

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

December 20, 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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Advent 4th Sunday
20 December 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 / Psalm 89:1–5 (19–29) / Romans 16:25–27 / Luke 1:26–38

Sermon Title: Birth of Jesus Foretold
Sermon Text: Luke 1:26–38

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

Today is the fourth and last Sunday of the Advent Season. We are now just four days away from celebrating the birth of our Lord and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Luke describes the situation very clearly as to how this all took place.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.” (Luke 1:26–27)

We know from lots of different passages throughout the Old Testament that God did something very unusual to save his people from going to hell, because that is where we all are destined to go after we have sinned against God and against other people.

Praise to the Lord, though, that he has done something drastic to save us from going to hell. God the Father sent his one and only-begotten Son, Jesus, into this world—to live among us—to experience everything we have ever experienced or thought—and then to die a horrible death. Then, three days later God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, thereby overcoming sin, death and the devil. Nothing could keep Jesus down. Nothing.

Luke reminds us of what the Old Testament prophecies said. *²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.”* (Luke 1:26–27)

Back in the Prophet Isaiah, he preached about how a virgin—a young, unmarried woman—would bring a child into this world, and that child would be completely different from every other child who has been born.

In our text for today, the Old Testament prophecies are now focused on a specific town in the Country of Israel, and on two specific people living in that town. The Angel Gabriel was sent by God the Father to Mary and Joseph, who lived in the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee in northern Israel. This is what angels do—they are messengers of God—sent by God to carry out a specific task.

Luke goes on to recount what actually happened as a man and a woman prepared to become the mother and step-father of the Savior of the Nations. The Angel Gabriel “...came to her [that is, Mary] and said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!’” ²⁹*But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great*

and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’” (Luke 1:28-33)

God’s message of saving all mankind from going to hell is finally coming to completion. Here we see how the Messiah will be born just like every other child is born in this world. Only, this particular child will be not only be God incarnate, but also fully human.

This is what we confess in all three creeds—that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. And it’s important that this particular Jesus is both God and man, because if he was only God then he would have no idea what we struggle with. If he were only a man, then he would be no different that you or me, and he would NOT be able to save us from going to hell.

Luke tells us that Mary will have a baby, and the Angel Gabriel said. ³¹ *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.* ³² *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’”* (Luke 1:28-33)

The long-awaited Messiah, who has been promised since our first parents—Adam and Eve—were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, will finally come into this world. This Messiah will be a descendant of King David, and *“he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’”*

The reign of King David has an end date. The reign of every king before and after King David has an end date. The reign of King Jesus has no end. His kingdom lasts for all eternity. And this is also encouraging, because that means that Jesus is speaking truth elsewhere in Scripture when he says: *“And surely I am with you always unto the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:20b) This means that Jesus is ALWAYS with you—through the good times and the bad times.

Now to a young woman, who had never slept with a man, who was still living with her parents, this was startling news—possibly alarming—possibly disconcerting. ³⁴ *And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’* ³⁵ *And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.’* (Luke 1:34-35)

In different passages in the Old Testament, the Messiah is given a name. It’s not always the same time in every passage, but each name describes a different part of Jesus. Here, Luke is saying that this baby boy will be called *“The Son of God.”*

This means that Jesus won’t be just another Jewish man living in the Country of Israel. This Jesus will be different from every other person on this planet. And yet, just because Jesus is different from every other planet, he is still fully human and completely capable of understanding EVERY experience—EVERY thought—you have.

Now, it’s obvious from Scripture that Mary had been taught the truth of God’s Word. She seemed to understand what he she had been taught that God the Father would cause a young woman to become pregnant by the work of the Holy Spirit, and that the baby born by this young woman would be the promised Messiah.

Of course, Mary had no idea that God would pick HER to fulfill the prophecies that were written down in the Old Testament for her learning and instruction. This is why Mary’s response is surprise and wonder—how on earth could this happen?

So the Angel Gabriel then goes on to explain how Mary would get pregnant. ³⁵ *And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be*

born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Because the Holy Spirit was going to cause Mary to get pregnant, this baby would not be like any other child. This baby would be truly extraordinary. *“the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”*

The name of this Messiah wasn't accidental. There was a reason and purpose that the Angel Gabriel told Mary and Joseph what to name the baby boy. In Matthew's Gospel, we read that the Angel Gabriel told Joseph: *“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21)

This is one of the main reasons that Jesus was born of a young, unmarried woman, that Jesus lived and then died a horrible death, and that Jesus was then raised from the dead three days later—so that none of us has to go to hell when we sin.

Listening to the Angel Gabriel talk about all the miraculous things that were about to happen had to sound a little overwhelming. It would have been a lot to take in at any one time, and yet Mary seems to trust God enough to accept what the Angel Gabriel tells her even though the news gets even more amazing. ³⁶*“And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.”* (Luke 1:36-37)

To make things even stranger, the Angel Gabriel then tells Mary that her cousin Elizabeth is already six-months pregnant. The Angel Gabriel doesn't tell Mary, but Elizabeth knows that her baby is also unique. Her baby will become John the Baptist, and it's wonderful how the Angel Gabriel then ends his message this way: ³⁷*For nothing will be impossible with God.”* (Luke 1:37)

That's it. Nothing is impossible with God. With God ALL things are possible. Since all things are possible with God, and everything in the Bible is true, then living the way God asks you to live should be easy.

It's not always easy, though, to live the way God desires you and me to live. But God expects us to be different from the rest of this world. This is why God gave us the Ten Commandments, and why he gave us the First and Second Greatest Commandments—so that we would know the basics of how to live with God and with other people.

As you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I pray that you'll give the same response as Mary. *“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.”* (Luke 1:38) Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Join us: on 12-24-20 Christmas Eve Services are at 4 pm. The 7 pm service will be a candle light service. The Nativity of Our Lord.

A special thank you: to Janeal Holmes and Lin Scott for decorating the church for Christmas, it is beautiful.

There is still time to get a Poinsettia to put on our altar for Christmas. 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.

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 Possessions



THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ... He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. (Ephesians 4:25, 28)

FOR SHARING

1. Robin Hood. Jesse James. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. What wrong message do we give by making these individuals into "folk-heroes"?
2. What kinds of actions—both sinful and illegal—come under the category "stealing"? What negative attitudes and behaviors can result from "petty thefts"?
3. A Samaritan in the parable (Luke 10:29–37) gave himself unselfishly for the benefit and welfare of another—a stranger and an enemy! In what ways is Jesus *The Good Samaritan*? How has He rescued and cared for us?
4. Jesus "took" our sins and left them at the cross that we may have new life. How does our new life in Christ affect our attitudes and actions toward others? toward their property and possessions?
5. Share, as time permits, the specific ways you and your congregation can "improve and protect" your neighbor's property.

PRAYER Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have provided us and our neighbors with material possessions. Help us all to realize that our money and our possessions are gifts from You. Help us to be grateful for all the gifts we have received from Your bountiful goodness. When we are tempted to steal, remind us to look to Your Son, Jesus, for our strength to do Your will. In His name we pray. 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 (12-13-20)	\$2,860.00
TOTAL GIVING (12-16-20)	\$950.00
THANKOFFERING (12-16-20)	\$100.00
TOTAL GIVING (12-02-20)	\$630.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (12-13-20)	29
VISITORS (12-13-20)	0
SUNDAY COMMUNED (12-13-20)	27
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	2
BIBLE CLASS	13
SUNDAY SCHOOL	0

STEPS OF FAITH
Faith Step: As believers have encouraged you, ask Jesus for opportunities to encourage others.

	<u>Week of Schedule 12-21 to 12-27</u>
Mon (21)	Pastor's Family Day
Wed (23)	NO Helping Hands, will resume 30th at 1:00
Thur (24)	Christmas Eve services 4 pm & 7 pm
Sun.(27)	Church Services 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am

Give the office a call or the Pastor...

Before going to hospital

Private communion

Desire to serve your Lord through the Church

Need a ride to a Dr's appt

Address or name changes

Entering armed services

Death in the family

Need of a visit

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	Bud Dose (in hospital)	Carol Dose
Selma Schrader	Elnora Dose	Jerry Albers
Myrna Gosch	Delores Gosch	Hans Witzel
Lavonne Witzel	Kathy Trucke	Marla Mauch



Our Sympathies to the Ernie and Dora Witzel family at the lose of their daughter-in-law, Darlene Witzel. 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; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann;

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

Selma Schrader
21 Ohm Drive
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

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

Jim Kueny
707 Oak St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

Penny Mauch
Castana, IA 51010

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

Marla Mauch
604 S 7th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

Kathy Trucke
303 S 7th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

Lynne Smith: chose to not publish

Jazmin Mauch: chose to not publish

Jerry Albers
1313 Maple Street
Onawa, IA 51040

Ron Kraffle: chose to not publish

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
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**: www.lofsiowa.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 Lord

 The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It wasn't wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of **love**. Thank you Lord. Amen