



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 21, 2021

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all you ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

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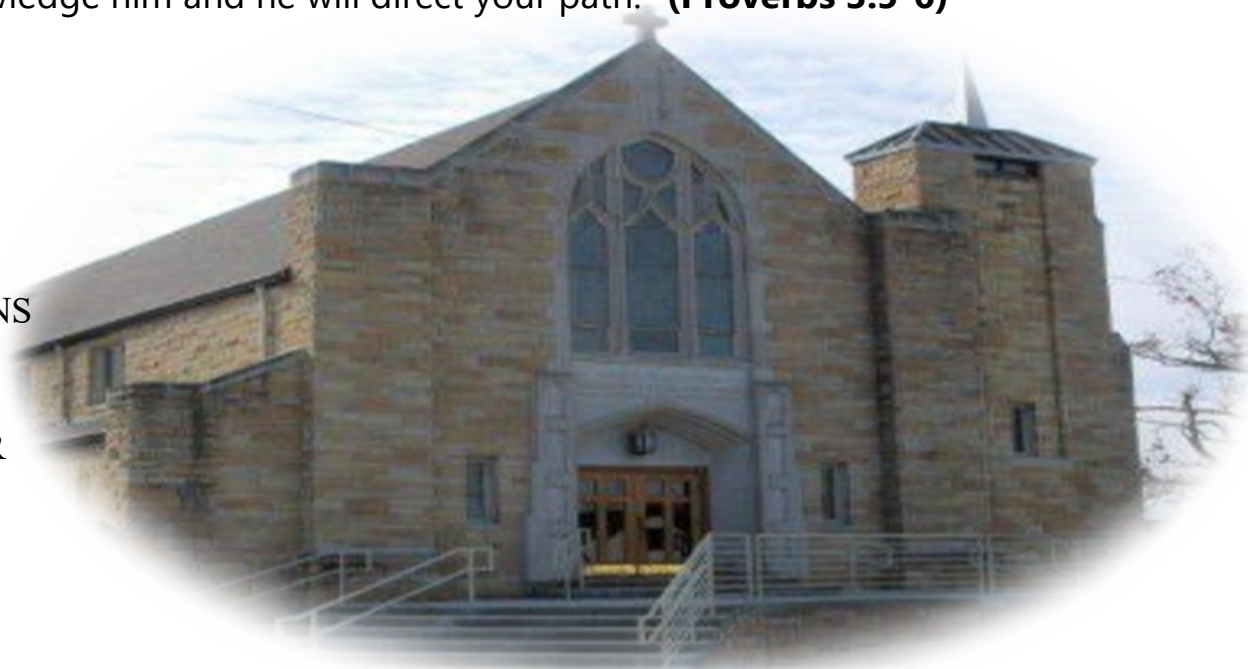
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St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

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Karen Krusen

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(volunteer)

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Last Sunday of the Church Year

21 November 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14 / Psalm 93 / Revelation 1:4b–8 / Mark 13:24–37

Sermon Title: Will Jesus Return Today?

Sermon Text: Mark 13:24-37

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

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year Calendar. During the last couple of Sundays, we have been looking at Scripture that talks about the End Times—the end of this life as we know it. When the end comes, Jesus will appear in all his glory and splendor and will separate the sheep from the goats—the righteous from the ungodly.

Our Old Testament lesson today describes what we will see on Judgement Day. Daniel, the prophet, writes in chapter seven: *“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.”* (Daniel 7:9-10)

When Jesus comes one last time, then Judgement Day begins. The Prophet Daniel describes an almost frightening scene in which the Ancient of Days—that is God our Heavenly Father—is seated on a throne in heaven.

A question I have been asked before is if we are saved by believing in Jesus, then why is there one final judgement? Judgement Day is about good judging what you have done. This is what Paul says in Ephesians: *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 6:10)

On Judgement Day, Jesus tells us that God the Father will look at us through Jesus and see us forgiven of all our sins, and worthy of entering into eternal life in his presence. Jesus also tells us that people, who don’t believe in God, who have rejected him, they *“...will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous—that is, those, who believe in Jesus—into eternal life.”* (Matthew 25:46)

On that Last Day, God the Father will look at me and you and all people, and see everything I have done—both good and bad. He will see whether I lived according to the Word of God and his Ten Commandments—or if I just lived however I wanted.

Every day of your life, God gives you opportunities to love him by loving others. You love others when you serve them. This is why the Scriptures talk a lot about how to live according to God's Word. The key point is to do what God asks of you.

When you live according to the Two Greatest Commandments—Love God and love your neighbor as yourself—then you are doing what God wants you to do. You are loving God and loving your neighbor when you serve your neighbor.

How can you serve your neighbor? Ask him. See what your neighbor needs and offer to help. It's pretty easy. Every day God gives you and me and all people the opportunity to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself.

And since we don't know when Jesus will return, we should take the opportunity TODAY to love God and to love our neighbor by serving our neighbor. Because Jesus tells us very clearly what will happen near the end of time when he returns and Judgement Day begins.

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.” (Mark 13:24-27)

On Judgement Day, Jesus will gather all people, who are living and who have died, and God the Father will judge every single person of what he has done. Those who have rejected God *“...will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous—those who endured to the end with their belief in Jesus will go—into eternal life.”* (Matthew 25:46)

Elsewhere Jesus talks about Judgement Day: *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.”* (Matthew 25:31-33)

Again, the point of Judgement Day is for God the Father to look at everything you have done—all your good deeds and all your bad evil deeds—and to judge if you will spend eternity in heaven or hell. Again, this is what Paul says in Ephesians chapter six: *“For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 6:10)

In addition to God looking at all the good works that you have done or not done, God the

Father will also look at you through Jesus, his only-begotten Son. When God the Father looks at you through Jesus, he will see that you are clean, holy and righteous because of Jesus. And because God the Father will look at you through Jesus and see you holy and righteous, God the Father will invite you into his eternal presence—invite you into heaven—where you will be gathered with all believers for all eternity.

Since no one knows when Judgement Day will happen, Jesus wants you to do the good works now that he has prepared for you to do—good works that glorify God our Heavenly Father, and good works that build up the Body of Christ here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: ‘Stay awake.’” (Mark 13:32-36)

When you think about staying awake—as Jesus encourages us—it can seem like a really good idea. But in reality, you might get tired and go to sleep. You might stop thinking about Jesus returning at any time, and not really be that worried about it. This is why Jesus tells us that we should be like servants in a rich man’s house, and be prepared for his return, whenever he comes home. We should be prepared, no matter what time or day it is.

And we sometimes get spiritually sleepy, and stop thinking a whole lot about Jesus’ return. We can become spiritually drowsy, and stop caring. And that’s problem, because when we become spiritually drowsy, we become susceptible to being bitten by the devil, who is always looking for someone to devour—anyone, who is spiritually sleepy and not really interested in worrying about Jesus’ return which could happen at any moment.

This is why it’s so important to stay awake—to be regularly feeding and drinking from God’s Word. *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Here in this text, the author of Hebrews says that we need to encourage all believers to gather together for worship, *“and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* In this text, the word “Day” is capitalized referencing the Last Day when Jesus returns and Judgement Day begins.

Gathering together to hear God’s Word to receive from him all that he wants to give you is

another opportunity he gives us—an opportunity to love God and an opportunity to love your neighbor as yourself. If you don't know what good works have been prepared for you to do, pray. Pray and ask God to show you how you can love him and love your neighbor so that you can serve God by serving your neighbor. The Holy Spirit will let you know what to do. Amen.

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



Maturing in Christ: Called to Discipleship

How does the church grow? It grows by the work of the Holy Spirit working in each of us to tell our neighbors, friends and coworkers about all that Jesus has done in our lives.

This is what we confess in the Apostles' Creed: the Third Article Meaning: "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." (Small Catechism)

Sharing your faith can seem scary or daunting, but it doesn't have to be. After all, it is God the Holy Spirit doing all the work. Your job is simply to follow along and share the hope you have in Jesus when you're given the opportunity.

The church is where God's Name is kept holy and His Word is preached. The Lord's Prayer: the First Petition Meaning explains: "God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!"

As the church grows, then so do its members. God has given every member some "spiritual gift" or ability to help grow the Body of Christ in every congregation. This is what discipleship is all about.

Discipleship is being intentional about teaching someone else so that he or she can grow in his or her own faith. Teaching includes everything you do—how you act and react in every situation—and all that you say.

Everyone of us in the church can and should participate in discipleship. Look at these encouraging instructions from Paul to Timothy: "*Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.*" (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

Scripture also tells us how each group of people—older men, older women, young men and young women—should behave: *“² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.”* (Titus 2:2-6)

And one more encouragement for young men and women in the congregation: *“Before old age you shall get up, and you shall show respect for an old person; and you shall revere your God; I am Yahweh.”* (Leviticus 19:32)

Everyone can and should disciple someone else. Discipleship starts with a willing heart. It also helps to do as Jesus encourages us: *“For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”* (1 John 3:11)

As part of the Body of Christ, let us walk together as children of God, seeking to disciple each other. This is an exciting opportunity that we have during this Advent—Christmas Season as we prepare to receive from God the Father the greatest gift ever—eternal life through the one- and only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

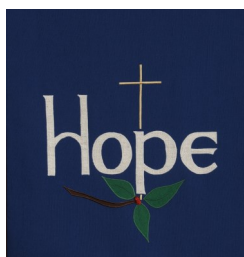
During this Advent season (Nov. 28—Dec. 24), we’re going to dig into the Scriptures to learn what God says about discipleship. Join us for as many services and Bible studies as you’re able. God bless you this Advent season!

‘The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons’

Blue

Blue, the first color of the “Bg-Bgs-Pwr” scheme, is the more contemporary color increasingly used by many congregations in their observance of a new church year. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. BLUE-the color of the sky-helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.

Author: Douglas K. Escue — pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Originally published in *Lutheran Worship Notes*, Issue 29, 1994.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fund Raiser: Christmas Cookies and Candy. On 11-27-21 Saturday at the Mapleton Christmas Fair in the Community Center from 9am to 1pm. St. Matthew will have a table that will sell Christmas Cookies and Candy. Please come and help us with our fundraiser. The ladies will be putting together plates of cookies and candies on the 23 at the church, anyone is welcome to come and help. We will be able to get into the Community Building at 8 am to set up. Hope to see you there.

There are Christmas cards in the Narthex of the Church. The cost is \$5.00 a Box.



11-21-2021	Ryan Paulsen	712-840-0125
11-28-2021	Leo Dose	712-880-0000



11-21-2021	Ryan Paulsen	712-840-0125
11-28-2021	Mark Witzel	760-500-8902



NOVEMBER	
Zola Kafton	881-2395
Dawn Paulsen	840-2941
Janeal Holmes	889-8095



11-21-2021	Joe Hogan	712-420-0775
11-28-2021	Dennis Muckey	712-840-6914



Week of Schedule 11-22 to 11-28	
Mon 22	Pastor's Family Day
Wed 24	Confirmation Class 6:00 pm
Sun 28	First Sunday in Advent Services 9:30 Elder: Leo Dose Reader: Mark Witzel Screens: Dennis Muckey Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Bible Class 10:45 a.m. Prayer Program at HS parking lot 11:40 am

Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
Sunday Giving 11-14-21	\$1,410.0
Thank Offering for 11-14-21	\$435.00
Sunday attendance 11-14-21	45
Children in Church 11-14-21	7
Visitors 11-14-21	4
Bible Class 11-14-21	NA
Sunday School 11-14-21	Not taken
In the Word 12-05-21	

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Leo Erlemeier	11/7/1961
Mary Greiner	11/30/1954
Ramona Weber	11/4/1961
Mardelle Vandevanter	11/26/1951
Diane Brahms	11/2/1988
Jason Divis	11/27/1981
Donna Goslar	11/30/1948
Maverick Goslar	11/11/2010
Chana Hinrickson	11/6/1949
Vernon Jahn	11/2/1969
Cole Jensen	11/13/1997
Andy Kaderabek	11/6/1988
Dan Kovarna	11/27/1951
Emily Lamb	11/13/1979
Lynette Larson	11/24/1966
Erika McGrain	11/23/1993
Jerry Means	11/16/1951
Trista Ohlmeier	11/28/2006
Drake Paulsen	11/2/2014
Chad Rickert	11/16/1980
Kade Rotnicke	11-29-1080
David Schrader	11/24/1962
Tyler Soukup	11/3/1988
Beth Trucke	11/30/1968
Terrance Wood	11/18/1977



*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

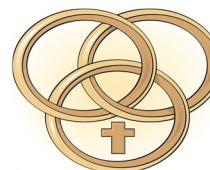
Selma Schrader	11/12/1929	91
Carolyn Sexton	11/02/1939	81
JoAnn Thoreson	11/07/1940	80

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

Melvin Schrader	Nov 21, 1926
Leo Dose	Nov 26, 1932
Kachin Tweet	Nov 07, 1937
Delores Tweet	Nov 05, 1939
Belinda Bartels	Nov 12, 1950
Karen Krusen	Nov 04, 1951
Darlene Albers	Nov 16, 1952
Robert Conyers	Nov 06, 1955
Donna Shaw	Nov 09, 1958
Roger Hinrickson	Nov 16, 1958
Wendy Buss	Nov 13, 1966
Bryan Fritz	Nov 03, 1968
Jeffrey Stoll	Nov 09, 1969
Matt McKibben	Nov 26, 1969
Chad Rickert	Nov 30, 1980
Jason Divis	Nov 29, 1981
Ben Hinrickson	Nov 20, 1983
Craig Riesberg	Nov 15, 1987
Kaitlyn Goslar	Nov 13, 1994
Tari Miller	Nov 23, 1994
Michael Jacoby	Nov 04, 1995
Abby Larson	Nov 12, 1995
Mollie McKibben	Nov 26, 1995
Clint Lamb	Nov 24, 1996
Christopher LaBoube	Nov 01, 1998
Michael Carley	Nov 04, 2000
Kaylee Goslar	Nov 20, 2005
Johannah McKibben	Nov 08, 2008
Zachary Arndt	Nov 07, 2009
Schalee Schrader	Nov 02, 2014
Boston Paulsen	Nov 11, 2018
Chelsey Paulsen	Nov 11, 2018
Harper	Nov 18, 2018

God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

Robert and Roberta Conyers	Nov..13 1955	66 yrs.
Leo and Shari Erlemeier	Nov 23, 1979	42 yrs.
Gary and Judy Kuehl	Nov 20, 1966	55 yrs.



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



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	Carol Dose	Myrna Gosch	Melvin Schrader
Selma Schrader	Alan Bruhn	Larry Wunschel	Fred Fletcher
Shawn Hamann	Fern Jacobson		

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

George Koithan 89 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932

41134 110th Street

Mapleton, IA 51034

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

1225 B Ave.

Danbury, IA 51019

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!*



St Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Street

Mapleton, IA 51034

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

Rev. Christopher LaBoube, Pastor

Worship time: Sunday



9:30am Worship Service

10:45 Bible Class

10:45 Sunday School

In His Footsteps:

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

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 waking me up for a brand-new day. Give me a fresh start so that I may walk in your strength and purpose for my life. Forgive me for my faults from yesterday and help me to walk closer to your side today. Help me to radiate your light to everyone I meet , so that they may see your love through me. Guide my every step. I cannot make it through the day without you. I love you Jesus Amen