

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

June 28, 2020

4th Sunday after 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)**



Confirmation Sunday

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) 881-3322

(712-840-1652 cell

Karen Krusen

Office Administrator Assistant

(volunteer)

(712) 881-2243-office #

(712) 840-9059 cell



4th Sunday after Pentecost / Confirmation Sunday
28 June 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Jeremiah 28:5–9 / Psalm 119:153–160 / Romans 7:1–13 / Matthew 10:34–42

Sermon Title: Strife in the Christian Life
Sermon Text: Matthew 10:34–42

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

Today is Confirmation Sunday—and it’s a day that we have gathered in God’s House to receive from him all that he wants to give us after being absent from worship for over three months. It’s wonderful that we can get back to church!

Our text for this message this morning is the Gospel reading from Matthew 10. Now, maybe it sounds a little jarring to hear Jesus say: ³⁴ *“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”* ³⁵ *For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.* ³⁶ *And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household.* ³⁷ *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* ³⁸ *And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* ³⁹ *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”* (Matthew 10:34–42)

On this happy occasion when our four confirmands are preparing to become active members of our congregation, we hear Jesus talking about strife in the home—setting *“a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”*

But the deeper meaning here is that faith in Jesus Christ is not something inherited from our parents and grandparents. I remember hearing someone once say that God has not grandchildren. EVERY single man, woman and child, who believes in Jesus is a CHILD of God.

God the Holy Spirit creates faith in everyone, who believes. *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8–9)

So how do you get to heaven? By having faith in Jesus—believing that Jesus IS the Son of God Almighty. And how do you believe in Jesus? How do you have faith? Luther’s Small Catechism explains: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.” (Small Catechism: Apostles’ Creed 3rd Article Meaning)

The Holy Spirit works to create faith in each one of us. Then, after the Holy Spirit creates faith in each one of us, the Holy Spirit continues to nurture that faith by reminding us of God’s Word: ³⁴ *“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”* ³⁵ *For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.* ³⁶ *And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household.* ³⁷ *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* ³⁸ *And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* ³⁹ *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”* (Matthew 10:34–

Jesus is simply pointing out that you'll have close relatives and close friends, who might think you're crazy for being a follower of Jesus. Expect that. You can't expect that everyone in your family—and all of your friends—support your faith in Jesus Christ.

Instead, you should be prepared for the possibility of an on-going battle with the Evil One, who will work day and night to confuse you—frustrate you—so that you'll give up on Jesus and go your own way. This is why God continues to work in and through you—to keep you grounded in the one true God found in the person of Jesus Christ.

You can stay grounded in Jesus when you fill up with His Holy Word all the time. Develop a habit of reading or listening to God's Word every day. Develop a habit of chewing on nuggets of truth from God's Word. When you regularly fill up with Jesus, then you will be able to more easily pour Jesus out to someone else.

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...” (1 Peter 3:15)

When you are grounded in Jesus, then you will have a foundation on which the Holy Spirit can grow your faith. When you are grounded in Jesus, then you will have an easier time *“always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you....”*

People around you—at school—at work—at Walmart—can always see that something is different in you. And when someone asks you about why you seem like you're not stressed about all that is going on around you because of Covid-19, you can share the hope you have in Jesus.

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:8-10)

When you are grounded in Jesus—when you fill up with Jesus—then you know who you are—you are a child of God, who has been brought out of darkness into God's glorious light. As a teenager, you're all preparing to move into high school. You will continue to be bombarded with all kinds of ideas from this world.

But when you regularly fill up with Jesus, then you continue to be grounded in the truth. When you are grounded in Jesus, then the Holy Spirit uses the word that is in you to strengthen your faith—to encourage you—and to give you the words to encourage someone else.

Right now, as we continue to live with Covid-19, there are a lot of people, who need to experience the peace of God in their lives. There are a lot of people, who need to know Jesus. When God puts you in a situation and gives you the opportunity, share the hope you have in Jesus. Since you will already be grounded in Jesus--you will have filled up with Jesus--you will have plenty of Jesus to pour out to encourage someone else. 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 06-28-20

Old Testament Reading: Jer. 28: 5-9

Psalms: 119:153-160

Epistle: Rom 7: 1-13

Gospel: Matt. 10: 34-42



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

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus! Today is the 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Today we will confirm four young ladies in worship service. It is always great to work with students and then to have them complete the Confirmation Class and become a viable member of the congregation.

The other news is that the leaders would like to start having worship again every Sunday. Starting July 5, we will resume having worship at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. Since we are still living with Covid-19, we need you to be conscientious about other members—observing social distancing and wearing a face mask can be very helpful. Washing your hands with soap and water is the best, but also using the hand sanitizer in church is another option.

The Board of Directors wants to encourage you to continue support our church with your offerings. You can mail your offering to the church office. 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.”

Please continue to pray for our leaders as they help to get us up and going again with regular weekly worship. Please pray that God will grant them wisdom to do what is right. Please also pray for our congregation as we resume gathering for worship as a congregation. Pray that each of us will make wise decisions about how to live with Covid-19 and how to interact with each other in church.

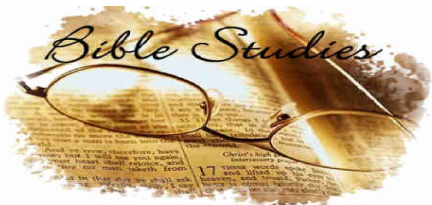
I would like to encourage everyone to keep reading your Bible regularly. If you can’t find a Bible reading plan, please call the church office and we’ll find one that works for you. In addition to regularly reading your Bible, I would like encourage everyone to try and memorize Scripture. The chaplain of the LCMS International Offices in St. Louis is encouraging all members of the LCMS to memorize a Scripture portion each week.

Memory Verse Challenge
From 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: Romans 3:23–24
June 15 — Isaiah 53:5; June 8 — Romans 6:23; June 1 — John 14:6

Sincerely
Pastor Chris LaBoube



by Peter III

Confounding Words

Scripture records many instances when God spoke to His people and they believed Him, even though His Word seemed unbelievable. But God works faith through the Word of Christ — nothing is impossible with God. One of those seemingly impossible instances is when Christ spoke His Word to Saul, and Saul believed Him. Then, God spoke to Ananias and the believers at Damascus, and they too believed, even though the message seemed unbelievable to their human wisdom.



1. Read Acts 9:1–9. When you hear Christ speaking in the Scriptures, do you do what Jesus says? Or do you try to make sense of His Word and follow Him in your own time and in your own way?

2. What is your response to Christ's Word of Law?

3. Read Acts 9:10–19. Do you ever think that Jesus might be applying His grace to the wrong person? How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you to speak and act upon the words of Christ even against your better judgment?

4. How does God speak to sinners, including you, through the church?

5. Read Acts 9:19–22. How do you react when the words of Christ are confounding? Do the circumstances of your life determine God's faithfulness to His promises?

6. How does this story in Acts 9 reveal that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah who was promised to come?

7. How do you see the work of the Holy Spirit bringing you to faith and strengthening your faith through His Word, in Baptism and in the Lord's Supper?

The Word of Christ is true because there is no darkness in Him (1 JOHN 1:5–6). Even when you think that Christ's Word can't be true because you know better, His Word is true. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus works faith in your heart through what you have heard about Him. In Christ, there is no deceit or dishonesty. Believe in your Savior who speaks to you. Listen to His Word. Receive His Sacraments. Hear and believe. **LW**

The Rev. Peter III
is pastor of Trinity
Lutheran Church,
Millstadt, Ill.





Confirmation is today, June 28, 2020 we have 4 children being confirmed this year. If anyone wishes to send them a card I entered their address for your convenience

CHILD BEING CONFIRMED	CHILD'S BIRTHDATE	CHILD'S BAPTISM	AGE	PARENT'S NAME	ADDRESS
Autumn Brodersen	7/27/2006	09/07/06	13	Nathan & Betsy Brodersen	208 Chamberlain Ave Mapleton, IA 51034
Kaylee Goslar	10/13/2005	11/20/05	14	Darren & Sarah Goslar	508 14th St. Onawa, IA 51040
Makenna Meseck	6/20/2006	06/16/06	13	Amy & the late Korey Meseck	217 N Day Ave. Ute, IA 51060
Paige Schmidt	1/11/2006	01/22/06	14	Kurt & Sarah Schmidt	405 S. 5th St Mapleton, IA 51034

Evelyn Christiansen will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 4, 2020, at the home of her son and his family, Bruce and Merry Christiansen. Please help her celebrate this major milestone with a card, letter, pictures, and/or memories sent to:



Evelyn Christiansen
% Merry Christiansen
P. O. Box 856



I'm submitting information for members who might want to send a retirement greeting to Pastor Charlie Adams who served at St. Matthew's from 1990-1997. He will be retiring as of August 1, 2020 after 34 years in the ministry.

The congregation that he serves- Faith Lutheran in Ottawa, KS would like to put memory stories/retirement greetings into a scrap book for Laura's husband! St. Matthew members can send a greeting in email form to the church secretary here and they will be printed off for Charlie. He will appreciate these personal messages so much. Put the words: "project for pastor" in the subject line and she will know what the message is for! secretary@faith-lutheran.net If a regular card is preferred the address is:

Faith Lutheran Church
1320 W. 15th Street
Ottawa, KS

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

GOD'S	CHILD	DATE
Banks	Bonnie	Jun 2, 1934
Bruhn	Byron	Jun. 25, 1967
Goslar	Jennifer	Jun 10, 1975
Greiner	Mark	Jun 14, 1954
Jacobson	Ferne	Jun 30, 1930
Johnson	Kay	Jun 8, 1941
Kelm	Max	Jun 10, 2012
Krusen	Joe	Jun 12, 1983
Livermore	Deloris	Jun 9, 1929
Ohlmeier	Tyler	Jun 6, 2004
Ohlmeier	Shawn	Jun 26, 1983
Scheer	Weston	Jun 28, 2015
Schmidt	Sarah	Jun 14, 1981
Witzel	Mark	Jun, 1959



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.



MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY		
GOD'S CHILDREN	50+ yrs.	DATE
Robert and Wanda Andre	52 yrs.	Jun 23, 1968
Doc and Kay Johnson	58 yrs.	Jun 23, 1962
Melvin and Selma Schrader	59 yrs.	Jun 15, 1961
Grant and Shirley Scoles	57 yrs.	Jun 28, 1963

BIRTHDAYS

GOD'S	CHILD	DATE
Banks	Bonnie	Jun 2, 1934 85
Bruhn	Byron	Jun 11, 1967
Bruhn	Jared	Jun 23, 1986
Bollig	Julie	Jun. 18, 1968
Brodersen	Nathan	6/26/1981
Brown	Brenda	6/26/1963
Bruhn	Hudson	6/20/2011
Fick	Phyllis	Jun 3, 1928 91
Goslar	Zachery	Jun 16, 1993
Ingram	Roger	Jun 12, 1935 84
Kelm	Raylyn	6/12/2010
Kroll	Delbert	Jun 1, 1933 86
Kueny	Karen	6/8/1948
Marsh	Durene	6/7/1960
Meseck	Randi	6/20/1948
Meseck	MaKenna	6/20/2006
Pope	Sharon	Jun 16, 1940 80
Riesberg	Jeannette	6/30/1957
Schauer	Diana	6/27/1964
Wessling	Dorothy	6/29/1942
Witzel	Ernest	Jun 18, 1936 83

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

Give the office a call or the Pastor...

Before going to hospital
Private communion
Making wedding plans
Death in the family

Address or name changes
Birth of your baby
Entering armed services
Desire to serve you Lord through the Church



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	Kevin Dose	Selma Schrader	Elnora Dose
Robert Banks	Arlene Kiepe	Carol Dose	Joyce Kruse	Sue Oberg
Peg Jacobson	Charlotte Miller	Marla Hogan	Sue Kruse	

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg’s sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Kirby Reitz** son of Don & Carolyn former members their address: 7214 South Bitterroot Court Sioux falls SD 57108. ; **Steve Ashley**, (former member’s address: Intensive care unit rm 4 Unity Point Health 2720 Stone Park Blvd Sioux City, IA 51104); Kim Whitton (Marilyn & Duane Hamann daughter)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY Triston Twedt, Ryan Trucke, Jackie Cardwell

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

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

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

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

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
31153 Juinter Ave
Hinton, IA 51024

Elnora Dose 85 yrs. May 11, 1935
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

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

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928
Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
404 1st St.
Battle Creek, IA 51006

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

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

Coronavirus: Nothing new about disease ... or the need for the Gospel

blogs.lcms.org/2020/coronavirus-nothing-new-about-disease-or-the-need-for-the-gospel

There's really nothing new about the new coronavirus (now called COVID-19). Human history is filled with instances of epidemics, plagues, and pandemics. The Bible speaks about plagues and widespread diseases in accounts of the past and in accounts of our future.

Deadly disease is nothing new. Neither is the greater threat to mankind. In Revelation 9, we read about the horrible destruction that will one day ravage the earth. The figurative language of this chapter has caused many people to speculate about the exact nature of the three plagues discussed here.

Whatever they may be (and it's very unlikely that they are coronaviruses), verses 20 and 21 make it clear that mankind faces a far greater problem than these plagues. *"The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."* (Rev. 9:20–21)

While the world around us is fixated on COVID-19, how to respond to it, and the fears of contracting it, there is something that is a far greater threat to them than they realize. Many people in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and even our families are more concerned about a disease with a 1-2% mortality rate than a condition with a 100% mortality rate — a condition that every one of them has already contracted.

We know that this greater problem is sin. We also know that handwashing, antiseptic wipes, microbe-trapping face masks, and isolation cannot spare any of us from the deadly consequences of sin. Only the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ can save us.

People's concern over COVID-19 is an opportunity for us to engage them in conversations about our mortality and the certainty of death. It is an opening for us to speak God's Word into a situation that can only be answered by God's Word.

In the face of the COVID-19 threat, with all its fears and uncertainties, we can shine as people who have certain hope and faith. Our response to COVID-19 should show the people around us that we live in faith, not fear, and that we are filled with hope. Our hope is not in science, technology, or medicine. Our hope is in the One who has given us these good gifts and the greater gifts of life and salvation through the forgiveness of our sins.

Your response to the COVID-19 threat should include making good use of the "reason and senses" and all that God has given us "for this body and life" (Luther's Small Catechism). By all means, follow the sound advice of medical professionals and public health officials to protect yourself and your loved ones from this virus.

But do not fear. You are God's own child washed in the waters of Holy Baptism, cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and filled with hope. As you prepare to deal with the challenges of a widespread disease, remember to also prepare to share Good News with "anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

Through your faithful witness during a public health crisis, it is possible that people in your life will repent and receive the healing that only Jesus can provide. It's true: There's nothing new about the new coronavirus. But, in COVID-19, there is a new opportunity for us to bring Good News to our dying world.



504 Walnut
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

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

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org — Our services posted weekly

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 (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 and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page.

“THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8am 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.



I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you as you go along your way...His love is always with you, His promises are true. And when we give Him all our cares, you know He will see us through.