

# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*July 26, 2020*

*8th 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

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.MatthewLutheran-Mapleton)

**Rev. Christopher LaBoube**

Pastor

(712) 881-3322

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8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
26 July 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA  
Deuteronomy 7:6–9 / Psalm 125 / Romans 8:28–39 / Matthew 13:44–52

Sermon Title: What is Most Valuable to You?  
Sermon Text: Matthew 13:44-52

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

This morning, we’re going to look at four short parables. “A parable is a simple story illustrating a moral lesson.” (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) When you hear a parable, you might just hear the words and think that it was a cute little story, nothing more. Other people will hear the same parable, and recognize that the story has a deeper meaning.

<sup>44</sup> *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”* <sup>45</sup> *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”* (Matthew 13:44-46)

In both of these parables, Jesus tells us that no matter what you value and cherish in this world—NOTHING can compare with the even greater joy and satisfaction that we will experience in the presence of Jesus in heaven.

You can’t take your stuff with you when you die. This is why you never see a hearse pulling a U-haul trailer. We should remember that all that own, we have we received from God. This is what we sing in the hymn “We Give Thee But Thine Own,” #781 in our hymnal. Verse 1: “We give Thee but Thine own, // Whate’er the gift may be; // All that we have is Thine alone, // A trust, O Lord, from Thee.”

When we acknowledge that everything we have comes from God—then we are thinking correctly—we recognize who is ultimately in control of our lives. This is also what we confess in the Apostles’ Creed: the First Article:

**“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.** *What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He 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.” (Small Catechism: Apostles’ Creed)

<sup>44</sup> *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”* <sup>45</sup> *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”* (Matthew 13:44-46)

In these two short parables, think about the man, who found the treasure hidden in a field, and the merchant searching for fine pearls, as Jesus. Jesus is always searching for us. God “...desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:4-5)

Jesus looks for a hidden treasure or for fine pearls—which are us. We are valuable and extremely important in God’s eyes. God wants us to be with him in heaven for all eternity. And in these two parables, both men do some2

thing extreme—they sell everything that they have to buy these precious items.

And this is exactly what Jesus has done for us. Jesus loves you more than you can ever imagine, and he has done more FOR YOU than you could ever imagine. Jesus “...gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.” (1 Timothy 2:6)

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17)

God did this FOR YOU! God loves you more than you can ever imagine and he wants—he longs for you to be with him in heaven for all eternity.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:47-50)

This parable talks about the Last Day, when Jesus will come. At that time Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats—the righteous from the wicked. The righteous will go with Jesus into heaven, and the wicked will be sent away from Jesus and his presence into hell.

Here when Jesus talks about gathering fish, he is talking about calling all people to himself to be with him forever. “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.” (Luke 10:1-3)

In Luke 10, Jesus goes on to explain what those disciples are to do. Jesus wants more people to go out into this world to share the hope they have in Jesus with other people, who don’t know Jesus. Do you take every opportunity that God gives you to share the hope you have in Jesus? It can be hard sharing your faith in Jesus to other people, but God gives you the strength through the Holy Spirit to tell someone else what Jesus has done in your life.

And at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus then invites ALL people, who believe in him, to participate in the Great Commission: <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus continues with another parable: <sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” (Matthew 13:51-52)

I remember several years ago I had a conversation with a friend of mine, who had joined the Mormons. He asked me if I thought that the Old Testament was important. I told him that is very important. To think that the Old Testament is old and therefore unnecessary is not correct. Without the Old Testament, we wouldn’t know the complete story that is finished in the New Testament.

When Jesus encourages us who are his disciples to “bring out of his treasure what is new and what is old,” we are to share both the Law and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is how some people can get bristly. Some people

only want to know the feel-good stuff of the Bible, but don't want to know or acknowledge the unpleasant stuff—the Law—the Ten Commandments. Some people want to think only of God as a senile grandpa rocking in his chair, patting you on the head and telling you that you're doing well—even when you have done wrong.

That is not who God is. God is greater than anything you can think about him. God knows what is going on in your heart long before you think about it or speak it. The more you read the Bible, the more you will start understanding who God is—his character—his personality.

Now, granted, no matter how much you study the Bible and learn more about God, you will never be proficient in knowing everything about God. That would be impossible. But God invites you daily to come to him—to pray and confess your sins—and then receive his gracious forgiveness.

Then, pray and ask God to help you to understand him—or at least to understand some part of Scripture that you were just reading. Paul talks a lot about studying the Bible in the books First and Second Timothy and Titus.

From Second Timothy: <sup>4</sup> *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it* <sup>15</sup> *and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*” (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

“the sacred writings”—that is, the Bible—“are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.” When you become “acquainted with the sacred writings” then you will know the truth. When you know the truth about Jesus, then you will be living the way God asks you. When you fill up with Jesus then you can easily pour out to others.

One way to become “acquainted with the sacred writings” is to read or listen to the Bible every day. Develop a habit. We all have habits that we know we should change. Make a change in your own life and develop a habit of digging into God's Word.

The more you dig into God's Word, the more you will uncover hidden treasures or pearls of great value. The Bible is full of nuggets of meaty goodness. It's just waiting for you to discover it. As the prophet Isaiah says: <sup>6</sup> “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6) 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.



**LIFE HAS CHANGED.  
JESUS HAS NOT.**

**MEET HIM HERE.**



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

Sunday, July 26, 2020



Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you on this eighth Sunday after Pentecost in the Name of Jesus! How are you? How is your family? Life here at church is slowly resuming. We have regular worship service at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. We offer Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month. And it is really good to gather in God's house to receive from him all that he desires to give us.

Recently, I read an article that said if more people would wear a face mask when going out, Covid-19 would slowly become less of a threat. I would like to encourage you to follow the guidelines from the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention): wear a facemask, keep at least six feet between members, and wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer regularly. Please be conscientious about other church members when you join us for worship.

Covid-19 is part of our lives now, and it would be foolish to think otherwise. Take precautions to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy when you are shopping and visiting other public places that can become crowded.

Even if you're not ready to return to church just yet, don't worry. We will continue to send out the sermon with the weekly mailings. We will also keep posting the sermon on the church's Facebook page. Of course, you can still watch a Lutheran worship service on "Main Street Living" on KCAU channel 9, Sioux City on Sundays at 10 a.m. You can also listen to "The Lutheran Hour" on radio station KSCJ 94.9 FM and 1360 AM, Sioux City on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Also, if you'd like to receive Holy Communion, but aren't ready to come back to church, please call the church office and I'll set up a time to visit with you.

Even though I get tired of talking about money, it is important at times. The Board of Directors would like to thank all of you, who continue to send in your weekly offering. If you aren't ready to return to worship, the Board of Directors would like to encourage you to send in your weekly offering. You can mail 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."

I've said it before, and I'll probably say it again. Prayer and Bible reading and/or listening are so very important to the life of a Christian. Reading or listening to the Bible regularly is the main way that you can fill up with Jesus. When you fill up with Jesus, you will then be able to pour out Jesus to other people.

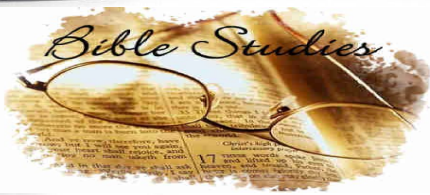
I would really like to encourage you to find a Bible reading or listening plan and get started reading. Maybe you could start by reading or listening to one chapter a day through the Gospel of John. You could also do the same in the Book of Daniel. Of course, I'd also like to challenge you to find a reading or listening plan that leads you through the entire Bible either in one or two years.

The point behind a Bible reading plan is a gentle encouragement to develop a habit of filling up with Jesus by reading or listening to the Bible every day. When you get started on a reading or listening plan, and then you miss a couple of days, don't worry about it. Just pick up wherever you are and get reading or listening. If you need some suggestions for finding a Bible reading or listening plan, give me a call at the church. I'll be happy to help!

Sincerely,

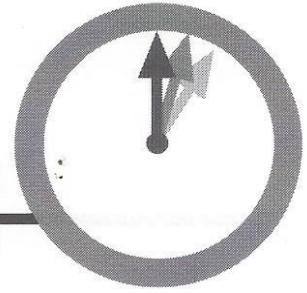
Pastor Chris LaBoube





# Neither Height Nor Depth

Romans 8:38-39



## GOD'S WORD

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*

## FOR SHARING

1. Have you ever felt separated from God and His love? When? Why?

2. St. Paul says in **Romans 8:37**: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." With pen in hand underline all the powers that St. Paul says Christ has conquered.

3. "Neither height nor depth...will be able to separate us from the love of God." St. Paul is referring to the belief that astrological powers somehow influences events and behavior. What evidence do you see that many people, including Christians, sometimes have difficulty believing that heavenly bodies don't somehow influence their lives (e.g., superstition about Friday the 13th, reading the horoscope)? However, what does God's Word clearly proclaim about the influence of stars and other heavenly bodies? About "anything else in all creation"?

4. To be in Christ is to share His victory over all these powers. Read aloud another victory hymn of St. Paul's:

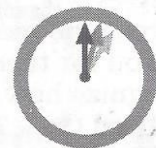
*"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:54-57)*

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, God of victories, we come to You,  
to thank You for the victories You have given us over life and death; angels and demons; the present and the future; powers, height, and depth; and anything else in all creation;

to ask Your forgiveness for the times we have felt separated from You, for the times we have felt less than victorious over some of the worldly powers;

to ask Your help in all that we do so that we might be "more than conquerors through Him who loved us." In the name of Jesus. Amen.



# Study 9

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

An announcement from a fellow members in Christ:

**HELPING HANDS:** Quilters are back at work! We will meet on We will meet July 29th at 1 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.

Kenny Kruger says that the cherry tomatoes are ready in the garden and the cucumbers are ready to be picked and the peppers green bell and the yellow are ready to be picked, please feel free to help yourself to them.

**FROM BOB ANDRE, CHURCH PRESIDENT:** Their will be a letter forthcoming explaining the COVID-19/giving shortfall and catch up request. Moreover, the government PPP loan we received as well as a possible fund raiser or special offering to assist in covering the co-Pay incurred for birth cost of pastor's daughter. The Board of Directors and Elders

## NEWS FROM MISSION CENTRAL Missionary Gary Thies

August 15, 2020 Erin MacKenzie from the Dominican Republic – 1:00 PM

August 29, 2020 Rabe family from Ethiopia – 1:00 PM

<b>NEEDED /WEEK</b>	<b>\$3,225.02</b>
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, 07-05-20)	\$5,245.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, 07-12-20)	\$615.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, 07-19-20)	\$1,285.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (07-19-20)	34
SUNDAY COMMUNION (07-19-20)	32
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	NA
ADULT BIBLE CLASS ATTENDANCE	NA

	<u>Week of Schedule</u> <u>07-27- to 08-08-20</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Wed	Helping hands 1 pm
Sun.	9:30 AM WORSHIP

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

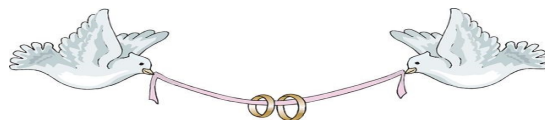
Albers	Jerry	Jul 24, 1938
Arndt	Herman	Jul 4, 1960
Brodersen	Nathan	Jul 19, 1981
Brown	Brenda	Jul 14, 1963
Bruhn	Jared	Jul 13, 1986
Bumsted	Barbara	Jul 14, 1955
Fick	Phyllis	Jul 6, 1928
Hamann	Kerensa	Jul 5, 2014
Hamann	Katelynn	Jul 23, 2000
Kaderabek	Nazaria	Jul 14, 2019
Kelm	Raylyn	Jul 18, 2010
Kelm	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	<b>81</b>
Bridgeman	Tasha	Jul 4, 1987	
Brodersen	Autumn	Jul 27, 2006	
Christiansen	Evelyn	Jul 4, 1920	<b>100</b>
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	<b>80</b>
Kaderabek	Nazaria	Jul 2, 1963	
Kiepe	Arlene	Jul 29, 1917	<b>102</b>
McBride	Bernie	Jul 13, 1935	<b>84</b>
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	Sue Kruse	Mike 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. ; **Kim Whitton** (Marilyn & Duane Hamann daughter);

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

**THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY** :Triston Twedt; Ryan Trucke; Jackie Cardwell

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

**\*\* indicates a new address**

**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

**Delbert Kroll** 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933

Ring Street

Mapleton IA 51034

**\*\*Myrna Gosch** 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941

Pleasant View Care Center

200 Shannon Dr.

Whiting, IA 51063

**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*



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](http://www.stmatthewmapleton.org) — Our 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 (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](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



*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.*