

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

July 12, 2020

6th 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**)



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034

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6th Sunday after Pentecost
12 July 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Isaiah 55:10–13 / Psalm 65:(1–8) 9–13 / Romans 8:12–17 / Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Sermon Title: The Parable of the Sower
Sermon Text: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Think about this bit of truth from the Bible. Hearing God’s Word affects how we live. Paul talks about how God’s Word affects our lives in Romans: *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”* (Romans 10:17)

Whatever you listen to every day on TV, on the radio, on social media—whatever you let into your heart and mind—THAT is what affects your life. So, if you talk like a Christian—but everyone sees that you’re acting like someone who doesn’t believe what he is saying—then it’s true that what you hear affects how you live.

If you are a Christian, and you fill up with Jesus—when you listen to his word every day—then the truth from God’s Word will affect how you live. The Holy Spirit will work in your heart, soul and mind, nurturing God’s Word in you to help you live the way God wants you to live.

Since hearing God’s Word affects how we live, then it would also be true to say—according to this parable in our Gospel lesson—that how we LIVE affects what we hear. So listen to a parable that Jesus told his followers:

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A sower went out to sow.’” (Matthew 13:1-3)

Jesus begins his lesson simply: *“A sower went out to sow.”* Now, Jesus isn’t talking about a specific person or a specific occupation. Jesus is talking about you and me and all Christians, who hold that the Word of God is completely true.

People are saved by the work of Jesus Christ when the Word of God is preached and taught in its truth and purity. People don’t get saved by doing their own thing. Jesus said: *“No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (John 14:6b) And the only way you can be saved is by believing in Jesus Christ.

“A sower went out to sow.” Every single one of us has been called by God to be a witness of the hope that you have in Jesus. As Gary Thies says so well—Everyone is a missionary—and he’s right. The Bible teaches us that every one of us is given the opportunity to share the message of hope and salvation to people around us, who don’t know Jesus.

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. // ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. // ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. // ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:1-9)

One of the key points in this parable is that the sower went out—the person, who goes out to sow seed—has been given a job to do—and God asks him to be FAITHFUL in doing it. Are you being faithful in doing what God has called you to do? Or are you excelling in making excuses as to why you aren't doing what Jesus desires from you?

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9) Sometimes, it's easy to give up doing good. You see bad things happening all around you—in town—in our church—in our federal government—and it can be easy to throw your hands in the air and give up. Then close the door and pull the covers over your head hope everything will go away and leave you alone.

But we live in a broken world, and we will never live in a perfect world—in this life. Our first parents—Adam and Eve—sinned against God and passed that sin along to every single person who has been born—and who will be born—until Jesus comes one last time.

Living in a broken world means that bad things will happen all the time. It's just a matter of are you going to stay faithful to the truth of God's Word—or are you going to throw away the truth and grab on to any flashy, exciting idea that pops up in your social media feed?

Of course, when you hear God's Word every day, then you will live the way God desires you to live—to love him above everything in this world, and to love your neighbor as yourself. When you hear God's Word every day you will grow more in your faith.

When you live the way God's Word instructs you, then you will want to hear more of God's Word. When you eat a healthy, delicious meal with lots of vegetables, some hours later, you'll be hungry again. And if you eat more healthy, delicious food including lots of vegetables, eventually you'll start craving more healthy foods.

The same goes with the Word of God. The more you fill up with Jesus—the more you hear God's Word—the more you will want to live God's Word. The more you live God's Word, the more you'll want to hear God's Word.

In our parable from Matthew's Gospel, the sower went out to do his job faithfully—sowing seeds—planting seeds. In those days, sowing seeds was simply grabbing a handful of seeds out of a bag, then gently sprinkling them on the ground. Of course, when you sow seed this way, not all seed will perform well.

“⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:1-9)

As the sower gently sprinkled seeds on the ground, some of the seed landed on a nearby path. The dirt on that path was hard and no seed could penetrate it. The seed on that path got eaten by the birds.

Other seed fell on rocky ground which had only a tiny bit of dirt. There was just enough dirt in this rocky ground where some seed felt that the seed could actually grow. But, there was no depth to the soil and when the blazing sun beat down on that seedling, the seedling died.

Other seed fell among thorns. Thorns became a problem for man after Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. God's punishment for Adam included hard work to survive. *“...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall*

eat the plants of the field.” (Genesis 2:17-18) Other seed fell among thorns and had no room to grow. Those seeds got choked out by the weeds and those seedlings died.

But, as would be expected, a lot of seed fell on good soil—where it had depth—where it had room to grow—where it was not crowded out or choked by weeds—and those seedlings grew into large, healthy plants that produced a of fruit. When you fill up with Jesus, then there is no room for junk from this world. So, think again about this bit of truth: hearing God’s Word affects how you live.

Jesus goes on to explain the meaning of this parable. ¹⁸ *“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.”* (Matthew 13:18-19)

Just because you might not understand something from the Bible is no reason to just throw the Bible in the corner and give up on it forever. Do you do that with everything in your life? You can’t understand something quickly and easily so you just give up and move on?

Probably not. So why react the same with the truths found in the Bible? Why not take a little time to try and understand what God is saying to you? This is why I’ve said that it’s important to gather for worship and listen to the sermon. It’s also very important to gather with other Christians to study the Bible together. You can study the Bible here at church, but also at home with your family and/or with other friends.

You know that practice makes perfect—or least practice helps you greatly improve in some area. The same goes with God’s Word. When you practice—when you take time to study God’s Word—to pray about it and chew on a nugget of truth from God’s Word—then you will continue to grow in your faith in Jesus. Then, you will start knowing the real, final-authority truth, and that truth will set you free from being a slave to the lies that swirl around us daily.

Jesus goes on to explain the parable further. ²⁰ *As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”* (Matthew 13:20-21)

I’ve seen this happen before. A man hears the Gospel and immediately is convicted in his heart to follow Jesus. He jumps head-long into following Jesus, but after a few bumps and bruises along the way—that daily life will always throw at you—the man starts questioning his faith. He wonders if maybe he acted too quickly, because now all sorts of bad things are happening to him, and he is pretty sure that following Jesus is the worst idea ever.

Have you ever experienced this? Do you know someone who has experienced this? Excitedly became a Christian, and then when that person started experiencing real difficulties—concluded that following Jesus was terrible and a waste of time?

King Solomon talked about this idea in Ecclesiastes: *“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.”* (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

Some Christians seem to think that when bad things happen to them—or to family members or friends—then they wonder what they have done—how they have sinned to cause this bad thing. And yet, not all bad things are caused because you have sinned.

Sometimes God can use your sins to discipline you—and no one likes being disciplined. We all want a very pleasant life—free of pain and suffering. But the author of Hebrews gives us a different perspective: *“For the*

moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11)

Jesus continues explaining this parable of the sower: ²² *As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.” (Matthew 13:22)*

The person, who really loves what the world has to offer, has a lot of trouble following Jesus. The world can seem so enticing that it’s hard to pull yourself away from the riches of this world or whatever drives you each day. So, what does drive you each day? What guides you and leads you each day? Is it God’s Word? Is it the Almighty Dollar? What makes you get up each day and get to work?

The person who gets a charge out of the wonderful things of this world, can also get so bogged down with the cares of this world—the problems and challenges of providing and caring for your family—keeping and trying to do the best at your job---and so many other things that it’s hard to focus on Jesus when all these other things crowd into your heart and mind.

And finally, Jesus concludes his parable: ²³ *As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” (Matthew 13:23)*

The last group of seed that is sown hears God’s Word—and then lives the way God desires. When people in the last group fill up with Jesus, then they willingly go out and share the hope that they have in Jesus with their neighbor, their coworker, or someone in the checkout line at the store.

When you fill up with Jesus, then the Holy Spirit works in your heart and mind to help you live the way God desires. When you hear God’s Word and live it, then the Holy Spirit continues to create a hunger and thirst for God’s Word in you so that you will keep coming back for more every day.

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



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

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you on this sixth Sunday after Pentecost in the Name of Jesus! This past Sunday was our first Sunday back to regular worship. We had 32 members attending, who received from God all that he wanted to give them. We celebrated Holy Communion and overall, it was a blessed time of fellowship and worship.

Now, I don't say that in order to make you feel bad about not coming to worship just yet. We are still living with Covid-19, which means that people are still getting sick in our county and our part of the state. Since we are still living with Covid-19, I want to encourage everyone to be conscientious about other church members if you join us for worship.

It's very important for you to still observe CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines and wear a facemask, sit six feet apart, don't shake hands and wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. As we continue to live with Covid-19, think about this: what would you do if you had the flu? Would you not cover your mouth when you coughed? When you go out to supper at The Hawkeye Bar and cough on everyone there?

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."

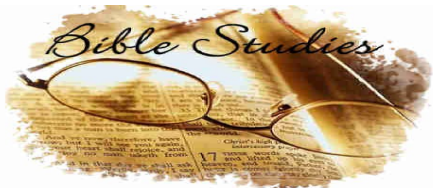
I would like to encourage you to join many other members of the LCMS for the weekly Memory Verse Challenge. "The church confesses to Christ, *'You have the words of eternal life'* (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to *'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...'* (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. (<https://www.lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge>)

This week's memory verse: Romans 6:3–4

June 29 — Matthew 11:28 / June 22 — Romans 3:23–24 / June 15 — Isaiah 53:5

Sincerely,

Pastor Chris LaBoube



The Holy Spirit and the Word

by Matt Richard

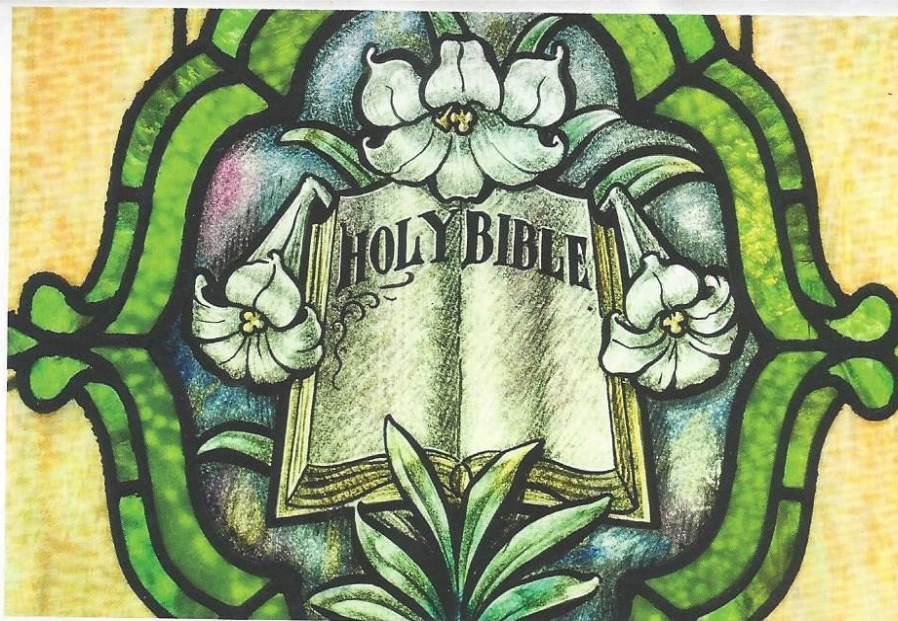
“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. ... Our churches condemn [those] who think that through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word.” (AC V, 4)

These words from the Augsburg Confession are essential to a Lutheran understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Word is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit works through the Word. Consider the following questions regarding the interrelationship of Word and Spirit.

1. Read 2 Tim. 3:14–17 and 1 Thess. 2:13. Where does the Word of God have its source? What does it accomplish in the life of a Christian?

2. Many in our time desire (or even claim to have) a direct and unique connection with the Holy Spirit apart from the Word. Read Jer. 23:23–32. What danger is inherent in seeking or believing to have a divine revelation apart from the Word?

3. Some of Jesus' last words to His disciples before His crucifixion, as recorded in the Gospel of John, had to do with the Holy Spirit. Read John 14:26, 15:26 and 16:8–14. What things does Jesus promise that the “Helper” will do for the Church? What common Christian expectations concerning the Spirit's work do we not see promised here?



4. Read John 6:60–65. How does faith come to us? What are “spirit and life” for the believer?

5. There are many who look for signs of the Spirit's work in their own emotions — and who use their emotional responses to interpret Scripture. Read Luke 24:25–32. What made the disciples' hearts burn within them? What does this episode teach us about the relationship between Spirit, Word and human emotion?

6. Read Ezek. 37:1–10, watching closely for the interplay of God's prophetic Word and the work of the Spirit. How do we see the Spirit's action willingly bound up with the Word of God in this familiar passage?

The Word is the only channel and route by which the Holy Spirit has promised to come to us. A word without the Spirit is no Word of God but mere human words. A spirit that comes without the Word is not the revealing Spirit of God (1 JOHN 4:1–6). May we uphold the Word and the Spirit, who counsel us, teach us, convict us of sin, guide us and point us to Jesus — and may we eagerly pour ourselves into the Word, that the Holy Spirit may be poured out into us. **LW**



**THE WORD
IS INSPIRED
BY THE HOLY
SPIRIT, AND
THE HOLY
SPIRIT WORKS
THROUGH THE
WORD.**

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard is pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minot, N.D., and author of *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? 12 False Christs* (CPH).



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

An announcement from a fellow sister in Christ:

HELPING HANDS: Quilters are back at work! We will meet on Wednesday, July 15, 1-4 pm. Anyone is welcome. We will be social distancing—and we will wear face masks for extra safety. We have lots to do. Come join us for fun and fellowship. Zola Kafton.

Thank you from Paige Schmidt: Dear Church family, thank you so much for always supporting me in my journey with Christ. Thank you for thinking of me on my Confirmation Day. P.S. The bracelet was beautiful. 😊

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

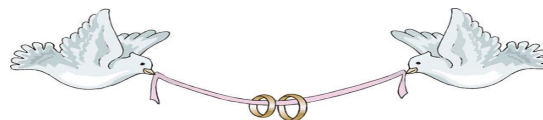
Albers	Jerry	Jul 24, 1938
Arndt	Herman	Jul 4, 1960
Brodersen	Nathan	Jul 19, 1981
Brown	Brenda	Jul 14, 1963
Bruhn	Jared	Jul 13, 1986
Bumsted	Barbara	Jul 14, 1955
Fick	Phyllis	Jul 6, 1928
Hamann	Kerensa	Jul 5, 2014
Hamann	Katelynn	Jul 23, 2000
Kaderabek	Nazaria	Jul 14, 2019
Kelm	Raylyn	Jul 18, 2010
Kelm	Lyle	Jul 1, 2018
Kelm	Henry	Jul 12, 2015
Kueny	Karen	Jul 11, 1948
LaBoube	Christina	Jul 23, 1989
Marsh	Durene	Jul 21, 1960
Meseck	Randi	Jul 22, 1948
Meseck	MaKenna	Jul 16, 2006
Pope	Sharon	Jul 21, 1940
Schauer	Bert	Jul 11, 1957
Skow	Mavis	Jul 28, 1953
Wessling	Dorothy	Jul 26, 1942
Witzel	Hans	Jul 7, 1935



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

Albers	Jerry	Jul 24, 1938	81
Bridgeman	Tasha	Jul 4, 1987	
Brodersen	Autumn	Jul 27, 2006	
Christiansen	Evelyn	Jul 4, 1920	99
Dale	Kristi	Jul 21, 1961	
Goslar	Sarah	Jul 20, 1983	
Hamann	Marilyn	Jul 14, 1945	
Hamann	Harold	Jul 8, 1944	
Hogan	Marla	Jul 18, 1960	
Ingram	Kay	Jul 12, 1939	80
Kaderabek	Nazaria	Jul 2, 1963	
Kiepe	Arlene	Jul 29, 1917	102
McBride	Bernie	Jul 13, 1935	84
Namanny	Dennis	Jul 24, 1944	
Schauer	Bert	Jul 25, 1956	
Scheer	Caden	Jul 28, 2009	
Scott	Kolby	Jul 9, 2004	
Weber	Benjamin	Jul 6, 1995	



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Roger and Kay Ingram	Jul 12, 1957
Dennis and Ann Livermore	Jul 31, 1970

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	Marla Hogan	Sue Kruse		

Bonnie Banks— a prayer for concerns for her husband. (not being able to be with him)

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); **Jerri Haindfield** (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

My Manna

by Cindy J. Evans



“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna . . .” (Deuteronomy 8:3, NIV).

What is it, Lord?

I question what You’ve brought.

**I thought I knew what it should be,
but this isn’t it—it’s not.**

What is it, Lord?

I don’t know it at all.

**What is this that has been given?
From Your hand did it fall?**

What is it, Lord?

I am struggling to guess.

**I think of the mystery You gave
to the Israelites in the wilderness.**

You chose this provision

to be their nourishment

**although they didn’t understand;
yet on and on it went.**

Are you telling me, too,

**“Don’t complain but just receive
and trust what Heaven chooses
to feed all my needs?”**

Then, Lord, so be it,

**I’ll trust food from above
and not need You to explain,
for it will taste like love.**



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 (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



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.