



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

First Sunday after Christmas
12-26-2021

"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)**

A_{CTIVE}

C_{HRISTIANS}

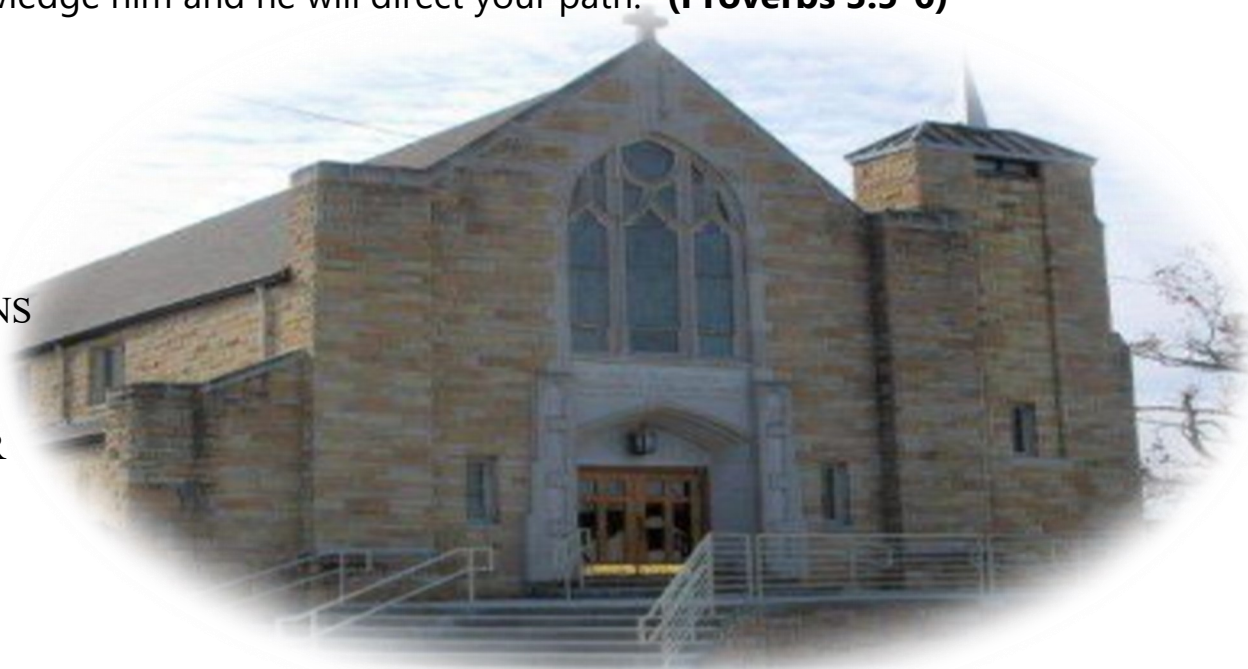
T_{OGETHER}

I_N

O_{UTREACH}

&

N_{URTURE}



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

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Christmas 1st Sunday
26 December 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15 / Psalm 111 / Colossians 3:12–17 / Luke 2:22–40

Sermon Title: Developing an Attitude of Thankfulness

Sermon Text: Colossians 3:12-17

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

This past Advent season, we dug into the Scriptures to see what God has to say about discipleship. Discipleship is all about the relationship you have with someone else, and how you nurture that relationship so that you can teach that person what you know.

Of course, discipleship can also be the other way around. Maybe God is leading you to hang out with someone so that you can learn from that person—so that you can be discipled by that other person. And being a disciple may not sound glamorous, but it is a valuable situation to be in.

Our text for this First Sunday after Christmas gives us more valuable material to work with as we learn to be a disciple—particularly a disciple of Jesus Christ. From Colossians chapter three:

¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:12-17)

Today’s text is a great example of how plain and simple the teachings of Jesus are. Some people want to make the teachings of Jesus Christ complicated—as though you have to become an expert in the Old Testament laws in order to fully understand what God is telling you.

But that’s wrong. It’s true that there are places in Scripture that seem to be confusing or seem to contradict other parts of Scripture, but one thing is absolutely true—that Scripture ALWAYS interprets Scripture. So if one passage seems to contract another passage, then you need to look for more passages that talk about that specific thing and those other passages will help you understand what you are reading. If you need help understanding two portions of Scripture that seem to contradict each other, then please come talk to me. I’ll be happy to work with you to understand that portion of Scripture.

When you say that you’re a Christian, then you are saying that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ. A disciple wants to learn from someone else. Of course, if God has placed you in a different

role, then God wants you to disciple someone else so that person can learn to do what you do.

¹² *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* ”

Paul starts each of his letter addressing fellow believers in Jesus Christ, acknowledging who they are—they are God's chosen people, who are HOLY and BELOVED by God our Heavenly Father. Paul then concludes that the disciples of Jesus Christ—the followers of Jesus—have “... *compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...* ”

Paul also continues this letter by encouraging them to live at peace with one another, and to restore any broken relationships: ¹³ *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* ”

Now, Paul knows that the believers in Colossae have also sinned and have fallen short of God's glory, but he also knows that these same believers have been redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, I've met some Christians, who have fixed firmly in their mind that they will never talk to a certain person again, because that person hurt them in the past. That sort of attitude actually is completely contrary to God and His Holy Word. Paul tells us that we should live at peace with one another as best as we are able to do. That isn't always easy, but all things are possible with the help of God Almighty.

¹³ *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* ” We are encouraged to forgive other people when they have hurt us, because Paul reminds us that God has forgiven you the sins that you have committed, and therefore you should also forgive the person, who has hurt you. “*as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* ”

Paul goes on to encourage the disciples of Jesus Christ in Colossae: ¹⁴ *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.* ”

Paul stated this text acknowledging that the Christians at Colossae are children of God, and wrote to them as though they were already living the way Paul is encouraging them to do. After Paul encourages fellow Christians to reconcile with one another, he encourages us Christians to love others with the love of Jesus as we interact with one another.

As you love others with the love of Jesus, then you will experience the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. In addition to experiencing God's peace, Paul encourages all disciples of Jesus Christ to “*be thankful.* ” Elsewhere in his other New Testament letters, Paul encourages Christians to be thankful and to give thanks in all situations.

Being thankful in every situation doesn't mean being fake—putting on a happy face and concluding that everything will go well. That won't work. When you live by filling up with Jesus and experiencing his love which surpasses all understanding, then you will experience God's peace—his joy—his thankful attitude.

This year, I heard on some Christian radio the idea of a “Thirty Days of Gratitude Challenge.” The idea is that every day for a month, you write down what you are grateful for—or what you are thankful for. When you actually spend a little time every day thinking about what or who you are

grateful for, then you will slowly start developing a better attitude. This sort of intentional “Thirty Days of Gratitude Challenge” can actually grow into a habit of simply finding something every day to be thankful for.

This is why Paul also includes this short sentence: “*And be thankful.*” Find a reason every day to be thankful. Write it down in a journal or on your phone, and see what God does in your life as a result of you working to develop a better attitude.

As you work to grow an attitude of being thankful by the help of the Holy Spirit in you, you are growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Paul continues: ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* ¹⁷ *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*” (Colossians 3:16-17)

I like it when Scripture teaches what I’ve been saying—how important it is to fill up with the truth of God’s Word, and let that truth of God’s Word lead and guide you in the way you should go each day. ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*”

Paul here is telling the Christians at Colossae—and us Christians here today—that we should let God’s Word live in us. And when we let God’s Word live in us, then we are able to teach someone else—we are able to disciple someone else, “...*teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*”

The only truth that you need to teach someone else is the truth from God’s Word. The truth of God’s Word is found not only in the Bible, but it is also found in Contemporary Christian songs and in traditional hymns. The truth of God’s Word is found in an audio format so you can listen to the Bible while you driving to work—driving up to Sioux City—or simply while lounging on the couch.

As you fill up with the truth of God’s Word, you will slowly develop an attitude of thankfulness—acknowledging all that God has done for you and your family and friends. Granted, it is not always easy to be thankful, but with God ALL THINGS are possible. This means that with the help of the Holy Spirit living in you, you are able to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is that time of the year again where we will need volunteers to help with snow removal, please contact the church or the property board.

The outreach ladies are asking if anyone has any extra pillows and blankets, size 4 XL slacks and 4 XL tops for a lady in our community that reached out to us for help. Please let Marilyn Hamann (712-870-1947) or Ramona Weber(712-883-2051) know.

Advent 2021		Small Catechism Reading	
Bible Reading Plan		Nov. 28-Dec. 24, 2021	
Nov. 28--Dec. 24, 2021			
DAY	TOPIC	DAY	TOPIC
Nov. 28	Acts 1-2	Nov. 28	1st Comm & Mean
Nov. 29	Acts 3	Nov. 29	2nd Comm & Mean
Nov. 30	Acts 4	Nov. 30	3rd Comm & Mean
Dec. 1	Acts 5	Dec. 1	4th Comm & Mean
Dec. 2	Acts 6	Dec. 2	5th Comm & Mean
Dec. 3	Acts 7	Dec. 3	6th Comm & Mean
Dec. 4	Acts 8	Dec. 4	7th Comm & Mean
Dec. 5	Acts 9	Dec. 5	8th Comm & Mean
Dec. 6	Acts 10	Dec. 6	9th Comm & Mean
Dec. 7	Acts 11	Dec. 7	10th Comm & Mean
Dec. 8	Acts 12	Dec. 8	Close Comm
Dec. 9	Acts 13	Dec. 9	Creed 1st Article
Dec. 10	Acts 14	Dec. 10	Creed 2nd Article
Dec. 11	Acts 15	Dec. 11	Creed 3rd Article
Dec. 12	Acts 16	Dec. 12	LP Intro
Dec. 13	Acts 17	Dec. 13	LP 1st Petition
Dec. 14	Acts 18	Dec. 14	LP 2nd Petition
Dec. 15	Acts 19	Dec. 15	LP 3rd Petition
Dec. 16	Acts 20	Dec. 16	LP 4th Petition
Dec. 17	Acts 21	Dec. 17	LP 5th Petition
Dec. 18	Acts 22	Dec. 18	LP 6th Petition
Dec. 19	Acts 23	Dec. 19	LP 7th Petition
Dec. 20	Acts 24	Dec. 20	LP Close
Dec. 21	Acts 25	Dec. 21	Baptism First
Dec. 22	Acts 26	Dec. 22	Baptism Second
Dec. 23	Acts 27	Dec. 23	Baptism Third
Dec. 24	Acts 28	Dec. 24	Baptims Fourth
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!	Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!

*Prepare your hearts for
the coming of Jesus.*



PARIMENTS

White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the “great fifty days” of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.



Our Banners used in Service

It is interesting to note how often Jesus used symbols to illustrate heavenly truths in His teaching. He said: “I am the Light of the world” (John 8:12 RSV). “Consider the lilies of the field” (Matthew 6:28 RSV). “I am the true Vine” (John:6 RSV). “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field” (Matthew 13:44 RSV). “I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11 RSV).

Symbols are the language of Christian art. Since the beginning of the Christian church, religious symbolism has developed as a means by which Christians identify with one another and share their beliefs. Many symbols of the early church remain in art today as visible signs through which an artist is able to impart their understanding of God.



The **Crown** represents the Kingship of Jesus Christ and His place of honor at the right hand of God. A seven-pointed Crown highlights the number seven, which is used 735 times in the Bible. Seven symbolizes completeness and perfection. Although this crown only has 3-points. A symbol of the divine nature of Jesus Christ. A crown also can be used to denote our status as heirs of heaven.

The king's crown was a symbol **of his representative rule of the kingdom that was ultimately ruled by God, God is the only true authority, the everlasting King.** One day we will see Christ with many crowns on his head, an image of his ultimate authority (Rev 19:12).

Elders

12-26	Jeff Krusen	(712) 880-0000
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Screens

12-26	Mark Witzel	760-500-8902
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Lay Readers

12-26	Ryan Paulsen	(712) 840-0125
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Altar Guild

DECEMBER	
Mavis Skow	712-881-2550
Dorothy Wessling	712-881-2039



DID YOU KNOW: The meaning of the LCMS Logo Cross The LCMS logo is three crosses in one. It declares that “we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity.” The open arms point upward toward God in prayer and openly receive God’s grace. The lower arms point down, as if open to embrace the world with God’s love. The 12 individual parts of the logo cross remind us of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles. The four arms appear to be in motion, as we urgently tell the world what God’s love in Jesus Christ means to us and, uniquely, as Missouri Synod Lutherans.

DailyVerses.net

How great you are,
Sovereign LORD!
There is no one like you,
and there is no God but
you, as we have heard
with our own ears.
2 Samuel 7:22

Memory Verse for the week of 12-26-2021

**Walk in Love
Be Kind to
one another.**

		Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
		Church offering 12-22-21	No report
	<u>Week of Schedule 12-27 to 01-02</u>	Sunday Giving 12-19-21	\$3,035.00
Mon 27	Pastor's Family Day	Sunday Giving 12-12-21	\$1,560.00
Tue 28	Offices closed	Cookies Fund raiser	\$20.00
Wed 29	Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	Church attendance 12-19-21	67
Sun 02	2nd Sunday after Christmas Services 9:30 w/HC	Sunday communed 12-19-21	50
	Elder:	Children in Church 12-19-21	4
	Reader:	Visitors 12-19-21	13
	Screens:	Bible Class 12-19-21	No report
	Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School 12-19-21	Program
	Bible Class 10:45 a.m.		

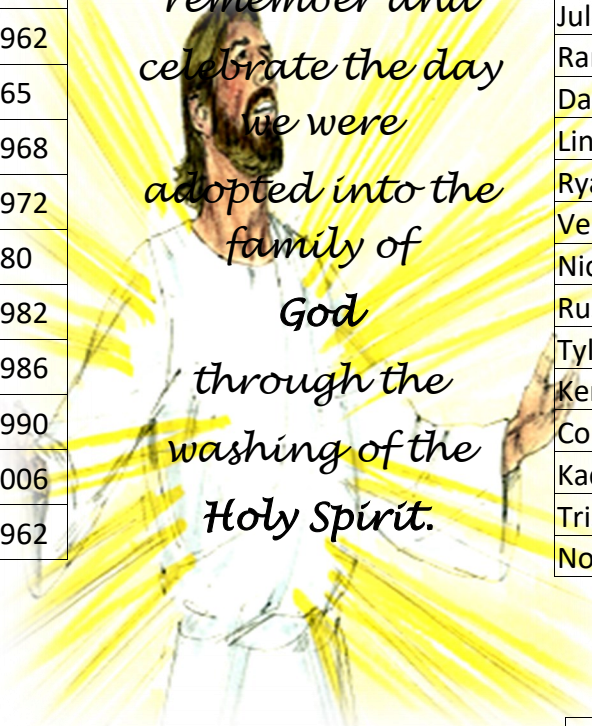
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER BAPTISMS



Janeal Holmes	Dec 26, 1951
James Else	Dec 10, 1953
Jeff Krusen	Dec 11, 1957
Carol Pritchard	Dec 30, 1957
Sheryl Schelm	Dec 23, 1960
Gene Kaderabek	Dec 18, 1962
Ryan Paulsen	Dec 5, 1965
Theodore Thoreson	Dec 12, 1968
Steve Pickel	Dec 11, 1972
Kurt Schmidt	Dec 3, 1980
Ryan Jacobson	Dec 19, 1982
Jessica Krohn	Dec 12, 1986
Tyler Paulsen	Dec 30, 1990
Ashlyn Davis	Dec 13, 2006
Sue Oberg	Dec 15, 1962

*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.*



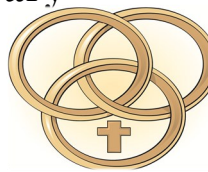
Carolyn Sexton	Dec 2, 1939
Donna Goslar	Dec 5, 1949
Mardelle Vandevanter	Dec 17, 1951
Michael Wood	Dec 20, 1953
Delbert Kroll	Dec 27, 1953
Crystal Bretthauer	Dec 16, 1956
Julie Bollig	Dec 13, 1959
Ramona Weber	Dec 3, 1961
David Schrader	Dec 23, 1962
Linda Means	Dec 18, 1963
Ryan Paulsen	Dec 19, 1965
Vernon Jahn	Dec 28, 1969
Nicole Jacobson	Dec 25, 1977
Rustin Hinrickson	Dec 30, 1979
Tyler Soukup	Dec 18, 1988
Kenneth Carley	Dec 4, 1994
Cole Jensen	Dec 7, 1997
Kade Rotnicke	Dec 20, 1998
Trista Ohlmeier	Dec 19, 2006
Nolan Lamb	Dec 7, 2007

**Walk in Love
Be Kind to
one another.**

**80 + Birthday
God's Blessings**

God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

Duane and Marilyn Hamann	Dec 01, 1963	58 yrs.
Gene and Nazaria Kaderabek	Dec 16, 1997	24 yrs.
Darrell and Lin Scott	Dec 13, 1964	57 yrs.



Fred Fletcher	Dec 18, 1940 81
Herman Arndt	Dec 26, 1937 84
Kay Elmquist	Dec 31, 1937 84
Dora Witzel	Dec 23, 1937 84



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



We pray for the family of Larry Wunschel Sr., Kathy's husband who went to be with Jesus on 12-22-21, may they find comfort in, *John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives*



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
 Selma Schrader
 Fern Jacobsen

Carol Dose
 Alan Bruhn

Myrna Gosch
 Fred Fletcher

Melvin Schrader
 Gene Kaderabek

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; **Jerri Haindfield** daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Dis Reitz**, husband of Caroline; friend of Kay Johnson. **Pam Clausen**, daughter of Fern Jacobsen **Sharon Kuehl Henning** niece of Judy & Gary Kuehl; **Beth Weber**, cousin of Dean and Ramona Weber



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

Sunrise Ave.
 Maple Heights Nursing Home 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

Fern Jacobsen

Main Street Apartments
 516 Main Street Apt 3
 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

*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: A
cheerful smile, a
friendly word, a sym-
pathetic nod, all gifts
God has put in our
hearts to be given to
others.

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 Ser-** **vices:** www.lfsiowa.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, I know there is a place inside of us that is for Jesus only, a place in our spirit and soul that no one and nothing can block —as long as we're looking and listening for Him. Jesus knows just how to reach each one of us. If we listen for Him knocking on the door of our heart and open it to Him He will come in and be with us. Please Lord help us how to listen. Amen