



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Reformation Sunday

October 31, 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**)



ACTIVE

CHRISTIANS

TOGETHER

IN

OUTREACH

&

NURTURE



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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Reformation Sunday / 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
31 October 2021

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

Sermon Title: What is truth?
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 is the day in our Church Year calendar in which we acknowledge the Reformation—we acknowledge what God did through Martin Luther and his contemporaries. Luther brought to light what the Bible really says about many topics.

This is why the Lutheran church has historically been a Bible reading—Bible studying church body. This is also why the Lutheran church has historically been very interested in education—biblical education to be precise—in all ages. From preschool up through high school, and on into adulthood.

Unfortunately, in our day and age, we Lutherans struggle in these areas. Of course, there have been polls and studies done over the past ten years pointing out that many mainline Christian denominations struggle with biblical literacy and on-going catechetical study.

Even though we don’t need another reformation like Luther and his contemporaries lead back in the 1500s, we still need to follow their example of using the Bible as the only source of truth. When some people in our country want to redefine what is a man and what is a woman, then we need to rely completely on the Word of God.

When we compromise the truth of God’s Word simply to make other people feel good, then we are denying God and the truth of His Word. When Luther and his contemporaries wrote, professed and stood firm against the highest government authority—the emperor—they were holding firm to the truth of God’s Word.

In the *Luther* movie, near the end of the movie, there is a scene in which princes—the regional leaders over Germany—are standing before the emperor. The emperor tells these princes that they are to forbid the pastors under their jurisdiction from preaching and using the newly translated German-language Bible. The emperor continues by saying that anyone, who owns a German-language Bible will be considered an enemy of the State.

The emperor wants the princes and all of the German population to return to the way things were in the past—in which all pastors lead worship according to the Roman Catholic Church in the Latin language. There is a little bit of heated discussion at this point in the movie in which the emperor wants his way—he wants things to be back to the way they were. The emperor whole-heartedly supports the entire teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

After this short, heated discussion, an older prince steps forward facing the emperor, and says: “Before I let anyone take from me the Word of God, and ask me to deny my belief, I will kneel and let him strike off my head.” And then this prince kneels down and bows his head towards the emperor. That’s a pretty bold action to take.

Right after this prince kneels down, the rest of the princes step forward, kneel down and bow their heads.

Following them are other leaders across Germany, who support the Word of God in the German language. It's a tremendously moving part in the movie, and it makes me wonder, do you cherish the Word of God as highly as these men did?

Jesus tells you that His Holy Word should be considered very important in your life in our reading from John's Gospel chapter eight: *"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.'"* (John 8:31-36)

We live in a day and age in which a lot of people want to redefine words, especially the word "truth." Of course, this idea of redefining what a word means is not new. This sort of silliness has been happening for centuries. Some people spend a lot of energy trying to get their opinion made into a dictionary definition of a word.

When Pontius Pilate was the governor over a region of Israel, Scripture records an event in which Jesus was being tried before Pontius Pilate and an angry crowd of Israelites. Here is a part of the conversation Pontius Pilate has with Jesus:

"Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate said to him, 'What is truth?'" (John 18:37-38)

Pilate asks Jesus the question that keeps getting asked in our day and age: "What is truth?" Unfortunately, too many people don't want to accept current definitions of all words. Many people want to redefine everything. If everyone's definition of what is marriage or what is a man and what is a woman is considered acceptable, then no definition makes sense. In a sense, no one knows what any word means.

This is why Jesus says what he does in our Gospel lesson: *"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:31-32, 36)

Even when some people in our country want to redefine many words does not mean that their proposed definitions are the God-given, biblical truth. In fact, many proposed definitions of what is marriage, for example, are contrary to God's Word.

And, of course, an argument can be made that God's Word is not the final authority. If that is the case, then we Christians are sunk and have no hope any more than unbelievers. If God's Word is not true, then we might as well give up and go home and stop having church worship and we should stop believing in Jesus Christ. That's what some unbelievers want from us Christians—to stop believing in the One True God found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

And that is an option. Of course, the other option is to continue to believe in the One True God, and to continue to abide in God's Word every day—to seek the face of the Lord our God, and to desire to know more about what

he has to say to you. That's what Jesus was telling the Jews, who didn't seem to understand what Jesus was saying—that true freedom is found in Jesus Christ alone—and that the truth of God's Word is the only foundation to stand on.

So why is it so hard for some people to believe in God? Some people want to be like God, and want to define everything according to their own ideas. Where did they get their ideas? Well, ultimately, God gives us all knowledge and wisdom and everything we know.

Sometimes the knowledge and wisdom we have gets distorted and the truth gets muddled, and we slowly stop knowing how to define a man or a woman, for example. This happens when we slowly stop gathering with other believers in worship to receive from God all that he wants to give us.

In addition to reducing the number of times you attend worship, you might slowly stop reading your Bible, so that you don't keep getting filled up with the truth from God's Word. While you slowly stop reading your Bible, you might fill up more with secular ideas from social media. You might think: well, everyone says it's okay for two men or two women to be married, so it's not a big deal.

Soon you have slid so far from where you were—daily feeding on God's Word, and daily drinking from the waters of eternal life—that you don't think much about worship or God. At this point, you might also be getting influenced by unbelievers and think that Christians are hypocrites or whatever terrible thing you can think of, and then you don't care about God, because the wisdom of this age has blinded you from the truth, the only truth that will set you free from sin, death and the devil.

When you become entangled in lies about God and the Bible, it's easy to believe that you are better off, that you have thrown off the shackles of what you call oppression, and you continue to live in your unbelief, being fully convinced that you know best—and that God has no place in your life.

This is why Jesus points out the importance of knowing the for real truth found in the person and work of Jesus Christ, and written down in the Scriptures for our learning and instruction: 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.'* (John 8:31-36)

Even in the days when Jesus walked on this planet, there were lots of people, who didn't believe in the One True God, and who had convinced themselves that they knew what was best. Jesus points out that when you don't abide in God's Word, that you will become a slave to the Evil One. When you don't seek the Lord while he may be found, you will continue to be a slave to sin—no matter how much you think you're better off without God.

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.'*

I am a Christian, because I know that God exists, and that Jesus died for my sins. I know for a rock-solid fact that the Word of God is the only source of truth, and that there is no other way to get to heaven than by believing in Jesus Christ alone.

I say this, because the Holy Spirit reminds me of what the Bible says. The Holy Spirit continues to teach me and guide me in the way I should go—the way that leads to eternal life—that sets me free from sin, death and the devil.

This is what is written in the Small Catechism: The Apostles' Creed: the Third Article and Meaning: **“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

“What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

“In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.” (Small Catechism)

It's actually pretty easy to regularly abide in God's Word. Every day take a little time to read or listen to the Bible. Get a Bible reading plan or ask me, I'll be happy to help you get set up. Then, do it. Read or listen to the Bible. Pray and ask God to help you to understand what you read. Pray and ask God to help you live according to His Holy Word so that you will know the truth and the truth of God's Word will set you free. Amen.

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



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.

9. Reading the Bible gives us courage. *“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:8-9)

10. Reading the Bible helps us to be fruitful. *“... but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers”* (Psalm 1:2-3).

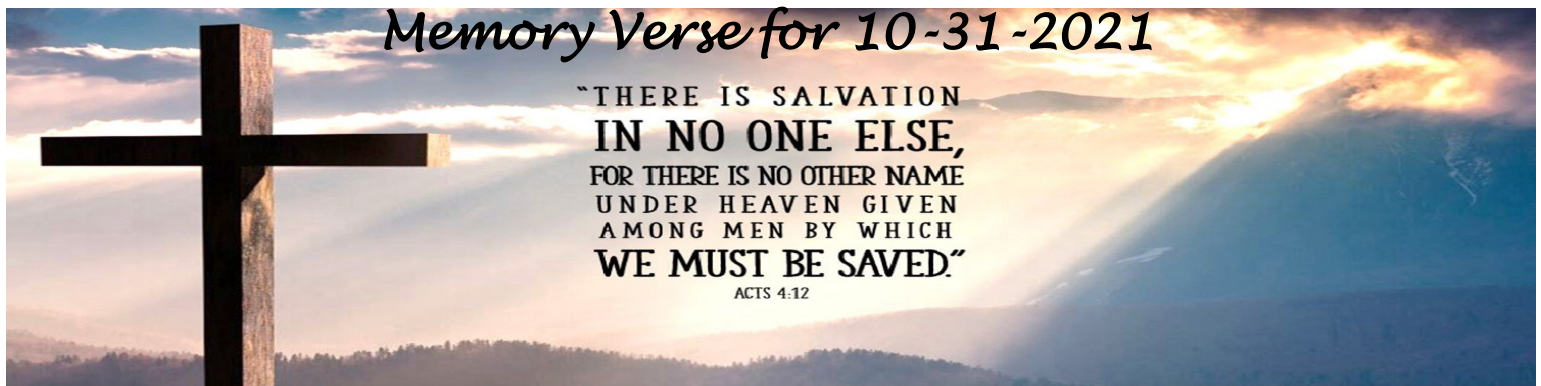
ANNOUNCEMENTS

****When exiting the building on the east side of the church by the kitchen, please make sure the lights on the inside of the church are shut off. Thank you. Also for the rest of the building make sure all the lights are turned off and the doors are locked.**

If you desire to have something put in the bulletin and or news letter please write it down the way you want it expressed on a piece of paper and place it under my door, or email it to me, then make sure I received your e mail because on occasion I do not. All entries have to be in by the close of Wednesday or it will be in the next week bulletin. Thank your. Karen Krusen.

Our church has adopted 2 elderly families, for Christmas, through the Mapleton food pantry. All they want is food and cleaning supplies, which can be anything from laundry soap, floor cleaner to shampoo toothpaste or a bar of soap. There's a Christmas wrapped box in the narthex and another box under the table. The Outreach Board.

Our church is also doing a mitten, sock and hat tree. There's a small Christmas tree, in the back of church, to hang items on. Socks can be for child to adult, boy or girl, man or woman. Prefer socks to be new, unless never worn. Also a person can give a donation by cash or writing a check to the Mapleton Food Pantry. There are envelopes on the tree to put donations in. We'll be collecting for both of these until December 1st. The Outreach Board.



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

	<u>Week of Schedule 11-01 to 11-07</u>		
Mon 01	Pastor's Family Day	Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
		Sunday Giving 10-24-21	\$542.00
	Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm	Orphan Grain Train	\$150.00
Wed 03	Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	Offering for 10-17-21	\$845.00
Thur 04	In The Word 1:30 pm	Missions	\$50.00
Sun 07	All Saints Day Sunday Services 9:30 w/ HC	Sunday attendance 10-24-21	34
	Elder: Mark Witzel	Children in Church 10-24-21	4
	Reader: Mark Witzel	Visitors 10-24-21	2
	Screens: Dennis Muckey	Bible Class 10-24-21	12
	Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School 10-24-21	4-C 1-V 1-T
	Bible Class 10:45 a.m.	In The Word 11-04-21	

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

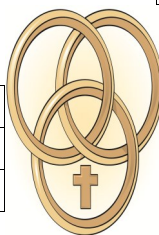
Melvin Schrader	Oct 29, 1926	94
Leo Dose	Oct 10, 1932	88
Alice Miller	Oct 08, 1933	87
Barbara Bumsted	Oct 11, 1934	86
Joyce Kruse	Oct 23, 1934	86
Kathi Tweet	Oct 30, 1937	83
Darlene Albers	Oct 28, 1938	82
Delores Gosch	Oct 11, 1939	81
Kay Johnson	Oct 30, 1939	81

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
Virgil Gronwoldt	Oct 29, 1961
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
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	Sep 04, 1988
Roxie Wray	Sep 20, 1958

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 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

Nazaria Kaderabek
 Selma Schrader
 Shawn Hamann

Carol Dose
 Alan Bruhn
 Fern Jacobson

Myrna Gosch
 Larry Wunschel

Melvin Schrader
 Fred Fletcher

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; **Kevin Reitz**, son of Caroline & Dis; friend of Kay Johnson. **Sharon Kuehl Henning** niece of Judy & Gary Kuehl;



Those who serve in the military:



Triston Twedt (great-grandson of Alice and the late Keith Miller) serving with the Army @ Ft. Lewis, WA

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

Delores 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

Carol Dose 87 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934

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

Our prayer List

Nazaria Kaderabek

310 S. 6th St.
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Alan Bruhn

14535 Walnut Ave
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Sharon Kuehl Henning

312 Highcroft
 Window MN 56101

Cecil, Fred Fletcher

Correctionville Specialty
 Care
 Room 101
 116hwy 20
 Correctionville, IA 51016

Larry Wunschel

819 Ring St.
 Mapleton, IA 51034

*Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace,
 Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control,
 Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded!*



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Rev. Christopher LaBoube, Pastor

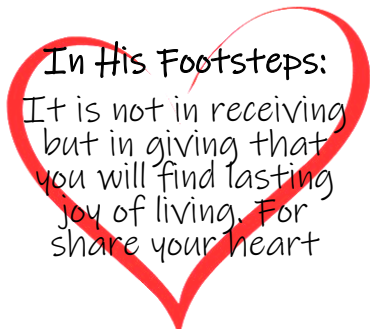
Worship time: Sunday



9:30am Worship Service

10:45 Bible Class

10:45 Sunday School



In His Footsteps:

*It is not in receiving
but in giving that
you will find lasting
joy of living. For
share your heart*

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:** 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 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:** www.lfosiowa.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.



Dear God

Thank you for your goodness, for your perfect salvation plan for us. We truly are dependent on Jesus. Thank you for sending him to save us and to bring us everything we need. Bless us, Lord, empower us for victorious living. In Jesus' precious name. Amen

