

St. Matthew Lutheran Church



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**July Dates To Remember**

- 04: Offices Closed
  - 06: Secret Church 4:00
  - 14: Maple Heights Service 1:00
  - 24: Board of Directors
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**Newsletter Sponsor**

The mailing of this month's newsletter is sponsored by Ben Pickel in loving memory of his wife Betty Pickel. Thank you, Ben and God's blessings for your continued generosity which makes it possible for all members to receive the newsletters in their homes this month. Your help is greatly appreciated.

*Secret Church – 4:00 pm Saturday  
July 6<sup>th</sup> – Topic: The End Days*

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**Community Garden**

On the Southwest side of the church you will see several raised planters in which a variety of vegetables and herbs have been planted. This garden is for everyone! Church members as well as anyone in the community can help to maintain it (weed and water) and also harvest the produce! Spread the word that this garden is for EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

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***BIRTHDAYS!!** With joy, we give special recognition to:*

**Evelyn Christiansen celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 7/4**

**John Jacobs celebrating his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 7/25**

**Arlene Kiepe celebrating her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on 7/29**

And the following children celebrating June birthdays!

Chloe Parr 7/2; Ben Weber 7/6; Kolby Scott 7/9; Easton Howland 7/10;

Jackie Krusen 7/16; Autumn Brodersen 7/27; Caden Scheer 7/28

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!!!**

With joy, we give special recognition to the following couples who are celebrating anniversaries of 50 years or more!

**Ernie & Dora Witzel, 57 years on July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**John & Delores Boysen, 51 years on July 21<sup>st</sup>**

May each new day bring you a renewal of God's blessings!

**\*Instead of taking a month off from the newsletter for the summer we are offering a condensed version to keep you informed! Have a Great Summer!!**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

504 Walnut Street  
Mapleton, IA 50134

**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

*Traditional Worship* 8:00 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship 10:30 a.m.  
MG Sunday School 9:30 a.m.



# *St. Matthew In Action*

## *Pastor's Desk*

*In light of the decision the United States Supreme Court made this past week on marriage I thought it was important to publish the response of our church body. I encourage you to put Romans 3:23-24 to memory over the next month. God's blessings as we continue together to stand firm holding God's Holy Word above the decisions of man.*

### **Upholding Marriage: God's Plan and Gift**

A statement by the Rev. Bart Day, executive director,  
Office of National Mission-LCMS

Today the Supreme Court issued its ruling, striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), allowing for federal benefits for legally married gay couples and potentially allowing for gay marriage in all of California with regard to Proposition 8. Though the ruling is not a surprise, we are saddened for our nation, even as we call our fellow Christians to faithfulness and prayer.

As Christians, we believe and confess that God Himself instituted marriage as the life-long union of one man and one woman. Same-sex unions are contrary to God's will, and gay marriage is, in the eyes of God, no marriage at all. As Christians, we proclaim this truth, no matter what the courts or legislatures may say. We are called not to popularity but to truth. Therefore, we call on our fellow Christians to be faithful first to God's Word, knowing that another court is ultimately supreme.

Marriage is a fundamental building block of society, binding parents to their offspring. Every child benefits from the nurture of a mother and the leadership of a father. While having one mother is a blessing, having two mothers or two fathers is confusing for the child and detrimental to her well-being. The divorce culture has done great harm to the institution of marriage as well, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has and will continue to respond to that heartache with Christ's comfort while simultaneously working to restore a culture where marriage is upheld.

While this occasion reminds us that Scripture calls homosexuality sinful (see Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24–27), the Bible also says plainly that those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” that is to say, those who repent and show genuine sorrow over their sin, are forgiven and loved by Christ.

And so as Christ's Church, we forgive and love too, following His lead with compassion and humility. We forgive and love because we are all sinners in need of His grace and mercy; because no matter the sin, we have all rebelled against our Creator and fallen prey to unbelief; because He has justified us by grace through faith, freely given and joyfully received (Rom. 3:23–24); because Christ has reconciled us to the Father; because He has declared us righteous and we are.

Please consider sharing this email with your congregation, family and friends, reminding them that the LCMS will continue to teach marriage according to God's plan and gift. We will continue to proclaim marriage as a picture of Christ's love for His bride, the church. And we will continue to be a place of forgiveness, mercy and healing for all people, even as we will continue to proclaim God's truth in love. As we move forward, we offer up our prayers for the nation and particularly for marriage, family and children.

Rev. Bart Day, executive director  
LCMS Office of National Mission

Romans 3:23-24- "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."