

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

August 09, 2020

10th 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

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10th Sunday after Pentecost
9 August 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Job 38:4–18 / Psalm 18:1–9 (7–16) / Romans 10:5–17 / Matthew 14:22–33

Sermon Title: “*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ*”
Sermon Text: Romans 10:5-17

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

The Bible can be confusing at times, but it doesn’t have to be. You and I have to be willing to listen and learn. That’s often the hardest part about studying the Bible. We want a quick, definitive answer. And if we were honest, we don’t want to have to think about the answer. This is why so many people struggle with what the Bible says and means. They don’t want to put forth the effort.

Having faith in God, though, doesn’t have to take a lot of effort. Jesus makes this point one day. “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who is the *greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*’”² *And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them*³ *and said, ‘Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*⁴ *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”* (Matthew 18:1-4)

Do you have faith like a child? Maybe you scoff at such a question—thinking, I’m a grown adult and I don’t do anything like a child anymore. I don’t live like a child. But maybe you should. God gives you his message of hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ alone all written down in the Bible for you to read or listen to and chew on it.

Paul talks about having faith like a child in part of his letter to the Christians, who live in Rome. We pick up this part of his letter in Romans chapter 10, beginning at verse 5: “*For Moses writes (in Leviticus 18:5) about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. One who kept the Law perfectly was promised life (Lv. 18:5); but no sinful human could reach this standard of holiness.*”)” (Romans 10:5)

God told the Israelites through Moses what he expects from them—how to live with each other and how to practice healthy hygiene. God did this so that the Israelites would be set apart from the rest of the people on the planet at that time.

The key point to the Ten Commandments—along with all the other rules about food and health—is if you live exactly the way God describes, then you will become as holy as God is. Of course, obeying just the Ten Commandments—was difficult, and no one ever reached God’s standard of holiness.

⁶*But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down)*⁷ *“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss (see Rev. 9:1)?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead) (see Hebrews 13:20).*⁸ *But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); (see Deut. 30:11-14)”* (Romans 10:6-8)

Here in Romans 10 verse 6-8, Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy chapter 30. When you read this portion of Scripture, you’ll see Paul has included his explanation in parenthesis right in the text. He does this so that New Testament believers, who don’t know or don’t remember the context of this Old Testament passage.

Paul—in quoting Moses—reiterates one point: *“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);”* God’s Word is readily available to you. You don’t have to travel half-way around the world to Ghana, West Africa to find and hear God’s Word preached and taught. It’s right here in Mapleton, Iowa! You have God’s Word available to you in a language that you can understand. Just open your Bible and read or turn on an audio Bible and listen.

This message of hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ alone is really that simple. Paul continues his letter explaining that you become a believer in Jesus by the work of God the Holy Spirit. ⁹ *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord (see Matt. 10:32; Luke 12:8) and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.* ¹¹ *For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” (see 1 Peter 2:6-7; Isaiah 26:16)* ¹² *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.* ¹³ *For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (see Joel 2:32) (Romans 10:9-13)*

Throughout Paul’s letters in the New Testament, he often quotes passages from the Old Testament. Remember, at the time when Paul was writing his letters—which would later become part of the New Testament—the only Bible that existed was the Old Testament.

In verse 11, Paul quotes the Prophet Isaiah when he writes: *“For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” (see 1 Peter 2:6-7; Isaiah 26:16)”* No one is put to shame, who confess and believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Are you ashamed of God?

Jesus talks about this in Matthew’s Gospel: *“So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)*

Are you ashamed of talking about your faith? If so, why? Maybe you’re thinking—but people will be offended. That may happen, but our world desperately needs more people speaking the truth instead of being silenced.

Also, in this day and age when Covid-19 has affected many people—some who have died from this disease—lots of people are looking for hope and encouragement. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you have something to offer such as a promise from God that he is with you always unto the end of the ages. Pray and ask God to give you the courage or strength or words—or whatever is stopping you from sharing Jesus.

After the Prophet Isaiah, Paul then quotes the Prophet Joel to make his point: *“For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (see Joel 2:32)* If you believe in Jesus and make this confession then you’ll be going to heaven when you die. But this isn’t a reason to then try to convince yourself that you don’t have to go church—you don’t have to have fellowship with other Christians. That isn’t true.

When you refuse to gather with other Christians, then you are hurting yourself. When you give every excuse you can think of as to why you don’t want to gather with other believers, then you never grow in your faith—you are never challenged by the Word of God.

Now, I’m not talking about people, who physically can’t gather with other believers. I’m talking about people, who say they are Christian, and yet maintain a very private profile. They never talk to anyone about anything in their lives.

But I would like to challenge you to rethink your ideas about church and worship. Church is more than the pastor. Church is more than bickering and fighting. When church is no longer about Jesus, then we're all in trouble.

If attending worship is simply another task you think you have to do in order to be a "good Christian" then you need to rethink why you come to church. If you desire to gather with other believers in worship to receive from God all that he desires to give you, then you are thinking correctly.

Paul goes on in his letter to the Romans: *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"*¹⁵ *And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Isaiah 52:7)"* (Romans 10:14-15)

Here we see Paul talking about the importance of people going out and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. And Paul isn't just talking about pastors. He is also talking about all Christians to share the hope you have in Jesus, Son of the Living God.

First, we see Paul talking about how people become followers of Jesus Christ. You become a Christian by God's Word through the work of the Holy Spirit. God's Word is preached and taught and then the Holy Spirit nurtures God's Word to create faith. Then, the Holy Spirit keeps working in your heart and mind to nurture that faith in Jesus.

Maybe that Word of God was preached or taught in a worship service—or on the radio—or on the Internet—or any other ways that God uses to spread his message of hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ alone.

And this is why Paul says: *"And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"* (Romans 10:14-15a) It's important to take precautions as we learn to live with Covid-19, but you shouldn't stay locked up in your home. After all, God is still in control of Covid-19. He knows what will happen tomorrow, next year, and 20 years from now.

We don't have to act foolish and disregard the CDC guidelines. Instead, we should use our brain to think how we can keep ourselves healthy and safe and how we can keep other people safe and healthy. One way, of course, is to wear a face mask when you are in close proximity with other people.

Of course, if going out isn't something you feel comfortable doing just yet—think about all the other ways you can communicate with other people. Phone call. Video call. Greeting card. Letter. Email. Text and so many other ways. Use these opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus with other people. Don't wait for someone else to share Jesus with other people. Do it yourself!

Paul wraps up this section of his letter in verses 16 and 17: *"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" (Isaiah 53:1)"*¹⁷ *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (see Galatians 3:2, 5)." (Romans 10:16-17)*

Not everyone believes in Jesus. That's obvious from what we see happening in our country and around the world. That is to be expected. It's not only the Prophet Isaiah, who talks about not everyone believing in Jesus. All throughout the Scriptures we see different situations where some people have turned away from God and are no longer interested in him. They want to go their own way.

And then the Prophet Isaiah reiterates how you become a Christian—by the Word of God. A preacher or a Sunday School teacher or a member of a congregation shares the truth of God's Word with one other person or with a group of people, and the Holy Spirit works in and through that Word to create and nurture faith in other people.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (see Galatians 3:2, 5).” (Romans 10:16-17) We hear the promises from God in his Word, and then by the work of the Holy Spirit in you, he creates and nurtures faith in you. This is what we understand in the Apostles’ Creed the Meaning of the Third Article:

“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. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (see Galatians 3:2, 5).” Paul is saying what I have been saying often—when you fill up with Jesus then you’ll have lots of Jesus to pour out to others. You fill up with Jesus when you read or listen to the Bible every day.

If you’re not sure where to start reading or listening to the Bible, then call me and I’ll help you find a Bible reading plan. Or, go online and search for a Bible reading plan to get you started digging into God’s Word everyday. The point behind all Bible reading plans is to simply start slowly and start developing a habit—a habit in which you daily hunger and thirst for God’s Word.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (see Galatians 3:2, 5).” 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



WITH HIGH DELIGHT
LET US UNITE

WE’RE OPEN AGAIN



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



Sunday, August 9, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you on this tenth Sunday after Pentecost in the Name of Jesus! Even though we are learning to live with Covid-19, I am seeing some positive things happening. Thankfully, people in this part of the state grow lots of tomatoes, zucchini and sweet corn and are able to share the abundance. This is one way that God provides for all of our needs of body and soul.

The Small Catechism explains further in the Lord's Prayer: the Fourth Petition and Meaning how God takes care of us: *"Give us this day our daily bread."* *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

Every day that you wake up to a new day, God has given you breath in your lungs and your continues to beat, these are reasons enough to praise and thank God. In addition, I would like to encourage you to think of 2-3 things every day for which you can thank and praise God. When you do this every day, you can start developing a habit of thanking and praising God every day.

In addition to developing an attitude of thanking and praising God, I want to encourage you to read or listen to the Bible every day. When you do, then you'll learn stuff like: *"The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body."* (Proverbs 18:8) Gossip is simply believing lies, and the Scriptures equate listening to gossip with eating and enjoying a piece of cake. Just get out your Bible and start reading or listening to it and then you'll learn the real truth! God bless you with his peace and joy this week.

Sincerely,

Pastor Chris LaBoube



The Family of God and the Home-Court Advantage

Henry J. Graf V

Chances are you've thought a lot about family. Ask five people what counts as family and you're sure to get six answers. Modifiers like "step" or "in-law" or "adopted" are used to help clarify these relationships. But Jesus redefines family altogether. **Read Matthew 12:46-50.** How would you summarize what Jesus is getting at in this passage?

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, sin has been defeated and family has been redefined. Still, when we hear the word "family," our minds are filled with those who live with us. Regardless of the seen and unseen joys and pains that make up your family history or *any* modifiers that define how your family looks, God has grafted us into His own family and made us His own. As His children, we have value and play an important role in His family—in spite of our brokenness. At my own congregation we summarize Matthew 12:46-50 as the "Home-Court Advantage" (HCA). Hearing the Word of God and doing what it says is HCA. It's what makes a Jesus-style family.

Jesus didn't just talk about HCA that one time in Matthew. He ended His Sermon on the Mount with a story about a wise and foolish builder (**Matthew 7:24-27**). Later His half-brother James has the same message, just a bit more distilled (**James 1:22**). How are you hearing God's Word?

When you do hear it, how are you putting it into practice?

Maybe that last question was a bit of a struggle. It is for many families. We know that people thrive when they have simple, repeatable patterns.

Our church, Promise Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was blessed to have Scott Hedtke assigned as our vicar for the 2018-2019 academic year; on Call Night this year we found out that he will be our associate pastor. He helped develop six simple repeatable questions that synthesize **James 1:22** and the Shema (an ancient Israelite prayer taken from **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**), which will give you HCA. Take a moment and read these passages before we move on. Who are they directed to?

First, we'll skip Question 1 and begin with Question 2 of the six questions, keeping in mind that Shema means "hear," and that hearing should always come before doing. When you are reading your Bible or listening to a sermon, consider the following question. What are you hearing from God's Word?

When Paul and Silas went to Berea, they found that the Bereans were more noble than the Jews in Thessalonica because they checked what Paul was saying against Scripture (**Read Acts 17:11**). If Paul uplifts the action of his hearers double checking his teaching, how much more should we do so these days as well? Therefore, Question 3 encourages us to "be Berean": Is what you're hearing what the Bible says?



Your family may have different tools to help compare what you hear with what the Bible actually says. What are they?

Here's an idea to put into practice each Sunday: tell your pastor you heard something in his sermon and want to know more about what the Bible says about it. Not only will he help you, you'll make him smile.

Question 4 is the **James 1:22** question: What are you going to do in response to what you've heard?

Deuteronomy 6:5 frames our response to hearing a loving God. (Jesus clarifies the "how" as first loving the Lord and then loving your neighbor as yourself in **Matthew 22:35-40**.) If you are like me (or even Paul; see **Romans 7:14-20**) you want to hear God and respond, but it's easy to get distracted. We need reminders. **Deuteronomy 6:8** might help you answer Question 5: How will you remind yourself to love the Lord your God and to love your neighbor as yourself?

HCA is also about being a team. **Deuteronomy 6:7** leads with some ways we can remind each other. In the words of Question 6: How can we remind each other about our **James 1:22** goal?

And finally, Question 1 (which, after the first time you go through these six questions, will begin this repeatable pattern of questions afterwards): How did it go?

This is where the rubber hits the road. You will have breakthroughs—celebrate them with your Home Team. You will also have battles. Confess your failures and your sins (**1 John 1:8-10**) and practice in your homes the Confession and Absolution you hear on Sunday morning.

The Rev. Henry J. Graf V serves as head pastor of Promise Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

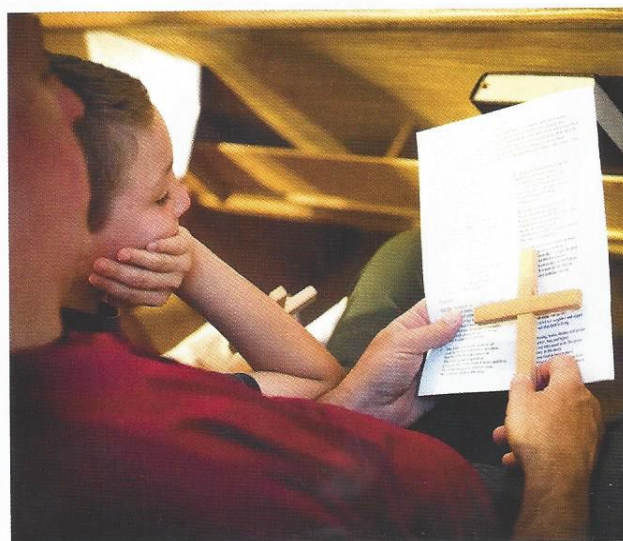


Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEWS FROM MISSION CENTRAL

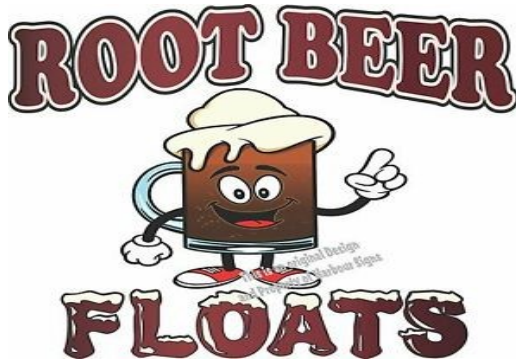
Missionary Gary Thies

ALL missionary speakers out at Mission Central have been cancelled through the end of the year. They are not allowed out of their countries nor into ours.

HELPING HANDS: Quilters are back at work! We will meet on Wednesdays at 1 pm. Anyone is welcome. We have lots to do. Come join us for fun and fellowship. Zola Kafton.

Anyone willing to help on Sunday morning in taking attendance and checking names that come to church, there will be a list in the back of the church for you to use. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

A **THANK YOU** was received from Carol Ullerich for sending her the weekly bulletin, Blessings to you



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUST 30 TH (MARK YOUR CALENDAR)
TIME 4 PM TO 6 PM
DRIVE BY & PICK UP YOUR
ROOT BEER FLOAT



Contact Marilyn Hamann to buy one of these t-shirts or contact the church office to put your order in.

Phone # 1-712-870-3450; 1-712-870-1947

Or the church office: 881-2243

Join with us in celebrating **Lutheran REFORMATION DAY.**

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Brodersen	Kaylee	Aug 28, 2005
Brodersen	Betsy	Aug 28, 2005
Dale	Kristi	Aug 6, 1961
Hamann	Marilyn	Aug 12, 1945
Hogan	Marla	Aug 7, 1960
McBride	Bernie	Aug 11, 1935
Namanny	Dennis	Aug 15, 1944
Phillips	Janice	Aug 24, 1941
Riesberg	Jeannette	Aug 11, 1957
Scheer	Bryan	Aug 26, 1984
Scott	Marley	Aug 10, 2008
Witzel	Dora	Aug 6, 1944



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	Roger	Aug 23, 1941
Andre	Wanda	Aug 29, 1949
Brodersen	James	Aug 28, 1939 80
Bruhn	Presley	Aug 3, 2009
Fick	John	Aug 17, 1932 87
Hogan	Joseph	Aug 6, 1961
Kelm	Matt	Aug 9, 1986
Krueger	Kenneth	Aug 16, 1947
Lyon	Barbara	Aug 4, 1943
Phillips	Janice	Aug 3, 1941
Scheer	Bryan	Aug 11, 1984
Stoll	John	Aug 1, 1947
Thies	Gary	Aug 28, 1942
Wray	Roxie	Aug 20, 1958
Scoles	Shirley	Aug. 30, 1943



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry and Darlene Albers	59 yrs.	Aug 27, 1961
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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	Address or name changes	Birth of your baby
Private communion	Entering armed services	Making wedding plans
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church	Death in the family	

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (08-02-20)	\$1,405.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (08-02-20)	42
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	4
VISITORS	1
SUNDAY COMMUNION (08-02-20)	37

<u>Week of Schedule</u> 08-10- to 08-16-20	
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Wed	Helping Hands 1 pm
Sat	Dead line for shirts
Sun.	9:30 AM WORSHIP



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.

Our sympathies to the family of Bob Banks who went to be with his and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Friday 08-07-20. May they find comfort in John 11:25,26 ; *"I am the resurrection and the life, Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."*

Our sympathies to the family of Arlene Kiepe who went to be with her and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ . May they find comfort in John 11:25,26 ; *"I am the resurrection and the life, Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."*

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
Carol Dose	Joyce Kruse	John Fick	Mike Kruse	Sue Kruse
Peg Jacobson				

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Kim Whitton** (Marilyn & Duane Hamann daughter); **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Lynette Dobrovolny** neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen

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.

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

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

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

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

**** indicates a new address**

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded₁₁



504 Walnut
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am e very Sunday am at the church.

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



Lutheran Family Services: www.lofsiowa.org

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.