

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

October 25, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation is October 31st



"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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21st Sunday after Pentecost / REFORMATION SUNDAY
25 October 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Revelation 14:6–7 / Psalm 46 / Romans 3:19–28 / John 8:31–36

Sermon Title: Learn Something from the Word
Sermon Text: John 8:31-36

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

Today we celebrate Reformation Sunday—the day in the church year, when Martin Luther changed the way we worship. Martin Luther had been encouraged by his superior to read the entire Bible. He did just that, and as a result, he learned more about God than he had previously understood.

It was after Martin Luther read the Bible and was struck by a number of things that are in the Scriptures that were contrary to what were being taught by the Pope and other religious authorities. These major discrepancies lead Martin Luther to write the 95 Thesis and to try and have discussions with the religious authorities about what was being taught in the churches compared to what the Bible actually says.

Well, we know how things went, because we are not part of the Roman Catholic Church today. Our church forefathers broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and started a new church teaching only what the Bible says.

This event is called the Reformation—in which the truth of God’s Word was actually being taught and decisions were being made based on the Bible—not on human traditions or man’s ideas. Unfortunately, there are still a number of people around the world, who believe that their ideas are the only source of authority which leads to a myriad of random churches across the country in which all kinds of ideas are being taught—some of them have nothing to do with the Bible.

In our Gospel lesson this morning, we see Jesus having another discussion with some Pharisees. The Pharisees were religious leaders among the Jews. The Pharisees observed the rules throughout the Pentateuch—the first five books of the Bible—very strictly.

But now Jesus is showing them that even though they have the Bible—the Old Testament Scriptures—they don’t seem to fully understand what is actually written in the Bible. *“³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ ³³ They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’ ³⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.’” (John 8:31-38)*

Jesus points out that even though the Pharisees are studying the Bible, they have one problem: they are narrowly focused on only the strict letter of the Law of Moses, and don’t seem to be interested in the Spirit of the Law of Moses. The Spirit of the Law is seeing the Law of Moses in light of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

“³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and

*you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’*³³ *They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’*

Here Jesus points out one thing that all believers should do—ABIDE in Christ. What does it mean to ABIDE? Having and nurturing a deep relationship with Jesus Christ AND with fellow Christians. Here, Jesus specifically says: *‘If you abide in my word,’*

Sound familiar? Have you heard me say something like this many times before? Fill up with Jesus by reading or listening to the Bible. Then, take a small chunk of what you just read or listened to and review it more—chew on it—pray about it—talk with a fellow Christian about it. This is how you ABIDE in Christ.

Then, Jesus goes on to explain the purpose of abiding in God’s Word: *‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,’*³² *and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’* Sadly, in our day, there are too many people, who have turned away from God, and aren’t interested in the truth from God’s Word. Some people want to make up their own definition of the word “truth” and impose their definition on everyone else. Of course, when every single person in this country makes their own definition of the word “truth” then there is never an actual definition—simply several thousand ideas of how to define the word “truth.”

Here Jesus points out to the Pharisees that if they abide in him—in His Word—then they will live a free life. Unfortunately, the Pharisees didn’t seem to understand that reading the Bible with a stubborn heart—a heart unwilling to learn from the Holy Spirit—will get you nowhere. And, in a sense, you will still be in slavery to sin.

³³ *They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’* ³⁴ *Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.’* ³⁵ *The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.”* (John 8:33-35)

The Pharisees were very concerned about their position in society and cherished it very highly. They considered themselves the true teachers of the Jewish faith. And now Jesus points out that your ancestry—your position in society—your job—do not have anything to do with your spiritual well-being.

Here again what how Jesus responds: ³³ *They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’* ³⁴ *Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.’* ³⁵ *The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.”* (John 8:33-35)

“...everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” And the Prophet Ezekiel says the same thing: *“...the soul who sins shall die.”* (Ezekiel 18:4) The punishment for breaking one of the Ten Commandments is death. This is serious. God takes all sin very serious.

And this one reason that some people don’t like Christians or the Christian faith, because it sounds so harsh. But God cannot be in the presence of sin and evil. This is why the only punishment for sinning is death.

To me, that sounds as fair and just as it can get. If you do something wrong, you should get punished. That’s how our world works. And that’s exactly how God’s Word works in our lives—especially the Ten Commandments.

And yet, God our gracious and loving heavenly Father did something about this situation. God our Heavenly Father sent Jesus, his only-begotten Son, into this world, to live a perfect life according to the Ten Commandments and to fulfill the entire Scriptures.

This Jesus then “...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of

God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.” (Small Catechism: Apostles’ Creed: 2nd Article)

And God our gracious and loving heavenly Father allowed his only-begotten Son to die for you and for me so that we don’t have to be killed for our next sin. Instead, Jesus continues explaining to the Pharisees:

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. ’” (John 8:31-38)

Jesus points out to the Pharisees that they don’t know God—even though they have read the first five books of the Old Testament. They only see that their relationship with God is based on doing the right things—that’s it! But that’s not what Jesus is saying.

Jesus points out that when you don’t know the truth from God’s Word—when you fill up with everything else in this world—then you aren’t part of the Body of Christ. When you fill up with mostly secular, anti-godly ideas, then that is what you’ll think about. When you fill up with the truth from God’s Word—that Jesus can set you free from your bondage to sin—then you will think about godly things and ideas.

As Martin Luther discovered all kinds of truths by reading the complete Bible, so you and I can continue to also learn all kinds of truths from God’s Word. When we discover these truths from God’s Word—like this one from the end of Matthew’s Gospel: *“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:20b)

When you believe that Jesus died for your sins—and that Jesus rose again from the dead—then you will go to heaven when you die. All this means that you are set free from going to hell. You are set free. You are free to worship God without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our lives. When you are free to live as redeemed children of God, you are given great opportunities to share your faith with someone else, who doesn’t know Jesus.

As you go home today, make a point this week to read or listen to a portion of the Bible—about 5 verses—and then think about what the text says—pray about that text and ask God to teach you some rock-solid truth from that passage. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

MARTIN LUTHER

THE FATHER OF REFORMATION

Martin Luther’s Morning prayer:

Dear Lord, “I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

Martin Luther’s Evening prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” *Martin Luther*

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 – Being a Disciple

Scripture: “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples” (John 8:31).

Jesus’ last command before His ascension was, *“Therefore go and make disciples...”* (Matthew 28:19). What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of Christ. Jesus has called us through the working of the Holy Spirit in His Word and Sacraments to follow Him to be His disciples.

In Mark 8:34, Jesus tells us what the conditions are for being a disciple. *“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”* First He gives us a choice: *“If anyone would come after Me...”* We are free to reject this offer. Many have and many still do. Some, however, do not turn away. The first term of discipleship is met, and Jesus lays down the second: *“...let him deny himself.”* The disciple who denies himself is unaware of himself and knows Christ only. He keeps his eyes on Christ, without thinking of self, and *“count[s] it all joy...”* (James 1:2) to face the trials and testing of his faith.

There's more. Jesus says, *“...and take up his cross...”* Christ knew the road that lay ahead of Him, and He chose it willingly, joyfully enduring the cross. It is possible for us as disciples to take up our crosses only if we are oblivious to ourselves. If we are looking at ourselves, our crosses become unbearably heavy. By teaching us first that we must deny ourselves, Jesus has prepared us to carry our crosses. Looking to Jesus, we are unaware of the burdens of our crosses; we view our lives of discipleship as a joy. Just as we did not choose to be disciples, we do not choose the crosses we will carry. Each of us has a different share.

This exhortation concludes with Jesus' command, *“...and follow Me.”* All of us are called to die to ourselves and to our attachment to the things of the world. As disciples, we are called to become involved. Our Lord was our example. As He gave Himself on our behalf, we are expected to give of ourselves on behalf of others. We may have to risk our health, wealth, status, even our lives in our involvement, but that is when we find the real life and joy in being a child of God and servant of the living and everlasting God.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, I pray for Your forgiveness when I do things my way, and when I don't always rely on You. Thank You for calling me as a disciple and help me to be faithful in my discipleship. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 – Counting the Cost

Scripture: *“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men’ ”* (Matthew 4:19).

“Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:33), spoke Jesus to His listeners about the cost of following Him. He said we must hate our families and even our own lives if we want to be His disciples. He said that, unless we carry our crosses and follow Him, we cannot be His disciples (Luke 14:25-27).

Jesus is one of those true leaders who commanded only what He Himself was willing to do. He gave up His family; He left the close fellowship with His Father in Heaven to come to earth. Here He had a family – brothers who ridiculed Him and *“did not believe in Him”* (John 7:5). Here He had fellowship with twelve disciples, one of whom betrayed Him (Luke 22:48), another who disowned Him (Luke 22:60-61), and the rest who fled in the face of danger.

And He picked up His cross and carried it to Calvary so that those family members and friends and we, too, might be forgiven for our sins of betrayal and denial and desertion. He carried the cross in our place, for it is we who deserve to die (Ezekiel 18:4). But, *“while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly”* (Romans 5:6).

What can we say to the reality of such great love? How can we count the cost of Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins? We obey His command to deny ourselves and get rid of all encumbrances, and we pick up our crosses and follow Him. He does not place an unreasonable burden on us. He tells us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). Like those early disciples who, by God’s grace, were reinstated after their failures, we, too, are forgiven our sins and renewed in mind and spirit to witness for our Savior, rejoicing that we are counted worthy to suffer, if need be, for His name (Acts 5:41).

Prayer: Lord, You have chosen and called me to be Your disciple. Thank You for this privilege. Grant me passion to share Your love with others. Help me to be the disciple that You want me to be. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020 – Rejoicing in Being Counted Worthy

Scripture: *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...”* (Ephesians 4:1).

What a mission field those first disciples had! Eleven of them and a whole world full of people who had not heard about God’s grace in Christ. It doesn’t seem they missed an opportunity to share this Good News as they went about as their leader, Christ, had done, healing the sick, raising the dead, and teaching the people. And just like their leader, they were persecuted for it. Acts 5:17-42 tells of such an incident. The jealous Sadducees had the apostles put into prison. *“But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out...”* (verse 19). In obedience to the angel’s command, they went right back to the temple courts and preached the same message that had brought about their arrest.

Brought before the feared Sanhedrin, the apostles boldly stated, *“We must obey God rather than men!”* (verse 29). Then they preached God’s Law to the Sanhedrin! That didn’t set well, but, due to the intervention of Gamaliel, all they did was flog them and order them not to speak about Jesus again.

ALL they did! Have you ever been flogged for speaking the name of Christ? We should eagerly thank God that we live in a country where we can speak the name of Jesus. Even though there may be evidence of discrimination against Christians, our freedom of speech is still protected by law.

We can be thankful that we have the Word of God in its entirety – something else those early disciples did not have – to encourage us and build us up in faith. We can be thankful for the saints who have gone before us upon whose shoulders we stand as we seek to carry out our task as stewards of the Gospel.

From verse 41 we learn something about the disciples’ attitude: *“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing because they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name.”* How does your attitude compare to theirs? Is witnessing for the Gospel, even though you may be rejected or made fun of (perhaps the greatest persecution we’ll ever face) something you rejoice in? May God give us grace to rejoice in being counted worthy and let us, like the apostles, *“They did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ”* (verse 42b).

Prayer: Lord, thank You for allowing me to be counted worthy. Amen.

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020 – Bearing the Cross

Scripture: *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples”* (John 15:8).

“That’s my cross to bear,” some sighing, self-pitying soul laments. What is it that we identify as a cross? Is it poor health? Financial pressures? A hard-to-get-along-with in-law? An unfeeling employer? An unpleasant situation of some kind?

What was the cross of Christ? It was the instrument His enemies used to kill Him. It symbolized the lowest degree of humiliation possible. Yet the writer to the Hebrews urges us to look *“to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...”* (Hebrews 12:2).

Through His death in our place, Christ exalted the cross. We look to the cross, not with shame, but with humble joy, for there our Savior took the punishment that is ours. There He won eternal life for us. There He won the victory over sin, death, and Satan.

“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me,” Jesus declared (Matthew 16:24). The Christian steward taking up his cross is ridiculed by the world, just as his Savior was. The world hated Christ, and the world will hate His followers (John 15:18-19). Still we stewards, filled with His Spirit, equipped with His gifts, and renewed in our minds, joyfully take up the cross He gives us.

The cross, rather than being an agent of death, frees us – frees us to serve, to give, to sacrifice willingly and freely. Like our Savior on Whom we fix our eyes, we endure any hardship or discomfort for the joy that lies before us as we surrender our wills to the perfect will of our Father in Heaven.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to fix my eyes on You as my Lord and Savior. Use me in Your kingdom. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 – Making an Eternal Difference in Others

Scripture: *“Therefore, My beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Are you prepared with God’s to help others know Jesus? Are you using your time, talents, and treasures in ways that make an eternal difference in the lives of others? Making a positive impact on others is not always easy. Although doing the Lord’s work brings much joy, it does require sacrifice. For the sake of the Gospel, we need to commit our time and energy. In addition, the Lord’s work often requires us to give sacrificially. For example, the early Christians sold land and houses to meet the needs of others. The Macedonian churches gave beyond their ability to the needs of other believers (2 Corinthians 8:1-7). Just as God worked in the hearts of the Macedonians, He changes our hearts so we become generous people.

When we commit our lives and gifts to the work of the Lord, we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others. God uses our efforts, our giving, our words, and our prayers to strengthen others. Of course, by ourselves we can do nothing. God is our source of strength and ability, even our desires. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy, that He powerfully works within me”* (Colossians 1:28-29).

The Apostle Paul tells us about the great joy that we will experience knowing that we have helped others come to know Jesus. *“For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy”* (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20). Just as Paul was able to rejoice knowing that his hard work had made an eternal difference in people’s lives, so do we rejoice?

Prayer: Lord, grant me Your strength and courage as I share the Gospel with others. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020 – God in the Driver's Seat

Scripture: *"For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).*

In our spiritual journeys, some of us have put God in the driver's seat allowing Him to control and steer us in the right direction, whereas many of us have pushed God into a passenger's seat where His input and guidance is ignored. Is God in the driver's seat in your life? C. S. Lewis tells us, "There are two types of people. There are those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'Okay, then, have it your way.' " If God's grace has empowered you to put Him in the driver's seat of your life, His will will be done, and your life will be filled with greater joy, purpose, and fulfillment. God has a plan for our lives. He wants to lavish His favor on us, but we can experience God's transforming power only if we allow Him to be in the driver's seat.

We may be averse to allowing God to be in the driver's seat in our journeys because it means giving up control of our lives. We are often eager to relegate Him to the backseat, so we are free to do as we please. By nature, we are independent people who desire to focus on ourselves. We are more interested in living self-indulgent and self-gratifying lifestyles that focus on worldly pleasures. With God in the back seat, we go in that direction, but we will find that path leads only to despair, defeat, and loneliness.

Empowered by grace, we place God in the driver's seat so He can be in control of our lives. God's direction will be in sharp contrast to the self-centered life that we live without Him. We go where He drives us. As the driver, He controls the speed of our journey. He is able to slow or speed things up. His destination becomes our destination. He will pick up many people along the way with whom we can build relationships and share the Gospel. He stops along the way so we can be of help to those in need. All the time, we are walking in faith, allowing Him to be in control as He steers and leads us. Our ride ends when we arrive at our destination, our heavenly home.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to follow You and help me to depend on You. Amen.

Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020 – Climbing Higher

Scripture: *“I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me”* (Philippians 4:13).

In a unique way, the author Max Lucado offers an interesting perspective regarding the life of Christians and the branches of a tree. According to his tree analogy, most Christians sit comfortably on low-lying thick branches. Life for Christians next to the trunk of the tree is steady and predictable. There are higher branches, but they appear risky and a lot less comfortable. In our humanity, we desire to stay where it is safe and easy. We become branch-sitters.

Again considering the analogy of the tree, we can say that Jesus calls each of us to climb higher in our prayer life, in our worship, in reading His Word, and in our generosity. As we climb, the branches will be thinner and less steady, but Christ will support us. The world tells us to stay put on our secure big branches, but the One who loves us is quietly nudging us to go higher. Jesus wants us to depend on and trust in Him. He promises that He will never leave us.

One climb that we may resist the most is in the area of giving. The average Christian household gives approximately 2.6 percent of their income to their church, so most of us are sitting securely on some rather low branches. Our heavenly Father wants us to climb higher in the area of our giving. *“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper; so that there will be no collecting when I come”* (1 Corinthians 16:2). We are to climb so that we regularly give a portion of our income. As we climb in our giving, we show our gratitude and thanksgiving for all of God’s blessings. When we climb toward the branch that says “tithe” and go beyond that branch to the one marked “sacrificial giving,” we hear God’s Words, *“Well done, good and faithful servants”* (Matthew 25:21).

Prayer: Lord, I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead me to higher and higher branches. After all, God knows better than anyone the cost of hanging on a tree. In Jesus’s name I pray. Amen.

Coming Soon:

“Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards”

How do you answer the question, “Who are you?” Most often we identify ourselves by our relationships—I’m a father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife—or our profession—I’m a carpenter or teacher or businessperson or work in another of the myriad of professions now available to all. As believers our identity is in Jesus. The Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel, and we believe. Through God’s gracious gift of Baptism, the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts so that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God Who came to earth to save us from sin, death, and the devil.

This November, we’re going to look at what the Bible says about discipleship and stewardship. Our theme for this month is called “Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards,” and focuses on our identity as disciples and stewards. It is humbling to realize that God has created us and redeemed us through His Son, Jesus, and sustains us, calls us and gives us the privilege of being His disciples and stewards. The definitions of disciple and steward are different, but the ultimate purpose of both is to serve God by helping all people come to faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Through Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes and molds us to be disciples and stewards. It is not by own power or intellect that we fill these two different roles. By grace, God enables us to grow in faith and service to Him. Submitting our will to His, we are led and guided in our service.

Disciple: A disciple is identified as a “follower” and a “learner.” Just as Jesus called His 12 disciples to follow Him, He calls and chooses us to follow (John 15:16). A disciple is someone who continually strives to know more about Jesus. We learn about Jesus as we daily read His Word, attend Bible studies, attend worship services, participate in the Lord’s Table, and spend time in prayer. Disciples try to make more disciples by helping others grow in Christ. A disciple says, “Here am I! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

Steward: A steward is a manager of someone else’s property according to the desire and wishes of the owner. Because God has created and owns all things, we are God’s stewards. God uses us as His stewards by enabling and equipping us to use our time, talents, and money in ways that help others hear the Gospel. By His grace, God entrusts us with time to manage wisely so we are available to be used in His service. In the same way, we are given talents that can be developed so we can be effective in places where we can serve. God gives us the ability to work and make an income, and we are to manage the money we’ve earned faithfully and responsibly so we can give generously to support ministries that share the Good News and to help those in need.

We pray that God will bless our stewardship emphasis and that He will continually empower us to be used as His tools to help extend His kingdom.

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	Birthday
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.

Faith Step: Write down the blessings you get from caring for others. Be encouraged.

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (10-18-20)	
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (10-18-20)	36
VISITORS (10-18-20)	1
SUNDAY COMMUNED (10-18-20)	34
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	2
BIBLE CLASS	12
SUNDAY SCHOOL	3

	<u>Week of Schedule 10-26- to 11-01</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tue	Pastor Vacation
Wed	Helping Hands 1-4 pm Confirmation Class 6 pm—7 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship Service w/ HC (All Saints Day) Bible Learning 10:30 am Sunday School 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.

Our sympathies to the family of Ryan Paulsen for the loss of his father who went to be with his Savior. May the family find comfort in *John 11:25-26* "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek Bud Dose Carol Dose Selma Schrader

Elnora Dose John Fick Kathy Trucke (is home)

Jerry Albers (is home)

Delores Gosch *Will be admitted to the Dunes one day surgery*

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Lynette Dobrovlny** neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen **Jim Kueny**, Karen's husband **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Jo Hogan

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

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

** indicates a new address

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.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.