

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

November 29, 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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Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Pastor

(712-840-1652)cell

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*Office Administrator Assistant
(volunteer)*

(712) 881-2243-office #

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Advent 1st Sunday
29 November 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Isaiah 64:1–9 / Psalm 80:1–7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 / Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Title: Jesus is Coming Whether You're Ready or Not
Sermon Text: Mark 13:24-37

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

For centuries, some Christians have tried to predict when Jesus was going to come back and take us to be with him in heaven. And of course, every one of these past predictions has not come to pass. Therefore, we can conclude that they were not prophesying the truth from God.

All throughout the Scriptures—the Old Testament in particular—we see situations in which God says that if what the prophet says happens, then you will know that prophet was speaking the truth. If a man prophesied and nothing happens, then you will know that man was not telling the truth from God's Word.

In the Gospels, “Jesus promised to come again.” And, “the disciples had their own idea of what Jesus meant. They expected to see him return to earth in their lifetime. When it didn't happen the way they expected, // some began to doubt whether Jesus would ever return.”

“However, Jesus never said WHEN he would return—in fact, he said no one but God the Father knows the hour. Instead, he told us to always expect his return, so that we would be prepared. *“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.... You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him”* (Matthew 24:42, 44).

Of course, you might also ask—since Jesus is God, then how does Jesus not know when that Last Day will be? Well, it's true that Jesus is God just like God Father is God, but Jesus tells us *“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.”* (John 5:19)

So, since Jesus, the Son of God Most High, will know when that Last Day is, Jesus waits, and he asks you and I to do the same. So why do we have to wait? And why does it seem like Jesus has delayed in coming One Last Time? It's been over two thousand twenty years since Jesus promised to his disciples—and to us—that he would come again and take us to be with him in paradise—in heaven.

The problem is we're impatient. We want things NOW! We want to know exactly what's going to happen WHEN—WHERE—WHY—and HOW. We get so impatient, because we don't know, and we're not in control.

And yet that thinking is completely contrary to the Christian life—having faith in Jesus, trusting him to provide for all our needs. Having faith in Jesus—trusting Jesus—is all about knowing confidently that Jesus will do exactly what he said he will do—come again one last time to take you to be with him in heaven.

In the meantime, Jesus is also doing what he said he would—provide for all your needs of body and soul. This is what he taught us in the Lord's Prayer—the Fourth Petition: *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

And what does that mean? Luther's Small Catechism explains: "God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."

And *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, // clothing, shoes, // house, home, // land, animals, // money, goods, // a devout husband or wife, // devout children, devout workers, // devout and faithful rulers, // good government, good weather, // peace, health, self-control, good reputation, // good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

So as you move through each day of life that God has given you, you should simply have faith like a child—trust and believe that Jesus will do what he said he would do. "God never forgets his people! His timing is intentional. God [the Father] delays Jesus' return, because he is merciful.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God wants everyone to turn to him, and he gives plenty of time and opportunity.

THIS is why it seems that Jesus is taking so long to come back. Jesus ISN'T taking his own sweet time. Jesus will return exactly when God our heavenly Father says he will return. God *"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."* (1 Timothy 2:4)

Since this is God's desire, then God is waiting for more people to turn from their wicked ways—to confess their sins and to receive forgiveness. And how does this happen? How do people turn from their wicked ways? Well, ultimately it is the work of the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit brings people to repentance—convicting them of their sins and reminding them of the promises of

God's forgiveness from the Bible.

This is why it's so important for all of us Christians to read or listen to the Bible. When we know the truth from God's Word, then we aren't swayed by all kinds of crazy ideas and opinions that flood social media.

When we read or listen to the Bible, then we fill up with Jesus. When we fill up with Jesus, then we can be confident that Jesus will do what he said he will do. Jesus told his disciples that "he will come again, [and] so he will! Jesus' second coming will bring an end to sin, sickness, and sadness. It will be the ultimate, forever victory."

In the meantime, we wait—patiently—trusting God that he knows exactly what is going on and what will go on in our lives. And while we wait, Jesus tells us to wait. "He wants us to be ready. He wants us to be intentional about the time he gives us here on earth. We aren't here to chase things that give only temporary happiness."

Unfortunately, it seems like too many Christians fall into the same trap as non-Christians—lusting after the things of this world and acting like unbelievers. When you look and act and talk just like a pagan, no one can see Jesus in you—in your words and actions.

When you fill up with Jesus and trust his Word—then you start living differently. You live and move and have your being like one, who has been redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. When you fill up with Jesus, then you act like a disciple—a student—of Jesus Christ.

Instead of chasing after the things of this world that will all fade away, God "has given us a meaningful purpose: to know him, // to follow him in obedience, // and to share his love with others. *"You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming"* (2 Peter 3:11–12). God has a plan, and we're part of it, so let's be faithful! Amen.

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

** Part of this sermon was taken from a devotion titled "Day 18" from Brand New: A 40-Day Guide to Life in Christ by Taylor, Shilo. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2017.

God's Representatives



THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother. (Exodus 20:12)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve them, love and cherish them.

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

FOR SHARING

1. A bumper sticker says, *Question Authority*. What "hidden messages" do the words convey? Why is authority a negative concept for many people?
2. Our parents are the first authority figures in our lives. In what ways is the stability and strength of society dependent on the health of the family?
3. What other authority comes from God? How do these authorities reflect God's will for a strong, stable society?
4. Though He possessed all authority in heaven and on earth, Jesus came to earth to obey all true authority. He humbled Himself and submitted to the will of sinful authorities who put Him to death. Share what Jesus' willing sacrifice means to you.
5. Honor, serve, love, and cherish. By the power of God's Spirit, how might we appreciate our parents and other authorities in our life?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to You. Help me to respect those to whom You have chosen as representatives of Your authority: parents, police officers, elected officials, and pastors and leaders who are called by You to serve in Your church. Give those in authority the wisdom they need to make decisions that are pleasing to You and good for Your people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor LaBoube 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; 881-2243

There will be **No church services, bible class, or Sunday School** on Dec 6th and Dec 9th, but you will find them on Facebook.

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.

Helping Hands on Dec. 2 @ 1:00 pm.

The poinsettia's on the altar are given by Marilyn and Duane Hamann in memory of Marilyn's Mother and Father.

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

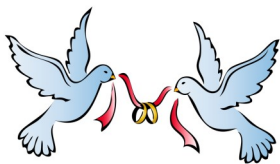
Mapleton Hometown Variety will be having Poinsettias and Christmas Cactus for sale this year. Poinsettia 6" is \$9.99; 8" is \$24.99; 10" is \$29.99 and 6" Christmas Cactus \$9.99 plants will start coming Nov. 25. Contact Carol Koenigs 712-882-1081.

*O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go; preserve Pastor and his family as they travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them home safely, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Submitted by Dennis Muckey.***

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.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

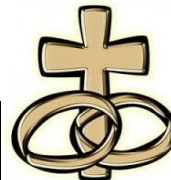
Name	Baptism
Darlene Albers	Nov 16, 1952
Leo Dose	Nov 26, 1932
Delores Gosch	Nov 5, 1939
Kaylee Goslar	Nov 20, 2005
Karen Krusen	Nov 4, 1951
Tari Miller	Nov 23, 1994
Chelsey Paulsen	Nov 11, 2018
Boston Paulsen	Nov 11, 2018
Melvin Schrader	Nov 21, 1926



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, (11-15-20)	\$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 11-30- to 12-06
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tues	Board of Elders 7 pm
Wed	Confirmation Class 6 pm—7 pm Helping Hands 1 pm Advent Services 4 pm
Thu	Pastor on vacation 3rd to 11th
Sun.	No Church Services @ church No Bible Learning No Sunday School

<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

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; **Bob Flis**, friend of Marla & Joe Hogan.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY Triston Twedt, Ryan Trucke, Jackie Cardwell, Dirk Radke

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

Bob Flis: 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