

# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*September 20, 2020*

*16th 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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16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

20 September 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Isaiah 55:6–9 / Psalm 27:1–9 / Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30 / Matthew 20:1–16

Sermon Title: *“Seek the LORD while he may be found”*

Sermon Text: Isaiah 55:6-9

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

This morning, we’re going to hear part of a really old sermon. It’s not a sermon that I ever wrote. It was a sermon written by the Prophet Isaiah. Our Old Testament lesson for this morning is taken from part of Isaiah sermon.

This part of the sermon starts out with the Prophet Isaiah encouraging us to *“seek the LORD”*, but what does that actually mean? In the days when the Prophet Isaiah lived, there were three ways you would *“seek the Lord”*: 1) by personally praying to God, 2) by going to the tabernacle and later the temple and talking with the priest, who would pray for you and consult you with God’s Word, and 3) by personally studying the Bible.

It sounds like the same things I encourage you to do—pray and study God’s Word. You can also come talk with me and I will encourage you with God’s Word and I’ll pray for you. It’s good to know that what I keep stressing are the main things that have been stressed throughout history.

Here’s the part of Isaiah’s sermon that we’re going to focus on: *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”* (Isaiah 55:6-11)

We’re going to start looking at verse 6: *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;”* God promises that he is near to the brokenhearted. He is compassionate and caring to those who are sad or troubled. Call upon Jesus NOW. Don’t wait until tomorrow or next week or next month. Call upon God now. Your prayer could sound like this: God, hear my prayer, let my cry come to you.

This message that Isaiah preached centuries ago is a message that is recorded all throughout the Scriptures. *“<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30)

The invitation is for you. And yet, this invitation often gets ignored which is why the Prophet Isaiah continues his sermon: *<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”*

All throughout the Bible, the Prophet Isaiah along with hundreds of other prophets and priests shared God's message of hope and salvation to people in need. Sometimes those people listened and responded by repenting of their sins and receiving God's forgiveness. Other people, completely ignored God's message and turned their backs on him.

*"If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9) But why is it so hard to confess our sins? Because we don't want to be wrong. We don't want to have to admit that we have done something or said something against God and against our spouse—a friend—a coworker.

And yet, what is the Second Greatest Commandment? Love your neighbor as yourself. That's a hard commandment to follow sometimes. There are people, who I struggle to relate to, and yet God tells me that if I don't forgive that person, who has wronged me, God won't forgive me.

So, I pray—sometimes daily—for God to forgive me for not loving my neighbor—the person, who I struggle to relate to. Then, I pray and ask God to help me to love that person. And thankfully, God hears our prayers when we come to him with a repentant heart. When we *"seek the Lord"* with all your heart, God hears our prayers and helps us in our time of need.

If we were honest with ourselves, we would acknowledge that we are looking for something greater out there. If we're honest with ourselves, we're looking for something to fill the emptiness in our hearts.

When we acknowledge that God is the only one, who can fill that emptiness, then we are on the right track. Of course, the Prophet Isaiah continues his sermon by reminding us of one important truth about God:

*<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

You or I are not God. You are not better than God. You are less than God. And yet, some people even deny that God even exists and pretend like they know better than God. But God's ways and thoughts are vastly higher than your thoughts no matter how hard you try otherwise.

Now, this doesn't mean that God doesn't care about what you think or do. God cares very much for what you think or do, which is why he gave us the Ten Commandments. So that you would know how to live the way God desires you to live—by loving God above everything in his world, and by loving your neighbor as yourself.

God knows best. Over the past couple of weeks, I've talked about developing a humble spirit—learning to be humble. What does it mean to be humble? It means acknowledging that God's ideas are better than mine. That's it. Acknowledge that God's ideas are better than mine. That's it.

Instead of concluding that you know best, just give up and acknowledge that God really knows best about everything in your life. And I think that is a sticking point for some people—some people want to be right all the time. Some people want to be the ultimate authority on everything. And some of those people don't want God in the way.

And yet, even if you don't believe in God, God still exists. Even if you don't like God, God still likes you. Of course, if you don't turn from your wicked ways, and you turn your back on God, God will allow you to continue to do evil. This is what Paul writes in Romans chapter 1:

*<sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of*

envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." (Romans 1:28-32)

But God does not desire that anyone send themselves to hell, because of their unbelief. God *"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." (1 Timothy 2:4-6)

God wants you to believe in him—believe that Jesus is his son and that his son died for you—for your sins. This is why the Prophet Isaiah encourages us to *"seek the Lord while he may be found."* *"But what does [the Scripture] say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim.)"* (Romans 10:8)

God's Word is near you. All you have to do is open up the Bible and start reading or push play on an audio Bible to hear or read the promises of God. And, this is what the Prophet Isaiah is encouraging us to do.

The Prophet Isaiah ends this section of his sermon this way: <sup>0</sup> *For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:6-11)

When God speaks—things happen. For example, Genesis chapter 1: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.... And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."* (Genesis 1:1, 3) When God's Word goes out *"it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*

When God allows great things to happen, then we should rejoice. When God allows bad things to happen, we should pray and ask God to help us endure through the bad thing. *"In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him."* (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

Even in the midst of something bad happening in your life, we can—by the strength of God the Holy Spirit—praise and thank God for who he is. It's so easy to simply resort to wallowing in self-pity when bad things happen to you. Instead, make a conscience effort to pray and ask God to help you to praise him in the midst of this bad thing you are experiencing.

And when you praise God in the midst of a something awful, you are seeking the Lord. When you seek the Lord, you are coming to him. You are acknowledging that you are desperate need of God's help. And God desires to come to you. He wants to be with you—to hang out with you—to spend every day with you. *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;"*

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.





# Christ Alone

by Matthew Richard

When we say the words “Christ alone,” we are asserting two things. First, we are confessing “Christ,” and second, we are confessing Him “alone.” These two simple words are not a slick marketing slogan but are at the core of what it means to be a Christian. Yet who is this Christ that we confess? And why is Christ enough for you and me? Many passages in Scripture — indeed, *all* of Scripture — provide answers to these questions, but some texts, including the two below, are especially clear when it comes to the truth of “Christ alone.”

## Who is Jesus? (MATT. 16:13–21)

1. Read Matt. 16:13–14. What were people saying about who Jesus was? Who do people today say Jesus is?

2. Who is the real Jesus according to the great confession of the Apostle Peter? Read Matt. 16:15–17, paying special attention to verse 17. How did Peter come to a right understanding of who Jesus is?

3. Look carefully at Matt. 16:21. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ? What does the Christ do?

## Is Jesus enough? (COL. 2:1–15)

4. One false idea that had spread through the church in Colossae was that Jesus and His Gospel were not enough. Does this idea sound familiar? Read Col. 2: 1–3 and 9–10. What do Christians have in Christ? What more do we need?

5. Read Col. 2:13–15 and note especially the verbs you see in these verses. What is done to us and for us in Christ?

6. Considering this, look back at Col. 2:6–7. Since the Colossians had already received Jesus, what did they need to continue in the Christian life?



The Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard is pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minot, N.D., and author of *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? 12 False Christs* (CPH).

Who is Jesus? He is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man. Is He enough for you and me? He certainly is, for He has redeemed us — lost and condemned persons. With His holy blood and by His suffering and death on the cross, He purchased and won us from sin, death and the devil so that we may be His own, now and always. Jesus Christ and Him alone, for you and me. This is most certainly true. **LW**

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Roger Albers     | Sep 14, 1941  |
| Kirk Bridegeman  | Sep 30, 2018  |
| James Brodersen  | Sep 11, 1939  |
| Autumn Brodersen | Sep 17, 2006  |
| Calvin Bruhn     | Sep 23, 1984  |
| John Fick        | Sep 18, 1932  |
| Fred Fletcher    | Sep 7, 1988   |
| Sarah Goslar     | Sep 4, 1983   |
| Joseph Hogan     | Sep 16, 1961  |
| Richard Johnson  | Sep 9, 1934   |
| Matt Kelm        | Sep 14, 1986  |
| Caden Scheer     | Sep 13, 2009  |
| Gary Thies       | Sep, 1942     |
| Weber, Benjamin  | Sep.10,1995   |
| Roxie Wray       | Sep 20, 1958  |
| Shirley Scoles   | 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 <b>87</b> |
| 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 <b>87</b>  |
| 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 of you 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 birth-day, 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, (09-13-20) |                   |
| SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (09-13-20)     | 39                |
| SUNDAY COMMUNED                  | NA                |
| SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH        | 1                 |
| CHURCH UTILITIES                 |                   |
| VISITORS                         | 1                 |
| BIBLE CLASS                      | 12                |

|      | <u>Week of Schedule 09-21- to 09-27</u>   |
|------|---|
| Mon  | Pastor's Family Day   |
| Tue  | Board of Directors 7 pm   |
| Wed  | Helping Hands 1-4 pm  |
| Sun. | 9:30 am Worship Service<br>Bible Learning 10:30 am<br>Sunday School 10:30 am<br>Confirmation Class 10:30 am |

|   |                            |                      |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <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        |                      |

09-27-20 Watermelon feed after church. In front of the church come one and all, free will offering. Sponsored by Marilyn and Duane Hamann







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        | 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

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*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*

## Praying with the Lord's Prayer

The Introduction: *"Our Father who art in heaven."*

Prayer: With these words, God, you tenderly invite me to believe that you are my true Father and that I am your true child, so that with all boldness and confidence I may ask you as dear children ask their dear father. Amen.

The First Petition: *"Hallowed be Thy name."*

Prayer: Dear God, your name is certainly holy in itself, but I pray in this petition that it may be kept holy around me. Your name is kept holy when Your Word is taught in its truth and purity, and I, as one of your children, also lead a holy life according to it. Help me to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to your Word profanes your name. Protect me from this, heavenly Father! Amen..

The Second Petition: *"Thy kingdom come."*

Prayer: Dear Lord, your kingdom certainly comes by itself without my prayer, but I pray in this petition that it may come to me also. Your kingdom comes when you, Holy God, give me your Holy Spirit, so that by your grace I believe your holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and there in eternity. Amen.

The Third Petition: *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, your good and gracious will is done even without my prayers, but I pray in this petition that your Will may be done among me, too. Your Will is done when you break and hinder every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and my sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow your name or let your kingdom come; and when you strengthen and keep me firm in your Word and faith until I die. This is your good and gracious will. Amen.

The Fourth Petition: *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

Prayer: Dear God, you certainly give daily bread to everyone without my prayers, even to all evil people, but I pray in this petition that you would lead me to realize this and to receive my daily bread with thanksgiving. 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. Amen.

The Fifth Petition: *"And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I pray in this petition that you, my Father in heaven, would not look at my sins, or deny my prayer because of them. I am neither worthy of the things for which I pray, nor have I deserved them, but I ask that you would give them all to me by your grace, for I daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So I too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against me. Amen.

The Sixth Petition: *"And lead us not into temptation."*

Prayer: Dear God, you tempt no one. I pray in this petition that you would guard and keep me so that the devil, the world, and my sinful nature may not deceive me or mislead me into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although I am attacked by these things, I pray that I may finally overcome them and win the victory. Amen.

The Seventh Petition: *"But deliver us from evil."*

Prayer: Holy God, I pray in this petition, in summary, that you would rescue me from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when my last hour comes, give me a blessed end, and graciously take me from this valley of sorrow to yourself in heaven. Amen.

The Conclusion: *"For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever."*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as I pray, I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to you, and are heard by you; for you yourself has commanded me to pray in this way and have promised to hear me. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so." Amen.



**School Supplies:** This ministry was truly a blessing from God. It was a success with everyone that contributed in many ways. The outreach board would like to thank you for such a giving heart as we know you have had in the past with this ministry. **God Bless All of you and Thanks Be to God. Joan Chandler, The Outreach Board**

A Big thank you to Dennis Muckey, he will be delivering these supplies to the school.



Our heartfelt thanks to all who sent Bob birthday cards for his 92nd birthday and for all the cards and letters sent to him during his stay at Maple Heights. He really looked forward to his mail. And you for the food brought in, for your prayers, your phone calls, visits, texts, cards, memorial gifts, flowers, plants, and other gifts. Thank you to Pastor LaBoube for his visits, prayers and comforting messages at the prayer service and funeral. And thank you to the Sunshine Group for their bag of very useful items and sweet treats. Your outpouring of love and support shown us during this sad tie will not be forgotten. God bless you or caring. Bonnie Banks & Family.

**2020 QUILT DEDICATION:** HELPING HANDS have many quilts to be dedicated before sending them to OGT. Next Sunday, September 27, will be the day. Come see what we have been doing. We have a wide variety of quilts if you are interested in buying. Patriotic- Christmas– Halloween—Antique—larger nice quilts intended for the Camp Okoboji Auction which was cancelled due to Covid 19.



504 Walnut  
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

**LET'S STAY CONNECTED:** 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

Mission Central... [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)

Lutheran Family Service: [www.lfsiowa.org](http://www.lfsiowa.org)

**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.



Thank You Jesus for being our true friend always. You proved your love and friendship to us by sacrificing your life for us. Assure us that we can always come to You with our hurts. In your precious name, Amen