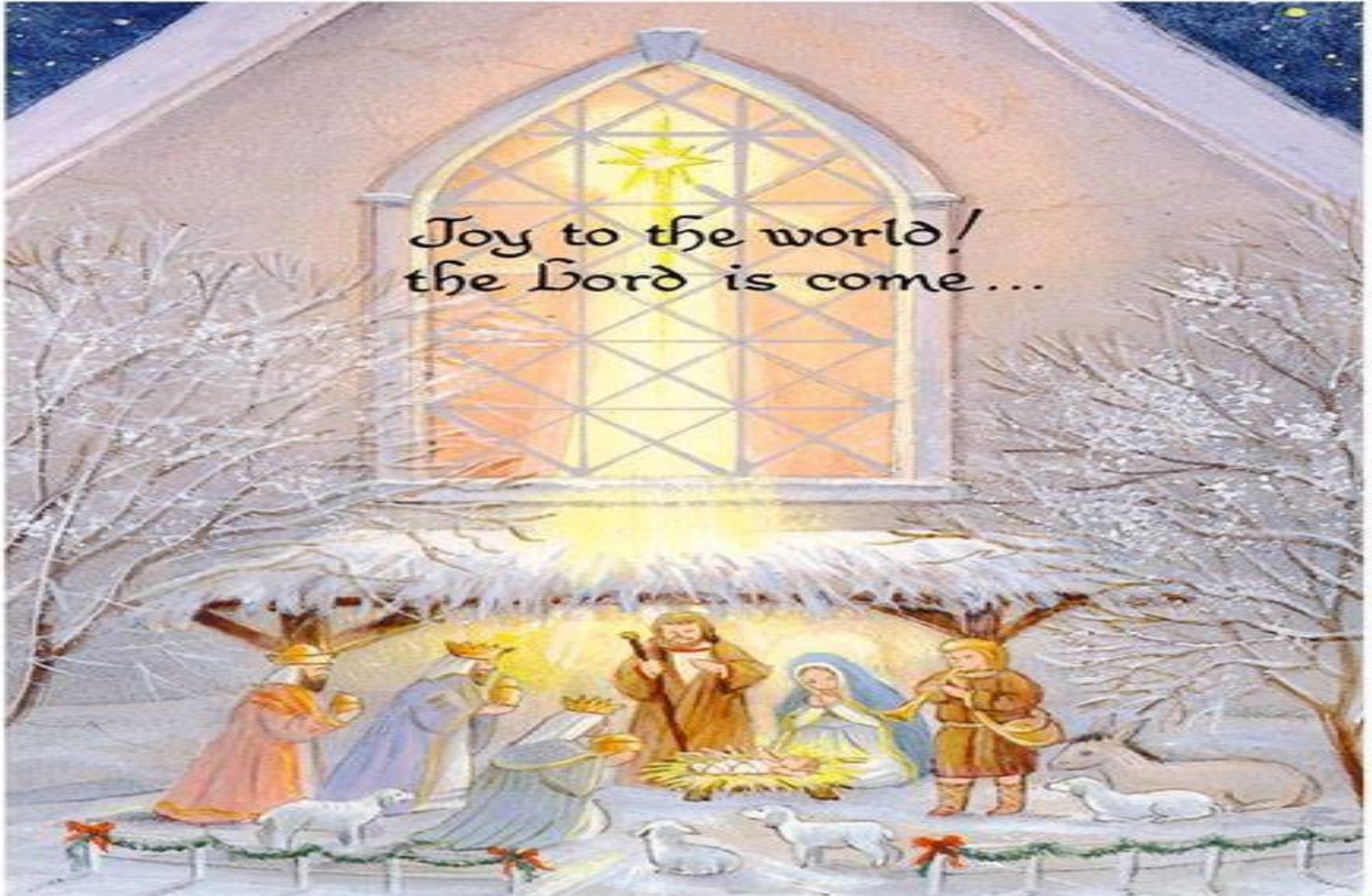




St Matthew In Action December 2024



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's that time of year again. The Christmas decorations are coming out. Lights are being put up on the houses. Trees are getting trimmed and I'm sure many of you are diligently at work planning your holidays in various ways: buying gifts, baking goods, and scheduling times with family. Hopefully, in the midst of it all you're also remembering to set aside time to gather here in God's house for worship as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ for us all.

The writer of Hebrews encourages us toward this gathering, as we heard recently in one of our Epistle readings:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” - Heb. 10:24-25

I encourage you this day to ponder the call that the writer of Hebrews gives us to “consider how to stir up one another.” People have all sorts of ways that they like to get fired up for the holiday season. Perhaps you like to listen to holiday music. Maybe you get excited by going shopping for gifts. Maybe you enjoy decorating or maybe you just enjoy looking at the decorations others have put up. Whatever the case, this can be a very exciting time of year.

Christmas decorations can do a lot to help us get excited about the season. The lights, the music, the joy we see on little ones faces as they take in all the beauty of this time of year, it all builds up toward the mounting excitement as we draw near to our celebration of Christmas. But keep in mind, the decorations, the music, the presents, and all that goes with this time of year is there to point us to Christ and the great gift He is to us all. The lights remind us that Jesus, the light of the world has come into the world for us. The evergreen trees remind us of the eternal life Christ has won for us through His coming into the world. The music sings of all that happened at Christmas for you and for me. On and on the reminders go pointing us ever back to Christ.

This is what we are called to as well. We are called to point others to Christ. Just as you wouldn't throw a blanket over your Christmas tree to hide its light we too are called to let the light of Christ shine through us. As we hear in Matthew 5,

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” - Matt 5.14-16

So this Christmas season, let your lights shine, whether they're on your house or in your heart.

At the same time, this time of year can also be difficult for various reasons.. Christmas time for some can bring up memories of loved ones lost. In fact, studies have shown that depression rates can increase around this time of year instead of decrease. We don't always feel like shining our light. Christ is there with us in those times as well. Caring for and supporting us in our grief, our pain, no matter what we are feeling. God continues to love and care for us.

Nehemiah knew this the people of Israel found themselves in a time of grief. They had discovered the law of the Lord in the temple as they were rebuilding and realized their sin. Filled with grief over what they had done, they began to mourn. But Nehemiah concludes, “the joy of the LORD is your strength.” - New. 8:10b The joy of the Lord is our strength. Isaiah reminds us the Lord will wipe away all our tears. So this Christmas season, may we all look to Christ, our light, our hope, our joy, even in the darkest of times.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

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.

Blue, the first color of the “Bg-Bgs-Pwr” scheme, is the more contemporary color increasingly used by many congregations in their observance of a new church year. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. BLUE-the color of the sky-helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
ADVENT 2024	Dec. 1 2024	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14–16	Psalms 25:1–10	1 Thess. 3:9–13	Luke 19:28–40 <i>or</i> Luke 21:25–36
	Dec. 8	Second S. in Advent	Mal. 3:1–7b	Psalms 66:1–12	Phil. 1:2–11	Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 15	Third S. in Advent	Zeph. 3:14–20	Psalms 85	Phil. 4:4–7	Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)
	Dec. 22	Fourth S. in Advent	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalms 80:1–7	Heb. 10:5–10	Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)
	Dec. 24 <i>Eve</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Is. 7:10–14	Psalms 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
CHRISTMAS 2024	Dec. 25 <i>Midnight</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Midnight)</i>	Is. 9:2–7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 62:10–12	Psalms 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20

ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER

Sarah Schmidt

Mardella Vandervanter

Janeal Holmes

SPOT LIGHT ON COMMUNITY PANTRY

They need our help. They already have 13 families (and the list is growing) that want to be adopted for Christmas. As we strive to show our love to God we have collected several boxes of different products to go to the party. We will be collecting until December 10th, so we still have time, to show our Love for them.

SUGGED ITEMS

Potatoes
Oranges
Apples
Paper products
Cleanings supplies
Bread
Non-perishable food



St Matthew's Annual Monetary Donation

It is the time of the year to be charitable I took a donation of \$500.00 to the food pantry. It will help restock their shelves. There is a lot of demand this time of the year.



Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves for charity shall cover a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8



We are also having a Christmas Tree at the back of the Church. You can bring mittens, scarfs, hats, NEW socks, sizes from infant to adult, to pin on the tree. All of these items will go toward the families at Christmas time. We will be collecting these until December 10. As cold weather gets here a lot of children and adults will be in need of these items. What a blessing they will be

ANNUAL BAKE SALE

UPDATE

DEC 6, 2024

5PM-7PM AT THE COMMUNITY

NOTICE WE NEED YOUR BAKED GOODS ON
WEDNESDAY THE 4TH

THANK YOU

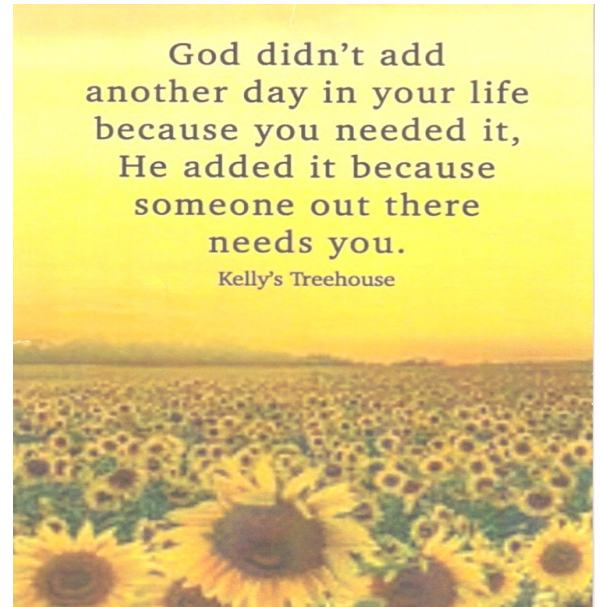


WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS PLEASE for Uber drivers. THANK YOU to all of our Uber drivers that are presently driving and stepping up to give their time and efforts to do this for St. Matthew and for Pastor Peitsch.

During the Winter Months if you do not feel comfortable driving to get Pastor Peitsch please call him or Vicar John and arrangements will be made for someone to replace you.



Helping Hands will be quilting on Dec 4, 11, and on the 18th they will have a Christmas Party.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

It will soon be time that we usually get new offering envelopes. But this year continue to use your envelopes until they are gone. Then contact the church and the proper person will be notified and they will get you new envelopes.

We are more than willing to help. Stewardship Board.



From :Vicar, John Stacy
November 26, 2024

A Christmas Message:

I would have just turned 4 years old when “A Charlie Brown Christmas” first aired on CBS in 1965. I remember nothing of its premier, but in subsequent years my family and I sat down faithfully and watched this Christmas Special. Each year I continue to watch, though now regular TV Stations do not air it any more. The passing of an era. Yet I have it on VHS and DVD and continue to watch each year.

Each year I grow more sentimental watching this program. Like Charlie Brown I have been a witness to the commercialization of the Christmas Season, and ponder “Does anyone know the true meaning of Christmas?” It is at that time, from the deepest part of my heart I can recall Linus’s words from St. Luke:

“Lights Please:

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. And an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the Glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the Angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy, that will be for all people, for unto you this day is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.”

That’s what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown!”

During our Advent and Christmas season, take a moment every now and then and recall the words from St. Luke especially at those times when you will be challenged in remembering what Christmas is all about.

You will be bombarded with Christmas movies, programs, specials, pressed for time, over spending, parties the list goes on till Christmas Day arrives, and then its over and a hollow feeling is left inside you. It’s then recall once more St. Luke.

The birth of our savior will fill that void within you.

I thank God for my family at St. Matthew

From my family to each of you

A Blessed Merry Christmas and Holiday Season

Vicar John Stacy

Pastor Eric Stacy

Susan Stacy

Sean Stacy

Advent Services— start on December 4th at 6:30pm anyone needing ride to these services please contact the office and a ride will be arranged for you. Advent meals, Outreach will be in charge on Dec.4th , Property and Stewardship will be in charge on Dec.11th, Board of Directors will be in charge on Dec. 18th. Time for all meals will be at 5pm.

Christmas Eve the 24th will be a candle light service at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Day25th will be at 9am.

St. Matthew is hosting the Triumphant Sound Quartet on December 15th, at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the music. You may give a free will donation and that will be given to the singing group. This Quartet is awesome, singing Christian music. Refreshments will be served. Don't miss out on a wonderful time.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cheezy Ham and Potato Soup



1 bag of Orieda O'Brien hash browns
 1 bag of diced ham cubes
 1 32oz box of chicken broth
 1 8oz block of cream cheese
 1 8oz. Block of Velveeta
 1 8oz. Package bacon bits
 In a crock pot add potatoes and chicken broth.
 Cook on high for 2 hrs.
 Turn crock pot to warm.
 Add other ingredients.
 Cook for 2 hrs. on warm until cheese is melted.
 Stir and add bacon bits to taste

WINTER WEATHER???



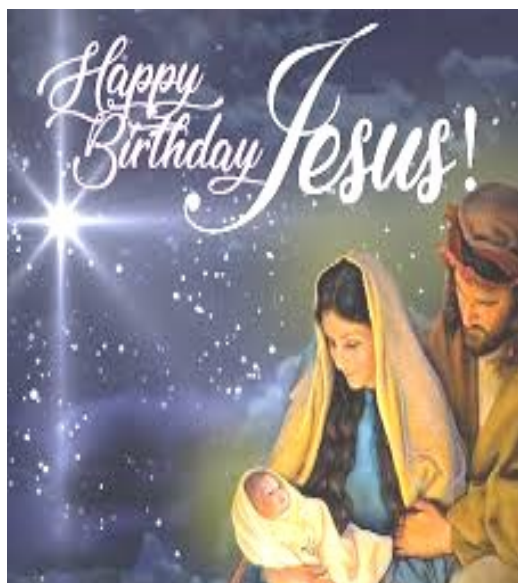
As winter is here we might be getting some white stuff. So anyone that is willing to help with snow removal will be greatly appreciated. Just contact the property board. Lin Scott, 712-208-0004, Janeal Holmes 712-899-8095, Kenny Kruger 712-880-2715



Aware that going before a king without his summons meant death, this person disobeyed the decree in an effort to save Jews. Esther 4: 11-16 answer on page 11.

December Birthdays

Ashlyn	Davis	2006-12-13
James	Else	1953-12-10
Madisyn	Goslar	2021-12-21
Janeal	Holmes	1951-12-26
Ryan	Jacobson	1982-12-19
Gene	Kaderabek	1962-12-18
Jessica	Krohn	1986-12-12
Jeff	Krusen	1957-12-11
Ryan	Paulsen	1965-12-05
Tyler	Paulsen	1990-12-30
Steve	Pickel	1972-12-11
Carol	Pritchard	1957-12-30
Sheryl	Schelm	1960-12-23
Kurt	Schmidt	1980-12-03
Theodore	Thoreson	1968-12-12



December Baptisms

Julie	Bollig	1959-12-13
Crystal	Bretthauer	1956-12-16
Kenneth	Carley	1994-12-04
Donna	Goslar	1949-12-05
Rustin	Hinrickson	1979-12-30
Nicole	Jacobson	1977-12-25
Vernon	Jahn	1969-12-28
Cole	Jensen	1997-12-07
Larry	Kuczler	2023-12-05
Nolan	Lamb	2007-12-07
Linda	Means	1963-12-18
Trista	Ohlmeier	2006-12-19
Ryan	Paulsen	1965-12-19
Kade	Rotnicke	1998-12-20
David	Schrader	1962-12-23
Carolyn	Sexton	1939-12-02
Tyler	Soukup	1988-12-18
John	Stacy	1961-12-28
Mardelle	Vandevanter	1951-12-17
Ramona	Weber	1961-12-03
Michael	Wood	1953-12-20



December 80+ Birthday

John	Arndt	86	1937-12-26
Kay	Elmquist	86	1937-12-31
Fred	Fletcher	83	1940-12-18
Dora	Witzel	86	1937-12-23



December Anniversary

Duane and Marilyn Hamann	61 years	1963-12-01
Gene and Nazaria Kaderabek	27 years	1997-12-16
Darrell and Lin Scott	60 years	1964-12-13



BIBLE CHILDREN MATH



1. Number of Zebedee's sons who became Jesus' disciples (Mark 1:19-20)

Number of Jesse's sons (I Samuel 17:12)

×

2. Sarah's daughters (Genesis 24:36)

Number of barley loaves. (John 6:9)

×

3. Jacob's sons (Genesis 35:22-26)

Noah's sons (Genesis 5:32)

+

4. Number of children who mocked Elisha (II Kings 2:23-24)

Sons of the prodigal son's father (Luke 15:11)

-

5. Jotham's age when he began to reign (II Chronicles 27:1)

Sons of Gad (Genesis 46:16)

+

6. Number of Sarah's children (Genesis 21:1-3)

Children Elisabeth had before John was born (Luke 1:5-7)

×

7. Age of Joseph when he had the coat of many colors (Genesis 37:2-3)

Children of Jephthah (Judges 11:34)

+

8. How old Jonathan's son was when he became lame (II Samuel 4:4)

How many stones David took with him to fight Goliath (I Samuel 17:40)

÷

9. Sons of Naomi (Ruth 1:2)

Chapter in Exodus that tells about Moses as a baby

×

10. Sons of Job (Job 1:2)

Daughters of Job (Job 1:2)

-

December 2024 Calendar

	MON	TUES: Pick up 8am Take home: 3:30 pm	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
SUN: Pick up 8am Take home after service						
1 1st Sun. in Advent 9am Elder: Alan Dale Reader: Karen Kueny Screens: Mark Witzel Sun. Sch & Bible Cl. after services	2	3 Rev. Nathan Peitsch in office 8:30am-3:30pm Uber: Kris Dale	4 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Advent Service Elder: Brian Brown Reader: Brian Brown Screens: Joe Hogan	5	6 Pastors Family Day	7
8 2nd Sun. in Advent service 9am w/HC Uber: Duane Hamann Elder: Mark Witzel Reader: Sarah Schmidt Screens: Dennis Muckey Sun. Sch & Bible Cl. after services	9	9 Cleaning Day at church 9-11 am	11 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Advent Service Elder: Ryan Paulsen Reader: Ryan Paulsen Screens: Mark Witzel	12	13 Pastors Family Day	14
15 3rd Sun. in Advent 9am Elder: Ryan Paulsen Reader: Ryan Paulsen Screens: Joe Hogan Sun. Sch & Bible Cl. after services LWML bring mite boxes next Sunday Triumphant Sound Quartet 4pm	16	17 Rev. Nathan Peitsch in office 8:30am-3:30pm Uber: Brian Brown In the Word 10 am Board of Elders 7 pm	18 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Christmas Party Advent Service Elder: Brian Brown Reader: Brian Brown Screens: Dennis Muckey	19	20 Pastors Family Day	21
22 4th Sun. in Advent service 9am w/HC Uber: Mark Greiner Elder: Mark Greiner Reader: Joe Hogan Screens: Mark Witzel Sun. Sch & Bible Cl. after services LWML MISSION Sunday	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm Candle Light service Elder: Brian Brown Reader: Brian Brown Screens: Joe Hogan	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas service 9am Elder: Ryan Paulsen Reader: Ryan Paulsen Screens: Dennis Muckey	26	27 Pastors Family Day	28
29 1st Sun. a. Christmas 9am service Elder: Mark Witzel Reader: Karen Kueny Screens: Dennis Muckey Sun. Sch & Bible Cl. after services	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	ALTAR GUILD Sarah Schmidt Mardella Vandervanter Janeal Holmes			

*The prayer of a righteous man
is powerful and effective.”*



If you desire a prayer for yourself or someone else, or if you'd like to join the Prayer Warriors, please call, Alice Miller at 880-2380.

Help us keep this prayer list up to date! Call the church to add or remove people.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek	Selma Schrader	Myrna Gosch	Fred Fletcher
Marlene Phillip	Sue Kruse	Joyce Kruse	Dora Witzel
Alice Miller	Grant Scoles	Mike Wood	Zola Kafton
Lynette Larson			

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Ron Kraffle (friend of Marla & Joe Hogan); **Beth Weber**, (cousin of Dean and Ramona Weber); **Tammy Tollfuson**, in 3rd stage heart failure (relative to Dean and Ramona Weber); **Suzie Jacapello**, (sister of Nazaria Kaderabek); **Tim Sanderson** (friend of Dennis Muckey); **Hiedi Zimmer**; P.O. Box 272 Early, IA 50535 (Joan Chander's daughter); **Sandy Donovan**, (Nazaria Kaderabek's mother.) **Jerri Hainfield** (daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann); **Paul Lind**, (nephew of Joyce Kruse) **Mortimer Cohen** (Mardelle's Great grandson) Lafrentz; **Jared Parsley** nephew of Florice Dose. **Norma Uhl** friend of Lin Scott; **Ann Livermore**, and **Marie Whiting** friends of Sarah Schmidt; **Phillip Whitton** (grandson of Marilyn & Duane Hamann).

Ryan Trucke serving with U.S. Air Force at FE Warren AFB in Wyoming son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson)

OUR MISSION IN LIFE

Go Therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have command you. And behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matt. 28:19-20

PROMISES OF GOD

The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

Psalm 22:26

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

Joyce Kruse & Sue Kruse

101 S. 7th Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan

1 Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Mapleton, IA 51034

Dora Witzel

19584 Poplar Ave.
Castana, IA 51010

Myrna Gosch

Pleasant View Care Center
200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
Whiting, IA 51063

Selma Schrader

1 Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home
Mapleton, IA 51034

Nazaria Kaderabek

310 S. 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

Cecil, Fred Fletcher

1225 B Ave.
Danbury, IA 51019

Marlene Phillips

101 A North 6th St.
Mapleton, IA 51034

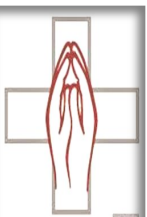
Answer to Trivia: Queen Esther



St Matthew Lutheran Church
 504 Walnut Street
 Mapleton, IA 51034

In His Footsteps: Kindness is a virtue given by the Lord, and joy is its reward. He will show you the way and you will be safe and secure.

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](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 **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 Lord, let me use my gifts, and let me help others discover theirs. Your gifts are priceless and eternal. May we, Your children, use them to the glory of Your kingdom, today and forever. Amen.✝