

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

December 13, 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

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

FB page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Pastor

(712-840-1652)cell

Karen Krusen

*Office Administrator Assistant
(volunteer)*

(712) 881-2243-office #

(712) 840-9059 cell



Advent 3rd Sunday

13 December 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 / Psalm 126 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 / John 1:6–8, 19–28

Sermon Title: John the Baptist's Purpose and Testimony

Sermon Text: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

We're now a little over a week away from celebrating the "big event"—the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The last two Sundays of Advent we have talked John's part in these events leading up to Jesus' birth.

Last Sunday we looked at John's ministry from Mark's perspective. Today we're going to look at John's ministry from his perspective. Our Gospel lesson sets the stage for us: *"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light."* (John 1:6-8)

Last week we saw how the Prophet Isaiah and the Prophet Malachi preached about the coming Messiah. These prophets also preached about a man, who would come just before the Messiah. This man, who comes before Jesus, is John.

Part of John's ministry was to preach and baptize believers in the Jordan river. John was a messenger. *"⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light."* (John 1:7)

A messenger is one, who was sent by God, to carry out a specific task. John's ministry was to prepare the people to receive the Messiah. He did this by preaching using the Old Testament Scriptures. Some people thought John was the Messiah, who the Prophet Isaiah and the Prophet Malachi preached about.

But John was just a messenger. *"⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light."* (John 1:7)

John came as a witness. This is what he told the people, who came out to see what he was doing. *⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, 'I am not the Christ.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.'"* (John 1:9, 20-21)

John was simply a witness. He was simply the messenger trying to prepare the people to receive the Messiah, who was on his way. *²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, 'I am not the Christ.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.'"*

These folks couldn't understand, who John was—what role John was playing. The people, who were asking John were sent by the priests and Levites. These men probably knew the Scriptures or at least knew the general

message that one day God the Father would send the Messiah into this world to save all people from their sins.

John was not trying to pass himself off as the Messiah promised from the beginning of time. John was not trying to pass himself off as the Prophet Elijah. John was not trying to pass himself off as “the Prophet”—the man, who Moses preached about, who would come into this world—namely, Jesus.

John wasn’t any of these people, and this is why it was confusing. The Scriptures are very clear that one day God the Father would send the Messiah, his only-begotten Son, into this world. This Messiah would restore order into a broken world.

And here was John, wearing a garment made of camels’ hair tied with a leather belt. This John probably looked very shabby and unkempt. People might have been confused, because they couldn’t understand how God could send a Messiah that looked like a homeless man.

So, these men who were sent to find out who John is and what he is doing, press him further. *“²² So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ ²³ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said.’”* (John 1:22-23)

The men, who came from the priests and Levites, had to have some answer to give. Simply saying—well, we don’t know who he is or why he is here—wouldn’t be sufficient. So, John then quotes the Prophet Isaiah as his answer: *“²³ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said.’”* (Isaiah 40:3)

A cryptic answer. Yes. An answering describing his ministry. Yes. John was the messenger, who was sent before Jesus to prepare people to receive the message of hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ alone. *“²³ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said.’”* (Isaiah 40:3)

As the conversation continues, it’s obvious that these guys aren’t satisfied with that answer. *“²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, ‘Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’ ²⁶ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.’ ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.”* (John 1:24-28)

So as these men question John about WHO he is and WHAT he is doing—namely preaching and baptizing in the Jordan River. They start out by accusing him: *“²⁵ They asked him, ‘Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’”*

Back in Matthew’s Gospel, we read about John baptizing people. John’s baptism was meant to get the people to repent of their sins—to convict them of what they have said or did against God and against someone else—and then to receive God’s gracious forgiveness.

And once these people had confessed their sins, they would have received God’s forgiveness. As they were baptized and confessed their sins, John stressed that it was God who had forgiven them and not him. *“²⁶ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.’”* (John 1:26-27)

The main point of John’s ministry was to point people to Jesus. Even as he was baptizing people and those believers were confessing their sins, John kept reminding people that they were forgiven because of Jesus—not

because of him.

Again, this is why ²⁶ *John answered them, 'I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie. '* (John 1:26) John kept stressing that he was not the Messiah, and he was not forgiving sins. John even says that he is just as much as sinner as the folks around him, and he is not worthy to untie the Messiah's sandals.

Of course, someone in the crowd might have asked: Who is worthy to untie the Messiah's sandals? Well, other folks might have answered that only a really holy person—one who had clean hands and a pure heart.

But where do you find that person? You can search the world over and you'll never find that person, because *"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"* (Romans 3:23-24)

John's ministry was to point people to Jesus. He did this by preaching from the Old Testament Scriptures and explaining what the Old Testament prophets had written down for our learning. John then baptized people so that they would confess their sins and receive God's gracious, life-giving forgiveness.

You and I aren't John the Baptist, but we still are given the opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus. This opportunity is what Jesus gave to his disciples before he ascended into heaven—that is, the Great Commission

"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) Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

WELCOME HOME: Pastor LaBoube, Christina and Rose it is good to see you. From your church family.

Christmas Cards for sale— at the back of the church on the table. \$5.00 a box. Pay Rita Lafrentz, or in the office.

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.

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.

PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:

Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling his world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through his Son. Color's Purpose However, color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners, traditionally employed each Sunday, must be seen as more than an attempt to decorate, or give accent to the chancel. That is, no doubt, the view of some. It's true; interior design and decoration are important. But a greater service is demanded of our liturgical colors than merely making the surroundings "pretty." Furthermore, when altar paraments are used year after year without much attention given to their message, as well as their care, the pastor, along with his faithful altar guild would do well to throw away the key to the sacristy and refrain from using those altar cloth "decorations." Frequent instruction about the church year and its corresponding colors must go hand in hand with its weekly use

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received.

Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and his church, retold annually by the church calendar.

Symbolism of Colors It is appropriate, from time to time, to take a thoughtful and fresh look at the colors that are displayed throughout the church year. In the end, we admit, the use of paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners is an adiaphoron. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. The primary source and guarantor of their meanings is tradition. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. The value of the "Bg-BgsPwr" color scheme rests in their purpose: to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

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.

God's Gift of Marriage



THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery. (*Exodus 20:14*)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18–20)

FOR SHARING

1. "Sex is like fire. In a fireplace, it's warm and delightful. Outside the hearth, it's destructive and uncontrollable." Explain.
2. Describe, in your own words, a "sexually pure and decent life." Why is it so difficult to live in sexual purity and decency?
3. Jesus' love for sinful human beings led Him to the cross, where He paid the price for our unfaithfulness. What comfort do you have in trusting Him for *full* forgiveness?
4. God created sex! God established marriage and gives His blessing as a man and woman are united as "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). How can husbands and wives use the gift of sexuality to honor God?

PRAYER

Lord, in Your grace You have redeemed every aspect of my life, including my sexuality. Help me to appreciate this gift as a sacred, responsible trust. Please forgive me for those times I have sinned against Your commandment. Direct my life so that I may live to Your glory and praise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

Name	Baptism
Julie Bollig	Dec 13, 1959
Samantha Kelm	Dec 14, 1986
Crystal Bretthauer	Dec 16, 1956
Ryan Paulsen	Dec 19, 1965
Trista Ohlmeier	Dec 19, 2006
Carolyn Seton	Dec 2, 1939
Ramona Weber	Dec 3, 1961
Kathy Trucke	Dec 30, 1972
Donna Goslar	Dec 5, 1949



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.

BIRTHDAYS

Name	Birthday
John Arndt	Dec 26, 1937 82
Kay Elmquist	Dec 31, 1937 82
James Else	Dec 10, 1953
Fred Fletcher	Dec 18, 1940
Janeal Holmes	Dec 26, 1951
Gene Kaderabek	Dec 18, 1962
Jeff Krusen	Dec 11, 1957
Ryan Paulsen	Dec 5, 1965
Kurt Schmidt	Dec 3, 1980
Kathy Trucke	Dec 1, 1952
Dora Witzel	Dec 23, 1937 82



Darrell and Lin Scott	56 yrs.	Dec 13, 1964
Roger and Linda Miller	52 yrs.	Dec 27, 1968
Duane and Marilyn Hamann	57 yrs.	Dec 1, 1963



NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (11-29-20)	\$715.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, 11-26-20)	\$358.00
Thank offering (11-26-20)	\$400.00
Thanksgiving	\$415.00
Initial offering	\$5.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (11-22-20)	\$748.00
Thank offering (SUNDAY, (11-22-20)	\$1,300.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (11-29-20)	26
VISITORS (11-29-20)	1
SUNDAY COMMUNED (11-29-20)	NA
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	1
BIBLE CLASS	7
SUNDAY SCHOOL	3

STEPS OF FAITH
Faith: Use whatever influence you have to increase the
Light today in the lives of others.

	Week of Schedule 12-14- to 12-20
Mon (14)	Pastor's Family Day
Wed (16)	Confirmation Class 6 pm to 7 pm Helping Hands 1 pm Advent Services 4 pm
Sun. (20)	Church Services w/ Holy Communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 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	Aaron Krusen
Selma Schrader	Elnora Dose	Jerry Albers	Lavonne Witzel
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; **Kim Whitton**— Daughter of Duane and Marilyn Hamann; **Amy Hamann**— granddaughter of Duane and Marilyn Hamann.



Bob Flis, friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; went to be with Jesus. May his family and friends 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

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

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

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

Aaron Krusen
302 South 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

Jim Kueny
707 Oak St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Lynne Smith: chose to not publish

Jazmin Mauch: chose to not publish

Ron Kraffle: chose to not publish

Kim Whitton chose to not publish

Amy Hamann chose to not publish





St Matthew Lutheran Church
504 Walnut Street

Carol Ulerich
 2 Sunrise Ave Apt 2
 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.



Dear God,

We are indebted to you. Thank you for providing us life and salvation. And thank you that even that is not all, you want to share everything with us. Draw us to you, Lord. Help us to fight everything that keeps us away from you. Make us more like you. In Jesus' name, Amen