

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

August 30, 2020

13th 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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13th Sunday after Pentecost
30 August 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Jeremiah 15:15–21 / Psalm 26 / Romans 12:9–21 / Matthew 16:21–28

Sermon Title: Short, Concise Instructions from God
Sermon Text: 2 Chronicles 7:14

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

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

This passage from 2 Chronicles 7:14, like many passages of Scripture, is very clear as to what God desires from you and me. *“If my people who are called by my name...”* First of all, God is talking to you and me and to all people, who confess with their mouths and believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead.

As a child of God, you are called by God’s name—a name given to you at your baptism. At your baptism, *“...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1 Corinthians 6:11b)

You are a child of God. That is your name. You have been kept from going to hell. And maybe in our day and age—talking about going to hell—might seem so flippant. People use this phrase a lot—telling people where they should go.

But if you believe in Jesus—then why would you not believe in the bad stuff—that is, the devil, death and eternal damnation? The Scriptures clearly teach that not all people, who say that they are a Christian, will go to heaven. I don’t know who those people are, but I do know that God looks at our hearts—and not at our appearance. God knows what is going on in your heart—all the great stuff and all the terrible stuff.

Since God knows what’s going on in your heart, soul and mind, God knows every detail about the problems in our church. And all these problems right now stem from a heart issue. Is your heart right with God? Do you defend your neighbor, “speak well of him and explain everything in the kindest way” to your neighbor? (Luther’s Small Catechism: 10 Commandments: 8th Comm. Meaning)

“If my people who are called by my name...” As a child of God, you are called to live to a higher standard—not to live according to the world’s standards. God tells us—his children—that we are to do three things: *“If my people who are called by my name: 1) humble themselves, 2) and pray and seek my face, 3) and turn from their wicked ways...”*

Most of us can readily agree that we need to do better. But what does that mean? Living according to God’s standards—living as a child of God—is how we are able to live better. 1) Humble yourself, 2) Pray and seek God’s face, 3) Turn from your wicked ways.

This is a basic form of confession and absolution. Acknowledge that you have done or said something against someone else and then ask for forgiveness. Developing a humble spirit can be hard, but with God ALL THINGS are possible.

Of course, it can be hard to be humble especially when you want someone else to be perceived as the bad guy. You want to point out your neighbor’s sins to try and distract people from seeing YOUR sins. This is why Jesus tells us to not be a hypocrite in Matthew 7:

“Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” (Matthew 7:1-5)

The first thing God asks you to do: *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at*

the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7)

We are able to humble ourselves when we *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)*

The first thing God asks us to do is humble ourselves. The second thing: PRAY. *“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:6)*

Do you ever seek the face of God? Do you ever want to know what God wants for your life? Or do you spend most of your time telling God what he needs to do in your life? Pray and seek God’s face. When we approach God this way—with a humble spirit—then we are giving God the respect that he deserves. And yet, humbling yourself can be a stumbling block.

Jesus teaches his disciples—and us—how to pray. He gave us the model pray—the Lord’s Prayer. We can also use most of the psalms as prayers—along with lots of other portions of Scriptures. *“pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and [requests]. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18)*

If we humble ourselves—if we pray and seek God’s face—if you turn from our wicked ways, then God tells us what he will do: *1) then I will hear from heaven, 2) and will forgive their sins, 3) and heal their land.*

Now this isn’t a situation in which you do something and then God has to respond. God is not a vending machine—put your quarter in and something comes out. God desires that you and I turn to him—to pray and ask God to grow our faith in him—to grow our relationship with him—to seek his face in any and every situation. *1) then I will hear from heaven, 2) and will forgive their sins, 3) and heal their land.”*

These are the things we want—if we’re really honest with ourselves and honest with God. We want God to hear us when we pray. And God tells us all throughout Scripture, come to me—seek him—and I will answer.

How do you know God will hear your prayers? Jesus told us before he ascended into heaven that he would send the Holy Spirit, who would teach us all that we need to know and remember about God. When you pray with a repentant heart, then God hears you.

“If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness....But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the [substitution] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2)

So, when we humble ourselves—pray and seek God’s face—and then turn from our wicked ways, God says he will hear our prayers—that he will forgive us our sins, AND that he will heal our land. But God won’t forgive your sins or mine or anyone’s sins, until we repent.

And right now, seems like a perfect time to repent—to confess your sins and to receive God’s forgiveness. Our farmland is hurting, because we haven’t had much rain. Our society is hurting, because we are struggling to live with Covid-19. Our culture is hurting, because many people have turned away from God and are only interested in doing what they think is right in their own eyes.

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives... For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:5b-6, 11)

Discipline can hurt. Discipline, though, is necessary. Your parents disciplined you when you were younger, and you learned from that discipline. God your Heavenly Father also disciplines you, because he loves you so much and he wants you to walk in his ways—to seek him all the time—to hunger and thirst for a deep, lasting relationship with him.

The Prophet Isaiah invites you: *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;” (Isaiah 55:6)* And Jesus invites you: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

When you humble yourself—when you pray and seek the face of God—when you turn from your wicked ways—then and only then, God says he will hear your prayer, that he will forgive your sins, and he will heal your land.

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Sometimes our stubborn sinful nature refuses to be the better person—to suck it up and admit that you’ve done or said something to someone that you shouldn’t have—and then ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart. And when you do that, God will hear your prayer and answer you.

“If my people who are called by my name // humble themselves, // and pray and seek my face // and turn from their wicked ways, // then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins // and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 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.

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.

Movie night was a success ! We had an enjoyable time and we look forward for the next movie. A big thank you to Joan Chandler of the Out Reach Board for sponsoring this event. Spread the word so we have more attend. We had a number of people that attending but always looking to reach more. Thank you to Dennis Muckey for managing the screens.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO FILL UP WITH JESUS

Bible Study has started at 10:45 am in the church basement. Everyone is welcome to come. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Pastor LaBoube will be leading us through the scriptures teaching us more about Jesus. Come with questions and together with Jesus we will find the answers.

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**



Project Sunshine: Stewardship gathered items for care packages and shared with those in the area. Bringing a **“Ray of Sunshine”** is the name of this project. A big THANK YOU to all of you who donated items, gave monetary support, baked the goodies and volunteered for this event. Thank you to Emma and Derek for their great help putting the Sunshine packages together. The mission is to bring a little Sunshine to others.



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Albers	Roger	Sep 14, 1941
Bridgeman	Kirk	Sep 30, 2018
Brodersen	James	Sep 11, 1939
Brodersen	Autumn	Sep 17, 2006
Bruhn	Calvin	Sep 23, 1984
Fick	John	Sep 18, 1932
Fletcher	Fred	Sep 7, 1988
Goslar	Sarah	Sep 4, 1983
Hogan	Joseph	Sep 16, 1961
Johnson	Richard	Sep 9, 1934
Kelm	Matt	Sep 14, 1986
Scheer	Caden	Sep 13, 2009
Thies	Gary	Sep, 1942
WEBER	Benjamin	Sep 10, 1995
WRAY	Roxie	Sep 20, 1958
Scoles	Shirley	Sep. 25, 1943

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

Boyle	Shelly	Sep 17, 1962
Bretthauer	Crystal	Sep 6, 1956
Brodersen	Frances	Sep 27, 1945
Bruhn	Ruth	Sep 25, 1932 87
Bruhn	Calvin	Sep 1, 1984
Bruhn	Alan	Sep 15, 1960
Erlemeier	Shari	Sep 25, 1962
Fletcher	Gloria	Sep 16, 1955
Koithan	George	Sep 2, 1932 87
Jahn	Pam	Sep 16, 1948
Miller	Jacob	Sep 23, 1995

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Gavin and Kathleen Nevins 54 yrs. Sep 3, 1966

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

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (08-16-20)	\$1,235.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (08-23-20)	\$915.00
SUNDAY COMMUNION (08-23-20)	NA
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (08-23-20)	38
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	1
VISITORS	3
BIBLE CLASS	8

	<u>Week of Schedule 08-31-20 to 09-6-20</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tue	
Wed	Helping Hands 1 pm
Sat	
Sun.	9:30 AM WORSHIP\ BIBLE CLASS 10:30 A.M.

<u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u>	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.

Our sympathies to the family of Janice Phillips who went to be with Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Wednesday 08-26-20. 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."*

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 John Fick

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 Dobrovolsky** 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. Rm #108
Whiting, IA 51063

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
31153 Juinter Ave
Hinton, IA 51024

** 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

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

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded

Governments and Citizens

BIBLE STUDY

TABLE OF DUTIES: *OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT AND OF CITIZENS*

Certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities.

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (Romans 13:1–2)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (1 Peter 2:13–14)

FOR SHARING

1. What is the general attitude toward government today? How, on the whole, do people view citizenship?
2. Do most people view authority as *mandated from above* or *supported from below*? Explain.
3. Summarize St. Paul and St. Peter's words on government and citizenship.
4. Jesus suffered punishment and death for our disobedience to God's Word and ways. What does Jesus' substitutionary work on your behalf mean to you?
5. God is a God of order and peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). How can we, as His redeemed people in Christ, contribute to order and peace in our congregations? our communities?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings of government and citizenship in my life. In Christ, You have forgiven my failures to respect and honor Your authorities in the world. Help me to live as Your child and to accept the authorities You have placed in my life. By the power of Your Spirit enable me to be Your instrument of order and peace in the world around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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](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 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.