

# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*August 23, 2020*

*12th 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

**Karen Krusen**

Office Administrator Assistant

(volunteer)

(712) 881-2243-office #

(712) 840-9059 cell



12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
23 August 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA  
Isaiah 51:1–6 / Psalm 138 / Romans 11:33—12:8 / Matthew 16:13–20

Sermon Title: What Fruit of the Spirit do you Produce?  
Sermon Text: Matthew 12:33–37

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

The tomatoes I am growing in my backyard are delicious. The cherry tomatoes are also just as wonderful—juicy and sweet. They can’t compare to those round, red balls in the stores that are trying to pass for tomatoes. Every summer the tomatoes or cucumbers that I grow generally taste wonderful. Some homegrown tomatoes or cucumbers are good, but don’t taste wonderful. Some watermelons are fantastic. Other watermelons are average.

Of course, as I’ve seen a little this year, there are some tomatoes out in the church garden, for example that are bad. They look really good, until you inspect them closer and you see tiny holes where bugs have burrowed in or the tomatoes look big, ripe and delicious and then you look on the bottom and it’s all rotten.

This morning I want us to look at two sections in Matthew’s Gospel that talk about good fruit and bad fruit. *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.”* (Matthew 12:33) *“Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”* (Matthew 7:20)

*“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad...”* If I went over to the church garden and sprinkled fertilizer early on after the tomatoes were planted, I would help make some really good fruit.

Of course, if I went out to the church garden and sprinkled poison around the plants, you’d get more than bad fruit—the whole tomato plants would die! *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.”*

What fruit are your producing? What fruit do people see in you? Jesus talks about the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians chapter 5: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* (Galatians 5.22-23)

These fruits of the Spirit might be desirable, but are they truly what reside in your heart and mind? We all have good intentions, but good intentions don’t make you have the fruit of the Spirit. You have to let the Holy Spirit nurture your faith to grow these specific fruits in you.

We might desire to have the fruit of the Spirit be part of our lives, but does this next list also describe you? *“But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person.”* (Matthew 15:18-20a)

Maybe you don’t want to admit that some of these “vegetables of the flesh”—as I’ll call them—*“...evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander...”* are a regular part of your life. Maybe you’re ashamed that some of these “vegetables of the flesh” have reared their ugly head more than once in your life.

Maybe you aren't sure if you have Fruit of the Spirit or "vegetables of the flesh." If so, think of it this way: when you are hammering a nail in the wall, and you miss the nail and hit your thumb—what immediately comes out of your mouth? That, to me, is a quick check of what is going on in your heart.

What fruit are you producing? What fruit do people see in you? Some people work really hard to make sure that they look good all the time—at church—at work—in the community—everywhere. They could be like those healthy, ripe delicious tomatoes. Of course, some people are like those other tomatoes that look really good on the outside, but you cut them open and they are rotten inside.

Jesus said: *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Matthew 9:12-13)

Jesus came to call sinners to himself. He didn't come to call people, who put on a happy face and look like they have it all together. Jesus came to save people, who recognize that they have sinned against God and against other people—even in our church—and who desire to be forgiven.

So if you think that you can't come to Jesus, because you need to get yourself in a better place—forget it! That's never going to work. Thinking that you have to DO something—you have to improve yourself somehow—in order to approach God, you'll never make it.

You come to God as you are. God knows what's going on in your heart, soul and mind, so you can't hide anything from God. You might work really hard to keep others from knowing what's going on inside you, but you can't hide from God.

When you confess your sins and receive God's gracious forgiveness, then you can move forward unhindered by your sins. Instead of thinking that you have to get it all together before you can approach God, pray and ask God to nurture in you the fruit of the Spirit.

From Matthew 12: *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. <sup>36</sup> I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."* (Matthew 12:33-37)

Listen to this point again: *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil."*

If you only eat potato chips, fast food hamburgers, ice cream and every kind of soda pop, your health is going to decrease. If you eat lots of vegetables, drink plenty of water, get some exercise, then your health is going to improve. It's that simple.

If you constantly read social media, and find very short encouragement from Facebook memes, then you're never going to be full. If, instead, you read or listen to the Bible every day, if you pray and ask God to create a hunger and thirst for his word in you, then God will do just that, and you'll get filled up with the best stuff.

When you then fill up with Jesus by regularly reading or listening to God's Word, then you start storing up treasures in heaven. When you memorize Scripture portions, for example, then you give the Holy Spirit something to work with in your life.

*"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure*

*brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”*

You might want good treasures—Godly words and ideas—to come out of your mouth regularly. And that should be a goal for all of us, because listen to the last part of this section in Matthew 12: <sup>36</sup>*I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,* <sup>37</sup>*for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

*“on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,”* Think about that for a moment. How many careless words have you spoken this morning? How many careless words did you say yesterday? When we die, God will judge all people, and we will give an account for every careless word we have said to someone else. Does that make you feel good?

*“for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”* By what we say, we will be justified AND condemned. Wow! Does it matter now if you thoughtlessly say whatever comes into your brain? What if you thought about everything you said BEFORE you said it? What if you tried to speak the truth IN LOVE—caring about the person, who you are talking to?

Throughout the Scriptures Jesus talks about how words can truly build up and how they often can tear down. How often have you posted some comment on social media condemning another person? What if someone else posted a condemning message on social media about you? Would you like that?

Listen to what James has to say about what words we use: <sup>5</sup>*So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things....* <sup>8</sup>*but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.* <sup>9</sup>*With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.* <sup>10</sup>*From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”* (James 3:5a, 8-10)

This is what the Eighth Commandment is all about: *“‘You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.’* What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”

Slandering our neighbor—breaking the Eighth Commandment—seems to happen so often and so easily that it’s amazing that people can be so free with their evil words on social media and then act like they are the sweetest person when you see them face to face.

So what kind of fruit do you bear? What do people see in you? In Matthew 7, Jesus talks more about good fruit and bad fruit: <sup>17</sup>*So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.* <sup>18</sup>*A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.* <sup>19</sup>*Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* <sup>20</sup>*Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”* (Matthew 7:15-20)

How do you grow a healthy tree? By giving it plenty of good mulch, water and sunlight, maybe occasionally some fertilizer. How do you grow your own faith so that it produces good fruit? First, confess your sins—acknowledge that you have sinned against God and against someone else by saying or doing something you shouldn’t have. Then, receive God’s life-giving forgiveness.

Then, go forward and live the way God asks you to live—love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself. Read or listen to God’s Word regularly. If you aren’t motivated to read or listen to the Bible, then pray and ask God to create in you a hunger and thirst for His Word. God will gladly answer that kind of prayer. 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. 4



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



Sunday, August 23, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you on this twelfth Sunday after Pentecost in the Name of Jesus! How are you? How is your family? My wife, baby girl and I are all doing well. Thank you.

Slowly we are getting back into a regular church life. This past Sunday we started up the adult Bible class. Everyone wore a face mask and sat apart from each other. We started a good study on “Anger in the Bible.” I’d like to encourage you to join us as we dig in the Scriptures more to learn what God has to say about anger. The adult Bible class begins right after worship around 10:45 a.m.

I’ve heard some folks say that they don’t like to come to Bible class, because they don’t know a lot about the Bible. That’s like saying I can’t be a parent, because I don’t know how to raise children. Nonsense! Bible class is where you come to learn—not where you come to show off your knowledge! Plus, no one attending Bible class acts like they know everything about the Bible. They all come to dig into God’s Word and chew on it, because they know that studying God’s Word helps you grow your faith.

This is also why I’d like to encourage you to read or listen to the Bible every day. Start by picking a book of the Bible that you haven’t read in a long time. Then start reading or listening to one chapter a day. Once you develop a habit of Bible reading / listening, then I’d like to challenge you to try reading or listening to two chapters a day. But don’t get ahead of yourself. Start small and be consistent.

Also, pray every day and ask God to create a hunger and thirst for God’s Word in you so that you’ll want to read or listen to the Bible every day. God loves hearing this kind of prayer. The point I try to get across is that it’s better to start doing a little every day and then work your way up to more. Don’t get overwhelmed and try to read the entire Bible in a month! The goal should be to develop a habit of Bible reading or listening.

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,

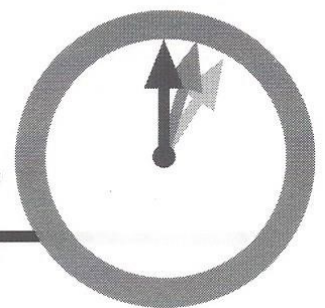
Pastor Chris LaBoube





## Do You Not Know?!?

Isaiah 40:28–31



### GOD'S WORD

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:28–31)*

### FOR SHARING

1. Read emphatically the two questions Isaiah asks at the beginning of these verses. Write an exclamation mark after each question to indicate the surprise Isaiah must have had as He asked God's people these questions.
2. Underline twice each of the statements about the Lord—His attributes and His actions on behalf of His people.
3. Think about a time in your life when Isaiah could have confronted you with these same questions (e.g., a time when you felt afraid, abandoned, lonely, helpless, weary, unable to cope, distant from God, etc.).
4. Satan, the world, and our own sinful nature would have us believe that God doesn't care or won't help. At those times God confronts us with His Word, "Do you not know? Have you not heard?" Then God assures us in His Word of His forgiveness through Jesus for doubting Him and His presence. His love for us strengthens us to "soar on wings of eagles...run and not grow weary...walk and not be faint."

### PRAYER

Confess your failure to trust in God above all things.

Give thanks to God for the forgiveness He provides for all sins through faith in Jesus.

Ask God to strengthen you as the Holy Spirit works through God's Word to confront your sin and to assure you of Jesus' forgiveness.

Ask God to provide you with an opportunity to share these verses from Isaiah with someone who feels weak, tired, or weary.

Thank God for giving strength to the weary and power to the weak.



## 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.

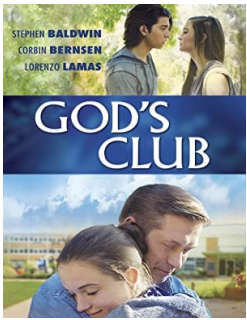
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**HELPING HANDS:** IT'S A PARTY! Helping Hands has received a donation of sheets from America's Best Value Inn (Onawa). There are 5 to 6 large garbage bags full. They are clean and need the hems ripped off. We are looking for extra workers that day to make a large job less work and more fun with more people. Music and treats! Please consider this a good opportunity - Published by Zola



Wednesday, August 26 from 1 to 4 pm.

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

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship

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Bible Study has started 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 leading us through the scriptures teaching us more about Jesus. Come with questions.

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**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.**



33 t-shirts were sold and ordered, \$735.00 was collected. Approximately \$400.00 was clear profit for St. Matthew. The t-shirts will not be shipped until after September 4th. Marilyn Hamann will have them all marked as to who they go to and will distribute them accordingly. Thank You to all that participated in this fund raiser and to Marilyn Hamann for chairing it.

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS



## 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.

Albers	Roger	Aug 23, 1941
Andre	Wanda	Aug 29, 1949
Brodersen	James	Aug 28, 1939 <b>80</b>
Bruhn	Presley	Aug 3, 2009
Fick	John	Aug 17, 1932 <b>87</b>
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

<b>NEEDED /WEEK</b>	<b>\$3,225.02</b>
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (08-16-20)	
SUNDAY COMMUNION (08-16-20)	42
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (08-16-20)	43
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	1
VISITORS	2
BIBLE CLASS	7

	<u>Week of Schedule 08-23- to 08-30-20</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tue	Movie Night
Wed	Helping Hands 1-4 pm <b><u>IT'S A PARTY!</u></b>
Sat	
Sun.	9:30 AM WORSHIP\ BIBLE CLASS 10:30 A.M. Root Beer float night @ 4-6 pm.
Sat	
Sun.	9:30 AM WORSHIP\Bible Class 10:30

<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				

**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

\*\* indicates a new address

**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

*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:

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.*