

# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*May 31, 2020*

*The Day of Pentecost*

"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: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163

Email: [office@stmatthewmapleton.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmapleton.org)

website: [www.stmatthewmapleton.org](http://www.stmatthewmapleton.org)

FB page: [St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton](https://www.facebook.com/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



Pentecost Sunday  
31 May 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA  
Acts 2:42-47

Sermon Title: Early Church Worship—Prayers  
Sermon Text: Acts 2:42-47

*“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 four weeks, I’ve talked about the early Christian church—and primarily focused on their church life. We keep looking at 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.”*

Three weeks ago, we talked about devoting ourselves to the apostles’ teaching, that is, devoting ourselves to regular Bible study. Two weeks ago, we focused on devoting ourselves to fellowship with other Christians. Last week we talked about devoting ourselves to partaking of Holy Communion regularly.

And now, today, we’re going to look at the last thing that the early Christian church focused on—devoting themselves to prayer. What is prayer? Well, simply it’s talking to God. And the main point about prayer is that you have to mean it. That’s it.

Over these past weeks as we focused on the key points of what church was like in the Book of Acts, I’ve asked what you can do to help improve fellowship among our members. I’ve asked what you can do to learn more about God’s Word through Bible study. I’ve asked these questions simply to get you thinking of how you can contribute to this congregation.

One answer to these questions is prayer. Pray and ask God to help you do the three other things we have talked about—studying the Bible—gathering with other Christians for fellowship—and hungering and thirsting for Holy Communion.

Prayer isn’t a formula. It’s simply speaking plainly and honestly to God. After all, God knows what’s on your heart and mind. *“Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.” (Psalm 139:4)*

Now you might think—why do I need to pray, then—if God already knows what I’m going to pray? God knows what you want before you ask for it, but God desires that you come to him—as a child comes to her father.

This is what we pray in the Lord’s Prayer—the Introduction: *“Our Father who art in heaven.”* What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.” (Small Catechism: Lord’s Prayer)

With all boldness and confidence, you pray and ask God for whatever is on your heart and mind. God WANTS to hear from you. Sure, God knows what you want before you ask, but God desires to be in constant communication with you.

This is why I stress the importance of reading and listening to the Bible regularly. When you read or listen to the Bible often, then you’ll know more about Jesus and what he wants to tell you. Jesus taught his disciples and us the Lord’s Prayer—it is a model prayer. A prayer that you can use to craft your own prayers. And your own prayer can and should simply be talking to God and telling him what’s on your heart. That’s it.

The early Christian church devoted themselves to regular Bible study. They devoted themselves to fellowship with other Christians. They devoted themselves to regularly partaking of Holy Communion. And, they devoted themselves to praying for each other.

Have you been devoted to praying for fellow church members? Maybe you don't regularly pray. That's okay. It's easy to get started. Again, praying is simply and honestly talking to God, telling him what's going on in your life—the good and the bad—and trusting that God hears your prayers—because he does.

There seems to be a common misconception that you have to be “good”—whatever that means—in order to approach God. And that you can't say “bad things” in front of God—even though God already knows what's in your heart—the “good” and the “bad.”

Every week we send out a copy of this sermon along with a letter and a list of our members, who you can pray for—the shut-ins and those who have asked for our prayers. If you don't know where to start praying, start with that list of our members.

Of course, I can hear some folks tell me that when they pray that God doesn't seem to hear them or to answer their prayers. If you think of God as a vending machine, then when God didn't do what you wanted him to do, it would be easy to conclude that God was a vending machine and wasn't very helpful.

But God is NOT a vending machine. God is not a genie in a bottle. God is so much greater than you or me. God will answer your prayers in his time and according to his will. You may pray for lots of things, but never see an answer. That doesn't mean that God isn't listening. On the contrary. God hears ALL your prayers. It's wrong to conclude—I prayed for something and God never answered my prayer—therefore, God does not exist.

Just because you might believe that God doesn't exist, has no effect on whether God exists. God can and does exist outside of you and your ideas. Instead of arguing whether God exists, you should thank God that he has allowed you to live another day of life.

As a child growing up, did you get EVERYTHING you asked your parents for? Probably not. Because your parents knew what is best for you and what you needed and what you needed to wait on. That's exactly how it works with God.

This is what we see in the Meaning of the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer. “*Our Father who art in heaven.*” What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.” (Small Catechism: Lord's Prayer)

God invites us—wants us—to come to him and to ask him everything. God will not give you everything you ask for. God simply wants you to ask and talk to him through prayer. God wants to be in constant communication with you which is why he invites you to pray to him regularly.

The early Christian church DEVOTED themselves to praying for each other. Do you regularly pray for other members of our congregation? Do you pray for the pastor? The elders? The board of directors? If not, can you start praying today for at least one person in our congregation? Then, tomorrow, pray for a second person in our congregation. And continue the process?

What is the church? The church is made up of the Body of Christ of which you are one part. Every part of the Body of Christ contributes to congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. When all parts of the Body of Christ use their skills and abilities to serve each other, then the church functions well.

When each member of the Body of Christ serves every other member of this congregation, then the congregation at large works to glorify God. When every member participates in the life of the congregation, then we will be doing just what those early Christians were doing—devoting ourselves to the apostles’ teaching—devoting ourselves to fellowship with other Christians—devoting ourselves to regularly partaking of Holy Communion and devoting ourselves to praying for each other. 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.

## **Scripture Readings 05-31-20**

Old Testament Reading: Num. 11:24-30

Gradual: Acts 2: 17 b; Rom. 10-10

Psalms 25:1-15

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21

### Memory Verse Challenge

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

<https://www.lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge>

The church confesses to Christ, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...” (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God’s Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God’s Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week.

This week’s memory verse: Philippians 4:6–7

Memory verses from previous weeks:

May 18 — [Galatians 2:20](#)

May 11 — [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

May 4 — [Psalm 73:25–26](#)



St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
504 Walnut St., Mapleton, IA 51034

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Hello! Today is Pentecost Sunday! It's hard to think about Pentecost, when we never had Easter services. Thankfully, though, God is not constrained by human-made calendars. God, our loving and heavenly Father, continues to send his Holy Spirit to lead and guides us as we learn how to live with Covid-19.

The first good news is that the Board of Directors and the Board of Elders have decided to start having worship again. Praise the Lord! Sunday morning worship services will begin on June 14 at 9:30 a.m. This is exciting news.

Of course, as a congregation we have to follow state and federal guidelines and take precautions. This includes everyone wearing a facemask, and everyone staying 6 feet apart in the church building. We won't be shaking hands or hugging each other. But that isn't the only way to greet fellow church members. Wave and smile and tell them how much you missed seeing them. Be creative!

As you consider coming back to church, think about these two ideas: 1) What do you do when you get the flu? 2) Assume that everyone you meet is potentially sick, including the pastor. These ideas can help you make good choices to participate in worship.

The second good news is that Confirmation will take place on Sunday, June 28 during the regular 9:30 a.m. worship service. This is exciting! We have four students, who will be confirmed: Kaylee Goslar, Autumn Brodersen, Paige Schmidt and MaKenna Meseck. I look forward to confirming these four girls.

In last week's letter, I accidentally gave you the name of the wrong bank that will accept your church offering. Sorry about that. In addition to mailing your offering to the church, you can also drop your offering off at First State Bank in Mapleton in the "night deposit box." Mark your offering "For St. Matthew Lutheran Church." The Board of Directors would like to encourage all members to continue to send in their offerings to pay the bills and continue to support the ministry of this congregation.

Even though we will start having worship in-person in the middle of June, we will still offer the recorded sermon on the church's Facebook page. We will also mail out a copy of the sermon in the weekly newsletter to make sure everyone is able to get fed with God's Word.

One article that the district office forwarded to our church had some really good ideas. I've highlighted a few of those points from this article titled "When Your Church Reopens, Here's How to Meet Safely: A global health expert suggests a phased plan for congregations gathering again amid this pandemic" by Daniel P. Chin. Posted May 6, 2020:

"Contrary to our initial assumptions, we now know that COVID-19 can be transmitted before a person develops symptoms. This explains why the virus spreads so easily and stealthily, and it greatly complicates efforts to contain its spread....

"Because older people are more susceptible to getting COVID-19, the implication is that intergenerational contact should be minimized to reduce COVID-19 transmission....

“There is good evidence that using a face mask substantially reduces the release of respiratory droplets and aerosols into the surrounding air, even when a person coughs or shouts. The primary benefit from using a face mask is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 from the source of infection—an infected person. Homemade masks are less effective than surgical masks but still helpful. In addition, wearing a face mask prevents an infected person from rubbing her nose and then depositing viruses on surfaces that she touches. Face mask users also get limited protection from COVID-19 infection...

“Then there is the challenge of COVID-19 spreading from one state to another. As long as one part of the country has a poorly controlled epidemic, states that have significantly reduced their cases will remain vulnerable to COVID-19 spread from those areas.” (<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/channel/utilities/print.html?type=article&id=182085>)

As we prepare to have worship, let's all use our brains and just make good choices. If you don't want to wear a facemask, then please be conscientious and considerate towards other members of our church, who are trying to maintain six feet between people. Just because we're not snuggling in together doesn't mean that we have stopped caring. On the contrary, a lot of members I have talked to think about and pray for other members regularly as we move through this Covid-19 social distancing time.

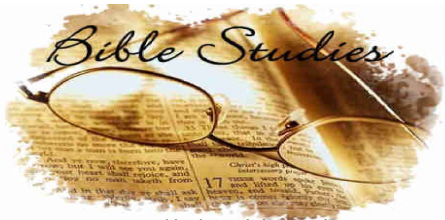
Sincerely,  
Pastor LaBoube

Confirmation date is June 28th, we have 4 children being confirmed this year. If anyone wishes to send them a card I put their address for your convenience.

CHILD GETTING CONFIRMED	CHILD BIRTHDATE	AGE	PARENT'S NAME	ADDRESS
Autumn Brodersen	7/27/2006	13	Nathan & Betsy Brodersen	104 Chamberlain St Mapleton, IA 51034
Kaylee Goslar	10/13/2005	14	Darren & Sarah Goslar	508 14th St. Onawa, IA 51040
Makenna Meseck	6/20/2006	13	Amy & the late Korey Meseck	217 N Day Ave. Ute, IA 51060
Paige Schmidt	1/11/2006	14	Kurt & Sarah Schmidt	405 S. 5th St Mapleton, IA 51034







## OWNING OR MANAGING

Do you own all the things in your possession, or are you simply managing them or being a good steward of them? Stewardship is caring for the things that God has given us. Are we being good stewards—good managers—of this church property and the offerings we receive from our members? If we're not being good stewards of these things, how can we improve?

Read Matthew 6:24

As stewards of God's church building and offerings, what do we love the most? What do we think about most of the time? God tells us that whatever we think about the most will direct our thinking.

Read Hebrews 13:5

Then, read 1 Timothy 6:10

Instead of loving money, read Proverbs 3:5-6 to see what God wants from you.

God asks us to trust him day and night, every day of our lives. God asks us to trust him that he will provide for all our needs. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Apostles' Creed "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

This First Article of the Apostles' Creed explains how we trust God for everything: "[God] also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.... All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

God gives us all that we need, and when we see that there is not enough money, for example, we need to trust God. Read Matthew 6:31-34.

Reread verse 33. How do you seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness?

First, read James 5:16. And then, receive God's forgiveness by reading 1 John 2:1-2.

After we confess our sins and receive God's gracious forgiveness, then find out what God wants you to do. Read Joshua 1:7-8.

Read and study the Bible. Dig into God's Word and chew on it.

God desires that you know him more than you currently do. God desires to communicate with you through his Word. If you don't feel inclined to read or listen to the Bible or study it, then pray and tell God this. Pray and ask God to create a hunger and thirst for his Word in you. God will lead and guide you. Just ask.

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS



GOD'S	CHILD	DATE
Boysen	Delores	May 7, 1939
BRIDGEMAN	Tasha	May 22, 1994
Brown	Brian	May 6, 1962
Dale	Alan	May 13, 1995
Dose	Darlene	May 20, 1934
Goslar	Les	May 9, 1948
Goslar	Darren	May 27, 1983
Kafton	Zola	May 16, 1943
Ohlmeier	Taya	May 3, 2009
Wunschel	Kathy	May 18, 1958

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY		50+ YEARS
GOD'S CHILDREN	# of yrs.	DATE
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



## BIRTHDAYS

GOD'S	CHILD	DATE
DOSE	Elnora	May 11, 1935- <b>85 yrs.**</b>
Greiner	Mark	May 14, 1954
Jacobson	Ferne	May 2, 1930- <b>90 yrs.**</b>
Johnson	Richard	May 30, 1934 - <b>86 yrs.**</b>
Kelm	Lyle	May 4, 2018
Kelm	Henry	May 21, 2015
Krusen	Joe	May 9, 1983
LaBoube	Christopher	May 15, 1973
Livermore	Deloris	May 5, 1929 - <b>91 yrs.**</b>
Ohlmeier	Shawn	May 6, 1982
Ohlmeier	Tyler	May 11, 2004
Paulsen	Dawn	May 16, 1968
Paulsen	Chelsey	May 13, 2007
Scheer	Betsy	May 11, 1989
Schmidt	Sarah	May 2, 1981
Witzel	Mark	May 4, 1959
Witzel	Hans	May 15, 1935- <b>85 yrs.**</b>
Wodtke	Lillian	May 24, 1916- <b>104 yrs.**</b>
Wray	Russell	May 13, 1957

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.

If your birthday or baptism birthday or the birthday or baptism birthday of any church member you know doesn't appear on the list – it is because we don't have it on file. Please contact the church office so this information can be added to our information data. It is important that all information on our church members be kept updated – including birthday, baptism, confirmation, marriage, children and change of address. Please keep the office updated

There is a new bench out by the Ark donated in honor of Norma Jean Dose by her husband Leo Dose. Norma Jean was an organist here at St. Matthew for 35 years.

Graveside services were conducted on 05-15-2020 for Howard Kruse by Rev. Christopher LaBoube at Mount Hope Cemetery.

On 05-22-20 Rev. Christopher LaBoube conducted a house blessing for Alice Miller who recently moved to a new house here in town.

Target date for our Church services to resume is June 14th at 9:30 am. Board of Directors meeting will be held after services on June 14th.



There are application forms for the William and Elsie Bandow Scholarship, from the Law offices of Franck, Sextro & Blazek, P.L.C. This application must be completed and returned to the address shown on the application before June 1, 2020. This is for anyone going into the field of Ministry, Parochial School Teacher. You can inquire in the office for more information.

**Give the office a call or the Pastor...**

Before going to hospital  
Birth of your baby  
Death in the family  
Making wedding plans  
Address or name changes  
Private communion  
Entering armed services  
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE:**

Facebook page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton— St. Matthew's services at 9 am every Sunday

website: [www.stmatthewmapleton.org](http://www.stmatthewmapleton.org)— St. Matthew's services posted weekly

**WEB SITES:** Iowa District West—[www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) Camp Okoboji – [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)

**“THY STRONG WORD”** is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (107.1FM)

**“THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN-FM (107,1) 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](http://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

**Main Street 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.



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	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 **Steve Ashley**, former member;

*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

**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** 85 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.

Battle Creek, IA 51006

**Lillian Wodtke** 104 yrs. May 24, 1916

Accura Health Care of Spirit Lake

1912 Zenith Ave

Spirit Lake, IA 51360