas had been invited to follow Jesus, and Judas accepted. Judas was one of the first disciples. Then, as time went on, Judas was tempted to do evil—to lead people to arrest Jesus—and much more. This is why Peter talks about how things went badly for Judas.

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Peter quotes Scripture to prove his point—to show the believers that God knew from the beginning of time that Judas would work hard to deceive the other apostles. God also knew what would happen to Judas. Scripture tells us: "¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out."

After Peter talks about Judas' demise, Peter goes on to explain the importance of submitting to God in prayer in every situation. Peter was giving the people examples of how to submit all church decisions to God in prayer.

⁽²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection. '" (Acts 1:21-22)

Peter and the other disciples are trying to find a man to replace Judas, after Judas died. There were originally 12 disciples, and so after Judas died, there were only eleven disciples. So, Peter and the other believers decided that they needed to find another man to replace Judas.

First, Peter says that the man, who will replace Judas, needs to be a man, who has been with the apostles throughout Jesus' ministry. "²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all

the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection. "" (Acts 1:21-22)

Basically, Peter is saying that when you need a new leader, you find someone who has some experience. You don't just take the first guy, who walks through the church doors and make him a leader. First, you need to pray about the potential leader. Pray and ask God to help you know who you should set apart as potential candidates.

After you prayed and asked God to help you know which men to set apart to be the potential leader, then Peter tells you what else needs done. "²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, 'You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:23-26)

After they prayed and asked God who they should consider to be the leader, Peter says that they should then pray specifically for those potential leaders. After Peter and the other believers prayed, then they cast the lot.

Casting the lot is a pretty simple process. You bring the two candidates to the front of the church, and then you pray and ask God to help you know who should be the next leader. Then, to cast the lot, you have a table with three hymnals on it. In one of the hymnals is a blank index card. The man, who picks the hymnal with the blank index card is the one, who will be the next leader. That's it.

When we submit to God in prayer—when we submit church decisions to God in prayer then we are living the way God wants us to live. When we come to God in prayer, then we are acknowledging that God knows what is best for our lives. God knows what is going on at our church right now. So when we submit to God in prayer, then we are trusting God through this process even when we don't know what to do—or what will happen in the future. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. Amen.

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

"SUBMITTING TO GOD IN PRAYER"



Lent 2021

Ash Wednesday, February 17— Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

The Lenten season is underway. Every worship service we look at a different person and how he submitted himself to God in prayer. Really, our whole lives should be about submitting to God in prayer in every situation.

In fact, this is what Confession and Absolution is all about. Confessing your sins acknowledging that you have said or did something against God and against someone else. Then, receiving God's gracious, life-giving forgiveness.

I want to encourage you to join us for as many of the worship services as you are able. Each worship service is an opportunity to receive from God all that he wants to give you.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Thursdays at 4 p.m.

Since the theme for our Lenten season is submitting to God in prayer, we're having a special worship time on Thursdays called "A Lenten Hymns and Prayer Service." During this service we will sing a lot of great Lenten hymns, and we'll also spend time praying. It will be a great opportunity to practice what we're studying.

I would also like to invite you to join us in the adult Bible class right after worship each Sunday. Christina is leading a study on the Book of James.

I know a lot of people, who don't want to attend the adult Bible class, and they give me a lot of reasons why they can't. I want to challenge you this Lenten season to attend every adult Bible class. It will be time well spent filling up with Jesus.

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." James 4:10



The Forty-Day Lenten Bible Reading Plan

Feb. 17 — March 27, 2021

Fort	Forty-Day Lenten				
Bible Reading Plan					
	Feb. 17March 27, 2021				
DAY	TOPIC				
1	Genesis 1-2				
2	Genesis 3				
$ \begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ \end{array} $	Gen. 15; 17:15-27				
4	Gen. 21:1-7, 22				
5	Exodus 3-4				
6	Exodus 20				
7	Joshua 1				
8	1 Samuel 16-17				
	1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9				
10	1 Kings 18				
11	2 Kings 25				
12	Daniel 2-3				
13	Ezra 3				
14	Isaiah 9, 53 & 61				
15	Luke 1-2				
16	John 1:1-18				
17	Matthew 4:14-44				
18	Matthew 5-6				
19	John 3				
20	John 5				
21	John 11				
22	John 15				
23	John 17				
24	Matthew 26-27				
25 John 20					



Forty-Day Lenten			
Bible Reading Plan			
Feb. 17March 27, 2021			
100.17			
DAY	TOPIC		
26	Luke 24		
27 Acts 2			
28 Acts 9			
29 Acts 16			
30 Acts 26			
31 Romans 3			
32 Romans 7-8			
33	1 Corinthians 13		
34	1 Corinthians 15		
35	Galatians 5		
36 Ephesians 6			
37 Phil. 1:18-2:18			
38 Col. 3:1-17			
39	James 1		
40	Rev. 21-22		

One way to prepare for Holy Week and finally Easter / Resurrection Sunday is to fast from one meal or for a whole day. You can then spend that time of fasting by praying and reading your Bible.

Lent is a season in the church year in which we take 40 days to prepare for the life, suffering, death AND resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus

PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:

<u>Color is everywhere</u>. 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

Purple

Purple, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is appropriately used during Lent and, still in many parishes, during the season of Advent. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer.

Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shell fish that secreted a special fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty.

Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, the Scriptures record they placed on him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule him and belittle the claim that he was a monarch.

Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

When it snows and church is canceled due to unfavorable conditions, we will publish it on St. Matthews Facebook page, KTIV channel 4, on NBC and on CBS on St. Matthews web page, everyone that has e-mail will receive an e-mail, if you want to be texted, you will have to give the office your cell phone number, if you preferred to be called let the office know your phone number (landline, or cell phone), you may call the church office, but please do not tell us on Sunday morning, this is our time to worship also. Please call the church office with this information or slip a note under our door, so we do not forget. Thank you.

Hot Beef Lunch is planned for Sunday, March, 21st from 11 am to 1 pm. Curbside service in front of the Beef & Brew, Sponsored by St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Phone orders need to be in by the 15th of March. Tickets will be sold at the back of the church and at different places around town.



Doesn't that sound great?! Spring, NO SNOW?! Starting March 13th Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday.

Jon T. Jacobson, age 44, of Mapleton, Iowa, passed away on Friday, February 26, 2021, at his residence of Mapleton, Iowa.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at the St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Mapleton, Iowa. Rev. Chris LaBoube officiated. Our sympathies and prayers go out to the family of Jon and may they find comfort in John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life, Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

	Week of Schedule 03-07 to 03-14		1
Mon (08)	Pastor's Family Day	NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
Tues	Board of Directors 6 pm	Sunday Giving 02-28-21	\$4,465.00
(09)	1	Sunday Communion 02-28-21	NA
Wed (10)	Confirmation Class 6 pm to 7 pm	Sunday Attendance 02-28-21	43
	Helping Hands, at 1:00 to 4 pm	Children in Church 02-28-21	4
	Lenten Service 7 pm	Visitors 02-28-21	3
pm	Lenten Hymn & Prayer Service at 4	Bible Class 02-28-21	14
	1	Wednesday Giving 03-03-21	\$580.00
Sun (14)	4th Sunday in Lent Church Services 9:30 am	Wednesday Attendance 03-03-21	8
	Bible Class 10:45 am	Thursday Attendance 03-04-21	9
	Sunday School 10:45 am	Sunday School 02-28-21	5

RAPTISMAI BIRTHDAV

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY		MM	BIRTHDAYS			
Name		Baptism	BAPTIZED	Name		Birthday
Brodersen	Montana	Mar 21, 2004	IN THE NAME OF THE ATHER	Bridgema	nKirk	Mar 07, 1980
Brodersen	Brayden	Mar 24, 2018	AND OF THE ON	Hamann	Kerensa	,
D	•	M 20 1049	PIRITS	Laboube	Rose	Mar 30, 2020
Dose	Carol	Mar 20, 1948		Lafrentz	Rita	Mar 17, 1945
Fick	Joan	Mar 27, 1945	We are listing	Meseck	Amy	Mar 28, 1973
Jahn	Dennis	Mar 9, 1947	Dantianal birth dava	Muckey	Dennis	Mar 31, 1950
Lyon	Barbara	Mar 29, 1952	Baptismal birthdays	Scott	Lin	Mar 27, 1946
		-	to remember and celebrate			
Ohlmeier	Mindi	Mar 24, 1985	the day we were			
Paulsen	Drake	Mar 14, 2015	adopted into the family o	of		
Pithan	Derek	Mar 17, 2013	God through the washing	3		
Schmidt	Troy	Mar 1, 2009	of the	G	od's Bless Birth	ings 80 +yr. days
Witzel	Lavone	Mar 13, 1959	Holy Spirit.			ar. 5, 1939 82

WEDDING AN	NNIVERSARY Go	ďs
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Jim and Frances Brodersen	Mar 12, 1964	57	_
Alan and Kris Dale	Mar 21, 1997	24	24
Lester and Donna Goslar	Mar 21, 1970	51	25
Bryan and Betsy Scheer	Mar 8, 2014	7	Ŷ

	First Name	Last Name	Age	Confirmation
NY	Melvin	Schrader	94	May 12, 1940
	Phyllis	Fick	92	Apr. 27, 1941
	Freda	Means	93	May 27, 1942
D	Deloris	Livermore	91	Apr. 25, 1943
	Ferne	Jacobson	90	Apr. 05, 1944
	George	Koithan	88	May 20, 1945
Confirmation	Ruth	Bruhn	88	Apr. 21, 1946
	John	Fick	88	May 19, 1946

They Stood firm in their faíth 75 yrs. and counting

Joan

Mar. 27. 1935

86

Fick

Faith Step: How does it make you feel to be part of Jesus's forever family? Pray and ask Him to help you to understand the truth.

Give the office a call or the Pastor	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	9

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 Lavonne Witzel Carol Dose Myrna Gosch

Selma Schrader Alan Bruhn

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman– Sue Oberg's sister; Ron Kraffle friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; 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 Sam Kelm

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

TristonTwedt (great-grandson of Alice and the late Keith Miller) serving with the Army @ Ft. Lewis, WA **Ryan Trucke** (son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson) serving with U.S. Air Force @ FE Warren AFB in Wyoming.

Jackie Cardwell (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen) serving U.S. Airforce @ Shepard Air Force Base, Burkburnett TX

Dirk Radke (great grandson of Fern and the late Bob Jacobson serving in the Navy

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

** indicates a new address

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

**<u>Delores Boysen</u> 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939 3903 S.W. Hollowbrook St.

Bentonville, AR 72712

<u>Delbert Kroll</u> 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933 Ring Street Mapleton IA 51034 404 1st St. Battle Creek, IA 51006

<u>Carol Dose</u> 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934 Sunrise Ave. Maple Heights Nursing Home

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928

Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living

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

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded Hold on, Jesus is with you, Never let go His hand.

Those on our prayer list:

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

Selma Schrader 21 Ohm Drive Mapleton, IA 51034

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

Tammy Bramley 42715 210th St. Ute, IA 51060

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

Alan Bruhn 14535 Walnut Ave Mapleton, IA 51034





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: <u>st. Matthew Lutheran Church Service</u> at 9:30 am every Sunday am at the church. <u>Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton</u>_Our services at 9:30 am every Sunday website: <u>www.stmatthewmapleton.org</u> – Our services posted weekly <u>Mission Central</u>... www.missioncentral.us Lutheran Family Service: www.lfsiowa.org WEB SITES: <u>Iowa District West</u>—www.idwlcms.org <u>Camp</u> <u>Okoboji</u> – <u>www.campokoboji.org</u>"THY STRONG WORD" is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) "THE LUTHERAN HOUR</u>" 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 <u>www.lhm.org</u> 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 <u>Lutheran Family Services</u>: wwwlofsiowa.org <u>MainStreet Living</u>— 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 God, Thank you for your extravagant love. Let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with it so we could experience what it is to be loved by you. Help us to live in your love and love others with your love. In Jesus' name, Amen