

St Matthews Service

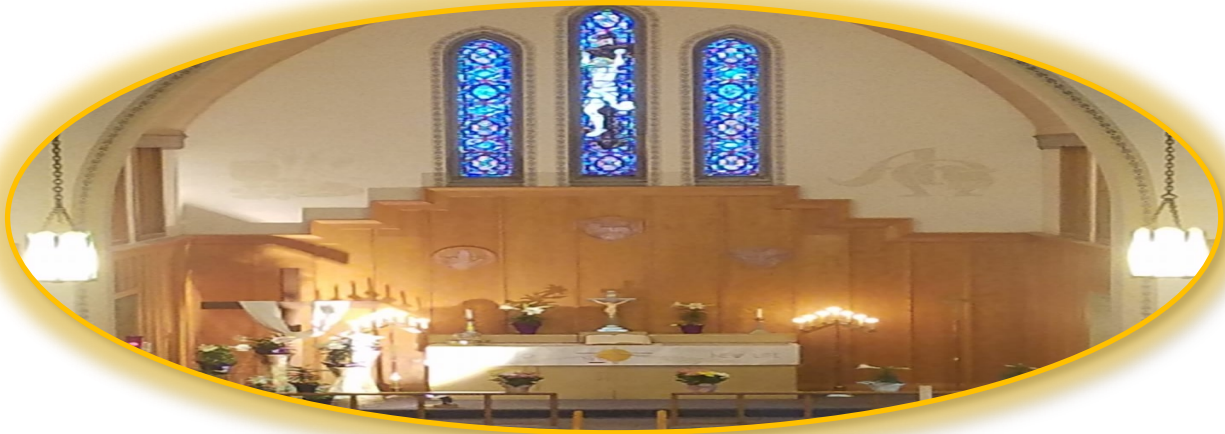


Rev. Christopher LaBoube

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Church Office: 881-243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org

Facebook page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

Pastor

(712) 881-3322

(712-840-1652 cell

Karen Krusen

Office Administrator Assistant
(volunteer)

(712) 881-2243-office #

(712) 840-9059 cell



7th Sunday of Easter
24 May 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Sermon Title: Early Church Worship—Holy Communion
Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

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

What is the church? Over the last couple of weeks, I’ve talked about the early Christian church and the four things that they focused on. Acts 2 verse 42 to give us the summary of what their early church was like: *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

Two weeks ago, we talked more about devoting ourselves to the apostles’ teaching, that is, devoting ourselves to regular Bible study. Last week, we focused on how those early Christians devoted themselves to fellowship. Today, I want us to focus on devoting ourselves to Holy Communion in the church.

As we continue to move through this Covid-19 outbreak, some people have asked me how we can partake of Holy Communion. I would also like to partake of Holy Communion. Of course, I’d also like for all of us to gather for worship again. But we’re not able to, yet.

Even we though haven’t been able to have Holy Communion, as one church member said that hopefully this social distancing because of Covid-19 will create a hunger and thirst for God’s Word and for Holy Communion—a desire to gather again with fellow Christians—and to receive Christ’s Body and Blood in Holy Communion. That is my prayer, too.

Holy Communion is a communal meal—we eat and drink Christ’s Body and Blood—as he tells us to do in the Scriptures. When we all partake of Holy Communion, we are participating in one common meal shared by all of us who confess that Jesus Christ is LORD. This is how Paul describes our fellowship meal: *“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”* (1 Corinthians 10:16)

Holy Communion isn’t a personal, individual event. It’s a group activity. *“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”* (1 Corinthians 10:16)

“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?” The cup of wine we drink is participation in the blood of Jesus Christ. *“The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”* The wafer of bread we eat is participation in the body of Jesus Christ.

Jesus tells us this truth when he institutes Holy Communion: *“‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”* (Matthew 26:26b-28)

Jesus tells us in the Gospels that the bread IS his body and the wine IS his blood. Jesus gives us of himself in Holy Communion to strengthen our faith and to remind us of all that he has done for us through his death and resurrection.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, ‘*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,*’ show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.” (Small Catechism: Holy Communion)

Jesus gives us of himself in Holy Communion so that our faith will be strengthened. When we fill up with Jesus then it is really easy to pour Jesus out to other people. When we eat and drink Christ’s Body and Blood in Holy Communion, then we are reminded that through Holy Communion we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life and eternal salvation.

Since this is what we get from partaking of Holy Communion, then why wouldn’t we want to participate in Holy Communion more often? Why don’t you truly hunger and thirst for God and His Word? Is it that you’re too full of all the other junk that social media throws at you, that you don’t have any more room to fill up with Jesus?

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things—such as forgiveness of sins, life and salvation? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: ‘*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*’ These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: ‘*forgiveness of sins.*’” (Small Catechism: Holy Communion)

It is faith in God that causes Holy Communion to do such great things as forgiving your sins, giving you eternal life and giving you eternal salvation. God works in and through His Word and through such simple means as bread and wine to give you all that you need—forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

So *Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: ‘*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*’ But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words ‘*for you*’ require all hearts to believe.” (Small Catechism: Holy Communion)

In order to prepare to partake of Holy Communion, I’ve heard of some pastors, who will fast before Holy Communion so that the first thing that they eat and drink on Sunday morning is the Body and Blood of Jesus. This is perfectly acceptable, but the Scriptures teach us that the key point to receiving Holy Communion is to simply believe what Jesus promises us in the Scriptures that Holy Communion is ‘*Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*’

Of course, the Small Catechism points out some people may not be prepared to partake of Holy Communion. “But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words ‘*for you*’ require all hearts to believe.” If you don’t really believe that the Body and Blood of Jesus are really in, with and under the bread and wine, then you are not prepared to receive Holy Communion.

Jesus tells us throughout the Scriptures to simply believe. Believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven and that through him you will have eternal life and eternal salvation. Believing in Jesus was what led the early Christians in the Book of Acts to focus on four areas of worship—“*And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*”

Are you devoted to regularly partaking of Holy Communion and to praying for and with other members of the church? If not, pray and ask God to create a hunger and thirst for His Word and for Holy Communion in you so that you’ll want to receive from Jesus all that he desires to give you. 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. 3

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus this Seventh Week of the Easter Season! Even though Governor Reynolds has said that we are able to go to restaurants, beauty salons, etc., she also reminds us that we still need to take precautions. Covid-19 will be with us for some time so we need to figure out how to live long-term with this disease.

Think about Covid-19 this way: what do you do when you get the flu? And, when we start having worship services—or you go out to any business—think that every person who you meet is potentially sick. God gave us a brain and he hopes we use it—making common-sense decisions as we think about coming back to church.

As we learn to live with Covid-19, we should keep trusting God. *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

If you confess any of the creeds in which you acknowledge that God protects and keeps you in his care, then you don’t need to be afraid. *“for God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.”* (2 Timothy 1:7)

God allows bad things to happen—like bringing Covid-19 to Monona County, Western Iowa and the entire USA—but in spite of this disease, let’s pray more—confessing our sins to God and then receiving God’s gracious forgiveness.

You grow in your faith when you fill up with Jesus. This is why I say it often and think it is so very important, that you spend time with Jesus by reading or listening more to the Bible. As you read more about the truth from God’s Word, then you’ll see how God talks a lot about the importance of relationships. This is also why I say it often and consider relationships so important. What can you do to connect with fellow church members?

One way to connect with church members, especially those members, who you haven’t seen in worship in a long time is simply to call them up. Don’t sit around and wonder why the pastor isn’t getting people to church. The pastor is only one part of the church. You are also part of the church and you are able to help reconnect with members, who haven’t been in worship in a long time.

I already spend a lot of my days calling members of our congregation—those folks, who come regularly and those folks, who haven’t been in worship in a long time. You can help me and help this congregation by also connecting with members. If you want names, phone numbers and addresses of members, who haven’t attended in a long time, please call me or Karen at the church and we’ll get you the information you’re looking for.

Bible study and fellowship are two things that the early Christian church focused on. Scripture tells us that these early Christians were devoted to studying the Bible and devoted to fellowship with fellow Christians. What about you? Are you devoted to studying the Bible and fellowship of the saints at church? If not, what can you do to improve the situation? If you struggle with being devoted to these two things, then pray. Pray and ask God to create a hunger and thirst for His Word in you. Pray and ask God to help you to learn more from the Bible. God desires to hear from you.

The Board of Directors would like to encourage you to continue supporting our congregation with your offering. Even though we are still not able to gather for worship, the church still has bills to pay. You can mail your offering to the church. You can also drop it off at First Security Bank in Mapleton in the “night deposit box.” Mark your offering “For St. Matthew Lutheran Church.” I want to thank the members, who have continued to send in their offering over these past several weeks.

If you want me to pray for you or a family member or friend, please call my cell phone or the church office. I’ll be happy to pray for you. One day, God-willing, we will be able to gather for worship, but in the mean time please continue to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of your faith. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

Sincerely,
Pastor LaBoube

Scripture Readings 05-24-20

Old Testament Reading: Acts 1:12-26

Gradual: Matt 28:7; Heb 2:7; Ps 8:6

Psalm: 68:1-10

Epistle: 1Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

May God Bless you with many more.

MAY BIRTHDAYS OF 80+ YRS.		
GOD’S CHILD	Age	Birthday
Elnora Dose	85	May 11, 1935
Ferne Jacobson	90	May 2, 1930
Richard Johnson	86	May 30, 1934
Delores Livermore	91	May 5, 1929
Hans Witzel	85	May 15, 1935
Lillian Wodtke	104	May 24, 1916
MAY ANNIVERSARIES OF 50+ YEARS		
GOD’S CHILD	# of yrs.	Wedding Anniversary
David and Belinda Bartels	50 yrs.	May 15, 1970
John and Joan Fick	64 yrs.	May 27, 1956
Wayne and Zola Kafton	57 yrs.	May 5, 1963



The Love of Strangers

by Kent Schaaf

The Greek word we usually translate as “hospitality” literally means “the love of strangers.” When we think of hospitality, we typically think of hotels, restaurants, cruise ships and even, yes, hospitals — all of which make it their business to welcome strangers as their guests. The Bible consistently teaches that we as Christians can be immersed in the work of hospitality.



The Rev. Kent Schaaf is administrative pastor of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School in Milwaukee.

LW [searching scriptures]

1. Read Lev. 19:33–34. Even though God has His eyes squarely set on redeeming Israel, whom does He remind them to look out for — and what reason does He give for the command? How do we see this echoed in Eph. 2:11–13?

2. Now read Eph. 2:14–19. What is the result of Christ’s sacrifice for those who were once strangers to each other? What difference does it make whether someone is a stranger or a member of a household?

3. We often find ourselves being hospitable at certain appointed times of year — Thanksgiving, Christmas and the like. Read Rom. 12:11–13, focusing especially on verse 13. In this passage exhorting Christians to “not be slothful in zeal” and to “be constant in prayer,” Paul also urges the Church to “seek to show” (or even, as some translations render it, to “pursue”) hospitality. What are some ways we can pursue hospitality year-round?

4. Read Heb. 13:1–2. The writer encourages Christians always to show hospitality and reminds us that we may not be able to anticipate the results of our generosity. Read Gen. 18:1–8. To whom did Abraham show hospitality? How does this Old Testament narrative enrich our understanding of the text in Hebrews?

Being hospitable isn’t always easy, but it is good. As 1 Peter 4:8–9 reminds us, those who have been welcomed by God and received His gifts are set free to “show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” And though we may at times fail in our hospitality, Christ forgives and will strengthen us, establishing our hearts “in every good work and word” (2 THESS. 2:16–17). **LW**

A Prayer Submitted by our Sister in Christ, Delores Gosch: God of our fathers, whose almighty hand, Leads forth in beauty all the starry band. Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies; Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise. Thy love divine hath led us in the past. In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay, Thy Word our law, Thy path our chosen way. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense. Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace. Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never-ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud and praise be ever Thine. — A Young Soldier. This is also a Hymn in our old Hymnal (Lutheran Worship)

God of Our Fathers pg. 501

Text: *Daniel C. Roberts, 1841-1907, alt.*

Tune: *George W. Warren, 1828-1902*

Memorial Day emerged from the grim shadows of the American Civil War. Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day — a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States. In 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise — are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May. On this Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for our country. But also pray for those who continue serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.



Marvin Kruse
Howard G. Kruse
Harvey Muckey
Walter Rickert
Ronald Gosch
Vernis Philips
Robert Soren Jacobson
Ben Pickel
Keith Miller
Irv Walters
Christopher L. Divis
John Jacobs
Floyd G. Bumsted
Rolland O. Bueoy
Dale Bruhn
Glen Marsh
Charles Johnson
Oren E. Else
Stan Skow
Dale R. Rotnicke
Robert Rossow



Ryan E. Trucke (active)
Jackie Cardwell (active)
Dirk Radke (active)
Lester Goslar
Dennis Muckey
Bruce Jacobson
Roger Albers
Grant B. Scoles
Leo Dose
Melvin Schrader
Darrell D. Scott
John Arndt
Matthew Kelm
John Fick
Alan Dale
Mark Witzel
Bernie McBride
Wayne Kafton
Dale Engelke
Ernest Witzel
Gary Thies
Dennis Namanny
Donna Shaw
Robert Louis Banks
Fred Fletcher
Richard Johnson
Hans Witzel
James Else
Roger Ingram
Randy Uhl



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 needing our prayers. Please call the church office if you want to be added to this list for any reason, thank you.

Nazaria Kaderabek	Lavone Witzel	Bud Dose	Lillian Wodtke	Kevin Dose
Elnora Dose	Robert Banks	Arlene Kiepe	Selma Schrader	Carol Dose
Marilyn Hamann	Sue Kruse			

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Susan Miller (Alice Miller's daughter) **Sheri Heilman**— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Aiyanan Bowman** Darlene Bowman, (Christiansen) mother-in-law; **Kirby Reitz** son of Don & Carolyn former members their address: 7214 South Bitterroot Court Sioux falls SD 57108. **Boyd Yaden** great uncle of Sarah Schmidt; **Randy Boysen**—son of Deloris Boysen.

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded!

Bob Banks 92 yrs.
Aug 7, 1928
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Sunrise Ave
Mapleton, IA 51034
Wedding ann. Nov. 12, 1955

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs.
Jun 2, 1934
Main Street Apartments
516 Main Street Apt 2
Mapleton, IA 51034
Battle Creek, IA

George Koithan 88 yrs.
Sept. 2, 1932
1726 Marcella Heights
Carroll, IA 51040

Myrna Gosch 79 yrs.
Jan 9, 1941
Prime Living Apartments
725 Pearl St. Apt. 218
Sioux City, IA

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs.
Jun. 1, 1933
Ring Street
Mapleton IA 51034

Evelyn Christiansen 100 yrs.
Jul 4, 1920
4204 SE. 29th Ave.
Amarillo, TX 79103
% Joan Valdez

Arlene Kiepe 103 yr.
July 29, 1917
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Sunrise Ave
Mapleton, IA 51034

Elnora Dose 84 yrs.
May 11, 1935
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

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.,

Lillian Wodtke 104 yrs.
May 24, 1916
Accura Health Care of Spirit Lake
1912 Zenith Ave
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

** indicates new address