

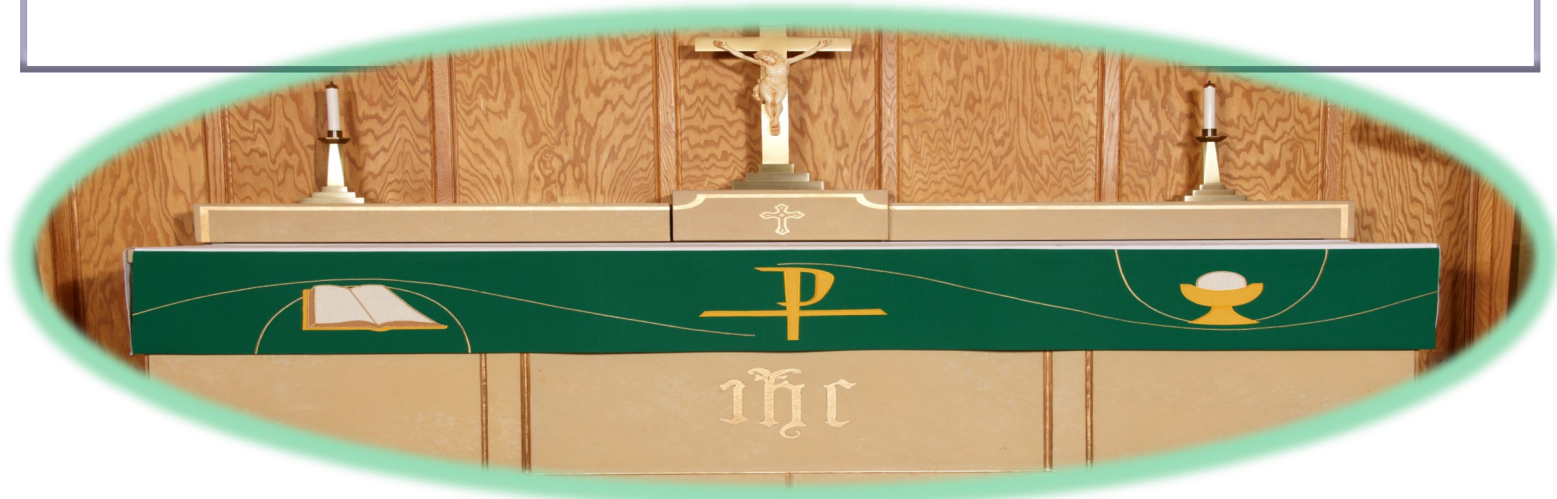
# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*August 16, 2020*

*11th 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.Matthew.Lutheran-Mapleton)

**Rev. Christopher LaBoube**

Pastor

(712) 881-3322

(712-840-1652 cell

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Office Administrator Assistant  
(volunteer)

(712) 881-2243-office #

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11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
16 August 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA  
Isaiah 56:1, 6–8 / Psalm 67 / Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32 / Matthew 15:21–28

Sermon Title: Confession and Absolution  
Sermon Text: 1 John 1:8-9

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

Most every worship service begins with Confession and Absolution. From *Luther’s Small Catechism*, “What is Confession? Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.”

First, we confess our sins. What does it mean to confess our sins? It means that we recognize that something isn’t right. Maybe you’re restless when you’re around a certain person. Maybe you’re angry when a certain person comes around. Maybe you’ve prayed for God’s peace, and never really experience it. These can be signs that you need to confess your sins—acknowledge that you’ve done something or said something against someone else and against God.

We call this being repentant. When you are sorry for what you’ve done or said, and you want to make things right. That’s confessing your sins. So “Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins.” And the second part of Confession is “that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.”

First, confess your sins—acknowledge that you’ve said or done something to someone else, and then second, receive Absolution—that is, forgiveness of your sins—forgiving you for what you said or did. In *The Large Catechism*, Martin Luther encourages you to confess your sins first, and then to receive God’s life-giving forgiveness. “What I am saying is that you are to concentrate on the Word, on the Absolution, to regard it as a great and precious and magnificent splendid treasure, and to accept it with all praise and thanksgiving to God.” (p.469 paragraph 22)

Confessing your sins is not a law—is not a commandment. It’s simply doing what God asks you to do as you continue to live with and around people. This is why Martin Luther wants you to think of Confession and Absolution as an opportunity to reconnect with God. In Confession and Absolution, Martin Luther wants you to focus on God’s Word—on the forgiveness that God freely gives to people, who are repentant—are truly sorry for what they said or did.

If you don’t confess your sins though then you won’t receive forgiveness. This is what most parents teach their children—say you’re sorry—and then the other kid is instructed—say: “I forgive you.” It’s such a simple process, and yet some people refuse to forgive. Some people refuse to hear your forgiveness. And that’s so sad. Do you really want to be miserable for the rest of your life simply because you won’t apologize for something you said or did? Or do you want to be miserable for the rest of your because you refuse to let someone else apologize for something that they said or did to you?

Our church is made up of sinners, who have been redeemed by Jesus' shed blood. Of course, not every person, who attends our church is repentant—is sorry for what he or she said or did. As the pastor, I am responsible for preaching and teaching the truth from God's Word. My job is not to wrench people's arms and force them to confess their sins. That's basically what happened in the days when Martin Luther was living.

After Martin Luther became a monk, he was encouraged to read the entire Bible. Once Martin Luther read the entire Bible, he learned so much about God and what God had done for all people through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Martin Luther learned that confessing your sins had to come from a pricked conscience—not from someone strong-arming you into confessing your sins.

This is how we start our worship service from First John 1:8-9: *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Have you ever thought—I haven't sinned today? Really? You haven't done anything against anyone today? It's hard to believe. *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* John the Apostle writes in First John that if we say we have not sinned we deceive ourselves. Why would he say that we deceive ourselves if we think that we haven't sinned today?

Because John knew—and Jesus knows better—that we sin all the time—especially in our thoughts and words. Have you thought something bad about someone else? How much you hate that person? How much you are angry at people at our church?

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:8-9) If we confess our sins—if we acknowledge that we have said or did something against someone else—then God says he will forgive us our sins and make us clean and holy in his sight.

But then John repeats his admonition: *"If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* (1 John 1:10) I meet a lot of people, and unfortunately a lot of people don't want to acknowledge that they have sinned against someone else and against God. A lot people, who I have met, want to remain firm and strong in their opinion that they are right and the other person or people are wrong.

*"If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* (1 John 1:10) If you don't confess your sins then absolutely nothing will happen. You will still be burden with your sins. But if you confess your sins—if you acknowledge that you have said or did something to someone—then God is ready to hear your confession and to forgive you.

So "What sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts."

In *The Large Catechism*, Martin Luther talks about confessing our sins in two ways: "They are (a) the confession and plea for forgiveness made to God alone and (b) the confession that is made to the neighbor alone. These two kinds of confession are included in the Lord's Prayer, in which we pray 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us' (Matthew 6:12), and so on." (p. 468 paragraph 8)

Confessing your sins to God should be a regular, daily part of your life. Confessing your sins should not become a law—a ritual—that you do simply to be right with God, because God can see through all hypocrisy

Confessing your sins to God should be what you want to do. You want to talk with your best friend, and you want to talk about how you said or did something to someone. You want to hear God's life-giving words of forgiveness from the Scriptures.

"What sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts."

Confessing your sins "before the pastor" or before any trusted Christian friend should also be a regular part of your life. When you go about your work and you later realize that you have sinned against a co-worker, for example, you should go to that person and confess your sins and ask for forgiveness.

Confessing your sins "before the pastor" doesn't really ever happen in this church. I'm not sure it happens in a lot of LCMS congregation. People today don't want to share their sinful thoughts, words or actions with the pastor, because then they think that the pastor will judge them or will use what they said against them at a later time.

That's absolutely false! When you confess your sins to me, as your pastor, I hear your confession and then I speak God's gracious and merciful words of forgiveness to offer you comfort and encouragement. And then, honestly, after you go on your way, I usually forget what you said, because it's not my job to remember ever sin you ever committed.

Also, I follow God's example: "*as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*" (Psalm 103:11-12) and "*I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*" (Jeremiah 31:34)

Personally, I have found when I confess my sins to another pastor, I know that pastor is not going to hold on to my confession and then try and shove it in my face later on. That is not true! I know that when I confess my sins to another pastor, that pastor will speak God's life-giving words of forgiveness to me and then he will never tell anyone else what I talked with him about.

Personally, I have also found tremendous comfort and encouragement from confessing my own sins to another pastor. I leave that pastor feeling as though a heavy burden had been lifted from my shoulders and I experience God's true peace and joy at that time. This is why I would encourage you to confess your sins to me or to another trusted Christian friend.

And finally, the third question that talks about Confession and Absolution helps you get started as you prepare to go to someone or to the pastor to confess your sins and to receive God's life-giving forgiveness. Which sins should you confess?

"Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?"

"Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments." Jesus always has you come back to the core points of the Scripture. No matter what your life situation is, God expects you to live according to his Word.

How do you consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments? Do you fear, love and trust in God above everything in this world, or do you make exceptions to the first commandment that you should trust God alone? Do you decide personally what is true, right and life-giving? Or do you pray and ask God how I—as a father—need to live and what I am responsible for doing according to the Bible?

Do you “*honor your father and your mother*” according to the Fourth Commandment? That is, do you “fear and love God so that [you] do not despise or anger [your] parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them”?

If you disrespect your parents and other authorities, because you don’t trust authority and are antagonistic towards authority, then you are hurting yourself. After all, God puts the people he wants in their respective government positions.

From Romans 13: “*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*” (Romans 13:1-2)

Have you considered your place in life according to the Ten Commandments? Do you “...fear and love God so that [you] do not hurt or harm [your] neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need” according to the Fifth Commandment: “You shall not murder”?

“You shall not murder” does not just mean you should not take a life. The fifth commandment also means that you should not use foul language—hurtful language—including text messages—Facebook posts—or any other social media outlet—when talking about other people. When you use social media to vent something against someone else, you’re hurting that other person—which may be your intention. What if someone posted something on social media that slandered you and your name? Would you like that?

These are just two of several ways to consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. This third question in the Small Catechism goes on to flesh out what it’s asking—What sins should you confess?

“Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker?” You’re at least one of these, but maybe you fit into a couple of these categories. Are you living the way God describes these positions in the Bible? // “Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy?” If you’re honest, you’ll probably admit that you’ve been at least one of these things recently—and maybe all three of them at one time or another. // “Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome?” Again, if you’re honest with yourself, you’d probably be able to agree that you’ve acted these ways recently.

“Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds?” This is what I was just getting at earlier talking about posting rude, hurtful sayings about someone else on social media. Hurting others by our words is a terrible and often repeated action. // “Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?” Maybe you’d say that you’ve never stolen anything, but have you ever downloaded a song from the Internet without paying for it? Have you ever wasted food that was perfectly fine, and yet you simply threw it in the trash, because you wanted something different to eat?

We start our worship services—and I encourage you to confess your sins every day—and receive God’s gracious, life-giving forgiveness. When you confess your sins, then you release your burdens to God and live in God’s peace and joy.

This is what James encourages us in his letter: “*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*” (James 5:16) 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.



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



Sunday, August 16, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you on this eleventh Sunday after Pentecost in the Name of Jesus! How are you? How is your family? My wife and daughter and I are doing well. This past weekend we had two funerals—for Arlene Kiepe, who was 103 years old when she passed away, and Bob Banks, who was 92 years old when he passed away. It is sad to say good-bye to these two dear members of our congregation, but their physical death is not the end.

We, who confess that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, who believe that Jesus died for our sins and then rose again from the dead three days later, will go to heaven when we die. We will see Jesus face to face and talk with him as you talk to a friend. We will also see Bob and Arlene in heaven and that will be rewarding.

It is sad when a loved one dies. It is really hard to deal with their death. And yet, we, who confess that Jesus is the Son of God Almighty, do not need to be sad forever. *“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

If you believe in Jesus as your Savior, then you don’t have to grieve as someone, who has no hope. *“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)

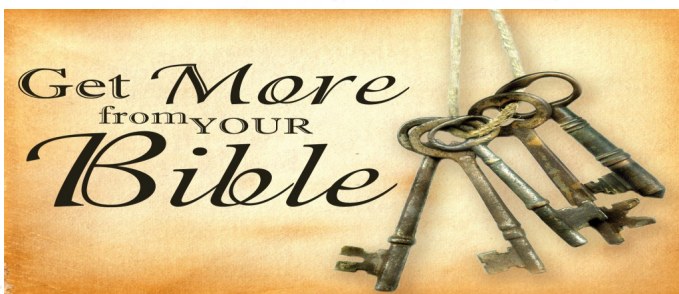
In this time of our lives when we are living with Covid-19, so many people are struggling to find hope and encouragement. Now is the opportunity that you have to share the hope you have in Jesus. Whether you are struggling with the loss of a loved one, or concerned about how Covid-19 might affect you, I pray that you’ll take these opportunities and share a promise from God’s Word.

The Board of Directors would like to encourage you to continue to send in our weekly offering even if you’re not ready to return to in-person worship. You can mail your donation to the church office. You can also consider signing up for automatic withdraw from your checking or savings account. Take care and God bless your week.

Sincerely,

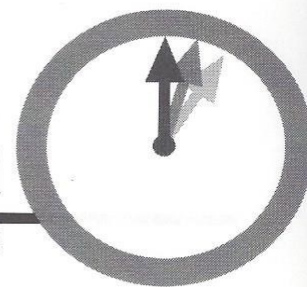
Pastor Chris LaBoube





## Walking with God

Genesis 5:24



### GOD'S WORD

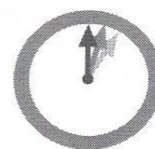
*Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*  
(Genesis 5:24)

### FOR SHARING

1. The prophet Micah said that God demanded three things: (1) to act justly; (2) to love mercy; and (3) to walk humbly with God (**Micah 6:8**). How did Enoch's life reflect God's demands?
2. Describe in your own words what you think "walking with God" means? Name some ways in which people sometimes try to walk ahead of God? or behind Him? Enoch "walked with God." What were the results?
3. Enoch is listed in the book of Hebrews as one of God's faithful people. Because of his faith in a promised Savior—a Savior who would redeem mankind with His own death and resurrection—Enoch "pleased God" (**Hebrews 11:5–6**). By faith, is it possible for us to please God as well?
4. What happened to Enoch? Doesn't it seem logical that a man of such faith would be missed?
5. We also have faith in Jesus Christ. Remind yourself of what God will provide to you someday because of your faith in Jesus by adding your name to the passage:  
"\_\_\_\_\_ walked with God; then \_\_\_\_\_ was no more because God took \_\_\_\_\_ away."

### PRAYER

Lord God, we come before You  
to thank You for the faith You have planted into our hearts;  
to plea for forgiveness for the times we have walked ahead or  
behind You;  
to ask that You help us to act justly, love mercy, and walk  
humbly with You.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

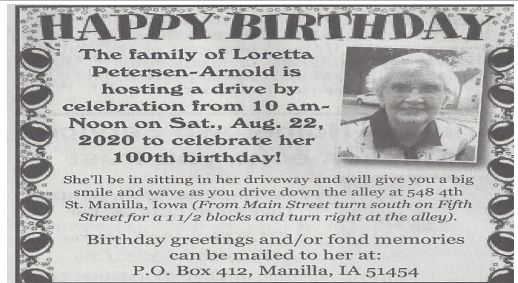


# Study 26

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.

A former member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
turning 100 yrs. Old

Published by Kay Johnson



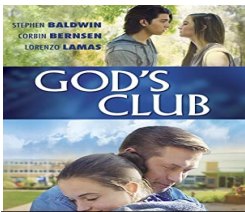
## Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Donations Destroyed in Beirut :

Published by Zola Kafton.

The explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 4 destroyed three 40-foot shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid items, including thousands of handmade quilts, school supplies, and baby care and personal care items. The provisions had been donated to Lutheran World Relief. Many LWML women throughout the United States supply quilts and other humanitarian aid for the refugees and other vulnerable communities in the Middle East. [Additional information about this tragedy is available here.](#) Lutheran World Relief thanks God for all LWML women and supporters for their offering of quilts and kits. *Over \$600,000 worth*



**AUGUST 30 TH (MARK YOUR CALENDAR) TIME 4 PM TO 6 PM DRIVE BY & PICK UP YOUR ROOT BEER FLOAT **FREE WILL OFFERING****



**Movies starting up again! August 25, Tuesday @ 6 pm**

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship

Bible Study has started today 08-16-20 at 10:45 am in the church basement. Everyone is welcome to come and fill up with Jesus. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Pastor LaBoube will be helping us through the scriptures learn more about Jesus. Come with questions.

**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. **School Supplies:** As we return to church, children return to school. We will be collecting school supplies again this year. It will be for one month. If you can help there is a list and container in the narthex. If you can't shop contact Joan Chandler at 882-2560 or call the church office at 881-2243 and someone will do it for you. God Bless your giving hearts. The Outreach Board.



## 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.



## 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

<b>NEEDED /WEEK</b>	<b>\$3,225.02</b>
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (08-09-20)	
SUNDAY COMMUNION (08-09-20)	40
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (08-09-20)	41
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	
VISITORS	3

	<u>Week of Schedule 08-17- to 08-23-20</u>
Mon.	Pastor's Family Day
Tue..	
Wed.	Helping Hands 1 pm
Thur.	
Fri.	
Sat	
Sun.	9:30 AM WORSHIP

<b><u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u></b>	Need a ride to a Dr's appt	Need of a visit
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	



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

**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.”*

**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

**Carol Dose** 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934  
Sunrise Ave.  
Maple Heights Nursing Home

**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

**Joyce Kruse** 85 yrs. Oct 23, 1934  
101 S. 7th St.  
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

*Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded<sup>10</sup>*



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](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



**Lutheran Family Services:** [www.lofsiowa.org](http://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.*