



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

May 2, 2021

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

ACTIVE

CHRISTIANS

TOGETHER

IN

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

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

Rev. Christopher LaBoube (Pastor)

(712-840-1652)cell phone

Karen Krusen

*Office Administrator Assistant
(volunteer)*

(712) 881-2243-office phone

(712) 840-9059 cell phone



5th Sunday of Easter
2 May 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Acts 8:26–40 / Psalm 150 / 1 John 4:1–11 (12–21) / John 15:1–8

Sermon Title: “*Whoever abides in [Jesus]...bears much fruit.*”
Sermon Text: John 15:1-8

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

Our text for today highlights our relationship with God our Heavenly Father. We become children of God through the work of the Holy Spirit. This is what it says in *Luther’s Small Catechism* in the meaning of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed:

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.”

Just as we talked about last week with Jesus being the Good Shepherd, we see again how Jesus calls us out of spiritual darkness into God’s glorious light through the work of the Holy Spirit. “*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*” (John 15:1-3)

Jesus says that he is the true vine. He is the parent plant. All source of life flows through Jesus as the true vine. Just as a tomato a pepper pulls nutrients from the parent plant, Jesus is the only source of eternal life for all who believe in him. There is no other way to get to heaven than through Jesus.

After Jesus tells us that he is the true vine—and that all of us, who confess that Jesus is Lord—we are the branches. We are attached to Jesus. Just as we talked about last week, if you aren’t owned by Jesus then you’re owned by the devil. When we are owned by Jesus, our source of life comes from him.

**** NEXT SLIDE ****

Then, Jesus points out that God our Heavenly Father is the vine dresser. God our Father is the one taking care of all of us. “*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*”

Jesus doesn’t mince words. Right away he points out that as the vine grows, some branches will not bear fruit. Some of the branches will bear a little fruit. And God the Father prunes—he cuts off—some of the branches for a variety of reasons.

One reason that God the Father cuts off some branches is because they are not producing any fruit. So, in order to help the vine plant to grow healthy and stronger branches, he cuts off the

unproductive branches. God the Father also cuts off some parts of the productive branches so that they can produce even more fruit.

And we are those branches. Some of us get cut off from the vine plant, because we're not producing any fruit. We're just hanging on to the vine doing nothing. We're hanging on to Jesus doing nothing. Some of us get trimmed, because God the Father sees lots of potential in us and he wants to prune us so that we can grow even more in our faith in him and in fervent love towards one another.

³ *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*” (John 15:1-3) We are made clean and holy, because of the work of Jesus—because of his sacrificial death and resurrection. We are made clean and holy, because the Holy Spirit continues to nurture our faith on a regular basis.

This is what Jesus encourages us to do in our Gospel lesson. ⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.* ⁵ *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*” (John 15:4-5)

Again, Jesus points out that the branch is really nothing without the vine. The branch cannot produce fruit by itself. The branch NEEDS the vine in order to be productive. The same goes for you and me. We NEED Jesus in order to live, and move and have our being. We NEED Jesus in order to draw our strength from each day.

**** NEXT SLIDE ****

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.* ⁵ *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*” (John 15:4-5)

When you ABIDE in Jesus—when you are CONNECTED to Jesus—then you will produce much fruit. Tomatoes only grow when they draw nutrients from the tomato plant. We only grow in the grace and knowledge of what Jesus has done for us when we read or listen to God's Word daily—when we fill up with Jesus daily.

When we don't fill up with Jesus—when we become DISCONNECTED to Jesus, wither and eventually die. Just as that tomato will wither and die if I cut off the branch that it's on, you and I will spiritually die if we cut ourselves off from Jesus the Vine.

“*Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*” The last part of this verse is important. “*...for apart from me you can do nothing.*” Without Jesus you and I are nothing. With Jesus we are chosen and honored—we are precious in God the Father's eyes.

This is what we confess and mean in the Apostles' Creed, the Third Article: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”

It is God the Holy Spirit, who creates faith in us. It is God the Holy Spirit, who nurtures out faith in us so that we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. You can't come to Jesus on your own, but the Holy Spirit calls you to himself.

This is what he talked about last week. Jesus as the Good Shepherd calls us to himself, because he loves us so much. Jesus WANTS you to be with him for all eternity. Jesus DESIRES to have a deep, lasting relationship with him.

Jesus shows us his love by dying on that cross over two thousand twenty-one years ago. Jesus sacrificed himself for you and for me. We see this same sacrifice when God the Father prunes us—trims us up—so that MORE FRUIT will be produced in us.

Hebrews chapter twelve talks about how pruning—how discipline—is overall beneficial to us, even when the pruning—the disciplining—hurts right away. *“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”* (Hebrews 12:11)

The author of Hebrews also points out that when your parents discipline you, it is for your good—even if you don’t like the immediate discipline. *“For [our fathers] disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but [God] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.”* (Hebrews 12:10)

God the Father disciplines us—he prunes so—so that we can grow more in the grace and knowledge of what Jesus has done for us through his death and resurrection. Jesus points out that if you don’t abide in him, then you’re nothing—you’re just ready for the burn pile.

**** NEXT SLIDE ****

“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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” (John 15:6-8)

When you stop abiding in Jesus, then you’re starving yourself. When you withdraw from the community of believers—the fellowship of the saints—then you’re hurting yourself. Oh, sure, you might think that you’re just fine not gathering with other Christians to receive from God all that he wants to give you, but you are spiritually hurting yourself.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Some people neglect to meet together, because they don’t like other Christians in the church. Some people neglect to meet together, because they don’t like the pastor. Some people neglect to meet together, because they think that they know what is best for their personal lives.

“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Sadly, when people neglect to meet together, Scripture tells us clearly that those people are only hurting themselves. As the pastor, I can’t make those people come to church. In fact, I can’t make anyone come to church. Nor can the elders make anyone come to church. We encourage people to join us for worship. If they neglect to meet together with us, that is their decision.

⁶ 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” (John 15:1-8)

This is why it’s so important to fill up with Jesus—so that you will abide in Jesus—you will be CONNECTED to Jesus. And when you abide in Jesus—when you are connected to Jesus, then

you produce more fruit. And other people will see that good fruit—those good deeds—and will glorify God our Heavenly Father.

**** NEXT SLIDE ****

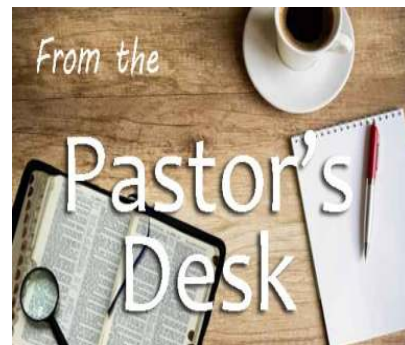
⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” Another way to look at this is found in John’s Gospel:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

As a disciple of Jesus, you desire—you are driven—to know more about your teacher Jesus. As a disciple, you really want to live the way God says in the Bible. You truly want to follow the Two Greatest Commandments—Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself.

And you are able to live out the Two Greatest Commandments—Love God and love your neighbor as yourself when you ABIDE in Jesus—when you are CONNECTED to Jesus. *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.”* (Isaiah 55:6) Amen.

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



Eight Tests for Decision Making

“Walk as children of the light....and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”
(Ephesians 5:8, 10)

Scriptural Test—Has God already spoken about it in his Word? *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”* (2 Timothy 3:16)

Secrecy Test—Would it bother me if everyone knew this was my choice? *“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.”* (Proverbs 11:3)



THE APOSTLES' CREED—THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in ... the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

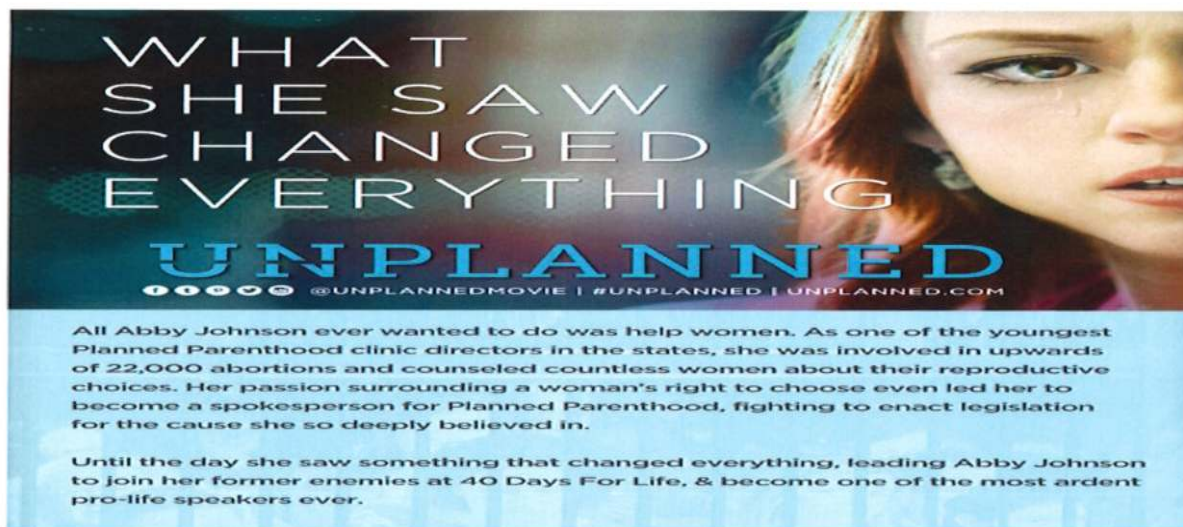
We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

FOR SHARING

1. What false ideas about life after death are common in our day?
2. Eternal life, Jesus assures us, is ours from the moment we believe in Him (John 5:24). Yet we still live in a sinful world and carry around our sinful nature. As you trust and live for Christ, what challenges and obstacles do you experience?
3. To what do you most look forward when you think about the "Last Day"?
4. Jesus' resurrection assures us that we will be raised to life when He returns in glory. In what ways does His victory over sin, death, and Satan give you hope for the future for eternity?
5. God gives eternal life in Christ to all who believe and are baptized. How can you celebrate eternal life *now*?

PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, I thank You that You have chosen me to be Your child. Bless me with the ability to properly use the wonderful gift of eternal life. Help me to trust in Your promise of salvation through Christ. Encourage me to share this precious gift with family, friends, and everyone I meet. Help me to appreciate this gift and to look forward to the Last Day when I shall fully enjoy eternal life with You, my Father. Amen.



**FREE MOVIE!!! – “UNPLANNED”
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 at 7 p.m.**

Abby Johnson's True Pro-Life Story
Sponsor: Crawford County Right to Life
Audience: Youth and Adults
Where: Our Savior Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Denison
Rating: Rated R because of some disturbing/bloody images—
 please see the official website for more information on this rating.
Contact Information: 712-263-5579

Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Sunday Giving 04-25-21	\$1,130.00
Sunday attendance 04-25-21	38
Children in Church 04-25-21	1
Visitors 04-25-21	2
Bible Class 04-25-21	NA
Sunday School 04-25-21	NA

	Week of Schedule 05-03 to 05-09
Mon (3)	Pastor's Family Day
Tues (4)	Board of Elders 7 pm
Wed (5)	Helping Hands, at 1:00 to 4 pm
Thurs (6)	In The Word 1:30 pm
Sun (9)	6th Sunday of Easter Services 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am

Jesus is inviting you.

***Gathered around
Jesus***

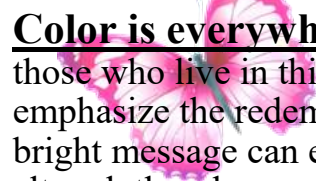
Bible Class in the basement. Come and find out what it is all about.

Everyone is welcome.

In His Footsteps: God is kind, and understanding, He loves us, all of us, everyone, and he forgives all that we have done. We should

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

PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:



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

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received. Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and his church, retold annually by the church calendar.

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

White

White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

Delores Boysen	May 7, 1939
Tasha Bridgman	May 22, 1994
Brian Brown	May 6, 1962
Alan Dale	May 13, 1995
Darlene Dose	May 20, 1934
Les Goslar	May 9, 1948
Darren Goslar	May 27, 1983
Zola Kafton	May 16, 1943
Taya Ohlmeier	May 3, 2009
Kathy Wunschel	May 18, 1958



We are listing
Baptismal birth-
days
to remember and
celebrate the day
we were
adopted into the
family of God

BIRTHDAYS

Name	Birthday
Evan Bruhn	May 15, 1969
Mark Greiner	May 14, 1954
Joe Krusen	May 09, 1983
Christopher LaBoube	May 15, 1973
Shawn Ohlmeier	May 06, 1982
Tyler Ohlmeier	May 11, 2004
Dawn Paulsen	May 16, 1968
Chelsey Paulsen	May 13, 2007
Betsy Scheer	May 11, 1989
Sarah Schmidt	May 02, 1981
Mark Witzel	May 04, 1959
Russell Wray	May 13, 1957



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

*They Stood firm in their faith
75 yrs. and counting*

80 + yr. Birthday God's Blessings

Ferne Jacobson	May 02, 1930	91
Richard Johnson	May 30, 1934	87
Deloris Livermore	May 05, 1929	92
Hans Witzel	May 15, 1935	86



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY God's Blessings

David and Belinda Bartels	May 15, 1970	51
Larry and Shelly Boyle	May 26, 1984	37
John and Joan Fick	May 27, 1956	65
Joseph and Marla Hogan	May 14, 2004	17
Wayne and Zola Kafton	May 5, 1963	58
Kenneth and Susan Krueger	May 11, 1973	48

Confirmation Class

Confirmed on May 16, 2021

1. Marley Scott	833 Main St.	Mapleton, IA 51034
	Birthday 08-10-08	Baptized 02-25-08
2. Trista Ohlmeier	204 S. Chamberlain	Mapleton, IA 51034
	Birthday 11-28-06	Baptized 12-19-06
3. Chelsey Paulsen	12396 Teak Ave	Mapleton, IA 51034
	Birthday 05-13-07	Baptized 11-11-18

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
Myrna Gosch

Carol Dose
Mavis Skow

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; ; **Cheri Moe**, niece of Dorothy Wessling. **Jerri Haindfield** 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 @ 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

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

George Koithan 89 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932
1726 Marcella Heights
Carroll, IA 51040

Delores Boysen 82 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
3903 S.W. Hollowbrook St.
Bentonville, AR 72712

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933
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

** indicates a new address

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

Alan Bruhn
14535 Walnut Ave
Mapleton, IA 51034

Mavis Skow
102 North 6th Apt #1
Mapleton, IA 51034

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



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



Dear Lord,

I know that Love works in ways that are wondrous and strange there is nothing in life that it can not change. I know that you promised and someday will come true when we love one another the way you loved us. Amen.