

03-27-2022 Fourth Sunday in Lent

"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**)

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CHRISTIANS

Together

 \mathbf{I}_{N}

OUTREACH

&

Nurture



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

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4th Sunday in Lent 27 March 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA Isaiah 12:1-6 / Psalm 32 / 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 / Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sermon Title: "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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

When you confess your sins, you are simply acknowledging what you have said or did against God and someone else, so that you can then see God's grace even clearer. When you confess your sins, God forgives you of your sins. God then shows you his grace, his mercy, his love for you.

Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be that easy. Admitting that you have said or done something against God and someone else is not what you usually want to do. We'd rather hold inside that wrong we've said or done and try to hide from any accusing stares.

But I can tell you from personal experience that "If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) In the past, I have asked another pastor if I could go through Confession and Absolution with him, and he would gladly lead me through that short service.

And after the pastor pronounced God's gracious forgiveness, I almost always felt like a huge weight had been lifted from my chest and shoulders. Receiving God's forgiveness made me feel like a million bucks.

In some sense, Paul is saying you experience the same thing after Jesus dies and gives you new life. "16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:16-17)

Contrary to what people think today—both Christians and non-Christians—there is no amount of "doing good" that can make you a "good person." Of course, if you get rid of Jesus, then none of this church stuff matters, and we should all go home, and eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.

But Jesus is as real as you and me. This is what Christians in centuries past have confessed and believed, and wrote down in the Athanasian Creed:

"28. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. 29. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: 30. Perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; 31. equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity. 32. Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: 33. One, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; 34. one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person."

It is this Jesus—this God-man—who is the core of our faith. This is the faith that has been passed down through the centuries, and written down for our learning and instruction. The Athanasian Creed continues:

"35. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, 36. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, 37. Ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead."

Jesus did this, because he loves you, me and all people. Jesus became a man like you and me in order to live exactly as you and I live. Jesus became a man in order to fulfill the Law of Moses given by God our Heavenly Father. The Law of Moses says that you have to do exactly what God asks of you.

From the Prophet Ezekiel: "Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4) From James: "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it." (James 2:10) And from Matthew: "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

The Law of Moses is what God expects of us—what we are supposed to do. The only purpose of the Law is to kill and destroy. The Law shows us that we are in a desperate situation and need all the help we can get.

This is how Paul summarizes the Law the Gospel: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24)

This is why Jesus came to live as you and me and all people. Jesus came to in order to give us opportunity to confess our sins and receive God's gracious forgiveness. Jesus then died on a cross in order to give you, me and all believers a new life in Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Without Jesus—outside of Jesus—there is no hope. You are only living for today. Without Jesus life is temporary and fleeting. As an example of how temporary and fleeting our lives can be, the Prophet Isaiah compares our lives to grass.

"All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40:6b-8)

Comparing our lives to grass can sound demeaning. Comparing our lives to grass sounds completely contrary to our common thinking that as long as you work hard and pull yourself up by your bootstraps, you'll succeed.

But that is not how God thinks. God's ways and thoughts are completely opposite the way you and I think and act. We are made new in the sight of God our Heavenly Father by the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are made new because of what Jesus has done for you "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." We are new creatures because of the person and work of Jesus Christ. And we are made new creatures, because of how

much God loves you and me and all people.

"¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

God our Heavenly Father reconciled us to himself after our first parents sinned against God and against each other. God our Heavenly Father allowed his one-and-only-begotten Son, Jesus to be the ultimate sacrifice to take away your sins, my sins and the sins of the whole.

This is what John writes in his Gospel: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

God the Father desires to be in relationship with you, with me, and with all people which is why God the Father went to such extremes to reconcile our broken relationship—a relationship that was broken by sin coming into this world. "...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

As soon as you realize that you have said or done something against God and against someone else, God says he will forgive you of your sins. That's it! No questions asked. Confess your sins and then receive God's gracious forgiveness.

And God tells us in our text from Second Corinthians chapter five that God reconciled us to himself through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Then, God the Father tells us that he gave us the same opportunity to reconcile with others: "...and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

God gives us the opportunity to reconcile with other Christians and with non-Christians. After all, God loved you and me and all people while you, me and all people were still sinners in God's eyes. God then reconciled our broken relationship and restored us—making us whole and holy in his eyes.

Once God reconciled us to himself, he then gave us the "message of reconciliation" so that we can reconcile with others. Now, granted, it might seem easy for God the Father to reconcile with us, but it might be very difficult for you, me and everyone to reconcile with others.

And yet, it is easy—with the help of God Almighty. God gives us his Holy Word—to teach and guide us in the way we should go. God had all kinds of events written down in the Bible for our learning and instruction so that we could know God more.

Trying to reconcile on your own might be hard, but with God all things are possible. How? Pray and ask God to help you to forgive that person, who has hurt you. Pray and ask God to help you to pray for that person. Pray and ask God to bless that person.

It is possible to reconcile with someone else, but it only happens by the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. God the Father loved the world so much that he allowed his one-and-only-begotten Son, Jesus to die for you, to die for me, to die for all people, so that you, me and all people will have eternal life.

"²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Paul concludes this portion of our text for today by encouraging you to seek God. Pray and confess your sins, and then receive God's gracious forgiveness. Pray and ask God to help you to reconcile with someone, who has hurt you.

You are able to do this by the work of the Holy Spirit in you. You are able to do this because God gave you an example to follow. God gave us Jesus so that we can go to heaven when we die. God gave us his grace, his mercy and his love, because he so intently desires to be in relationship with you for all eternity.

Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come and enjoy a wonderful **Easter Breakfast**. Our Elders are serving the meal after church in the church basement. Free-will offering.

PICK A HYMN: If you have a favorite Lenten Hymn you would like to hear this Lenten season please contact the church. We will try to play your choice at four services that month.

<u>Rita Lafrentz</u> picked the Lenten hymns 440 Jesus I will Ponder Now and 419 Savior When in Dust To Thee, look for them in the future to be song. Thank you Rita for participating.

A big thank you to the ladies that have participated so far: Ruth Bruhn, Kay Johnson, Alice Miller, and Rita Lafrentz.

Reminder: When you bring clothes for Finders Keepers no boxes, only clean clothes no tore or stained. Thank you. Remember proceeds go to our 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

Elders	C= communion		
Sunday	03-27-22	Mark Witzel	760-500-8902
Mid week	03-30-22	Jeff Krusen	712-840-9821

Lay Readers	C= communion		
Sunday	03-27-22	Mark Witzel	760-500-8902
Mid week	03-30-22	Mark Witzel	760-500-8902

Screens	C= communion		
Sunday	03-27-22	Joe Hogan	712-420-0775
Mid week	03-30-22	Dennis Muckey	712-840-6914



March

Beloved let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Altar	Guild
Sarah Schmidt	Mardella
712-880-2412	Vandervanter 515-890-2226

SPECIAL ASCENSION SERVICE AT MISSION CENTRAL ON MAY 26TH, 2022 WITH A MEAL AT 5:00PM – WORSHIP AT 6:30PM AND SPECIAL BIBLE STUDY AT 3:00PM!



WANTED

A GREAT NUMBER OF "NOT NORMAL" PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT AT MISSION CENTRAL!

What a JOY and blessing to have the privilege of having Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer as our guest speaker for the Ascension Worship Service at Mission Central on May 26th, 2022! A wonderful meal will be provided at no cost, and then Rev. Meyer will have a very, very special message for everyone. Dr. Meyer is an excellent speaker, and is known around the world for his time as speaker for the Lutheran Hour and was President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri for many years. Rev. Meyer will be also providing a special TWO HOUR SPECIAL BIBLE CLASS AT MISSION CENTRAL BEFORE THE MEAL, AND THAT WILL BEGIN AT 3:00PM. Please mark your calendar for these special events at the world famous Mission Central just 2 miles east of Mapleton, Iowa. It will change your life and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear this amazing man of God!

LENTEN 2022		
Bible Reading Plan		
March 2April 16		
Date Psalm John		
Wed, 3-2	42	1
3/3/2022	43	2
4/3/2022	44	3
5/3/2022	45	4
Sun, 3-6	FREE	FREE
7/3/2022	46	5
8/3/2022	47	6
Wed, 3-9	48	7
10/3/2022	49	8
11/3/2022	50	9
12/3/2022	51	10
Sun, 3-13	FREE	FREE
03-14-22	52	11
03-15-22	53	12
Wed, 3-16	54	13
03-17-22	55	14
03-18-22	56	15
03-19-22	57	16
Sun, 3-20	FREE	FREE
03-21-22	58	17
03-22-22	59	18
Wed, 3-23	60	19
03-24-22	61	20
03-25-22	62	21
03-26-22	63	1-2
Sun, 3-27	FREE	FREE
03-28-22	64	3-4
03-29-22	65	5





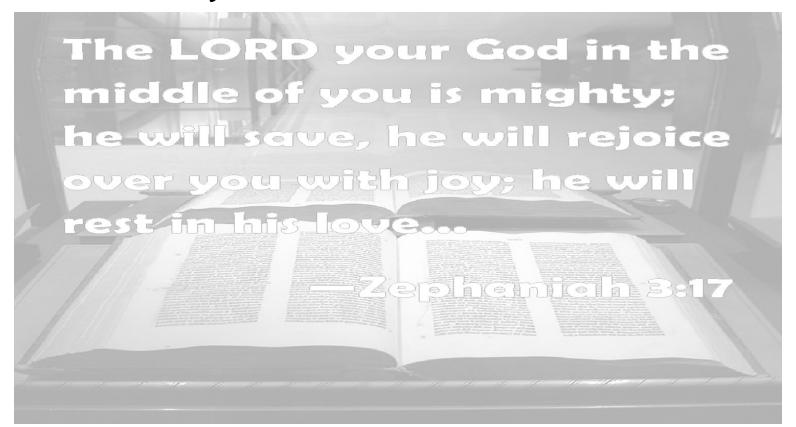
LENTEN 2022		
Bible Reading Plan		
March 2April 16		
Date	Psalm	John
Wed, 3-30	66	6
03-31-22	67	7
1/4/2022	68	8
2/4/2022	69	9
Sun, 4-3	FREE	FREE
4/4/2022	70	10
5/4/2022	71	11
Wed, 4-6	72	12
7/4/2022	73	13
8/4/2022	74	14
9/4/2022	75	15
Sun, 4-10	FREE	FREE
11/4/2022	76	16
12/4/2022	77	17
04-13-22	78	18
04-14-22	79	19
04-15-22	80	20
04-16-22	81	21

This Lenten Season we're going to look at the different people, who interacted with Jesus. Some of the people had good motives and some people had evil motives. Join us as we check out the Witnesses to Christ.

** Resurrection Sunday **

Please Give the office a call
or the Pastor
Before going to hospital
Private communion
Address or name changes
Death in the family
Birth of your baby
Making wedding plans

LCMS Memory verse of: Week of March 27, 2022





Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Church offering 03-20-22	\$1,005.00
Church offering 03-23-22	\$680.00
Children's offering	\$2.00
Card Money	\$13.00
Church attendance 03-20-22	54
Church attendance 03-23-22	13
Bible Class 03-20-22	10
Sunday School 03-20-22	4

Pastors Family Day
Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Helping Hands 1-4 pm Lenten Services 7pm Elder: Jeff Krusen Reader: Mark Witzel
5th Sunday in Lent Services 9:30 am Elder: Jeff Krusen Reader: Joe Hogan Screens: Mark Witzel Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Week of Schedule 03-28 to 04-03

8

God's Name





THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. (Exodus 20:7)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)

FOR SHARING

- 1. "Names are everything," wrote Oscar Wilde. In what ways do names—first, middle, and last names—give us a sense of identity and purpose?
- 2. How do people misuse God's name today? Why do you think people misuse God's name?
- 3. From eternity, the name planned for the Messiah was Jesus, Immanuel (Matthew 1:21, 23). What does it mean for you that Jesus was "God with us" at Calvary? What does it mean for your eternal destiny?
- 4. God's name—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was placed on us in Baptism (Matthew 28:19). How does His name shape our identity in the world? How does our Baptism into the triune God strengthen us for daily service?
- 5. Which name for God best reminds you of His goodness to you today?

PRAYER Gracious God, remind me every day that I am baptized in Your name. Help me to use Your name respectfully and faithfully in all that I say, think, and do. Strengthen me with Your Spirit so that my name as "Christian" will give honor to You. Amen.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Delores	Boysen	Mar 05, 1939
Kirk	Bridgeman	Mar 07, 1980
Alicia	Burns	Mar 07, 1980
Christopher	Creswell	Mar 30, 1989
Michael	Creswell	Mar 16, 1984
Jennifer	Engelke	Mar 02, 1975
Megan	Frehse	Mar 31, 1982
Randy	Gosch	Mar 18, 1961
Terrance	Gray	Mar 23, 1999
Kerensa	Hamann	Mar 10, 2014
Brandon	Jacobson	Mar 10, 1980
Brandon	Krusen	Mar 20, 2000
Rose	Laboube	Mar 30, 2020
Rita	Lafrentz	Mar 17, 1945
Ashton	Lichtenberg	Mar 22, 2001
Mark	Livermore	Mar 03, 1964
Amy	Meseck	Mar 28, 1973
Daniel	Miller	Mar 22, 1958
Dennis	Muckey	Mar 31, 1950
Steve	Oberg	Mar 09, 1961
Caleb	Rickert	Mar 26, 2009
Patty	Sanderson	Mar 15, 1969
Kathryn	Schiltz	Mar 28, 1967
Lin	Scott	Mar 27, 1946
Michael	Smith	Mar 16, 1984
Jolene	Uhl	Mar 27, 1959

80 + Birthday God's Blessings

Joan	Fick	Mar 27, 1935	87
Delores	Boysen	Mar 05, 1939	83

In His Footsteps:
Faith is a gift from
God that will sustain
you and give you inner
peace and love and
this is priceless.
Show it to others.

MARCH BAPTISMS

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.

IN THE NAME OF THE THER

27, 1949
24, 2018
21, 2004
30, 1980
20, 1948
27, 1945
30, 1961
15, 1998
04, 1962
18, 1960
30, 1980
09, 1947
25, 1951
28, 1954
24, 1957
24, 1980
29, 1952
24, 1985
14, 2015
17, 2013
30, 1986
06, 1985
01, 2009
19, 1989
12, 1994
13, 1977

God's Blessings on your



Alan and Kris Dale	Mar 21, 1997 25 yrs.
Lester and Donna Goslar	Mar 21, 1970 52 yrs .
Bryan and Betsy Scheer	Mar 8, 2014 8 yrs.
Toni and Krista Elmquist	Mar 5, 1988 34 yrs.

Walk in Love Be Kind to one another

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)

FRAYER 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 Alan Bruhn

Carol Dose Fred Fletcher Myrna Gosch

Selma 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 nice of Judy & Gary Kuehl; Beth Weber, cousin of Dean and Ramona Weber:

Those who serve in the military:

TristonTwedt (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 FÈ Warren AFB in Wyoming (wife and child are here). Ryan is at this address: Prince Sultan AFB, Saudia Arabia 378EČEF-CEÒIU Unit 61362 APO, ÁE 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,

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. Our prayer List

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

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

<u>Selma Schrader</u> 92 yrs. Nov. 12,

1929

21 Ohm Drive

Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 89 yrs. Sept. 2,1932

Sunrise Ave.

Maple Heights Nursing Home

51034

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



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



LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS B READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: **Mission Central...** www.missioncentral.us **Lutheran Family** Service: www.lfsiowa.org **WEB SITES:** <u>Iowa District West</u>—www.idwlcms.org <u>Camp Okoboji</u> – www.campokoboji.org"THY STRONG WORD" is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 a 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 <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 broad cast 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 everlasting 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