



St Matthew In Action

MAY

He is
RISEN

ACTIVE
CHRISTIANS
TOGETHER
IN
OUTREACH
&
NURTURE

As we search for a pastor all our serve and Sunday school times are subject to change to accommodate our vacancy Pastor. Please call the church or check our Web site for times.

Pastor: Vacant

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Who's in Charge?

Matthew 6:26



GOD'S WORD

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"
(Matthew 6:26)

FOR SHARING

1. Someone once said, "Of all the living creatures in our world, only humans accumulate problems and wear them like a yoke around their necks." Respond to this statement.

2. What does God's care of the birds teach us?

3. Jesus never forgot who was in charge. Even as He faced dying on the cross in order to rescue people from sin, death, and the power of the devil, Jesus looked to God. What special concerns do you face now, personally or as a church? Are you looking to God for help? If so, of what can you be assured?

PRAYER

O God, we come to You
grateful for...
confessing...
trusting that...
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the “great fifty days” of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

WHITE



AWAKEN TO



NEW LIFE

SEASON	DATE	FESTIVAL	FIRST READING	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
EASTER	May 1	Third S. of Easter	Acts 9:1–22	Psalms 30	Rev. 5:(1–7) 8–14	John 21:1–14 (15–19)
	May 8	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 20:17–35	Psalms 23	Rev. 7:9–17	John 10:22–30
	May 15	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 11:1–18	Psalms 148	Rev. 21:1–7	John 16:12–22 <i>or</i> John 13:31–35
	May 22	Sixth S. of Easter	Acts 16:9–15	Psalms 67	Rev. 21:9–14, 21–27	John 16:23–33 <i>or</i> John 5:1–9
	May 26	The Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1–11	Psalms 47	Eph. 1:15–23	Luke 24:44–53
	May 29	Seventh S. of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Psalms 133	Rev. 22:1–6 (7–11) 12–20	John 17:20–26

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (1 May 2022) *The Good Shepherd Feeds His Lambs*

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain” (Rev. 5:12), who by His cross has conquered sin and death. With His blood, He has “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9). This same Lord Jesus visits people of all nations and calls them to Himself by the Gospel, even as He “was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead” (John 21:14). He restored Simon Peter to faith and life, and He commissioned him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep (John 21:15–17). Likewise, He revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance, so that the persecutor of Jesus might carry and confess His name “before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (8 May 2022) *The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep*

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from the Father and became flesh among us in order to rescue us, His sheep. He laid down His life for us and took it up again in order to give us eternal life. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him forever. As they hear His voice and follow Him, “they will never perish” (John 10:28), for “no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand” (John 10:29). In the same way, faithful pastors (literally, “shepherds”) “care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood” (Acts 20:28), “testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Rev. 7:10).

PASTOR TRANSITION

With Pastor Christopher LaBoube's upcoming transfer to a Chicago-area church, St. Matthew must once again enter the potentially uncertain times of eventually finding a new permanent pastor, and even before that we must employ a "stop gap" measure by finding a 'vacancy pastor' to lead us in worship and in furthering God's Kingdom.

Rest assured, we are not alone in this journey. Already we have received assurances of guidance and assistance from above. Yes, God is of course with us during this challenge, but I'm specifically referring to our 'higher headquarters', Iowa District West (IDW). On 31 March I received a letter from Reverend Dr. Steven Turner, the President of IDW. President Turner emphasized that he is "willing and ready to assist us during the time of vacancy." When a congregation receives word that their pastor is leaving, immediate communications with the District President and Circuit Visitor Pastor, Reverend Rich Salcido are vital. We did that, and Pastor Salcido responded quickly. He met with the church Elders (Jeff Krusen, Leo Dose, Duane Hamman, Ryan Paulsen and me, Mark Witzel).

The results of that fruitful meeting were that Pastor Salcido briefed us on the 'process for getting a vacancy pastor'. Unsurprisingly, it is a bit more of an involved process than just hanging out a 'pastor wanted' sign. The Elders will create a 'Job Description' document that identifies what St. Matthew is looking for in a vacancy pastor, and it also spells out what St. Matthew will do for the vacancy pastor, to include pay particulars and that the pastor will have the cooperation and prayerful support of the Elders, boards & committees, and the entire congregation of St. Matthew. Once our Circuit Visitor signs off on our job description, he will begin a quick search for our vacancy pastor. As you might surmise, the 'pool' of available pastors is very small (but talented). Pastor Salcido will target on having nominee(s) for the Elders to announce to the congregation at the Worship Service on 1 May. Much thanks to Pastor Salcido for his guidance to the Elders right out of the gate.

But back to President Turner, he will be meeting with the Elders, and perhaps the Board of Directors, sometime after 1 May. He will be sharing with us basic information about the 'call process'. This will be invaluable information. I know that there are several congregational members who have prior call experience here at St. Matthew. However, please understand that it is essential that we have an unified, sound Call Process Therefore, I urge everyone reading this article to keep an understanding, open mind as President Turner shares with us his guidance on the call process. Also, I have noticed that, and probably many of you as well, that our Constitution does not address the Call Process in its entirety. As your Congregational President I realize that this is a huge shortfall, and one more reason for us to do a complete update of our Constitution. But,...that will be for another time.

There is much more word to come as we move forward. First things first, we must find a vacancy pastor. Please keep that specific need as 'front of mind' in your daily prayers.

With Respect & Grace

Mark R. Witzel

President & Elder

CHURCH INFORMATION

As we search for a pastor all our serve and Sunday school times are subject to change to accommodate our vacancy Pastor. Please call the church or check our Web site for times.

MY FAVORITE RECIPE

Einstein Blueberry Muffins

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup white sugar
½ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
⅓ cup vegetable oil
1 egg
⅓ cup milk
1 cup fresh blueberries

Crumb Topping:

½ cup white sugar
⅓ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup butter, cubed
1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350*. Grease 12 muffin cups lines with muffin liners.

To make the muffins: In a bowl, combine flour, cup sugar, salt, and baking powder. Place vegetable oil into a 1 cup measuring cup; add the egg and enough milk to fill the cup. Beat slightly with a fork. Mix this with flour mixture and fold in blueberries. Fill muffin cups right to the top, and sprinkle with crumb topping mixture.

To make crumb topping: Mix together the sugar, flour, butter, and cinnamon. Mix with fork until crumbly and sprinkle over muffins before baking.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until done. Which means when a toothpick is inserted, it should come out clean.

Please give us your favorite recipe so it can be published and shared with everyone. Thank you.



EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter breakfast was served by the elders after church. It was enjoyed by about 45 people.

Thank You Elders and all that helped.

Card of Thanks:

Thank you to friends and neighbors for all their assistance, caring and concern, especially St. Matthew's Church. Pete Smith, Eric Smith and family, John and Dee Smith.

TRIVIA QUESTION: by Christine LaBoube



Q: What did Jesus change water into at a wedding?

A: ((John 2:1-11) Answer: found on page 10

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Evan	Bruhn	May 15, 1969
Bruce	Burton	May 22, 1947
Adam	Chandler	May 25, 1978
Susan	Creswell	May 13, 1962
Brett	Davis	May 15, 1978
Gary	Dose	May 27, 1956
Krista	Elmquist	May 01, 1965
Mark	Greiner	May 14, 1954
Cari Jon	Hinrickson	May 04, 1975
Peg	Jacobson	May 25, 1956
Rhonda	Kruger	May 15, 1974
Joe	Krusen	May 09, 1983
Kevin	Kuehl	May 01, 1971
Christopher	LaBoube	May 15, 1973
Johannah	McKibben	May 25, 2000
Shawn	Ohlmeier	May 06, 1982
Tyler	Ohlmeier	May 11, 2004
Chelsey	Paulsen	May 13, 2007
Dawn	Paulsen	May 16, 1968
Lisa	Rotnicke	May 20, 1968
Betsy	Scheer	May 11, 1989
Sarah	Schmidt	May 02, 1981
Schalee	Schrader	May 05, 2014
Ethan	Streck	May 09, 2002
Mark	Witzel	May 04, 1959
Michael	Wood	May 30, 1950
Shawn	Wood	May 05, 1971
Russell	Wray	May 13, 1957

*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.*



MAY BAPTISMS

Chelsea	Bernard	May 08, 1994
Delores	Boysen	May 07, 1939
Tasha	Bridgeman	May 22, 1994
Brian	Brown	May 06, 1962
Christopher	Creswell	May 21, 1989
Michael	Creswell	May 21, 1989
Alan	Dale	May 13, 1995
Jersey	Divis	May 14, 2006
Darlene	Dose	May 20, 1934
Sue	Flanigan	May 01, 1961
Darren	Goslar	May 27, 1983
Les	Goslar	May 09, 1948
Daniel	Greiner	May 01, 1991
Julie	Joy	May 04, 1980
Zola	Kafton	May 16, 1943
Jessica	Krohn	May 09, 1993
Kyle	Krueger	May 01, 1983
Kevin	Kuehl	May 30, 1971
Sharon	Melby	May 10, 1964
Kandis	Muhs	May 25, 1986
Taya	Ohlmeier	May 03, 2009
Carol	Pritchard	May 11, 1958
Caleb	Rickert	May 16, 2009
Jodi	Scott	May 09, 1971
Michael	Smith	May 21, 1989
Jolene	Uhl	May 10, 1959
Kathy	Wunschel	May 18, 1958

80 + Birthday God's Blessings

Richard	Johnson	May 30, 1934
Deloris	Livermore	May 05, 1929
Ferne	Jacobson	May 02, 1930

God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

Mark and Deb Jensen	May 15, 1993 29 yrs.
David and Belinda Bartels	May 15, 1970 52 yrs.
Larry and Shelly Boyle	May 26, 1984 38 yrs.
John and Joan Fick	May 27, 1956 66 yrs.
Joseph and Marla Hogan	May 14, 2004 18 yrs.
Wayne and Zola Kafton	May 05, 1963 59 yrs.
Kenneth and Susan Krueger	May 05, 1963 59 yrs.
Karla and Dennis Uhl	May 12, 1984 38 yrs.
Jeffrey and Susan Creswell	May 17, 1988 34 yrs.

Email: office@stmatthewmapleton.org

Facebook page: [St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton](#)



SPOT LIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



Hi there, I'm Joan Chandler of the Stewardship board.. I was born in the Castana area and have moved in and out. I am now living five miles west of Mapleton. I love to cook and doing jigsaw puzzles, read and visit with people. I have served on many board and headed some fund raisers. Thanks to the church for letting me serve the Lord in so many ways.

Praise God for all the blessings to me this last month. I still can't believe all the angels He sent to help with the confirmation refreshments. They we're Janeal H., Nancy A. , Wanda H.. Melissia R. Rita L. and Zola K., They made serving the Lord so easy and fun. A great big Thank You!!! To all. PRAISE God, from who all blessings flow. Stewardship director, Joan Chandler.

Luke 6:37

³⁷“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

F.A.S.T. (Fun After School Time). This year when I was thinking about doing an after school activity with the children, I remembered that St. John's Methodist Church also has had an after school program. I called Nancy McGrain and asked her if her church and ours could maybe work together. We got the ok from both churches and decided to do it at their church, where we would trade off and help with the F.A.S.T. (Fun After School Time). Nancy made a schedule up who would get the children from school, do snacks, and do crafts, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and music and or recreation.) It's held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:30 –5pm. We have about an average of 7-8 children each time. Thanks to Marilyn Hamann, Ramona Weber and Rita LaFrentz for their great help. I couldn't do it without them! Also Ryan Paulsen has graciously came to lead music, singing and playing guitar, the children LOVE him! We work together with St. John ladies to be able to have a fun time with the children. Marla Hogan



We are always looking for news to put in our monthly News Letter, please let us know if you have any by calling Joan Chandler at 882-2560 or Karen Krusen 840-9059 or the church 881-2243. We will be happy to put it in for you.

Information for the bulletin and the weekly mailing must be in the office by Wed. of the week. Please call if you e-mailed the information, because sometimes the e-mail does not come through. The information for the Monthly news letter needs to be in by the 23th of the month.

Why go to church?

A church goer wrote to the editor of a news paper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

I've gone for 30 years now, he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I can not recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this..... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today?"

When You are DOWN TO NOTHING.....GOD is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.



PICK A HYMN: If you have a favorite Easter Hymn you would like to hear this Easter season please contact the church. We will try to play your choice at a service, during the Easter season.

SERVE THE LORD BY SAVING

1. Save Best Choice Award
2. Save old Portals of Prayer
3. Save pop tabs
4. Save eyeglasses

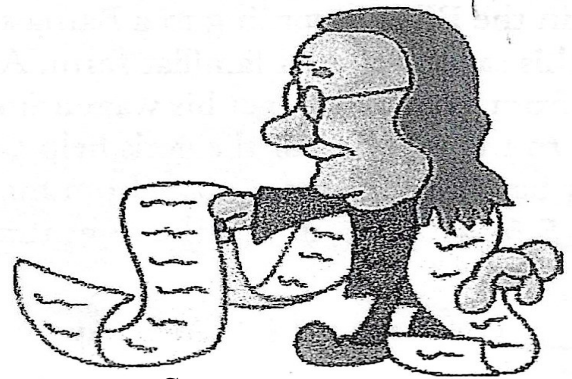
Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! **Serve** the Lord with gladness!

Psalms 100:1



Does the Bible Really Say That?

Rev. John M. Young



QUOTE

God Helps those who help themselves
'Tis more blessed to give than to receive.
A penny saved us a penny earned.
I have escaped by the skin of my teeth
Pride goeth before a fall
Consider the lilies of the field
You reap what you sow
Early to bed and early to rise makes a man
Healthy, wealthy, and wise

In the Bible?

Source

- ♦ God helps those who help themselves. **No** More than 80% of Americans did think this was in the Bible according to a Barna survey. Benjamin Franklin is credited with putting this saying into its familiar form. Aesop tells the story of a wagoner who prays for help from Hercules to get his wagon unstuck. Hercules tells the man to "put his shoulder to the wheel," for the gods help those who help themselves. In the Bible, on the other hand, divine grace apart from human effort is evident to passages such as **Romans 5:6**: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."
When have you been told, "God helps those who help themselves"? How did it make you feel? How does that compare to God's promise of help for the powerless?
- ♦ 'Tis more blessed to give than to receive. **Yes** This quote of Jesus is unusual in that it is found nowhere in the Gospels but in **Acts 20:35**.
- ♦ A penny saved is a penny earned. **No.** **Proverbs 13:11** does say, "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow," but the familiar quotation is from *Poor Richard's almanac*.
- ♦ I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. **Yes.** **Job 19:20**.
- ♦ Pride goeth before a fall. **Yes.** This is a compressed version of **Proverbs 16:18** "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (KJV)
- ♦ Consider the lilies of the field. **Yes.** Jesus says this in the Sermon on the Mount, **Matthew 6:28**, and similarly in **Luke 12:27**. What are we supposed to learn from the lilies? What promise of provision is attached to Jesus' words?
- ♦ You reap what you sow. **Yes.** **Galatians 6:7** and **Job 4:8** both express this warning of the Law. Interestingly, **Psalms 126:5** uses this same terminology as an expression of God's grace: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy." When have you reaped what you had sown, experiencing the Law? When have you reaped with songs of joy after sowing in tears, experiencing the Gospel?
- ♦ Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. **No.** We have Ben Franklin to thank for this one also. It is not necessarily bad advice, as the book of Proverbs gives several admonitions to be industrious and not lazy, such as **Proverbs 6:9**. "How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?"
- ♦ Idle hands are the Devil's workshop. **No.** This saying is centuries old in English, but it is not a direct quote from the Bible. In addition to Proverbs' injunctions against laziness (see above), look up **Proverbs 19:15**; **1 Timothy 5:13**; **Ecclesiastes 10:18**; **Proverbs 31:27**.



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

Nazaria Kaderabek
Alan Bruhn

Carol Dose
Fred Fletcher

Myrna Gosch
Fern Jacobsen

Selma Schrader



We pray for the family of Betty Wood who went to be with Jesus on 04-26-22. May they find comfort in, *John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."* A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., with a Visitation held one-hour prior from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at the St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Mapleton, Iowa. Rev. Richard A. Salcido will officiate. [Betty Wood Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information \(armstrongfuneral.com\)](http://BettyWoodObituary-Visitation&FuneralInformation.armstrongfuneral.com)

Those who serve in the military:

Ryan Trucke (son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson) serving with U.S. Air Force at FE Warren AFB in Wyoming (wife and child are here). Ryan is at this address: Prince Sultan AFB, Saudia Arabia 378ECEF-CEOIU Unit 61362 APO, AE 09877 (here for only 6 months)

Jackie Cardwell (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen) serving U.S. Airforce at 17728 Margo St Omaha,

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Selma Schrader

21 Ohm Drive
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Nazaria Kaderabek

310 S. 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Fern Jacobsen Main Street Apartments

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Cecil, Fred Fletcher

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Alan Bruhn

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(Currently at: UNMC Hospital
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Sharon Kuehl Henning

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Window MN 56101

Bonnie Banks

Main Street Apartments
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Delores Boysen

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Hinton, IA 51024

Delbert Kroll

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Mapleton IA 51034

Phyllis Fick

Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
404 1st St.
Battle Creek, IA 51006

George Koithan

Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home 51034

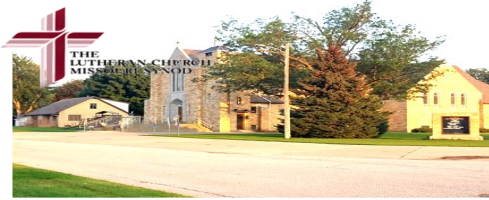
Carol Dose

Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home 51034

Myrna Gosch

Pleasant View Care Center





St Matthew Lutheran Church
504 Walnut Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

In His Footsteps:

Meet each new day
knowing that God is
by your side and will
lead you every step
of the way.

TRIVIA QUESTION answer: rainbow

LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS By READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE **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 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.lfsiowa.org **MainStreet 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, Help me to focus on You and your living Presence and surround me with Your peace. Please let me find eternal security in You, *for you are the same yesterday, today and forever, I know this will instill meaning into my days. Help me to begin each day alone with you, step by step holding your hand and being totally dependent on you, because I know Jesus you will smooth out the path before me. I love you Jesus, Amen*