

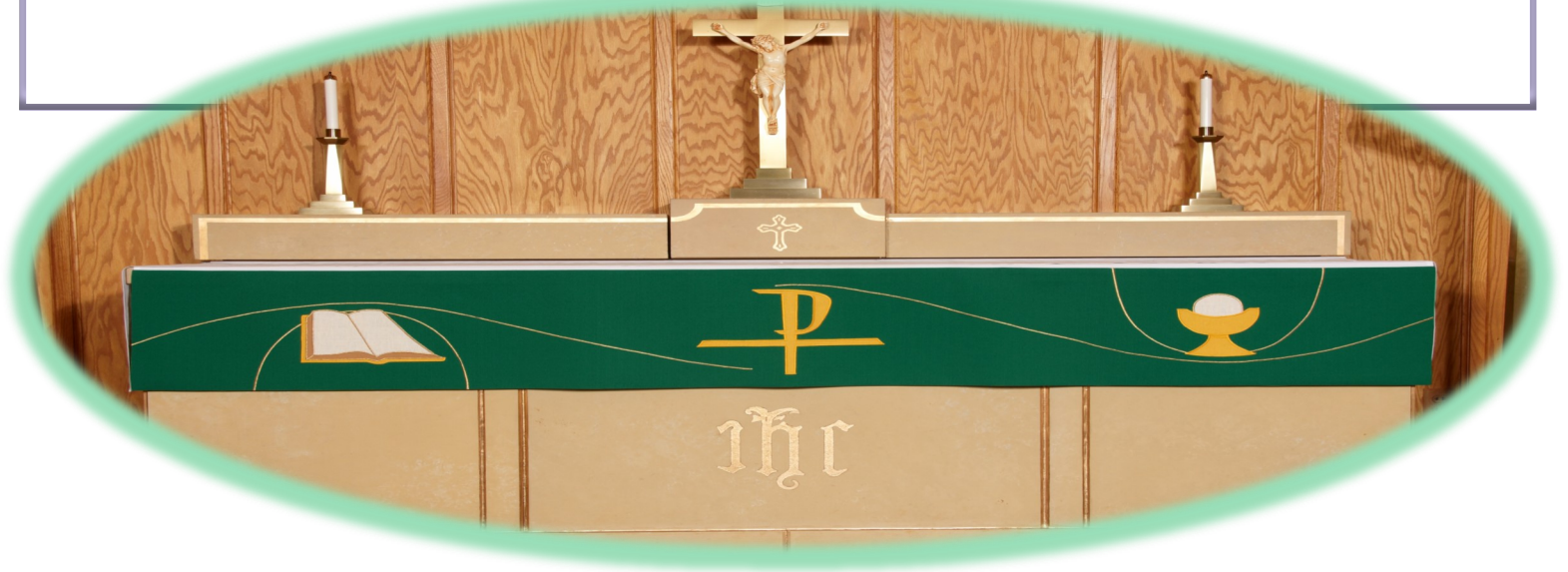
St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

October 18, 2020

20th 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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20th Sunday after Pentecost

18 October 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Isaiah 45:1–7 / Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13) / 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 / Matthew 22:15–22

Sermon Title: Honor All Authorities Including the IRS

Sermon Text: Matthew 22:15-22

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

Death and taxes are the two certain things in this life, but I think that is such an oversimplification of our lives. Yes, one day every one of us will physically die. If you don’t believe in God, then death is a looming event that you might try to avoid like the plague. If you are a Christian, and believe in Jesus, then death is actually a welcomed event as you prepare to enter your eternal life in heaven.

As citizens of the United States we are required to fill out tax paperwork and pay some amount of taxes every year. And paying taxes isn’t a new thing. Paul writes about paying taxes in Romans chapter 13: *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.... ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”* (Romans 13:1-2, 6-7)

God created life, because we are God’s ultimate creation. Our lives are designed to be in constant communion—constant companionship—with God. Sadly, all of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, and are destined to die in hell for all eternity. And yet, God did not want that to happen to his finest creations—to us! God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:4)

The truth is that God is still in control of ALL THINGS. God allows good things to happen to you, and God allows bad to happen to you. Everything happens, because God made it so. God orders our days and our nights. He leads us in the way we should go each day. He gives us his Word so that we know how to live a life that is holy and pleasing in his sight.

And how should we live a holy life? We live a holy life by knowing God and knowing what God desires for us. A summary of how we should live is found in the Ten Commandments. The Fourth Commandment tells us how we are to relate to authorities. *“Honor your father and your mother.” “What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.”* (Small Catechism)

As we continue to learn to live with Covid-19 as a regular part of our daily lives, we need to remember the Fourth Commandment—to honor and respect those in authority over you—your city mayor—your state governor—your U.S. president.

Honoring authorities seems to be a big problem for folks these days. No one wants to trust authority. Get rid of the police. Get rid of the president. Get rid of anyone who tells me I can't do what I want to do. And yet, this is not a new idea. Over the centuries, people have rebelled against authorities, because they were convinced that they knew best. And yet, when people are convinced that they know best, then God no longer has a place in their lives. Again, from Romans chapter 13 verse 2: *"Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."*

Rebelling against authority is what we see happening in our Gospel lesson this morning. From Matthew chapter 22: ¹⁵ *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his words.* ¹⁶ *And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.* ¹⁷ *Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?'* ¹⁸ *But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?'* ¹⁹ *Show me the coin for the tax.'* *And they brought him a denarius.* ²⁰ *And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?'* ²¹ *They said, 'Caesar's.'* *Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'* ²² *When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away."* (Matthew 22:15-22)

In our Gospel lesson this morning, we see two groups engaging Jesus. The first group is the Pharisees. They represented "the Jewish authorities" and were "strict observers and teachers of the Torah. The Pharisees did not control the government or the temple, but they were a large group and popular with the common people, so they were powerful." The second group is the Herodians. They were political supporters of Herod the Great. (Lutheran Study Bible p. 1557)

So the Pharisees and the Herodians think they are going to trap Jesus. ¹⁵ *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his words.* ¹⁶ *And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.* ¹⁷ *Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?'"* (Matthew 22:15-17)

This sort of thing happens all the time—in the business world—in the church—even in conversations with friends or family members—twisting words and ideas to make them say what you want them to say. *"Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?'"* It's like asking: As a Christian, do I really have to pay taxes to an unchristian government agency? Before we answer those two questions, let's hear what else Jesus had to say in this situation.

¹⁸ *But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?'* ¹⁹ *Show me the coin for the tax.'* *And they brought him a denarius.* ²⁰ *And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?'* ²¹ *They said, 'Caesar's.'* *Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'* ²² *When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away."* (Matthew 22:18-22)

I've heard of some Christians, who don't believe in serving in the military or who believe you can't serve in a government position—like being a state governor—a senator—or even the president of the United States. And our text for today actually shows us that it's very important for a bible-believing Christian to serve in these government positions—and in ALL areas of society.

In Romans chapter 13, that we heard at the beginning of this sermon, we saw how Paul talks about the

importance of Christians being involved in all areas of society—including in federal, state and local government. If pagans are in those leadership positions, then the rest of society will get pagan ideas. If a Christian is serving as the president, the governor or the city mayor, that man or woman will be able to pass along Christian ideas.

¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?’ ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ ²¹ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’”

Jesus has these men from the Pharisees and the Herodians bring him the coin that is paid for the tax. The coin that is used to pay taxes is called a denarius, which was a day’s wage for a laborer. Then, Jesus asks these men—whose image has been stamped on the coin. The image that has been stamped on the coin is Caesar’s head. After the current man serving as Caesar over the Roman Empire dies, the next Caesar will get his face put on new coins and distributed to all the people.

These religious groups are trying to trip up Jesus by asking if it’s okay for Christians to pay taxes to non-Christian leaders. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ ²¹ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.” (Matthew 22:20-22)

Jesus tells us that yes, in fact, you are to pay taxes to a non-Christian government agency like the IRS. We are to give to the government what we owe—taxes, for example. Back in Romans chapter 13, Paul tells us other things we are to do: “⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.” (Romans 13:1-2, 6-7)

We Christians live in this world, because this is the only world God has given us. Our first allegiance is to God. This is what it says in Acts chapter 5: “But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” Your first allegiance is ALWAYS to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. If God is not first in your life, then your life is not in order.

And our second allegiance is to the governing authorities, who God has established, as we read in Romans chapter 13: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.” (Romans 13:1-2) And, in our Gospel lesson: “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

So, we’re supposed to pay our taxes, because God has set up this government system, and we are to give “to God the things that are God’s.” So, what are those things? Well, Jesus says it well in Mathew chapter 9: “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13) Matthew chapter 10: “Freely you have received; freely give.” (Matthew 10:8b)

And in Matthew chapter 22 when Jesus was asked ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

God provides for all our needs. “He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.” (Small Catechism: Apostles’ Creed: First Article Meaning)

Since God gives you all the resources you need to live, then we are to use those resources to help and support our family—and our neighbor as he has need. When we support our family and our neighbor we are living according to the Second Greatest Commandment: *“love your neighbor as yourself.”*

And we are able to love our neighbor as ourselves when we pray and seek the Lord our God. When we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how to pray. When we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you throughout each day. When we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us what to say in every conversation so that Jesus will be glorified. To God be all the glory. Amen.

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

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to all of the people that take such care and interest in the outside and the inside property of our church grounds, and the building and keeping it looking so nice.

October 18, Sunday St. Mary's, Mapleton Turkey Supper Serving: 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Catered by Staley's Carry-outs & in-town deliveries only. Tickets \$10.

10-24-20 Drive Through, Take Out Zion Lutheran Church, Arcadia meal consisting of Turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, corn/green beans, dinner roll salad/ dessert. Serving from 4 pm-7 pm cost \$10

10-25-20 St Matthew Chicken Dinner by Staley 2 piece chicken dinner, carry out only. Pick up in front of the church, delivery is \$2 extra (in town only), from 11:30 to 1:30 pm Tickets \$10.00 per person

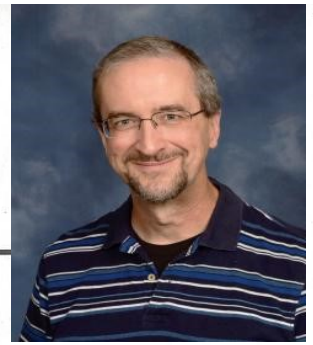
Congregational Meeting. The church will hold a Congregational Meeting on November 1, following the service. This is our quarterly Meeting where the Board of Directors will present the 2021 Annual Church Budget. Additionally, we will hold an election for two recently appointed board members. Questions, Comments are welcome, just contact Congregational President, Mark Witzel, 760-500-8902.

Handy Man Work Day. St Matthew's Property Board will soon host a 'Handy Man Work Day', before the cold weather sets in. (It's just a name ladies, you're welcome too!). We're creating the 'punch list' of mini-projects that need to get done. Details coming soon. But please put a placeholder on your calendar, and plan to join us for comradery, challenging chores, and coffee (and goodies!). Please contact the Work Day Lead, Mark Witzel, 760-500-8902.

Snow & Ice Removal. St Matthew's Property Board is also putting together a Snow & Ice Removal plan for coming cold inclement weather. We are looking for volunteers with snow shovels, snow blowers, skid loaders, trucks and wagons (and strong backs!) who can work together to keep the sidewalks and steps of our church & parsonage passible. Please contact the Property Chair, Ken Kruger, 712-880-2715. Thank you & God bless!

(from Mark Witzel)

God's Name



THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. (Exodus 20:7)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)

FOR SHARING

1. "Names are everything," wrote Oscar Wilde. In what ways do names—first, middle, and last names—give us a sense of identity and purpose?
2. How do people misuse God's name today? Why do you think people misuse God's name?
3. From eternity, the name planned for the Messiah was Jesus, Immanuel (Matthew 1:21, 23). What does it mean for you that Jesus was "God with us" at Calvary? What does it mean for your eternal destiny?
4. God's name—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was placed on us in Baptism (Matthew 28:19). How does His name shape our identity in the world? How does our Baptism into the triune God strengthen us for daily service?
5. Which name for God best reminds you of His goodness to you today?

PRAYER

Gracious God, remind me every day that I am baptized in Your name. Help me to use Your name respectfully and faithfully in all that I say, think, and do. Strengthen me with Your Spirit so that my name as "Christian" will give honor to You. Amen.

Following Jesus

In November, we're going to spend four weeks looking at what Scripture has to say about discipleship and stewardship. The purpose of this article is to help us understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. When Jesus calls us to follow Him and we follow, we begin our journey as disciples.

In the early part of Jesus' public ministry, Jesus called His 12 disciples. He called Peter and Andrew while they were fishing. He told them, *"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). A little later, He called James and John to follow. Jesus also called a tax collector and a zealot to be disciples. It is likely that the other disciples were craftsmen. Hearing Jesus' invitation to follow Him, they left everything behind and followed immediately. From this point on they (except for Judas) were inseparable from their Lord. They spent approximately three years with Jesus, learning and listening. The Holy Spirit called them by the Gospel, as He does us today.

During His time on earth, Jesus showed His disciples to love and show mercy to people in need. Jesus showed compassion for the sick and hurting, healing the many who came to Him. He cared for their souls as He shared the life-changing Gospel. After hearing Jesus and seeing His miracles, many who heard the Gospel became followers of Jesus. He changed peoples' hearts and lives and gave them a new purpose for living. He gave them hope for their eternal future. After Jesus had spent time preparing His disciples for ministry, He sent them out to disciple others. These empowered disciples continued Jesus' ministry of preaching and teaching the Word, baptizing, and loving all people. Their model of ministry was the very life of Jesus. Through the proclamation of the Gospel, many unbelievers became followers.

After Jesus' ascension, these 12 disciples left a huge impact on the world. God graciously empowered and used these ordinary men for the extraordinary task of carrying His life-saving message to the world. They became instruments through whom God worked. In the same way, God uses ordinary people like us to be His disciples who carry the message to those who will be lost without hearing and believing in it. As Jesus' disciples, we are the channels through whom He delivers His life-saving Gospel. We become Jesus' hands, feet, and mouth to share the Good News of Jesus' love to all people. By being disciples, we fulfill our Lord's command to go and make disciples. Thanks be to God for giving us the privilege to serve Him by serving others as His disciples.

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, (10-11-20)	\$1,105.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (10-11-20)	47
VISITORS (10-11-20)	5
SUNDAY COMMUNED (10-11-20)	37
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	7
BIBLE CLASS	12
SUNDAY SCHOOL	3

	<u>Week of Schedule 10-19- to 10-25</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Wed	Helping Hands 1-4 pm Confirmation Class 6 pm—7 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship Service Bible Learning 10:30 am Sunday School 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	Jerry Albers	Delores Gosch	

Kathy Trucke's address
Methodist Freemont Health Center
450 East 23rd St.
Freemont, Nebraska 68025

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 Dobrovolny** neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Jim Kueny**, Karen Kueny's husband

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



Dear Lord God, help us to trust You. We do love You Lord. Forgive us for doubting at times that You are working Your good in all situations. Forgive us for the times we haven't trusted You. As we gather together, to worship bless us, assure us that “in all things” You will work for good. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.