

# St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

*September 27, 2020*

*17th 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

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website: [www.stmatthewmapleton.org](http://www.stmatthewmapleton.org)

FB page: [St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton](https://www.facebook.com/St.Matthew.Lutheran-Mapleton)

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17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
27 September 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32 / Psalm 25:1–10 / Philippians 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18 / Matt. 21:23–27 (28–32)

Sermon Title: Behave Like Jesus

Sermon Text: Philippians 2:1-18

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

Our Epistle lesson this morning from Philippians chapter 2 starts out by describing how we should behave like Jesus behaved. Paul starts out in verses one and two talking about characteristics of a believe in Jesus Christ:

*“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”*

Now, maybe that sounds like a tall order, but really it isn’t. Paul is simply talking about what characteristics define a person, who whole-heartedly believes in Jesus. This passage from Philippians 2 points out that when Christians show a true love—a true sincerity—an honest care and concern for one another—then other people will know and see that there is something really different about you.

When you have *“the same mind”* and have *“the same love”* and are *“in full accord and of one mind”* then people, who don’t come to our church—people, who don’t believe in God—they will see that you don’t act like everyone else. And that is the point that Paul is trying to encourage us strive towards.

And what’s the matter with acting differently? Well, when you act differently, then you can stick out like a sore thumb. But in fact, if you believe in Jesus, as your Lord and Saviour, and you desire to live the way he lived and act the way he acted, then you will stick out like a sore thumb.

And why wouldn’t you want to act the way Jesus acted? All throughout the Bible, when we read about disciples, we learn that those disciples learned how to act and react in certain situations based on what their teacher—their rabbi—was teaching them.

When we act the way Jesus acted, then we are showing others that we are really and truly disciples of Jesus. Paul then goes on giving more ideas of how we are to act the way Jesus acted.

*<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 23-4)*

Why is this such a difficult thing for many of us to do? Probably because we all want to be first—number one—the one who gets the most attention. No one strives to be Number Two. And yet, in sports and most businesses, there can only be one leader. You can’t have 10 bosses and one employee. That won’t ever work. And yet, some people work like 10 bosses and one employee is the only option!

*<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

*<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 23-4)*

To live and act like Jesus lived and acted will take some effort on our part. It might even take a lot more prayer! In order to NOT lead by “*selfish ambition or conceit*,” then you have to pray and ask God to give you a humble heart and mind. In order to NOT be the squeaky wheel all the time, you have to humble yourself, you have to “*count others more significant than*” yourself.

So what does it mean to be humble? The best definition of the word “humble” is acknowledging that God’s ideas and ways are better than mine. Can you do that? Can you step back for a moment and think that maybe God has everything in control? Can you step back for a moment and think that God truly knows what is best for your life and mine?

In addition to counting others opinions and ideas more significant than your own, Paul encourages us to “*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*” These two suggestions go hand-in-hand. When you count others’ ideas and opinions more significant than your own, then you are able to value other people’s interests.

Sometimes at our church, some of us insist on being right all the time. Some of us insist that their way is the only right way and it MUST be done their way. When we insist on our own ways every time, then we are NOT behaving the way Jesus behaved. So how did Jesus behave? Paul goes on to explain:

<sup>5</sup> *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup> *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,* <sup>7</sup> *but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.* <sup>8</sup> *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* <sup>9</sup> *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* <sup>11</sup> *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” (Philippians 2:5-11)

Verses 5 and 6: <sup>5</sup> *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup> *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,*” This is the ultimate form of humility. Jesus, Son of God Almighty, “*All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*” (John 1:3) This Jesus, who we worship and adore, is God—and yet he “*did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,*”

That’s amazing! If there ever lived a human being, who had the absolute and only authority to brag and boast about being God, it was Jesus. Jesus “*emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*” <sup>8</sup> *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*”

This is what we confess in all three creeds—the Apostles’—Nicene and Athanasian—that Jesus was “born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.” Why on earth did Jesus do this? Why did Jesus consent to these terrible events? Because Jesus knew that he was the only acceptable sacrifice to take away the sins of the whole world. And Jesus knew that in order to fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law of Moses, Jesus would have to endure excruciating pain—all because he loves you more than you can ever imagine.

As Jesus suffered and died, he trusted God our Heavenly Father to raise him—that is Jesus—back to life. “*Therefore, God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,*” <sup>10</sup> *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* <sup>11</sup> *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” (Philippians 2:9-11)

Here we are reminded how we get to heaven. By believing in Jesus as the Son of God. By believing that Jesus died and was raised from the dead three days later. By believing that because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we will also be raised to a new life on the Last Day.

Paul then goes on in our Epistle lesson with more ideas of how to live and act the way Jesus lived and acted: <sup>14</sup>*Do all things without grumbling or disputing,* <sup>15</sup>*that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,* <sup>16</sup>*holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.*" (Philippians 2:14-16)

Sadly, many of us seem to excel in grumbling and disputing—among many other things that we shouldn't do. *"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander."* (1 Peter 2:1)

Paul tells us that when we *"Do all things without grumbling or disputing,"* that God will consider us to *"be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,"* <sup>16</sup>*holding fast to the word of life"*

That's a lot of great things that God will grow in us. When we live and act the way Jesus lived and acted, when we pray for and ask God to grow a humble spirit in us, then God will allow us to shine as a bright light in the midst of this spiritually dark world that we live in. We will be lights that will offer encouragement and hope to people, who struggle to live with Covid-19. We will *"be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation,"*

When you live the way God has made you—through your baptism—and through your faith in Jesus—then God allows you to shine brighter than the shiniest diamond ring that you've ever seen. Just as that really shiny diamond ring doesn't come out of the ground sparkling, so you and I don't come into this world all sparkly and shiny. We come into this world tainted and dirty because we were born into sin and in sin did our mothers conceive us.

Then, *"...through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom [God the Father] poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."* (Titus 3:5-8) Being an heir to the kingdom of God is the most wonderful gift you could ever receive.

Thank the Lord and sing his praise, tell everyone what he has done, let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia." (LSB Divine Service 1, p. 164) Amen.

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

### **Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**

Dear Jesus, Thank you for always being there for us, pursuing us and welcoming us into your arms. We love you and we surrender to you everything, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Please, send the cure to Covid 19, Lord. Bless and protect especially the most vulnerable around the world. Empower us for hope-filled living also during this time of social distancing. Fill us with your Spirit, power, love, and grace. Use us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen

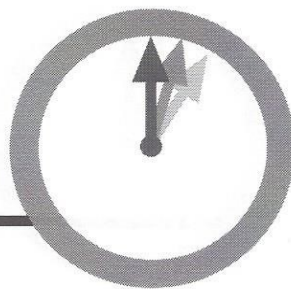




## BIBLE STUDY

# Christ's Attitude

Philippians 2:5–8



### GOD'S WORD

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5–8)*

### FOR SHARING

1. Describe the “attitude” which Christ Jesus had and which St. Paul says we ought to have? Identify some of Jesus’ trademarks and trademarks which we, His followers, also have?

2. What evidence do you see in society that more and more people have forgotten the attitude of humility?

3. In becoming “obedient to death—even death on a cross,” what did Jesus achieve for the world?

4. The Holy Spirit, working through God’s Word, will change our attitude to be more like Christ’s. How might this attitude affect relationships within your church? your work place? your family?

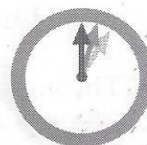
### PRAYER

Speak or sing this stanza of “Just as I Am, Without One Plea.”

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

O God, we bring to You: repentance for our pride; gratitude for Your forgiveness; requests for You to make us more like You.

In the sure certainty that You hear our every prayer, through Jesus Christ. Amen.



# Study 16

## SHARING IS CARING A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT SHOWS GOD'S LOVE



**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.

### Project Sunshine - #4

A little sunshine was spread last week throughout the community with deliveries from **Project Sunshine**. The project's mission is to provide a meal, some essential items such as hand soap, wash cloths, hand towels, face masks, hand sanitizer, paper products along with Christian based inspirational messages and booklets to those who might be needing a little "perk" to their day. Shelly Boyle and Julie Bollig shared a little sunshine with fourteen in the area this September. The project originated in April 2020 which first shared - 22, June - 15, August - 20 and September - 14 Sunshine packages. Thank you to those who have supported *Project Sunshine* with monetary donations, donations of items, baked goods and other essential tasks that make this non-denominational project happen! Plans are underway for *Project Sunshine* - #5 coming up in November. If you know of someone needing a "perk" to their day or If you are interested in supporting or volunteering to Project Sunshine's mission, contact Julie Bollig, 1-712-490-4472. Helping each other in Christ's Love!



A very special thank you to the lady of our church that brought in 2 rolls of stamps to provide for the mailings of this letter. She knows who she is and so does God, and we love her very much!

On 09-27-20 Watermelon feed after church was enjoyed by all. Sponsored by Duane and Marilyn Hamann. Thank you very much



## 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 of- fice so this information can be added to our information data.

<b>NEEDED /WEEK</b>	<b>\$3,225.02</b>
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, 09-20-20)	\$1,019.00
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, 09-13-20)	\$1,860.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (09-20-20)	44
VISITORS (09-20-20)	3
SUNDAY COMMUNED (09-20-20)	38
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	6
BIBLE CLASS	15

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 of-

### Give the office a call or the Pastor...

Before going to hospital

Private communion

Desire to serve your Lord through the Church

Need a ride to a Dr's appt

Address or name changes

Entering armed services

Death in the family

Need of a visit

Birth of your baby

Making wedding plans

	<b>Week of Schedule 09-28- to 10-04</b>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day Pastors Retreat from 9-28 to 09-30 Pastor Peitsch will be on call: (515) 570-8078; Mark Witzel (760)500-8902; Jeff Krusen (712)840-9821
Wed	Helping Hands 1-4 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship Service Bible Learning 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am





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*





The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's website ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)) offers a lot of resources for all ages—elementary-age children, college kids, moms and dads, and grandpas and grandmas.

### Memory Verse Challenge

The church confesses to Christ, *"You have the words of eternal life"* (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ..."* (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week.

This week's memory verse: Isaiah 26:3

Sept. 13 — [1 Corinthians 15:3–4](#)

Sept. 6 — [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)

Aug. 30 — [1 Peter 1:3](#)

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You hear the pastor talk about doing family devotions. Well, here is a resource for you. If you have access to the internet, please check out the different resources on the LCMS' website: [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

Check out the LCMS' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLCMS>. Then, "like" it.

Also, check out the LCMS' Youtube page: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDu0iVoFL\\_d4xe2e-Mwyoxh-rR\\_hYiKXw](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDu0iVoFL_d4xe2e-Mwyoxh-rR_hYiKXw) You'll find daily devotions by different LCMS pastors to help you grow in your faith.

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And, then, there is a short video of a man leading family devotions on the LCMS website. The video is titled: "How to do family devotions."

Pastor Sean Daenzer, director of Worship for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and chaplain for the LCMS International Center, shares how to do family devotions at home.

It's a habit that is hard to form, and even easier to fall out of. But if we can improve our devotional life in times of necessity like this, we will be blessed far greater in our daily devotional life, even in times of plenty. Check out these videos on this link: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/video-how-to-do-family-devotions/>



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 – Our services posted weekly Mission Central... www.missioncentral.us Lutheran

Family Service: www.lfsiowa.org **WEB SITES:** Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org Camp Okoboji –

www.campokoboji.org“**THY STRONG WORD**” is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on

KDSN (104.9 FM) “**THE LUTHERAN HOUR**” can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN-FM (104.9) at

6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and

click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page“**THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR** airs on the following sta-

tions 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**Main Street Living**— is a Television Program that is

endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in

Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the

Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each

week, from the area.



Dear Jesus, Thank you for always being there for us, pursuing us and welcoming us into your arms. We love you and we surrender to you everything, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Please, send the cure to Covid 19, Lord. Bless and protect especially the most vulnerable around the world. Empower us for hope-filled living also during this time of social distancing. Fill us with your Spirit, power, love, and grace. Use us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen