

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

October 11, 2020

19th 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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19th Sunday after Pentecost
11 October 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Isaiah 25:6–9 / Psalm 23 / Philippians 4:4–13 / Matthew 22:1–14

Sermon Title: Deep Lasting Joy in Jesus Alone
Sermon Text: Philippians 4:4-13

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

Our society needs more joy. If Covid-19 isn't wearing you down, there's plenty of other negative events that have happened across our country over the past several months. Now, I'm not trying to get you to just think happy thoughts and everything will be all better, because happy thoughts are just like cotton candy—they are enjoyable for a short time and then they are gone.

What we need is something that sticks around a lot longer. This is why we need more joy, and this is why Paul says: *“⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;”* (Philippians 4:4-5)

Joy is something that can stick with you a longer time, and this is why Paul encourages you to rejoice in the Lord. Be glad in Jesus. It is, after all, Jesus, who gives you lasting joy. When you experience joy that Jesus gives you, you can *“rejoice in the Lord always.”* And that means that you can experience joy when things are going wonderfully AND when things are going really badly.

So how do you experience joy when things are going badly in your life? Paul gives you some suggestions in verses 6 and 7: *“⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:6-7)

“⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but...” pray about everything. When you're anxious—when you worry—doctors tell you that health suffers. This is why Paul encourages you to *“...not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*

Instead of worry—pray. Instead of being anxious—pray. Instead of wondering if things will continue to get worse in your life—pray. Pray about EVERYTHING—not just for a relative, who has developed Covid-19 symptoms.

And then Paul tells you when you *“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”* (Psalm 55:22) When you stop worrying—stop being anxious—then good things will happen to you—lasting things will happen to you. *“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:7)

But we don't experience God's peace, because we don't cast our burdens on Jesus. We don't let Jesus take our burdens—which he tells us to do throughout the Scriptures. Instead, we just carry around our burdens—our stress factors—our anxieties. Which seems like we don't really want to experience God's peace.

When we do cast our burdens at Jesus' feet—when we stop being anxious and pray—Paul gives us

more advice to experience lasting joy from Jesus. ⁸ *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, // whatever is honorable, whatever is just, // whatever is pure, // whatever is lovely, // whatever is commendable, // if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* ⁹ *What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*” (Philippians 4:8-9)

You experience God’s lasting joy when you fill up with Jesus. You fill up with Jesus when you read or listen to the Bible every day. When you think about a verse or two throughout the day—chewing on those texts and praying that God will help you understand those texts even more.

This is what Paul is getting at: think about Jesus. Think about things that are true—according to the Bible. Think about things that are honorable—according to God’s Word. Think about things that are pure and lovely—in God’s eyes. Think about things that are commendable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

If you stop and think about it—really think about it—there is a lot in this world that is lovely—commendable—worthy of praise. And the Scriptures are full of lovely and commendable reasons to praise and thank God:

“Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!” (Psalm 72:19)

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

One way to experience God’s lasting joy is by filling up with Jesus. When you fill up with Jesus, then you get the truth of God’s Word in you. When you have filled up with the truth of God’s Word, then you know what you should be thinking about.

When you fill up with God’s Word, then Jesus tells you that truth will set you free. God’s Word ALWAYS sets you free. Of course, when you don’t fill up with Jesus, then you open yourself up to all kinds of secular ideas that are contrary to the Bible.

When you don’t fill up with Jesus, then you’re more likely to be anxious—more likely to be frustrated—because you’re not doing what Paul suggest. Instead of being anxious—pray. When you don’t fill up with Jesus, then you don’t know what is true—honorable—just—and worthy of praise. And you just accept what the secular world tells you.

Instead of being anxious—worried—fretting—pray! When you pray, you experience God’s peace. When you pray and experience God’s peace, then you will also experience a deep, lasting joy. That’s what Paul is talking about this morning: ⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.*”

When you fill up with Jesus, and you experience real joy, then you will be able to handle ANY and EVERY situation. This is what Paul is talking about in the last part of our text: ¹⁰ *I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.* ¹¹ *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.* ¹² *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.* ¹³ *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*” (Philippians 4:10-13)

Paul knew that bad things were sure to happen to him and to all people—including to all Christians.

Paul knew that the only way to move through the really difficult situations was by the strength and grace of Jesus Christ alone.

¹¹ *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*

¹² *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.* ¹³ *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*” (Philippians 4:11-13)

Paul knew that when he filled up with Jesus, he knew the truth of God’s Word. Paul knew that truth was the foundation on which he would live his life. Paul knew that once he had a foundation laid—which was Jesus Christ—that he would be able to move through EVERY situation—both the great and wonderful experiences—and the really awful experiences—by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ alone. *“I can do all things through [Jesus] who strengthens me.”*

Are you willing to cast your burdens on Jesus, because he cares for you? Are you willing to experience true, lasting joy from Jesus Christ alone? I want to encourage you to do just that—*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”* (Proverbs 3:5)

When you trust in Jesus, then you cling to the strongest rock of our salvation. When you fill up with Jesus, then you can experience deep, lasting joy. So when life throws more junk at you than you can ever imagine, then you will be able to say confidently: *“I can do all things through [Jesus] who strengthens me.”*

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

St Matthew Chicken Dinner

[OCTOBER 25 TH](#)

ORDER NOW!

By Staley 2 piece chicken dinner
CARRY OUT ONLY
DELIVERY IS \$2 EXTRA (In town only)
FROM 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
PICK UP IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH



COST \$10 PER PERSON

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)	\$1,680.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (10-04-20)	\$2,403.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (10-04-20)	48
VISITORS (10-04-20)	0
SUNDAY COMMUNED (10-04-20)	40
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	8
BIBLE CLASS	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	

	<u>Week of Schedule 10-12- to 10-18</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tues	
Wed	Helping Hands 1-4 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship Service w HC Bible Learning 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am

Faith Step: If getting rest is difficult for you, ask Jesus to help you rest in Him. Receive His peace.

<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	Selma Schrader	Elnora Dose
Carol Dose	John Fick	Kathy Trucke	

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

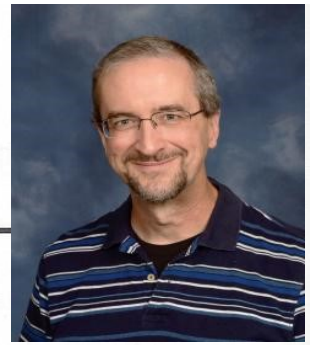
Evelyn Christiansen 100 yrs. Jul 4, 1920
4204 SE. 29th Ave.
Amarillo, TX 79103 % Joan Valdez

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

One God



THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods. (*Exodus 20:3*)

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

This is what the Lord says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from Me there is no God. (*Isaiah 44:6*)

FOR SHARING

1. A philosopher once wrote, "Tell me to what you pay attention, and I will tell you who you are." Agree or disagree? Why?
2. The First Commandment, Martin Luther said, is the very first, highest, and best from which all others must proceed. What did he mean? In what ways does the First Commandment "set the tone" for the other commandments?
3. "What is it to have a god?" Luther asks (*Large Catechism*). "A god is that to which we look for all good and in which we find refuge in every time of need." Describe the gods that people "cling to" in life.
4. Jesus was fully obedient to His Father—obedient to death on a cross (*Philippians 2:8*). Share how His sacrifice frees us from the demands of the First Commandment.
5. Fear. Love. Trust. What do the words mean for your life as you live in Christ's forgiveness?

PRAYER

My Savior God, in Christ I am Your child, and You are my Father. Let me live in Your grace. May Your love permeate every part of my life that I may always desire to reverence You, love You, trust You, and serve You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



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.lofsiowa.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 Lord, We thank You for showing us love that “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Forgive us for not demonstrating a love that “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Empower us with Your love to live a life demonstrating a love that “always protects, always trust’s, always hopes, always perseveres.” Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.