

21th Sunday after Pentecost October 17, 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**)

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CHRISTIANS

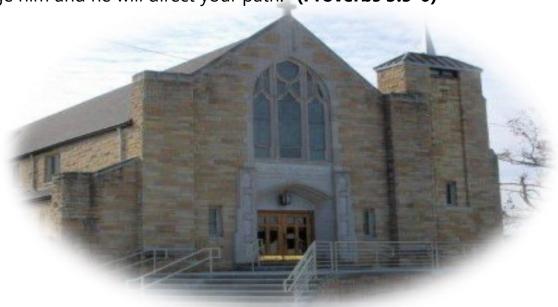
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OUTREACH

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church 504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 17 October 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 / Psalm 119:9-16 / Hebrews 4:1-13 / Mark 10:23-31

Sermon Title: The Difficulty of Rich People Going to Heaven Sermon Text: Mark 10:23-31

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

It's interesting how congregational members are quick to talk about financial problems at the church, and yet are tight-lipped when it comes to talking about their personal financial situation and giving. Why is that? Why are we quick to harp on the financial situation of the church and at the same time refuse to talk about how little we support our church financially?

Today's Gospel reading from Mark chapter ten talks about personal finances and how your money can either enslave you or make you free. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How difficult it will be for those who have wealth (see Matthew 13:22) to enter the kingdom of God!' <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.'" (Mark 10:23-25)

One thing I really like about the Bible is how Jesus rarely beats around the bush. Often, he jumps right to the heart of the matter that he wants to teach about. It's as though Jesus tells us that he wants to get right to the point he wants to make. He's not worried about making waves. He wants to get to the heart of the issue. And that is Jesus' point every time—getting to the heart of the issue—what is the condition of your heart?

"23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.'" (Mark 10:23-25)

Why do you think Jesus says that people with lots of money will have a really hard time getting to heaven? Because money can have a hold on people something fierce. This is what King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes chapter five:

"<sup>10</sup> He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. <sup>11</sup> When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? <sup>12</sup> Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. <sup>13</sup> There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, <sup>14</sup> and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand." (Ecclesiastes 5:10-14)

In the Bible, God never says that having money is bad. In fact, we see how God blessed King Solomon with wealth, not because King Solomon prayed for wealth, but because God knew that Solomon would be able to use his wealth for good. Here in this text, we see God pointing out that wealth can be a snare to some people and a blessing to other people.

After Jesus begins his discussion about people loving money, we see how God's Word worked in the lives of those who heard Jesus. "And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, 'Then who can be saved?' <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.'" (Mark 10:26-27)

God's Word works in the lives of everyone. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to teach us all that we need to know about the Triune God. Jesus says that it's hard for rich people to get to heaven, because they love their money the most in this life. Jesus then gets to the point that when you love money more than anything in this world, then things will not go well with you in the long run.

When you love money more than everything else in your life, then you will have a really hard time seeking the Kingdom of God. This is why Jesus says that it is hard for people, who love their money and investments more than everything else, to get into heaven. Those people have created a god out of their money. "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

When we make money or people or your stuff a god that we worship in our lives, then we are rejecting the One True God found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus tells us that the only way to heaven is NOT by worshipping false god. The only way to heaven is by faith in Jesus Christ. "And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:26-27)

The only way to heaven is by faith in Jesus Christ. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you need to be willing to be stripped of everything you own in order to get to heaven. Your money won't help you get to heaven. Your investments won't help you get to heaven. Your money will only buy you a nice coffin and a plot in a cemetery.

The disciples were a little confused when Jesus told them that being saved and going to heaven sounded hard. <sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, 'See, we have left everything and followed you.' <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.'" (Mark 10:28-31)

If you are willing to give up all that you have—to be willing to be stripped of everything you own—then you are ready to be first in the Kingdom of God. Also, Jesus points out that even though you have given up everything to follow Jesus—that you are willing to be stripped of everything you own—you will be blessed by God the Father.

But you will be blessed with more than just stuff. <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."

Sadly, too many Christians today get excited about receiving God's blessings, and yet miss this one little world. In addition to being blessed with stuff from God, we will also be blessed "with persecutions." As a believer in Jesus Christ—as a disciple of Jesus—you and I are guaranteed to be persecuted now. Why? Because there are a lot of people, who don't believe in God. Some people have rejected God and His Word. Some people have become antagonistic towards Christians, towards God and towards His Word.

This doesn't mean that they are off the hook. Scripture tells us that people, who reject His Holy Word and reject Jesus will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. God gives us his Holy Word to teach us all that he wants us to know—to teach us the way we are to live with him and with one another. This is one point that King Solomon was making in Ecclesiastes chapter five:

"10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. <sup>11</sup> When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? <sup>12</sup> Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he

eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. <sup>13</sup> There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, <sup>14</sup> and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand." (Ecclesiastes 5:10-14)

When you make your money—your investments—your retirement income—your god—when you treat all the stuff you own as your only source of true satisfaction—then you are doing what King Solomon talks about—you are in a really bad situation. "<sup>13</sup> There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, <sup>14</sup> and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand."

This is why Jesus tells us that the best way to live is with open hands and an open heart. Be wise with the money and resources that God has given you. After all, this is what being a good steward is all about—using the money and stuff that God has given you to give him glory and to build up those people around you.

This is why Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer: the Fourth Petition: "Give us this day our daily bread." And Luther's Small Catechism goes on to explain: What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."

The Small Catechism goes on to explain: *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

God gives you all that you need to live to support your body and life. God also gives you all that you need to grow in your faith in him by sending the Holy Spirit to live in you. God does this, because he loves you and he wants you to be with him in heaven for all eternity. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

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

Walk in Love Be Kind to one another.

### 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 21stcentury 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.

When we live with open hands and open hearts, then we will be living the way God desires of us. Living with open hands and open hearts mean that you remind yourself that everything you have comes from God. He is the source of everything you have—your money, your farm, your health, your family, etc. EVERYTHING belongs to God.

When you live with open hands and an open heart then you are living as stewards of God's possessions which he has given to you to manage. When you live with open hands and an open heart, then you are focusing on the most important thing in life—Jesus, believing and trusting in Jesus 100% of the time.

When you focus on the most important thing in this world—Jesus---then you are living according to the First Greatest Commandment—Love God—"...fear, love and trust in God above all things." You're able to love God according to the First Greatest Commandment by the work of the Holy Spirit in you. Seek Jesus while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

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

### **Announcements**

A thank you was received from the Dennis Livermore Family for all the prayers, compassion and caring and delicious food. For reaching out to see if we're were ok. Our kindness was truly appreciated. The Livermore family.

<u>FAST</u> is starting on 10-13-2021 at St. John's Methodist Church "Fun after school time" K-5th grade children are welcome. Masks are required for both kids and adults. The Educational board

<u>FALL CLEANING</u>, Please bring nice, clean items you no longer want to the church fire side room in 13 gal. garbage bags, to be picked up. These items will be taken to <u>Finders Keepers</u> to be sold and profits come back to our church. The Outreach Committee.

<u>Prayer Program headed by Starla Brock</u> She is inviting anyone that is interested to attended. It is being held at 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.

#### 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.

7. Reading the Bible allows us to receive the desires of our heart. "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7)

# Memory Verse for 10-17-2021



Please Give the office a call or the Pastor				
Before going to hospital				
Private communion				
Address or name changes				
Death in the family				
Birth of your baby				
Making wedding plans				
	Week of Schedule 10-18 to 10-24			
Mon 18	Pastor's Family Day Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm			
Wed 20	Confirmation Class 6:00 pm			
Sun 24	22nd Sunday after Pentecost Services 9:30 am			
	Elder: Ryan Paulsen Reader: Ryan Paulsen Screens: Dennis Muckey Sunday School 10:45 a.m.			
	Bible Class 10:45 a.m.			

### **Mission Central– Visiting Missionaries 2021**

- October 9, 2021—Rev. James and Christel Neuendort—Puerto Rico—1pm
- October 9, 2021—Kim Bueltmann–Germany—1:30 pm
- October 22, 2021—Chelsea Irwin—Czechs Republic Republic—1 pm

Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Sunday Giving 10-10-21	
Sunday attendance 10-10-21	41
Members communed 10-10-21	38
Children in Church 10-10-21	0
Visitors 10-10-21	3
Bible Class 10-10-21	13
Sunday School 10-10-21	6/1V-1T
In The Word 11-04-21	

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCIODENT	
Gary Kuehl	Oct 02, 1945
Belinda Bartels	Oct 27, 1950
Karen Krusen	Oct 18, 1951
Kirk Bollig	Oct 07, 1957
James Brodersen	Oct 04, 1964
Matt McKibben	Oct 19, 1968
Jeffrey Stoll	Oct 18, 1969
Billie Krusen	Oct 18, 1971
Laurie Streck	Oct 17, 1974
Nicole Jacobson	Oct 02, 1977
Christina Davis	Oct 11, 1979
Ben Hinrickson	Oct 18, 1983
Betsy Brodersen	Oct 29, 1983
Nicole Schiltz	Oct 08, 1986
Katie Krusen	Oct 12, 1988
Kody Krusen	Oct 18, 1990
Brianne Rickert	Oct 19, 1990
Anna Goslar	Oct 01, 1994
Kaitlyn Goslar	Oct 17, 1994
Abby Larson	Oct 16, 1995
Mollie McKibben	Oct 19, 1995
Mandy Meseck	Oct 01, 1998
Caitlyn Jacobson	Oct 11, 2005
Natalie Jacobson	Oct 11, 2005
Kaylee Goslar	Oct 13, 2005
Wyatt Streck	Oct 26, 2005
Nolan Lamb	Oct 04, 2007
Lennox Fox	Oct 17, 2015
Boston Paulsen	Oct 24, 2015
Eva Bridgeman	Oct 26, 2020



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.

# 80 + Birthday God's Blessings

Melvin Schrader	Oct 29, 1926	94
Leo Dose	Oct 10, 1932	88
Alice Miller	Oct 08, 1933	87
Barbara Bumsted	Oct 11, 1934	86
Joyce Kruse	Oct 23, 1934	86
Kathi Tweet	Oct 30, 1937	83
Darlene Albers	Oct 28, 1938	82
Delores Gosch	Oct 11, 1939	81
Kay Johnson	Oct 30, 1939	81

### **OCTOBER BAPTISMS**

	Shelly Boyle	Oct 28, 1962
	Frances Brodersen	Oct 25, 1952
	Patrick Brodersen	Oct 22, 2000
	James Brodersen	Oct 25, 1964
	Alan Bruhn	Oct 2, 1960
	Ruth Bruhn	Oct 9, 1932
	Mitchell Elmquist	Oct 10, 1998
	Dale Engelke	Oct 19, 1952
	Shari Erlemeier	Oct 14, 1962
	Gloria Fletcher	Oct 7, 1955
	Shelly Frahm	Oct 10, 1965
	Gayle Gibson	Oct 25, 1952
	Harper Goslar	Oct 22, 2017
	Jordan Goslar	Oct 31, 1999
	Sean Goslar	Oct 3, 1993
	Christopher Gray	Oct 9, 2011
	Terrance Gray	Oct 9, 2011
Ñ	Virgil Gronwoldt	Oct 29, 1961
7	Shawn Hamann	Oct 31, 1971
	Jon Jacobson	Oct 17, 1976
	Pam Jahn	Oct 31, 1948
	Jacy Jochims	Oct 3, 1992
	Andy Kaderabek	Oct 12, 1992
	Wayne Kafton	Oct 27, 1946
	Peggy Ketelsen	Oct 11, 1952
1	George Koithan	Oct 30, 1932
	Aaron Krusen	Oct 1, 2006
	Billie Krusen	Oct 1, 2006
	Katie Krusen	Oct 30, 1988
	Gary Kuehl	Oct 21, 1945
	Cody Meseck	Oct 16, 2011
	Mandy Meseck	Oct 18, 1998
	Matthew Petersen	Oct 17, 1982
	Jonathan Pickel	Oct 22, 1998
	Brianne Rickert	Oct 19, 1990
	Ariel Rotnicke	Oct 6, 2001
	Nicole Schiltz	Oct 19, 1988
	Theodore Thoreson	Oct 11, 1972
	Benjamin Weber	Sep 10, 1995
	Betty Wood	Sep 05, 1955
	Andy Wray Roxie Wray	Sep 04, 1988 Sep 20, 1958
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## God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

Kirk and Tosha Bridgeman	Oct 06, 2018	3 yrs.	
Fred and Gloria Fletcher	Oct 19, 1988	33 yrs.	
Roger and Chana Hinrickson	Oct 14, 1972	49 yrs.	

Walk in Love Be Kind to one another.

Please continue to pray for our charge leaders.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Pomans 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 Selma Schrader Larry Wunschel

Carol Dose Alan Bruhn Myrna Gosch Hans Witzel

Melvin Schrader 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; Cheri Moe, niece of Dorothy Wessling. Jerri Haindfield daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; Ann Livermore, daughter of Selma & Melvin Schrader; Kevin Reitz, son of Caroline & Dis; friend of Kay Johnson. **Sharon Kuehl Henning** nice of Judy & Gary Kuehl;

Those who serve in the military:

**TristonTwedt** (great-grandson of Alice and the late Keith Miller) serving with the Army @ Ft. Lew-

**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 **Defores Boysen** 82 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939 31153 Juinter Ave. Hinton, IA 51024 **Delbert Kroll** 88 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

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 95 Oct. 29, 1926 21 Ohm Drive Mapleton, IA 51034 Selma Schrader 92 yrs. Nov. 12, 1929 21 Ohm Drive

Mapleton, IA 51034

**Carol Dose** 87 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934

Nazaria Kaderabek 310 S. 6th St. Mapleton, IA 51034 Alan Bruhn 14535 Walnut Ave Mapleton, IA 51034 **Sheldon Jacobson** 22 Olm Drive Mapleton, IA 51034 **Ann Livermore** 312 S Chamberlain St Mapleton, IA 51034 **Hans Witzel** 36252 Co. Hwy E34 Castana, IA 51010 **Sharon Kuehl Henning** 312 Highcroft Window MN 56101

Our praver List

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

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163 Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org Rev. Christopher LaBoube, Pastor

Worship time: Sunday

9:30am Worship Service 10:45 Bible Class 10:45 Sunday School

In His Footsteps:
Faith is a gift from
God that will sustain
you and give you inner
peace and love and
this is priceless.
Show it 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 - Our services posted weekly Mission Central... www.missioncentral.us Lutheran Family Service: www.lfsiowa.org WEB SITES: <u>Iowa District West</u>—www.idwlcms.org <u>Camp Okoboji</u> – <u>www.campokoboji.org</u>"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 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: wwwlofsiowa.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.



Thank You, Father, for spiritual leaders and <u>faith</u>-filled friends who keep encouraging us when we are close to giving up. Amen