



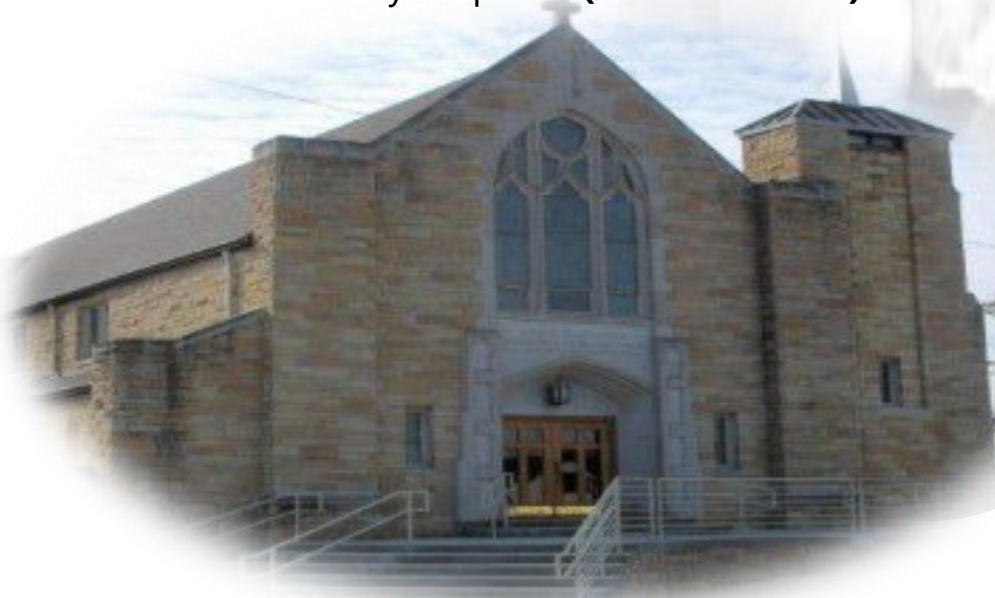
# St Matthews Service

THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*September 12, 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)**



A<sub>CTIVE</sub>

C<sub>HRISTIANS</sub>

T<sub>OGETHER</sub>

I<sub>N</sub>

O<sub>UTREACH</sub>

&

N<sub>URTURE</sub>

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034  
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16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
12 September 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA  
Isaiah 50:4–10 / Psalm 116:1–9 / James 3:1–12 / Mark 9:14–29

Sermon Title: You Bless and Curse with Your Tongue  
Sermon Text: James 3:1-12

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

Our text for this morning’s messages is the Epistle lesson from James chapter three. “James addresses practical issues and enduring problems faced by many mature believers: impatience, // failure to do what you know what is right, // favoritism, apathy, and selfishness. He presents wise arguments and God-pleasing solutions, // culminating in the confession of sins and pray for help from God, *‘the Father of lights’* (5:16) who gives *‘every good gift and every perfect gift’* (1:17)” (Concordia Self-Study Bible, p. 2130)

This is one reason I like the Book of James. He says it like it is. And, sometimes when James talks about a very real situation going on in your very real life, his words can sting. That is the nature of God’s Word. God’s Word shows us where in our lives we are sinning against God and against someone else. God’s Word also teaches us the way God wants us to live. God’s Word also encourages us to keep moving forward when we are struggling.

This is what the author of the Book of Hebrews tells us: *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* (Hebrews 4:12-13) This is why some folks can get bristly when you share a bit of truth from God’s Word.

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In our text for today James isn’t just talking about gossip, but that gossip is one of the many outcomes from your tongue. *“<sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.”* (James 3:3-6)

Have you ever thought of your tongue being able to set an entire forest on fire? When we talk

about “burning our bridges” this is exactly what is happening. Our tongues are the spark of fire that causes the demise of a relationship.

James points out that our tongues, unfortunately, cannot be tamed like an animal by putting *“bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us...”* Sadly, James stresses that *“the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body...”*

James is talking about YOUR TONGUE. My tongue. Our tongues are just like a spark that ignites a field of dry corn. That field won’t have a chance. And neither do we. In fact, James says that our bodies become stained by the evil that our tongue produces.

What evil does the tongue produce? Think about the last argument you had with a fellow church member. Have you ever reconciled with that fellow believer in Christ or have you just given up on that other person and spend the rest of your life never speaking to that person?

Another evil from our tongue that is talked about a lot in Scripture is gossip. When was the last time you gossiped at the Beef and Brew? When was the last time you gossiped over the telephone? In church? At the grocery store?

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James goes on talking about how the tongue can never be tamed. *“<sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. (James 3:7-12)*

James saw in his day and age, and God prompted James to write about the same problems in our day and age—the problem of using your tongue for evil. What strikes me here are verses 9 and 10: *“With [our tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”* (James 3:9-10)

We use our tongue for many things including gossip, slander, evil and wicked ideas. We also use our tongue to praise, thank and worship our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Using our tongue for good and bad is what the Eighth Commandment talks about.

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*“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”* And Luther’s Small Catechism explains: *“What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”*

Every Commandment tells us what God doesn’t want us to do, and tells us what God wants us to do. First, God tells us in the meaning of the Eighth Commandment that “We should fear and love

God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation...”

The Eighth Commandment is kind of a summary of our text from James. God tells us that you are to fear and love him as you pursue and nurture your relationships. As you pursue and nurture your relationships, you are NOT to tell lies about your neighbor to everyone, who you meet. You are NOT to betray your neighbor in anyway. You are NOT to slander or hurt your neighbor with your words and deeds.

Instead, how are you to relate to your neighbor? The Small Catechism tells us that you are to “...defend him, // speak well of him, // and explain everything in the kindest way.” You are to stand up for your neighbor when you know that he is being falsely accused. You are to speak well of your neighbor when you are in town—when you are at the Beef-n-Brew—when you are at the barber shop. After all, wouldn’t you like it if your neighbor spoke WELL OF YOU to everyone who he met?

You are to explain everything to him in the kindest way. You shouldn’t just let your neighbor go and sin when you have the power and words to teach him to the right way to live and act. In fact, every Christian should live this way. Every Christian should be willing to help your wayward neighbor get on the straight and narrow of God’s Word. You should like it when your neighbor explained something to you in a kind, friendly way, as opposed to treating you like you’re an idiot, wouldn’t you? We all would like that.

Of course, you are only able to teach your neighbor the truth from God’s Word after you yourself fill up with Jesus and his truth. When you fill up with Jesus, then you have godly truth to pour out to your neighbor.

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James highlights an important point about your tongue: <sup>9</sup> *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.* <sup>10</sup> *From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.* <sup>11</sup> *Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?* <sup>12</sup> *Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.* (James 3:9-12)

Out of your mouth—your tongue—can do amazing and wonderful things. Your tongue can bless and praise and thank the Lord our God. Your tongue can build up your fellow members of our congregation. Your tongue can be a source of encouragement to your neighbor.

Of course, James reminds us that your tongue can also do tremendous damage. Your tongue can tear down a fellow Christian. Your tongue can destroy a relationship quickly. Your tongue can be “...a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.”

Even though you and I are able to do immeasurable damage with our tongues, we are also able to do immeasurable blessing with our tongues. Paul talks about how your tongue can build up or

tear down in his letter to the Philippians: *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:3-4)

When you use your tongue to bless God and bless others, you are looking not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of those around you. Even though James describes your tongue as *“...a restless evil, full of deadly poison”* there is still hope.

The hope you have is in Christ Jesus, *“...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* (Philippians 2:6-8)

Jesus came and took on human flesh and served us, even though our tongues have previously cursed him. Jesus willingly served us, because—no matter how hard we try—we cannot serve ourselves. It is Christ Jesus alone, who sets us free to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God our Heavenly Father. As part of setting us free from the power of sin, death and the devil, we are able to use our tongue to bless and praise and worship our God and Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise all his benefits to me. Amen.

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

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



## How to Pray: A 6-Step Guide to Prayer

<https://blog.youversion.com/2021/04/how-to-pray-a-6-step-guide-to-prayer/>

2021-04-06

“Prayer.” When you see that word, what thoughts or images come to mind? Does talking to God come easy to you? Or do you struggle to pray? Knowing what to say to God doesn’t always feel easy, and sometimes, prayer gets weighed down by our misconceptions about what a conversation with God should look like.

“*Pray then like this...*” 2,000 years ago, Jesus taught His disciples to “<sup>9</sup> *Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’*” (Matthew 6:9-13)

This is now a famous example on how to pray. But how do we apply it to our everyday 21st-century lives? First, we need to understand how not to pray. Before teaching the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus told His disciples, “*when you pray, pray to your Father in private...*” and, “*do not heap up empty phrases...for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*”

If God already knows what we need, then prayer isn’t simply about the words we say. If we’re praying to impress people, or if we’re treating prayer like a box to check, then we’re missing out on the power of prayer.

Prayer is, and always will be, a dynamic conversation with God. When we realize this, the Lord’s Prayer becomes a freeing framework that helps us talk to God every day. Here’s a 6-step guide to prayer that can help:

Refocus on God: *‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’*

Inhale deeply and focus on these words: “*Our Father in heaven.*” Slowly exhale as you say: “*Holy is Your name.*” Repeat this several times, and pay attention to any aspects of God’s character that come to mind. Spend this time focusing on how great God is.

Realign your will: *‘Your kingdom come ...’*

God has always been in the process of carrying out His will on earth. So right now, reflect on this: when you align your will with God’s will, you are actively seeking His Kingdom. Quiet any noise around you, and ask God to show you how you can take part in doing His will today.

Release your concerns: *'Give us this day our daily bread...'*

Imagine holding your hands out in front of you, as if you want God to put something in them. As you give God your concerns, what does He give you in return? List your concerns, and say them one at a time. Each time you voice a concern, try asking God to, *"give us this day our daily bread."* Sit with this exercise for as long as you need.

Repent and respond: *'And forgive us ... as we forgive ...'*

What are you holding onto that you need to lay down? Is there anything you need to confess right now? Maybe it's a hurt you can't let go of, a behavior you're struggling to change, an addiction you haven't conquered, or a mistake you keep making. God invites you to come as you are, and respond to Him. Tell him whatever is on your mind, then create space to hear from Him.

Request God's protection: *'... deliver us from evil ...'*

We've all been rescued from something. What has God rescued you from? Thank Him for His faithfulness, and let Him know where you need help. Consider praying on behalf of other people who may also need protection. Remember that even when situations seem hopeless, there is nothing God cannot do.

Rejoice and reflect.

Celebrate what God has done in your life, and look for ways to worship Him throughout your day. Then, spend a few minutes reflecting on this time with God. What has He shown you? Consider adding anything that stands out to your prayer list.

When we start to pray like Jesus did, we will start to experience intimacy with God like Jesus did. And when we let prayer shape the way we live, we start to realize that we can approach God at all times with confidence, vulnerability, and trust.

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## 10 Reasons to Read the Bible

Why read the Bible? Why wake up 15 minutes early each day? Why go to all that trouble? After all, sleeping is better than reading, right? Before you close the book on God's book, here is one of ten reasons to take time to read God's message to us.

2. Reading the Bible teaches us to imitate God. *"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children."* (Ephesians 5:1)



The Card Ministry is providing Greeting Cards for members to use (**no charge for them**). They are located on the table in the narthex . Any questions contact Rita LaFrentz 840-9703 (cell) 881-2078 (home) or Mavis Skow 881-2550 (home) 882-6008(cell ) Boxes of cards will be sold for \$5.

**On Oct 17th:** The 21st Sunday after Pentecost Pastor LaBoube will be on Main Street Living. This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 am., please set your recorder so you don't miss it.

Monona County's participation in the **Iowa-99 County Bible Reading Marathon for 2021**, as designated by Governor Reynold's Proclamation. Tuesday September 14 and 15th held on Monona County courthouse's lawn. Reading time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The bible will be read by several individuals, simultaneously as assigned, until the entire book is completed.

**Triumphant Sound Quartet** coming to St. Matthew Sep. 19th at 4 pm come and enjoy and bring a friend and or neighbor

**THE JESUS T-SHIRTS** You may sign up for one at the back of the church. Many of your have been asking for them, so we found them for you. We will not be able to order if we do not have 12 or more sign up.

**Prayer Program headed by Starla Brock** She is inviting anyone that is interested to attended. It is being held at in the High School Parking Lot on the 3rd Sunday at 11:40 am. They will be praying for the school, teachers, school workers, school children. Everyone is welcome to come.

**Immanuel Lutheran Congregation** invites you to the annual Calf Show Dinner Saturday, Sept. 18,2021 after the Parade until 1:00 pm. Comm. Building see poster at back of church.

	<u>Week of Schedule 09-13 to 09-19</u>
Mon 13	Pastors Family Day Cleaning the church 9am
Tues 14	Board of Directors 7 pm Pastor Circuit Meeting St. John, Kiron 8am-12noon IA-99 Bible Reading Marathon 8:30am to 3:30 pm
Wed 15	Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm IA-99 Bible Reading Marathon 8:30am to 3:30 pm
Sun 19	16th Sun. after Pentecost Services 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Class Triumphant Sound Quartet 4 pm at St. Matthew

Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Sunday Giving 09-05-21	
Sunday attendance 09-05-21	29
Members communed 09-05-21	28
Children in Church 09-05-21	1
Visitors 09-05-21	2
Bible Class 09-05-21	NA
Sunday School 09-05-21	NA
In The Word 10-07-21	



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Shelly Boyle	Sep 17, 1962
Crystal Bretthauer	Sep 06, 1956
Frances Brodersen	Sep 27, 1945
Patrick Brodersen	Sep 26, 1965
Patrick Brodersen	Sep 26, 1999
Alan Bruhn	Sep 15, 1960
Calvin Bruhn	Sep 01, 1984
Samantha Burkhardt	Sep 25, 1992
Wendy Buss	Sep 16, 1966
Shane Davis	Sep 19, 1973
Dale Engelke	Sep 26, 1952
Shari Erlemeier	Sep 25, 1962
Gloria Fletcher	Sep 16, 1955
Kathleen Fritz	Sep 14, 1965
Harper Goslar	Sep 04, 2017
Jordan Goslar	Sep 30, 1999
Sean Goslar	Sep 03, 1993
Kimberly Greiner	Sep 14, 1994
Shawn Hamann	Sep 23, 1971
Jon Jacobson	Sep 29, 1976
Pam Jahn	Sep 16, 1948
Brad Jochims	Sep 21, 1973
Cody Meseck	Sep 11, 1979
Jacob Miller	Sep 23, 1995
Matthew Petersen	Sep 11, 1982
Justin Rickert	Sep 04, 1985
Craig Riesberg	Sep 14, 1987
Ariel Rotnicke	Sep 06, 2001
Ann Schmidt	Sep 12, 1957
Donna Shaw	Sep 03, 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.*

## SEPTEMBER BAPTISMS

Kirk Bridgeman	Sep 30, 2018
Autumn Brodersen	Sep 17, 2006
Jessica Brodersen	Sep 2, 1984
James Brodersen	Sep 11, 1939
Calvin Bruhn	Sep 23, 1984
Donovan Buss	Sep 18, 1976
Jackie Cardwell	Sep 20, 2004
Ashlyn Davis	Sep 28, 2014
Christina Davis	Sep 28, 2014
Colton Davis	Sep 28, 2014
Shelby Davis	Sep 28, 2014
Cathy Dose	Sep 18, 1960
Steve Dose	Sep 30, 1956
Krista Elmquist	Sep 19, 1965
John Fick	Sep 18, 1932
Fred Fletcher	Sep 7, 1988
Derek Frahm	Sep 16, 1990
Dean Fritz	Sep 25, 1966
Kathleen Fritz	Sep 25, 1966
Sarah Goslar	Sep 4, 1983
Kimberly Greiner	Sep 25, 1994
Joseph Hogan	Sep 16, 1961
Sheldon Jacobson	Sep 5, 1954
Deborah Jensen	Sep 1, 1970
Richard Johnson	Sep 9, 1934
Brandon Krusen	Sep 20, 2004
Kody Krusen	Sep 20, 2004
Justin Rickert	Sep 22, 1985
Charlie Riesberg	Sep 15, 2013
Henry Riesberg	Sep 27, 2015
Nicholas Riesberg	Sep 20, 1981
Caden Scheer	Sep 13, 2009
Shirley Scoles	Sep 25, 1943
Darrin Skow	Sep 26, 1971
Colleen Sperry	Sep 10, 1957
Steven Stoll	Sep 1, 1968
Gary Thies	Sep, 1942
Alisha Weber	Sep 29, 1985
Benjamin Weber	Sep 10, 1995
Betty Wood	Sep 5, 1955
Andy Wray	Sep 4, 1988
Roxie Wray	Sep 20, 1958

## God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

Kirk and Julie Bollig	Sep 15, 1979	42 yrs.
Leo and Florice Dose	Sep 18, 2010	11 yrs.
Sheldon and Peg Jacobson	Sep 06, 1975	46 yrs.
Ron and Lisa Rotnicke	Sep 28, 1995	26 yrs.
Bert and Diana Schauer	Sep 05, 1992	29 yrs.



## 80 + Birthday God's Blessings

Ruth Bruhn	Sep 25, 1932	<b>89</b>
George Koithan	Sep 02, 1932	<b>89</b>



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	Myrna Gosch	Kurt Schmidt
Melvin & Selma Schrader	Alan Bruhn	Mark Witzel	Sharon Pope
Mardelle Vandevanter	Hans & Lavone Witzel		Ferne Jacobsen
Marilyn & Duane Hamann	Sheldon 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; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Tammy Jean Bramley**, mother of Sam Kelm; ; **Cheri Moe**, niece of Dorothy Wessling. **Jerri Hainfield** daughter 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  
**Marcus Roupe** serving in Cuba (nephew of Marilyn & Duane Hamann)

#### St. Matthew's Prayer List that are confined to their homes

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

**Bonnie Banks** 87 yrs. Jun 2, 1934

Main Street Apartments  
516 Main Street Apt 2  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Delores Boysen** 82 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939

31153 Juinter Ave.  
Hinton, IA 51024

**Delbert Kroll** 87 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

**Melvin Schrader** 94 Oct. 29, 1926

21 Ohm Drive  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Selma Schrader** 91 yrs. Nov. 12, 1929

21 Ohm Drive  
Mapleton, IA 51034

#### **Our prayer list that are not confined to their home:**

**Nazaria Kaderabek**

310 S. 6th St.  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Alan Bruhn**

14535 Walnut Ave  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Mardelle Vandevanter**

405 Walnut  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Kurt Schmidt**

405 South 5th St  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Mark Witzel**

100 N. Hwy 183  
Pisgah, IA 51564

**Marilyn & Duane Hamann**

116 S. Hickory St.  
Smithland, IA 51056

**Sharon Pope**

518 Main St. Apt. 2  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Ferne Jacobson**

516 Main St. Apt. 4  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Sheldon Jacobson**

22 Olm Drive  
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

# God's Promise in Baptism

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## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)**

## FOR SHARING

1. Ben Franklin wrote in *Poor Richard's Almanac*, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." When have you most appreciated water?
2. Tell about a memorable Baptism in your family or congregation.
3. Martin Luther wrote, "You must esteem Baptism as something high, glorious, and excellent. ... If you look upon Baptism as being only water, then you will consider it to be a paltry and ordinary thing" (LW 51.183). Why is it difficult to believe that God gives great blessings through water and His Word?
4. How does Baptism connect you with the Lord and His death and resurrection? How does Baptism connect you with others?
5. "The church is a baptizing community." How does this truth shape your congregation's attitude toward and mission to your community?

**PRAYER** Heavenly Father, thank You for sending me Your Holy Spirit through my Baptism. Help me to live Your amazing grace in my life so that others may see You in and through me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.





**St Matthew Lutheran Church**  
504 Walnut Street  
Mapleton, IA 51034

In His Footsteps: Kindness is a virtue given by the Lord, and joy is its reward. He will show you the way and you will be safe and secure. Show Kindness to others.

**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](http://www.stmatthewmapleton.org) — Our services posted weekly **Mission Central...** [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us) **Lutheran Family Service:** [www.lfsiowa.org](http://www.lfsiowa.org) **WEB SITES:** **Iowa District West**—[www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) **Camp Okoboji** — [www.campokoboji.org](http://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](http://www.lhm.org) and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page **“THE GOOD SHEP-HEARD 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](http://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 Jesus, We continue to hide from You, thank you when we do this You continue to find us and draw us back into a relationship with You. Amen