



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

May 30, 2021

Holy Trinity Sunday

"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

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Holy Trinity Sunday
30 May 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Isaiah 6:1–8 / Psalm 29 / Acts 2:14a, 22–36 / John 3:1–17

Sermon Title: God the Father sent Jesus to save us from going to Hell
Sermon Text: John 3:1-17



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

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. It’s the second Sunday of the Pentecost Season in the Church Year Calendar. The Pentecost Season is the longest season in the church year, and the focus of this season is the growth of the church.

The church grows where the Word of God is preached and taught in its truth and purity. The church grows where God the Holy Spirit works creating and nurturing faith in all, who confess that Jesus is Lord. This is what we talked a little bit last week when we talked about the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit grows the church through the Word of God and through the Sacraments.

As the church grows, some believers will be tested and tried. Some individuals and congregations will struggle—they will fight and tear one another apart. Some congregations will water down the Gospel message and will say things that will appeal to everyone—even saying things that are contrary to the truths of God’s Word.

Holy Trinity Sunday is the day in the Church Year Calendar that we highlight the Trinity, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is a key point of the Christian faith which means that the Trinity can also be a bone of contention.

The Trinity is actually a sore spot for some people, who claim to believe in Jesus. Some people, who call themselves Christian, deny that the Trinity exists. Just because I say that the God doesn’t exist, doesn’t mean it’s true. Just because I say that the world began with a random explosion doesn’t mean that statement is true.

There are groups of people today, who say that they are Christians, but they deny that the Bible teaches about the Trinity. This is one of those times that it’s important to know the truth from the Bible and not the truth from Facebook or Instagram. When you know the truth from the Bible, you will know how to live and respond to people when they say things like—the earth started by a Big Bang—or that people can be any gender they want.

The Trinity as a source of contention for some people centuries ago, which is why the church at that time eventually drafted the Athanasian Creed. This is that really long creed in which half of the creed focuses on the Triune God. Here’s a small part of the Athanasian Creed: “And the catholic faith—this means the universal Christian faith—is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance....but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshipped.” (#3-4, 25)

Even in the days when Jesus walked on this earth, there were all kinds of people—including

Jewish religious leaders—who claimed to believe in God, and yet denied his power—his mercy—his grace. Some of these people did not believe in the Trinity. This is why we see events like the one recorded in our Gospel lesson today.

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus (John 7:50; 19:39), a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’” (John 3:1-2)

One of things I really like about the Scriptures is how true and real the events are recorded. This text talks about a religious leader—one of the most highly-respected religious leaders in that day—a Pharisee. Pharisees often get a bad rap—and there are good reasons for that. But let’s remember that every one of us can live and act like a Pharisee—someone, who claims that the way to God is through working hard to do exactly what God has written in the Bible.

The one thing that the Pharisees lacked was love. They worked so hard to live exactly according to what is written in the first five books of the Old Testament that they didn’t know how to show care and compassion towards other people.

Jesus even brings this point up in one conversation he had: *“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13; Hosea 6:6)* Jesus wants people to know the truth from the Bible, and then to LIVE OUT that truth. Jesus knew that the main problem with the pharisees is that they lacked showing mercy to one another. Of course, this leads us to the Second Greatest Commandment—love your neighbor as yourself—which the pharisees didn’t do.

So, in our Gospel lesson today, Jesus is talking to one of the Pharisees, who we quickly learn believes in Jesus as the Son of God Most High. I like that the Scriptures highlight this one Pharisee, which tells us that the Gospel penetrates the hearts of all people no matter who they are—their status in society—their economic status—their social circles. All throughout Scriptures we see how God’s Word causes some people—even people, who don’t seem likely to accept the Gospel—to turn to the One True God found in the person of Jesus Christ.

This particular Pharisee is named Nicodemus. He visits Jesus at night, because he doesn’t want other people see him visiting with the Savior of the Nations, Jesus. Nicodemus gets right to the heart of his questions about Jesus. *‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’”*

In Jewish thinking, God only looked favorably upon people, who did good things—who obeyed his Laws. Jesus jumps right into this conversation, knowing this is another opportunity for him to share the truth of God’s Word with Nicodemus, who believes that Jesus IS the Messiah promised since the foundation of the world.

“³ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” (John 3:3-6)

Jesus jumps right to his main point: *“...unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* In other words, until your heart has been changed by God the Holy Spirit, you cannot get to heaven. You cannot get to heaven unless you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord.

You cannot live as a sinner and then expect God to simply overlook your sinful ways, thoughts and deeds. On the contrary, God tells us in the Prophet Ezekiel that if you are a sinner, and you turn away from your sinful deeds, thoughts and actions, then you will be saved. You will definitely go to heaven.

But the Prophet Ezekiel also points out that if you have been a “good person” and did “good deeds”, but then you started doing evil deeds and became a “bad person”, God says that your previous “good deeds” meant nothing and you will go to hell when you die.

In addition to Jesus pointing out to Nicodemus that you cannot get to heaven without the Holy Spirit changing your heart—convicting you of your sins and then reminding you of God’s forgiveness—Jesus points out the importance of baptism: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”*

This is what the Small Catechism explains about Baptism: the Second Part: *“What benefits does Baptism give?* It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. *Which are these words and promises of God?* Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” **[Mark 16:16]**

“⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” And how are you “...born of water and the Spirit,”?

You are born of water and the Spirit through your baptism—and through the work of God the Holy Spirit in your life. When you are baptized, you are given the Holy Spirit. When you are baptized, then you are brought out of spiritual darkness and into God’s glorious, life-giving light.

“⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” All babies are born the same way—from a mom and a dad, who are descendants of Adam and Eve—made of flesh and blood—flesh that will deteriorate over time—flesh that will eventually die. We are all born into sin and in sin did our mothers conceive us. Flesh can only give birth to flesh. Flesh cannot give birth to the Spirit.

This is why it is so important to be baptized. Baptism “works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.” *Which are these words and promises of God?* Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Who-ever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” **[Mark 16:16]**

Jesus continues the conversation with Nicodemus: *“⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?’”* (John 3:7-10)

Jesus points out that people being brought out of spiritual darkness into God’s glorious, life-giving light happens only by the work of the Holy Spirit in you. We talked about this last week when we talked about the different tasks of God the Holy Spirit.

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

⁸ *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*” When you read or listen to the Bible, then you are equipping yourself with the tools to grow in your faith. And it is the Holy Spirit, who creates faith in you. The Holy Spirit nurtures that faith—helps you grow in your faith. The Holy Spirit sanctifies you—sets you apart as children of God. The Holy Spirit keeps you in the one true faith found in the Bible.

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20) You became a child of God, when the Holy Spirit called you out of spiritual darkness and led you into God’s glorious light. Of course, you can also reject the prompting of the Holy Spirit to walk toward the light of Christ.

“Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?’ I love this part of the event. Here Jesus is basically saying to Nicodemus—you are a Pharisee, one of the best of the best religious leaders in all of Judaism—and yet this simple, biblical idea that you have to simply believe in God in order to get to heaven, is a stumbling block.

“¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” (John 3:11-15)

Jesus points out that the rest of the pharisees—and many people today—don’t believe that Jesus is the Messiah. He says: *¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?* This same thing happens today.

There are a lot of people, who will basically say that they will only believe in the things that they can see—or things that someone else has convinced them are true. For example, some people claim that the world is billions of years old or that all humans and animals evolved from microscopic organisms.

If you think that the planet Earth started from a Big Bang, and that our planet has existed for hundreds of thousands of years, and that all people and animals evolved to where we are today, then all those ideas would be false. And yet, some people have convinced themselves that these statements are true, which they are not.

But when you start with the Bible as the only authoritative source of truth, then you will know that the world did not come into existence by a Big Bang. Instead in Genesis chapters one and two, you’ll see that God the Father created the entire world—including us humans and animals—in seven days—the first actual seven days of time.

Jesus continues his discussion with Nicodemus: *“¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”* (John 3:16-18)

Here Jesus continues teaching Nicodemus the truth from the Bible—that you can only get to

heaven by believing in the One True God Jesus Christ, and that you get to heaven when God the Holy Spirit changes your heart and mind to stop thinking the ways of the world and to think the ways of God.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)

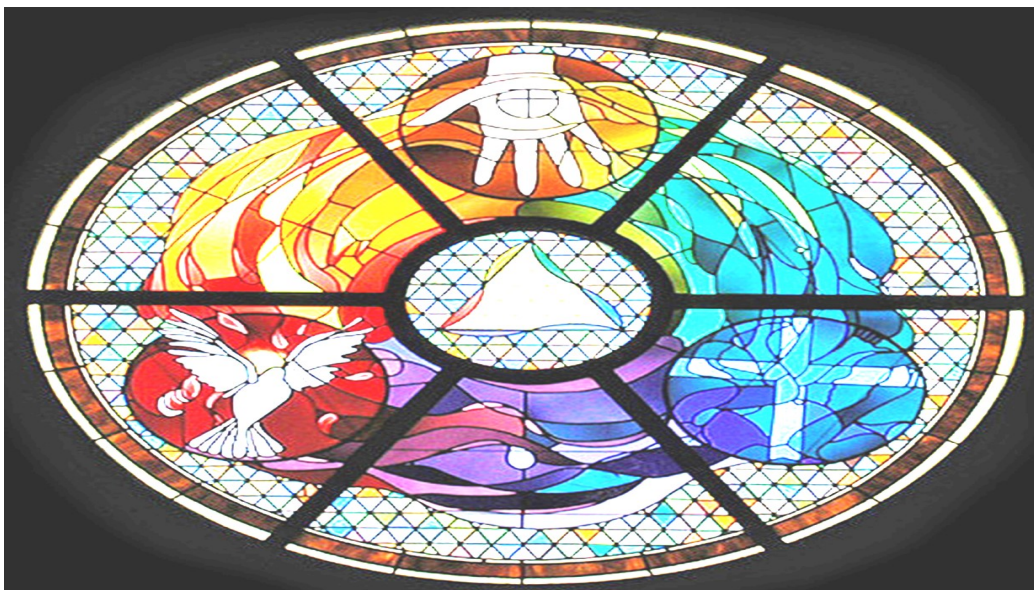
Verse 16 is one of the most popular and well-known verses in the Bible, but it’s also important to know verses 17 and 18: Verse 17: *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* And verse 18: *¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”* (John 3:17-18)

God the Father sent Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, into this world to save us from going to hell. Without Jesus hell is your confirmed destination. With Jesus, you will go to heaven. *¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”* (John 3:16-18)

The main point that Jesus wants Nicodemus—and all of you—to remember is how much God the Father loved Nicodemus and all the Jews and every single person on this planet. God the Father showed his love for you and the entire population of this planet by sending Jesus to live the same life as you—to suffer and die a horrible death—to then be raised to new life three days later.

God the Father allowed his one- and only-begotten Son, Jesus, to suffer, die and rise again for YOU so that you and me and all believers will know for a fact that the Word of God is true and that this truth WILL set you free to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God our Heavenly Father. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

Holy Trinity Sunday





Back to the Basics A Review of our Christian Faith June—August 2021



This summer I want us to get back to the basics. We're going to use *Luther's Small Catechism* as the outline for our weekly sermons and Bible studies.

Now, this may seem too elementary, but the information is still valuable. Martin Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* as a resource for parents to teach their children the chief parts of the Christian faith. Adults can also refresh their memory of the chief parts of the Christian faith by regularly studying *Luther's Small Catechism*.

During this summer sermon series, I have three goals for this summer sermon series:

Review the *Small Catechism* as a basic outline of the Christian faith. Each section in the *Small Catechism* begins with this phrase: "As the head of the family should teach...in a simple way to his household."

Become comfortable with your Bible by keeping the following truth in mind. **1. The Bible is about forgiveness and life in Jesus.** To use and interpret the Bible rightly, it is important to know what the Bible is actually about and why God gave it. The main subject of the Scriptures is Jesus Christ, and the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that come through Him. "*These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name*" (John 20:31) Some see the Bible primarily as a guidebook for moral living, answering the question What should I do? Others see it as a how-to book for solving various human problems or questions. The Bible itself, however, invites us to read it as answering these vital questions: Who is Jesus Christ? What has He done and what does He continue to do to rescue me and the whole world from death and sin?

Have a take-home truth to apply to your daily life. The "Table of Duties" at the end of the *Small Catechism* is one place to get started to see how you are to live and act the way God desires for.

In addition to the sermon focusing on one part of *Luther's Small Catechism*, the adult Bible class will also focus on that same portion. This way we can really dig into the Scriptures each week to see what they have to say about that particular biblical truth.

And, since I talk a lot about the importance of reading or listening to your Bible every day, I want to propose a Bible reading challenge for you during this summer.

I want to encourage you to read through the entire New Testament during these three months of our sermon series. If you read three chapters each day, then you'll be able to read through the entire New Testament this summer. Make sure you get a Bible reading plan and get started on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

	3 Month Reading Plan	
	Entire New Testament	
	June 1--August 31, 2021	
	DAY	TOPIC
TUE S	6/1/2021	Matthew 1-3
	6/2/2021	Matthew 4-6
	6/3/2021	Matthew 7-9
	6/4/2021	Matthew 10-12
	6/5/2021	Matthew 13-15
SUN	6/6/2021	Matthew 16-18
	6/7/2021	Matthew 19-21
	6/8/2021	Matthew 22-24
	6/9/2021	Matthew 25-27
	6/10/2021	Mat. 28-Mark 2
SUN	6/11/2021	Mark 3-5
	6/12/2021	Mark 6-8
	6/13/2021	Mark 9-11
	6/14/2021	Mark 12-14
	6/15/2021	Mark 15-Luke 1
SUN	6/16/2021	** FREE DAY **
	6/17/2021	Luke 2-4
	6/18/2021	Luke 5-7
	6/19/2021	Luke 8-10
	6/20/2021	Luke 11-13
SUN	6/21/2021	Luke 14-16
	6/22/2021	Luke 17-19
	6/23/2021	Luke 20-22
	6/24/2021	Luke 23-John 1
	6/25/2021	John 2-4
SUN	6/26/2021	John 5-7
	6/27/2021	John 8-10
	6/28/2021	John 11-13
	6/29/2021	John 14-16
	6/30/2021	John 17-19
SUN	7/1/2021	** FREE DAY **
	7/2/2021	John 20-Acts 1
	7/3/2021	Acts 2-4
	7/4/2021	Acts 5-7
	7/5/2021	Acts 8-10
	7/6/2021	Acts 11-13
	7/7/2021	Acts 14-16
	7/8/2021	Acts 17-19
	7/9/2021	Acts 20-22

	3 Month Reading Plan	
	Entire New Testament	
	June 1--August 31, 2021	
	DAY	TOPIC
SUN	7/10/2021	Acts 23-25
	7/11/2021	Acts 26-28
	7/12/2021	Romans 1-3
	7/13/2021	Romans 4-6
	7/14/2021	Romans 7-9
SUN	7/15/2021	Romans 10-12
	7/16/2021	** FREE DAY **
	7/17/2021	Romans 13-15
	7/18/2021	Rom. 16-1 Corin. 2
	7/19/2021	1 Corinthians 3-5
SUN	7/20/2021	1 Corinthians 6-8
	7/21/2021	1 Corinthians 9-11
	7/22/2021	1 Corinthians 12-14
	7/23/2021	1 Corin 15-2 Corin 1
	7/24/2021	2 Corinthians 2-4
SUN	7/25/2021	2 Corinthians 5-7
	7/26/2021	2 Corinthans 8-10
	7/27/2021	2 Corinthians 11-13
	7/28/2021	Galatians 1-3
	7/29/2021	Galatians 4-6
SUN	7/30/2021	Ephesians 1-3
	7/31/2021	Ephesians 4-6
	8/1/2021	** FREE DAY **
	8/2/2021	Philippians 1-3
	8/3/2021	Phil. 4-Col. 2
SUN	8/4/2021	Col. 3-1 Thess. 1
	8/5/2021	1 Thessalonians 2-4
	8/6/2021	1 Thess 5-2 Thess 2
	8/7/2021	2 Thess 3-1 Tim 2
	8/8/2021	1 Timothy 3-5
SUN	8/9/2021	1 Tim 6-2 Tim 2
	8/10/2021	2 Tim 3-Titus
	8/11/2021	Philemon-Heb 2
	8/12/2021	Hebrews 3-5
	8/13/2021	Hebrews 6-8
SUN	8/14/2021	Hebrews 9-11
	8/15/2021	Heb. 12-James 1
	8/16/2021	** FREE DAY **
	8/17/2021	James 2-4

SUN	3 Month Reading Plan	
	Entire New Testament	
	June 1--August 31, 2021	
	DAY	TOPIC
	8/18/2021	James 5-1 Peter 2
	8/19/2021	1 Peter 3-5
	8/20/2021	2 Peter 1-3
	8/21/2021	1 John 1-3
	**Aug. 22	1 John 4-5
	8/23/2021	2-3 John
	8/24/2021	Revelation 1-3
	8/25/2021	Revelation 4-6
	8/26/2021	Revelation 7-9
SUN	8/27/2021	Revelation 10-12
	8/28/2021	Revelation 13-15
	8/29/2021	Revelation 16-18
	8/30/2021	Revelation 19-20
	8/31/2021	Revelation 21-22
	Where do you go from here? How about find another Bible reading plan or ask the pastor to help you get started.	
	August 22: St. Matthew LC, Mission Festival @ Mission Central	

3 Month Reading Plan	
Entire New Testament	
June 1--August 31, 2021	
During the summer months of June, July and August, we're going to get back to the basics of the Christian faith which are summarized in <i>Luther's Small Catechism</i> .	
I want to encourage you to read through the entire New Testament during these three months. Just read three chapters a day and you'll complete the reading plan!	
During this summer sermon series, please pray for your fellow church members, who regularly attend and who haven't been in worship for a long time. Then call, text or visit them.	





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)

Sanctification Test—Will this keep me from growing in the character of Christ? *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”* (2 Corinthians 3:18)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take PRIDE in your church building and help out, **everyone** on 2nd Thursday of the month beginning at 9 am or whenever you can come, we (men and women) will be cleaning the church. **Please** we need your help if you are available. This is under the direction of Lin Scott.

HELPING HANDS QUILTERS: There will be no quilting in JUNE. We will start up again on Wednesday, July 7. Come and join us as we serve others with our gifts, have fellowship and conversations.

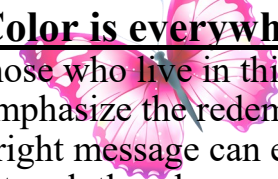
Castana Ladies Aid inviting our ladies group to brunch at U.C.C Church on 06-10-2021 at 9:30 a.m. RSVP by Jun. 3 call 712-353-6576 to Cathy Hanson at 34506 Hwy 34, Castana, IA

If or when you desire to purchase a **Luther's Small Catechism** (with Explanation) they are available at Concordia Publishing House on line Item# 223203 / 2017/ Hardback / 432 pages; price: \$15.99 in stock. You can also call 800-325-3040 to purchase one or I can help you on line. Karen

	<u>Week of Schedule 05-31 to 06-06</u>
Mon 31	Pastor's Family Day
Tues 01	Board of Elders 7 pm
Thurs 3	In the Word 1:30 pm
	2nd Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am services
	Bible Class 10:45 am
Sun 06	Sunday School 10:45 am

Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Sunday Giving 05-23-21	
Giving for missions	\$0.00
Sunday attendance 05-23-21	46
Members communed	NA
Children in Church 05-23-21	2
Visitors 05-23-21	1
Bible Class 05-23-21	16
Sunday School 05-23-21	3

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 07, 1939
Tasha Bridgman	May 22, 1994
Brian Brown	May 06, 1962
Alan Dale	May 13, 1995
Darlene Dose	May 20, 1934
Les Goslar	May 09, 1948
Darren Goslar	May 27, 1983
Zola Kafton	May 16, 1943
Taya Ohlmeier	May 03, 2009
Kathy Wunschel	May 18, 1958



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.

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 05, 1963 58
Kenneth and Susan Krueger	May 11, 1973 48



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 holding our hand and
He keeps us safe in His
care and there is no
need for seeing.*

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	



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 Carol Dose Selma Schrader Alan Bruhn Myrna Gosch
 Mavis Skow Peg Jacobsen Bill Pritchard

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; **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.
 ** indicates a new address

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

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

Peg Jacobsen
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Bill Pritchard
 14702 Hwy 141
 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 **“THE 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 God, We celebrate today, that you, our God, are three persons in one being, which is beyond our understanding. O Father, you adopted us as your children through the death and resurrection of your Son. O Holy Spirit, you gave us faith in Jesus through the gospel. We are your children, and you said we have eternal glory with Jesus. Keep us as your own, and each day move us to be like you and love one another! We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, **Amen.***