

# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*November 22, 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**

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

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website: [www.stmatthewmapleton.org](http://www.stmatthewmapleton.org)

FB page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton

**Rev. Christopher LaBoube**

Pastor

(712-840-1652 )cell

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*Office Administrator Assistant  
(volunteer)*

(712) 881-2243-office #

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Last Sunday of the Church Year

22 November 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 / Psalm 95:1–7a / I Cor. 15:20–28 / Matthew 25:31–46

Sermon Title: Discipling Grace-filled Givers

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

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

This is our fourth and final week of our stewardship emphasis titled “Disciples Living as Grace-filled Stewards.” Today our theme is “Discipling Grace-filled Givers.” The text we’re going to focus on is Second Corinthians 9:7: *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

I believe this passage is often misunderstood and misused. Some people have used this passage as their reason for not being very generous toward God. Their thinking goes like this. If tithing or giving one-tenth of my income to God puts pressure on me and makes me unhappy then God does not expect me to tithe.

It is almost like saying if not eating all kinds of junk food makes me unhappy then I probably should eat a lot of junk food because God wants me to be happy. Or if doing good works as a response to all the good that God has done for me through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is a burden // then I should not be expected to do good works because God does not want me to be burdened. Can you imagine such thinking?

The problem is that this passage is often taken out of the context of all that Scripture is saying. Let’s look back at story of Cain and Abel as recorded in the book of Genesis found in Chapter 4. Cain was a worker of the ground and brought an offering from what he produced. Now that sounds OK until we read on.

Abel, his brother, raised animals and also brought an offering from what he produced. But it is clear that in many ways his offering was better than Cain’s. He brought *“of the first born of his flock and of their fat portions.”* God was happier with the gift of Abel than with the gift of Cain because Abel’s gift was a gift of faith and was clearly given with a joy-filled heart and not just to fulfill an obligation.

God pays attention to what we give and wants it to come from a grace-filled and joy-filled heart—a heart that recognizes how much God loved us when He offered us His Son Jesus to suffer and die for us. The greatest first born of all first-borns. The greatest sacrifice of all sacrifices.

That, then, leads to the next question. Does it matter how much I give as long as I give with a joyful, grace-filled heart? We have talked about this often in the past, but we need to hear it over and over again. God has given us a standard, a guideline for our giving. That guideline is 10% and is called a tithe. This giving of one-tenth of our incomes was commanded in the Old Testament and encouraged in the New Testament.

Let me read Malachi 3:8-10 in an interpretive paraphrase: You probably think there is no way a mere human can rob or steal from God. But you are wrong. You are robbing Me. But you say, “Come on, God, get serious. How is that possible?” God says, let Me tell you. You are robbing Me by withholding from Me your tithes and offerings. And whether you are willing to admit or recognize it, your life is not as full as it could be because of it. Bring Me your full tithe and put Me to the test to see whether or not I will take care of you.

If you really catch what God is saying here, you realize He is hitting us right between the eyes. In so many words He is reminding us that we just do not trust Him enough. And that is the real problem: We do not trust God to take care of us in a way that we think we need to be cared for. So we are tempted to take the care of ourselves into our own hands, use our money to take care of our needs first and, then, give some of what is left to God. What God wants is for us to give Him our tithes and trust that He will take care of us with the other 90%.

So, I think it is appropriate to ask the question: Has God done anything to earn our trust? We often think like the husband or wife who says to the other in a moment of frustration: “You never do anything to show me your love.” Very often what is really being said is, “You are not loving me enough the way I want to be loved. Yes, you may do many loving things, but they don’t count because I have some really important needs not being met.”

So, in your opinion do you believe God has done enough to earn your trust, love, and commitment and to ask us to be joy-filled and grace-filled givers // or has He, in your opinion, failed you too many times? Think about this.

Do you remember how Abraham was instructed to prove his faith by sacrificing his own son, Isaac, to God? How many of us felt that God was being unfair to Abraham? Have you ever felt relieved when God offered a last-minute pardon so that Abraham did not have to kill and sacrifice his only son, Isaac? Have you ever thought—no parent in his right mind should be expected do such a thing?

I wonder if we really understand what it meant for God to do what He did for us. I believe we greatly underestimate what that was. He asked His only Son to come to earth to be a sacrifice for us. And after Christ was taken captive by Jewish leaders, // falsely accused of crimes He did not

commit, // taken to Calvary to be crucified as the sacrificial lamb of God, // there was no last-minute pardon.

The excruciating crucifixion took place and Christ died on that cross. And why? He did it to rescue us from the eternal death penalty that we so deserve. He did it so that we could be forgiven of all our sin and spend eternity with Him in heaven.

He did it because He is so filled with love for us that He wants to shower us with His grace and forgiveness. And He did it with joy in His heart. Hebrews 12:2: *"For the JOY that was set before Him, [Jesus] endured the cross."*

So how would you compare the gracious and loving gifts He gives to us to the gift of tithing He asks that we give? There is no doubt in my mind that He has proven we can trust Him to take care of us when we become joy-filled and grace-filled givers. Amen.

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

### **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.

**NO** Confirmation Classes on 11-25-20.

**Thanksgiving Worship Eve Services** on 25th at 7 pm

**The Outreach program** will be sending Christmas packages to our 4 active military people. You can help with the shipping cost, please make checks payable to St. Matthew Outreach. Thank you Joan Chandler.

There will be **No church services** on Dec 6th and Dec 9th, but you will find them on Facebook. Pastor La-Boube will be on vacation from Dec. 3rd to Dec. 11. Pastor Peitsch will be on call (515) 570-8078 his cell phone. Please direct any and **ALL** communications to President Mark Witzel (760) 500-8902, or Jeff Krusen (712)-840-9821, Head Elder, if any questions feel free to call the church office.

**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.

**St. John's United Meth. Church** Mapleton. Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26 11 am-1 pm Dinner in-town delivery available. See post for more information in back of church.

**Helping Hands** will not meet this Wednesday but will begin again on Dec. 2 @ 1:00 pm.

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

**Friendly reminder: info. for the bulletin and news bulletin has to be in by Wed. please, or it will be published the next week. Thank You.**

# DISCIPLES LIVING AS GRACE-FILLED STEWARDS

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:19-20)

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.

Maybe discipleship sounds daunting and scary and you’d rather get your teeth pulled than disciple someone else. Discipleship is really all about showing someone else how to do something you already know how to do.

Discipleship is basically like attending a Bible study. You come, you learn and you grow in your faith in Jesus. When you don’t understand some point you ask questions. That’s how we all grow.

Discipleship then is being intentional about teaching someone else so that that person can grow in their 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 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)

I always see older men and women in the church as Christians who have a rich background in the church. These older men and women also have lots of great stories about what life was like growing up and then raising children.

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

And one more encouragement for young men and women: *“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)



Making Stewardship an **Intentional** Part of Discipleship



# God's Word

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## THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

### **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8)**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God ... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8–11)**

## FOR SHARING

1. The average church has fewer than 50 percent of its members in worship each week. What kinds of obstacles do you face in attending worship regularly?
2. To keep something holy means "to set it aside for a special, sacred use." What is so special and sacred about weekly worship?
3. The Sabbath is also a day of rest. In what ways is rest vital to your physical life? to your spiritual life?
4. Through faith, the book of Hebrews notes, God's people have a "Sabbath-rest" (4:9). How is Jesus our Sabbath-rest? How does He give you true rest?
5. What does God do for you at every worship service? How do His gifts strengthen you during the week?

## PRAYER

Jesus, You are Lord of the Sabbath. You are the Lord and Savior of my life. Please forgive me for those times when I was hesitant, reluctant, or negligent about coming to Your Father's house of worship. Thank You for the strength I receive there through Your Word and Sacraments. Help me always to hear Your Word gladly and willingly. In Your name. Amen.

## 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 <b>82</b>
Erika McGrain	Nov 23, 1993
Trista Ohlmeier	Nov 28, 2006
Drake Paulsen	Nov 2, 2014
Selma Schrader	Nov 12, 1929 <b>91</b>
Carolyn Sexton	Nov. 2, 1939 <b>81</b>
Ramona Weber	Nov 4, 1961

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (11-15-20)	\$3,578.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (11-08-20)	\$1,205.00
Thank offering (SUNDAY, (11-15-20)	\$425.00
Thank offering (SUNDAY, (11-08-20)	\$600.00
Chicken dinners	\$102.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (11-15-20)	32
VISITORS (11-15-20)	1
SUNDAY COMMUNED (11-15-20)	29
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	4
BIBLE CLASS	15
SUNDAY SCHOOL	2

Faith: Step Spend time in Jesus's presence today. Make Him your priority.

	Week of Schedule <b>11-23- to 11-29</b>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Wed	NO Confirmation Class No Helping Hands this week Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Last Sunday of the Church Year Worship Service Bible Learning 10:30 am

<b><u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u></b>	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			

Our sympathies to the family of Lynette Dobrovolsky who went to be with Jesus. 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.

**Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns**

**Sheri Heilman**— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Jim Kueny**, Karen's husband **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Carsten Phillips** grandson of Marlene Phillips, (grandson has Covid 19 and pneumonia.

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*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

**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

**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*



**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

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

Selma Schrader  
21 Ohm Drive  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Carsten Phillips  
2827 Stoddard Lane  
Dillon, MT. 59725  
(Marlene Phillips grandson)

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

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

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

Jim Kueny  
707 Oak St.  
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

Lynne Smith: chose to not publish

Jazmin Mauch: chose to not publish

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

Ron Kraffle: chose to not publish

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





**St Matthew Lutheran Church**  
**504 Walnut Street**

# **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.



Lord God, may the unity You share with us through Christ Jesus, strengthen relationships within our church family, Amen