

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

October 04, 2020

18th Sunday after Pentecost

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



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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18th Sunday after Pentecost

4 October 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Isaiah 5:1–7 / Psalm 80:7–19 / Philippians 3:4b–14 / Matthew 21:33–46

Sermon Title: Striving for Jesus

Sermon Text: Philippians 3:4b-14

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

Do you think you’re the greatest at something? Do you have a long history with this church and think that gives you the right to say whatever you want? Do you come from a really influential family in town and feel that you can always get your own way?

If you were to do the Battle of the Bragging with St. Paul, I’m not sure if you’d win. Paul had a pretty impressive background. *“If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.”* (Philippians 3:4-6)

Paul had a privileged life. He went to the best theological school in his day and age. He studied under the best theologian of his day and age. He knew the Scriptures. He knew the Law of Moses and lived it perfectly, according to the Scriptures. He was likely top of his class at seminary.

The first couple of verses of our Epistle lesson shows a boastful and proud man. The following verses—seven to eleven—show a completely different man. *⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”* (Philippians 3:7-11)

So how on earth did he go from a proud, overly confident man, who believes in the upholding the Law of Moses to a “T”—to a very confident man, who believes in Jesus Christ, the Messiah who is talked about all throughout the Old Testament, and who IS the Saviour of all mankind?

How does this happen? By the work of the Holy Spirit. This is what we confess in the Apostles’ Creed: the Third Article Meaning:

“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 this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.” (Small Catechism: Apostles’ Creed: Third Article Meaning)

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11)

Paul grew up in a privileged, religious environment. He was trained at a very early age in how they understood to follow the Law of Moses exactly in order to appease God. But then, Jesus, Son of God Almighty, met Paul on the road to Damascus, and there, Jesus gave Paul new marching orders—to go preach to the Gentiles.

The fact that Paul no longer considered his lineage—his education—his background—as of the utmost importance AFTER he was brought to a true faith in Jesus Christ alone shows the power and work of the Holy Spirit in you.

And then verse 10 and 11, Paul stresses his point about considering “*everything as loss*” so that he can fully and completely know Jesus: ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:10-11)

When Paul talks about “*becoming like him in his death*” he is referring back to something similar that he wrote in Romans chapter 6: “*We were buried therefore with [Jesus] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*” (Romans 6:4)

“Paul is talking about living a real life of faith rooted in the death and resurrection wrought for us in Baptism.” (Lutheran Study Bible note on Phil. 3:10-11) Do you take your faith in Jesus seriously? Or do you just come to church because you want people to think you’re really a good person?

Paul was willing to reject everything of his past—his awards—his position in society—everything—simply, because he believed whole-heartedly that Jesus can satisfy every aspect of your life. Do you believe this, too? Paul would really like you have the same strong faith and trust in Jesus.

Even after Paul started going around preaching and teaching that Jesus IS the Messiah, the one prophesied about throughout the Old Testament, there were many Christians, who were skeptical of Paul. They knew that he had previously been persecuting Christians, and now he was preaching in favor of Jesus Christ! It surely was confusing.

But eventually, the Christians began to see that God the Holy Spirit was the one, who changed Paul’s heart from being fixated on following the Law of Moses exactly, and living the way Jesus asks us to live—by loving God above all things and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

As Paul grew up, he learned the value of hard work. He learned that in order to accomplish some things in this world, you have to put forth a lot of effort. Paul understood working towards goals and finishing tasks.

Verse 12: ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14)

Paul knew from his background and from his faith in Jesus, that people grow into things. They grow in their knowledge of math and English the more they study these subjects. They grow in their knowledge of how to play an

instrument the more they practice. They grow in their knowledge of Jesus, which means they grow in faith the more they learn about Jesus through Bible reading and study.

God gives us all kind of opportunities to grow in our faith. Sometimes God leads us through challenging or really difficult situations so that we can learn to trust God even more than we already do. Sometimes God allows bad things to happen in our lives so that we can learn—as Paul says—that knowing Jesus is truly the only source of fulfillment and satisfaction.

¹² *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* ¹³ *Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,* ¹⁴ *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 3:12-14)

Paul tried to get across his point that he wasn’t some Super Faith Warrior. He was just like the people, who he was writing to. Paul wanted the Christians at Philippi to also strive for Jesus—to know Jesus better. To have such a deep hunger and thirst for Jesus that you “*forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead,*” that you “*press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” To God bet he glory now and forever. Amen.

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

‘The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons’

By Rev. Douglas K. Escueen.

Color. 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, Like Music

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, Like Light

Color, like light which is its source, is most helpful when it is pleasing as well as stimulating to the senses. However, let's never forget its primary role in divine worship: 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.

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.

Teaching about Liturgical Colors

How do you go about instructing and communicating appreciation for the colors of the church year and the seasons they support?

Some liturgical creativity is in order for this task. Think of the rainbow. The rainbow is that vivid reminder of God's promise given to Noah and his descendants. The acronym, "Roy-g-biv," is a helpful device in remembering that beautiful object of hope, and its red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet colors.

Let's adapt that helpful device for use in taking a fresh look at the colors of the church year.

Green

Green, comes next in the acronym and is by far the most common color seen during the year.

Lutheran Service Book calls for its use during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. The first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21), also known as Easter Sunday, determines the length of these two seasons.

The days of Epiphany may entail a total of, but not more than, eight Sundays. The season of Pentecost, on the other hand, can last from 22 to 28 Sundays. Green is the appointed color for all but a few of the Sundays during these seasons. Consequently, green may be used an average of six to eight months of any given liturgical year!

Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles along with the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions, calls for the use of green-the color symbolic of growth.

The Sundays following Pentecost, observed as "the time of the church," share a somewhat similar theme as that of Epiphany. Affectionately called the season of the "green meadow," no doubt due to the fact of green being the established color, these Sundays also emphasize the subject of growth.

Green is a neutral color, but there is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "green meadow" time of the church year is so lengthy.

Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

A helpful suggestion for congregations observing summer and fall months with one neutral color, would be to invest time and effort in obtaining several sets of green paraments. Variety and change in shades of this color would go a long way in keeping the season fresh and "green." Changing the paraments every six weeks would complement the Sundays following Pentecost and their emphasis on personal faith that is living and growing.

Five Basic Colors

Traditionally, five basic colors of a festive, penitential, and neutral nature have been used in most liturgical congregations. In recent times, with liturgical renewal, three additional colors (blue, scarlet, and gold) have been added to the basic five of white, red, green, violet or purple, and black.

Instead of “Roy-g-biv,” may I suggest “Bg-Bgs-Pwr?” (blue, green, black, gold, scarlet, purple, white and red) “Bg-Bgs-Pwr,” enunciated Big Bags of Power” might at first seem silly. Indeed it is! Does it have anything to do with the message of those colors? Not really! Then, why suggest such a ridiculous notion? Because, a humorous, yet effective memory technique, such as “Bg-Bgs-Pwr,” is what we may need to remember this liturgical tool and the message it conveys throughout the church year.

Each “Bg-Bgs-Pwr” color has evolved through the centuries in the community of faith to communicate a powerful message. A fresh look at the “Bg-Bgs-Pwr” color scheme can reawaken our appreciation for this time-honored custom.

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-Bgs-Pwr” 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!

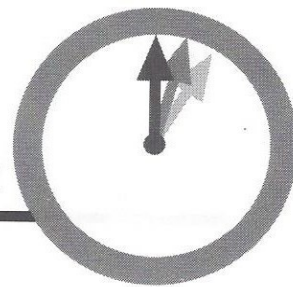
Soli Deo Gloria pro Ecclesia Colorem!

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

BIBLE STUDY

I Can with Christ

Philippians 4:13



GOD'S WORD

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

FOR SHARING

1. Why do people find it easier to say "I cannot" than "I can"? As sinful human beings, in what ways are "I can't" statements correct?

2. Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing." (**John 15:5**). "...Apart from [Jesus, we] can do nothing," but with Jesus Christ, what does St. Paul say we can do?

3. Just as God supplied a way of salvation through the death and resurrection of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, so He supplies us with what we need when we face difficulties in our lives. Share with another person a specific difficulty you're experiencing now? Have you asked God to give you strength to face this difficult situation?

PRAYER

Lord God, You assure us we "can do everything through [You] who gives [us] strength." However, we confess we do not always act like we believe Your promise. Too often, we say "cannot" instead of "we can." Forgive us. Even now we think of some special concerns we have. (Silently make these concerns known to the Lord asking that He give you strength to meet these challenges.) Through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Study 18

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Name	Baptism
Shelly Boyle	Oct 28, 1962
Frances Brodersen	Oct 25, 1952
Ruth Bruhn	Oct 9, 1932
Alan Bruhn	Oct 2, 1960
Shari Erlemeier	Oct 14, 1962
Gloria Fletcher	Oct 7, 1955
Virgil Gronwoldt	Oct 29, 1961
Pam Jahn	Oct 31, 1948
WayneKafton	Oct 27, 1946
Katie Krusen	Oct 30, 1988
Gary Kuehl	Oct 21, 1945

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.



BIRTHDAY

Name	Baptism
Darlene Albers	Oct 28, 1938 81
Betsy Brodersen	Oct 29, 1983
Barbara Bumsted	Oct 11, 1934 85
Leo Dose	Oct 10, 1932 87
Delores Gosch	Oct 11, 1939 80
Kaylee Goslar	Oct 13, 2005
Kay Johnson	Oct 30, 1939 80
Joyce Kruse	Oct 23, 1934 85
Katie Krusen	Oct 12, 1988
Karen Krusen	Oct 18, 1951
Gary Kuehl	Oct 2, 1945
Alice Miller	Oct 8, 1933 86
Boston Paulsen	Oct 24, 2015
Melvin Schrader	Oct 29, 1926 93
Laurie Streck	Oct 17, 1974
Kathi Tweet	Oct 30, 1937 82

There are no wedding anniversaries for October.

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (09-27-20)	
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (09-27-20)	41
VISITORS (09-27-20)	0
SUNDAY COMMUNED (09-27-20)	NA
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	4
BIBLE CLASS	

	<u>Week of Schedule 10-05- to 10-11</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day IDW Pastor's Conference
Tue	IDW Pastor's Conference
Wed	Board of Elders 6:30 pm
Wed	Helping Hands 1-4 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship Service Bible Learning 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am

<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	



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 needing our prayers. Please call the church office if you want to be added to this list for any reason, thank you.

Nazaria Kaderabek	Bud Dose	Kevin Dose	Selma Schrader	Elnora Dose
Carol Dose	John Fick			

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Kim Whitton** (Marilyn & Duane Hamann daughter); **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Lynette Dobrovolsky** neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY Triston Twedt, Ryan Trucke, Jackie Cardwell

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

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs. Jun 2, 1934
Main Street Apartments
516 Main Street Apt 2
Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 88 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932
1726 Marcella Heights
Carroll, IA 51040

Elnora Dose 85 yrs. May 11, 1935
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933
Ring Street
Mapleton IA 51034

****Myrna Gosch** 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941
Pleasant View Care Center
200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
Whiting, IA 51063

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
31153 Juinter Ave
Hinton, IA 51024

** indicates a new address

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928
Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
404 1st St.
Battle Creek, IA 51006

Evelyn Christiansen 100 yrs. Jul 4, 1920
4204 SE. 29th Ave.
Amarillo, TX 79103 % Joan Valdez

Carol Dose 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934
Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded



504 Walnut
Mapleton, IA 51034

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE:

LET'S STAY CONNECTED: 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 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.lfsiowa.org **Main Street 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, Thank you for always being there for us, pursuing us and welcoming us into your arms. We love you and we surrender to you everything, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Please, send the cure to Covid 19, Lord. Bless and protect especially the most vulnerable around the world. Empower us for hope-filled living also during this time of social distancing. Fill us with your Spirit, power, love, and grace. Use us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen