

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

November 15, 2020

"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)**



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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24th Sunday after Pentecost

15 November 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Zephaniah 1:7–16 / Psalm 90:1–12 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 / Matthew 25:14–30

Sermon Title: Equipped to be Grace-filled Servants

Sermon Text: Matthew 20:25-28

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

As we continue through this sermon series called “Disciples living as Grace-filled Stewards” we are now in week three. Our text for today is taken from Matthew chapter 20 verses 25-28, where we hear Jesus describe his Kingdom, which the world could really call an Upside-Down Kingdom. Here’s what that text says:

25 But Jesus called them to Him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave. 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Talk about upside-down. *“Whoever would be first among you must be your slave?”* I can see the disciples kind of cocking their heads sideways and saying, “What’s that again?” The people living in Jesus’ time knew very well what a kingdom looked like. Power was demonstrated through dominance. Greatness was shown through strength. Achievement was shown through the conquering of other nations.

And here comes Jesus saying something so ridiculous that I wouldn’t be surprised if a few people decided they were done with Him. How do you keep following a man who says that power is not shown through dominance, but rather, through service to others? That true greatness comes not through strength, but through vulnerability? And that achievement is not about conquering others, but rather, showing compassion to them?

This sounds subservient. This sounds like how a slave would act. How in the world are we supposed to live this way? True power means to stand tall. True greatness means to dominate. Can you imagine, for just a moment, what the world would be like if our leaders behaved like this – competing with each other to see who could best serve the needs of the vulnerable? Always looking for new and better ways of coming in last so that others could come in first? It seems crazy. Impossible. Upside down. And yet, that is the Kingdom Jesus is describing in our text.

To highlight this point about “...*whoever would be great among you must be your servant*,” let’s look at the British Empire back in 1952. Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne in 1952, after her father, King George VI, died at the very young age of 56. At the time, Queen Elizabeth was just 26 years old.

At that point in her life, Elizabeth is torn between her own self, her own life, and her life as monarch. Shortly after, the Queen Grandmother, Queen Mary, says to Elizabeth, “You are now gone. It is the queen who exists.” Ultimately, Elizabeth embraces this truth, losing herself in her service as queen.

Early in her monarchy she went on a 23-week tour of the British Empire. Several appearances each day. For 161 days in a row. Australia was 57 cities in 58 days. At one point during the trip, her husband, Prince Philip, tells Elizabeth that he has realized he is waving his arm in his sleep, and he encourages Elizabeth to skip a few days. She says this: “No. The people want this. The people NEED this. We will not miss a single engagement.” And they didn’t.

And yet, in the same moment that there was duty fulfilled, there was a heavy feeling of obligation, of being trapped. There was a servitude. And I think that’s because of the bottom-line reason behind Queen Elizabeth’s actions. You see, it’s not the service. It’s the reason behind the service. Everyone who surrounded her, who coached her, who counseled her, talked about the same thing: preserving the crown. Furthering the dignity of the crown. The importance of the crown above everything else.

Now, we are, like Queen Elizabeth, called to serve. In fact, we are called to give up ourselves, just as she was told by her grandmother. Paul wrote to the church in Galatia that he was gone; he no longer lived. His life was one big act of service to Jesus. God equips US to be His disciples and to

serve that way in His upside-down Kingdom. He gives us gifts to use, and he gives us opportunities to use those gifts.

But most important, he gives us the BEST REASON in the world to serve. The eternal salvation of souls. The Gospel. Not a crown that perishes, but a crown that lasts forever. A crown that we have been given freely because of the life, the suffering and death, the resurrection, and the ascension of our Lord, our Savior, our one and only King, Jesus Christ. That is the difference between service to God and service of any other kind. All other service is temporary. Service to the Gospel lasts forever.

What if we fully lived as subjects of that upside-down Kingdom of God? Measuring our achievements not in terms of possessions or status, // but in terms of lives touched? What if we calculated our “net worth” not in terms of bank accounts // but in terms of acts of compassion?

And here’s another way God’s Kingdom is upside down. There is no seniority, no positions more important than any other. ANYONE of us can serve any other. Young or old, // powerful or vulnerable, // rich or poor, // educated or not // anyone can act with kindness, put others first, and try, by God’s grace and His power, simply to show compassion to those around them.

Anyone can. And maybe that’s another way the Kingdom of God is upside-down. In this world, this “kingdom,” we look to our President and Vice-President, our Congress, our Governors, our leaders to step in and change the world for the better. But in God’s upside-down Kingdom, change happens from the bottom-up. Change in God’s world comes first in our homes, our schools, the places we work and play and volunteer and shop and live our lives. As we show compassion, as we share God’s love, as we serve others with the gifts we already have from God, His Kingdom happens. All around us.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., the great American medical doctor, and poet, and writer, said this: “Many people die with their music still in them. Too often it is because they are always getting ready to live. Before they know it, time runs out.”

We all have music in us. It is the music of the Gospel. It is the most beautiful music ever heard. Let’s not let time run out. Let’s take “music lessons” as we are equipped through study of God’s Word, // through prayer, // through Holy Communion, // through fellowship with our brothers and sisters. And let’s play the music of God’s amazing Gospel to the world. Because it’s not

the service. // It's the reason behind the service.

So, use those gifts you have. Share the music God has given you to play. Shine the light of Christ which is within you! When you cheerfully welcome newcomers to church, God uses you to open their hearts to the Gospel, which you will hear from this pulpit every single service. When you serve our neighbors, who have less than you do, you are providing them the best help possible—the help of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When you serve as a new member mentor, God will use you to help our newest members feel at home, to begin walking closer to Jesus, so they are assured of their salvation, and can begin to disciple others as well. When you open your home to a small group Bible study, God uses you to help your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ get deeper into His Word, and the Holy Spirit builds faith and a greater and greater trust in the Gospel.

In fact, that's what Jesus mentions at the end of our text for today. *"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

When the mother of James and John asked Jesus if they could sit at his left and right hands, Jesus answered, *"You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?"* They said to him, *"We are able."* Well, James and John didn't know what they were saying. They couldn't drink from the cup Jesus was drinking from. Jesus knew that.

Only Jesus could live a perfect life in our place. Only Jesus could carry the unimaginable weight of our sins to the cross of Calvary. Only Jesus could rise again so we can be absolutely certain we will also rise to eternal life with Him. Only Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Only Jesus. He is the reason we serve. Amen.

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, unto life everlasting. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Monday, Nov. 16, 2020 – Our Offerings to God

Scripture: *“Honor the Lord with your wealth...”* (Proverbs 3:9).

In the church service, the offering is an important part of our worship of God. God is honored when we faithfully and cheerfully give to Him. In our offering, we are giving to the Lord through the church. Because our money represents our God-given time, inspiration, energy, and perspiration, we are giving, in reality, ourselves. It is as if we are putting ourselves into the offering plate.

When we give to God because of Who He is and out of gratitude for what He has done and continues to do, He is pleased. The focus of our giving must always be on God rather than on institutions or people. To illustrate this point, there is a story about a church that had a fund-raising campaign to raise money for a new sanctuary.

On their commitment Sunday, the members were ushered to the front of the church to place their pledges on the altar. One of the people moving forward was a young handicapped woman who had a very meager income. Over the years, the people in the congregation had come to love and admire her. As she reached the altar, the members of the congregation noticed that she placed a ring that had been given to her by her mother in the offering plate. After the worship service was over, the elders decided that this precious ring was too valuable for this lady to give. One of the elders went to her apartment to return the ring to her. In talking with her, the elder said, “Because of your financial condition, we’ve decided that we want to give your ring back.” Upon hearing this, the young lady started crying and gave the ring back saying, “This ring was not given to you; I gave it to Jesus!”

Shame-faced, the church leaders apologized and acknowledged that she had by her deed, exemplified the very kind of giving Jesus extolled in the Poor Widow, and, with grateful thanks, accepted the precious gifts she offered to her Lord.

Prayer: Lord, I pray that You will grant me the faith to be a faithful steward of the treasures which You entrust to me. I pray that I will faithfully surrender to You my first and best so that through my giving You are honored and glorified. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020: Giving God our Best

Scripture: *"The best of the first-fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God"* (Exodus 23:19).

Giving is part of life. We probably give many people birthday, anniversary, Valentine's Day, and Christmas gifts. As Christians, we also give to God Who first gave to us. In contrast to our giving to other people, our gifts to God should represent our first and best because He is our creator and redeemer. Our giving to God reminds us of His sovereignty and expresses our gratitude to Him for what Jesus did on the cross for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Through giving, we express our love. We give to others because we love them. Our attitude towards or love for that person will determine what and how much we give. When we know the love and mercy of God, we become giving people who want to give to Him by sharing with others. Motivated by love, we even give sacrificially. It has been aptly said that the mind grows by what it takes in, whereas the heart grows by what it gives out.

The account of the brothers Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:3-5) exemplifies how giving or lack thereof reveals what is in the heart. Abel raised animals while Cain worked the soil and harvested grain. Abel loved the Lord and gave Him the firstfruits of his flock. However, Cain merely gave some of the harvest. The Lord honored Abel's offering because of his loving and obedient heart, but He was not pleased with Cain's offering.

As we examine our giving, we should ask ourselves whether God is getting our best or just our leftovers. Is our giving a proper response to God's love for us? As we read and meditate on His Word and participate in the Sacraments, God changes our hearts so that we are willing to give Him our best.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for Your tremendous love for me which enables me to give You my best. I thank You for Your promise that You will never leave me nor forsake me. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020: Being Rich Toward God

Scripture: *“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15).

We live in a society which is driven by the desire to have and spend money. In our culture, money and the things it can buy are king. People foolishly believe that money provides happiness and a lifetime of security, so they spend their time and resources chasing after it. Unfortunately, if they are successful in their pursuit, their lives are often filled with loneliness and despair.

The desire for wealth and prestige was just as prevalent in Jesus’ time, so these topics were the central focus of many of His illustrations. However, in His illustrations, we find a different focus toward money than our society has. Rather than being “rich toward money,” God wants us to be “rich toward God” (Luke 12:21). Money is a gift of God to be used according to His will instead of being idolized. As Christian stewards, our motive is not to amass more money solely for our use and enjoyment. We understand that money is a tool that can be used for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Money is one of the subtlest attractions in our lives. At any age and at any time, greed and the love of money can overcome us. In the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus tells about a greedy farmer who wanted to build bigger barns. He had no time for God or his neighbors. Jesus called him a fool. Luke 12:20 reads, “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ”

At the end of the parable, Jesus warned His disciples as He warns us today that, if we store up money and things of this world for ourselves and are not “rich toward God,” we will not live in eternity with Him. If we are not “rich toward God,” we will receive what we have prepared for ourselves—nothing!

Prayer: Lord, help me to keep money in its proper perspective and grant me a giving heart. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020: Giving a Cup of Cold Water

Scripture: *“For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do”* (Hebrews 6:10).

During Jesus’ last three years on earth, He spent much time nourishing and teaching His disciples. Only when they were prepared to go out into the world to preach, teach, and heal did He send them. Leaving without provisions, the disciples were totally dependent upon those to whom the Lord would send them for their support. The disciples relied upon the power of the Gospel to move the hearts of their listeners to provide willingly for their needs. They were to travel light and trust in the Lord.

Jesus, referring to His disciples, said, *“Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward”* (Matthew 10:40-42). Jesus told His disciples that whoever gives to others is also giving to Him. Still today we assist the spreading of the Gospel by supporting disciples and missionaries around the world. As we provide for church workers locally and abroad in the name of Jesus, we are serving the Lord Himself.

As we express our Christian faith through our giving and serving, God is pleased. God notices every act of compassion and kindness that we express. Even the simple gesture of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty person is an act God blesses. Through our faith, we are empowered to do acts of service. When we act in response to the Lord and not for recognition, God blesses us. Having already been assured of salvation by God’s grace through faith, blessings such as peace, contentment, patience, and hope are added blessings.

Only a small number of people make their living as full-time church workers, but we all are given the privilege and opportunity to support them with our prayers and our money. May God bless us all as we work to further His kingdom.

Prayer: Lord, enable me to be a generous and joyful giver. Help me to see the needs and opportunities to help and serve others. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Friday, Nov. 20, 2020: Giving Transforms Life

Scripture: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”* (Romans 12:2).

Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35). Putting these words into practice, we experience the truth of Jesus’ statement. In order to help us understand the blessings that come from giving, we can use the illustration of two bodies of water in the Holy Land.

The northern body of water is the Sea of Galilee. This large lake receives water from the melting snow of Mount Hermon to the north. Water flows out of the lake through the Jordan River to the Dead Sea in the south. Around the Sea of Galilee and within the sea is abundant life. On its banks are little towns and beautiful vegetation. The water is full of life with schools of fish swimming in its waters. In contrast, the Dead Sea is as dead as its name implies. Nothing lives in it, and nothing lives around it. Its waters are stagnant.

The contrast in these two bodies of water points out how giving can transform our lives. The difference is that water flows into the Sea of Galilee and out of it down the Jordan River. It lives because it gives. In contrast, the Dead Sea only takes water in. There are no outlets leaving the Dead Sea. It simply takes without giving. By only receiving and not giving, the water is never refreshed and life is destroyed.

Through our giving we are either like the Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea. Do we look for ways to share God’s blessings with our church and others so as to resemble the Sea of Galilee, or do we hoard all that we can or, at best, give God some leftovers, which causes us to be similar to the Dead Sea?

By the grace of God, we can give and be transformed. Giving enables us to experience joy and live fulfilling lives. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God can remove our attitudes of greed and covetousness. We can become the giving and generous people that He wants us to be.

Prayer: Lord, You are the owner of all the animals in the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills. Enable me to be a generous and joy-filled giver who gives You all praise and honor. Thank You for Your grace that makes my living and giving possible. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020: Christ's Love Compels Us

Scripture: *"...for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part"* (2 Corinthians 8:2).

Through His gifts of faith and grace, God changes us from reluctant to willing and joyful givers. As the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:14 NIV, "Christ's love compels us" to give generously. Christ's love for us and ours for Him releases our grip on our time and money. When we give cheerfully, we display the Macedonian spirit, which Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians chapter 8.

Some time ago, there was an elderly man named Alfred. He retired in a Midwestern town where he once owned a large factory. As an immigrant to the U.S. from Denmark as a young man, he made a promise, "Lord, as I prosper, I will share the Gospel with others overseas." Later in life, Alfred built a hospital in India, supported the leprosy clinics in India and Tanzania, and helped fund special medical work in Liberia.

A national magazine wanted to print a story about Alfred's generosity. He declined saying, "No, I want no one to see me. I want people to see the Lord only."

For men like Alfred, giving is a natural response to the love given to him by Jesus. When hearts are filled with love, giving is a by-product of that love. Giving is not done for recognition from others or to earn God's favor, but in response for all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus. "And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

The same love that compelled the Macedonians to give compels us to grow in our faithful giving. Through faith, we understand how much God loves us, and we cheerfully show our gratitude by giving generously of our time, talents, and treasures.

Prayer: Lord, thank You so much for Your unconditional love for me. Through faith, I know that, in spite of my sinful and wayward way, You love me. Empower me, Lord, to respond as faithful and obedient stewards. I pray with a grateful heart, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Devotions

for the whole family!

Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020: God Blesses Faithful Givers

Scripture: *“Honor the Lord with you wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine”* (Proverbs 3:9-10).

A missionary was sitting in a small corner restaurant reading a letter delivered from home. As she opened the letter, a crisp, new twenty-dollar bill caught her attention. Needless to say, she was pleasantly surprised, but, as she read the letter, her eyes were distracted by the movement of a raggedly dressed man on the sidewalk leaning against a light post in front of the building. She couldn't get his peculiar condition and stature off her mind. Thinking that he might have greater financial need than she, she slipped the bill into an envelope on which she quickly penned “persevere.” Leaving the restaurant, she nonchalantly dropped the envelope at the stranger's feet.

Turning slowly, he picked it up, read it, watched the woman walk away, and smiled as he tipped his hat and went his way. The next day walking down the street, she felt a tap on her shoulder. She found the same shabbily dressed man smiling as he handed her a roll of bills. When she asked what they were for, he replied: “That's the money you won, lady. Persevere paid five to one.”

There is a serious moral to this story: It is impossible to give unselfishly of ourselves without being blessed in return. In Proverbs 3:10, we are told that, when we give God our first and best, “our barns will be filled with plenty.” Proverbs 22:9 tells us, *“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.”* Jesus tells us that as we give it will be given back to us (Luke 6:38). God promises us through His Word that He will bless those who give faithfully. The blessings that we can be certain of are spiritual blessings and, for some, financial blessings as well. Giving is a blessing for both the giver and the recipient. The recipients of our gifts are blessed in receiving our gifts, and we are blessed in giving them.

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You for Your awesome love, grace, and mercy. Help me to show my gratitude to You through my generous giving. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DISCIPLES LIVING AS GRACE-FILLED STEWARDS

Question: "What is the difference between a Christian and a disciple?"

Answer: The terms *disciple* and *Christian* are related but not synonymous.

The Greek term for “disciple” in the New Testament is *mathetes*, which means more than just “student” or “learner.” A disciple is a “follower,” someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his rule of life and conduct. The Pharisees prided themselves in being disciples of Moses (John 9:28). Jesus’ followers were called “disciples.” Their discipleship began with Jesus’ call and required them to exercise their will in response (Matthew 9:9).

Jesus was quite explicit about the cost of following Him. Discipleship requires a totally committed life: “Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33). Sacrifice is expected: “Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’” (Matthew 16:24).

Not all of Jesus’ followers were able to make such a commitment. There were many who left Him after a while. “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him” (John 6:66).

The term *Christian* was never used by Jesus. The first instance of the word *Christian* is found in the book of Acts: “The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). Most Bible scholars agree that it was highly unlikely that the believers themselves thought up the name “Christians.” The early church had other terms for themselves, such as “disciples” (Acts 13:52; Acts 20:1; Acts 21:4) and “saints” (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Ephesians 1:1) and “brothers” (1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 3:8).

The name “Christian,” meaning “belonging to Christ,” appears to have been invented by those outside of the church. It was most likely meant as a derogatory term. Only two other times does the word appear in the New Testament (Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). The idea that the term *Christian* was originally a pejorative finds some support in the first epistle of Peter: “However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name” (1 Peter 4:16).

Biblically speaking, a Christian is someone who has placed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:12). A Christian has been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3). A Christian “belongs to Christ” and is daily being transformed into the likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

DISCIPLES LIVING AS GRACE-FILLED STEWARDS continued

A true Christian (and not one in name only) will also be a disciple of Christ. That is, he will have counted the cost of following the Lord and has totally committed his life to Jesus. He accepts the call to sacrifice and follows wherever the Lord leads. The disciple completely adheres to the teaching of Jesus, makes Christ his number-one priority and lives accordingly. He is actively involved in making other disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

A true Christian is a believer in Christ and possesses new life through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Because he believes in Christ, a Christian will also be an obedient disciple. Paul describes the reality of taking up one's cross and following the Lord: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving post cards located at the back of the church. You may pick them up and send to a friend or relative to invite them to our services. You may pick up as many as you like. If we run out we will make more.

MVAOCOU is hosting a Poinsettia sale contact **Paige Schmidt** (880-2412) to order these Poinsettias. You will be supporting the School as well as beautifying our church for Christmas. They would be delivered to the school but they would be glad to bring the order to the church, just let Paige know where you want them.

NO Confirmation Classes on 11-25-20.

Thanksgiving Worship Eve Services on 25th at 7 pm

Mapleton Hometown Variety will be having Poinsettias and Christmas Cactus for sale this year. Poinsettia 6" is @9.99; 8" is \$24.99; 10" is \$29.99 and 6" Christmas Cactus \$9.99 plants will start coming Nov. 25. Contact Carol Koenigs 712-882-1081.

Mapleton Food Pantry is in need of paper products for November a soup item for December please.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Name	Baptism
Darlene Albers	Nov 16, 1952
Leo Dose	Nov 26, 1932
Delores Gosch	Nov 5, 1939
Kaylee Goslar	Nov 20, 2005
Karen Krusen	Nov 4, 1951
Tari Miller	Nov 23, 1994
Chelsey Paulsen	Nov 11, 2018
Boston Paulsen	Nov 11, 2018
Melvin Schrader	Nov 21, 1926



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.



Robert & Roberta Conyers	65 yrs.	Nov 13, 1955
Gary and Judy Kuehl	54 yrs.	Nov 20, 1966



BIRTHDAY

Name	Birthday
Leo Erlemeier	Nov 7, 1961
Maverik Goslar	Nov 11, 2010
Donna Goslar	Nov 30, 1948
Mary Greiner	Nov 30, 1954
Samantha Kelm	Nov 23, 1986
Betty Kuhlman	Nov 19, 1938 82
Erika McGrain	Nov 23, 1993
Trista Ohlmeier	Nov 28, 2006
Drake Paulsen	Nov 2, 2014
Selma Schrader	Nov 12, 1929 91
Carolyn Sexton	Nov. 2, 1939 81
Ramona Weber	Nov 4, 1961

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (11-08-20)	
Thank offering (SUNDAY, (11-08-20)	
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (11-08-20)	42
VISITORS (11-08-20)	3
SUNDAY COMMUNED (11-08-20)	NA
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	6
BIBLE CLASS (11-08-20)	12
SUNDAY SCHOOL (11-08-20)	6

Faith Step: Today, choose to focus on Jesus and His completed work. Receive the grace that you so desperately need and want

	Week of Schedule 11-16- to 11-22
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tue	Board of Directors 6 pm Circuit Pastor Meeting 8 am to 12 noon
Wed	Confirmation Class 6 pm—7 pm Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 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.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek

Bud Dose

Carol Dose

Selma Schrader

Elnora Dose

Jerry Albers

Myrna Gosch

Delores Gosch

Hans Witzel

Paige Schmidt :who has COVID-19 and both her and her family are isolating at home.

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Lynette Dobrovolny** neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen **Jim Kueny**, Karen's husband **Lynne Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan

Evelyn M. Christiansen, age 100, of Amarillo, TX (formerly of Mapleton, Iowa), passed away on November 7, 2020, at her daughter's home in Amarillo, TX. A Private Family Graveside Service will be held on November 13, 2020, in the Mount Hope Cemetery of Mapleton, Iowa. Rev. Chris LaBoube will officiate. May the family find comfort in John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

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

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

**ADDRESSES FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS NEEDING PRAYERS: BE A KIND CHRISTIAN
AND SEND THEM A CARD I'M SURE THEY WOULD ENJOY!**

Nazaria Kaderabek
310 S. 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Selma Schrader
21 Ohm Drive
Mapleton, IA 51034

Delores Gosch
202 S. 2nd St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Charles (Bud) Dose
302 N. 2nd Ave.
Anthon, IA 51004

Sheri Heilman
(Sue Oberg's sister)
1721 Lincoln Street
Great Bend, KS 67530

Elnora Dose
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Jerry Albers
1313 Maple Street
Onawa, IA 51040

Carol Dose
1 Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Mapleton, IA 51034

Myrna Gosch
Pleasant Care Center
200 Shannon Dr.
Whiting, IA 51063

Paige Schmidt
405 South 5th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

Hans Witzel
36252 Co. Hwy E 34
Castana, IA 51010

Carsten Phillips
2827 Stoddard Lane
Dillon, MT. 59725

Richard Swain
407 S. 5th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

Jim Kueny
707 Oak St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Lynette Dobrovolny
410 S. 4th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Lynne Smith: chose to not publish

Jazmin Mauch: chose to not publish

Ron Kraffle: chose to not publish





St Matthew Lutheran Church
504 Walnut Street
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 e very 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**: 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.



Dearest Lord Christ,
 You have enlightened my heart with Your truth. Give me also Your Holy Spirit and power, that
 I may know and do what pleases You.
 Amen. *Martin Luther*