



**Our Mission Statement!**

*We, the family of Mabel First Lutheran Church, will constantly strive to be a place for all to come together to worship and learn in peace and harmony in a spirit of forgiveness to further the Kingdom of God.*

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**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Whenever a person you know dies, you need to mentally and emotionally process their death. Following the event of death, it is normal for people to move through stages of shock or disbelief and to have feelings of anger or frustration. This is especially true when you love the person who died. At some point, those who grieve hopefully come to a place of peace and acceptance. But, the journey to that place is neither quick nor easy. Often complicated, it takes time and a considerable measure of God's grace to integrate the past with the present so that you can genuinely move into a state of peace and acceptance. But as all-defining as death is for us, death is not the only event you need to process if you are to find integrity and wholeness in your life.

To come to a place where you can fully live as a Christian, you must also process Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead. (See 1 Corinthians 15:1 -20.) In the Easter season, the church gathers to "process" or reflect on the event of Christ's resurrection. During these fifty days that follow Holy Week, the church invites people to be placed alongside those who first witnessed the risen Christ. Just as it was for the disciples when they first heard the news about Christ's resurrection, people commonly identify with the initial stage of disbelief. This is normal and is expected among rational people. Yet, the accounts of the Lord's resurrection recorded in the Scriptures do not allow people to remain in a state of constant denial and disbelief. Although countless people may identify with the bewilderment of the skeptical disciples, to advance spiritually and fully live the life of faith every one of us must assimilate the event of Christ's resurrection into their understanding and consciousness just as the disciples ultimately did.

At some point, by God's grace and through the help of the Holy Spirit, people may have faith in the word of God that bears witness to the resurrection of the dead. For people of faith, it is possible to let go of a life all too often characterized by disbelief, anger, fear, and despair. To have faith is to move beyond the limits of human reason, believing in the resurrection from the dead. At this point, we must acknowledge that God does not ask us or provide us a way to understand every event that happens. God only shows the world what is needed for faith. When you come to firmly believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, you are able to fully live as one who God has freed from the power of sin and death. May you process all that this event means for you by hearing the word preached and studying God's word so you come to a place of acceptance and lasting peace.

Your brother in Christ, Pr. Elliott Malm

# WORSHIP — 9 AM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Believe is a groundbreaking Bible-reading experience that will anchor every member of your family in the core teachings of Scripture:

## BELIEVE

LIVING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE  
TO BECOME LIKE JESUS



*the 10 key beliefs  
10 key practices  
and 10 key virtues of a Christian.*

**THINK:** What do I believe?

**ACT:** What should I do?

**BE:** Who am I becoming?

Learn with your whole family—and your whole church—how to think, act, and be more like Jesus.

Classes and small groups are available for children to adults. Sunday mornings at 10 am.

The Key Ideas and Key Verses for May are as follows:

**BE—Key Virtues: Who am I becoming?**

**Week 27 – May 5 — Kindness/Goodness**

Key Idea: "I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others."

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**Week 28 – May 12 — Faithfulness**

Key Idea: "I have established a good name with God and others based on my loyalty to those relationships."

Key Verse: Proverbs 3:3-4

**Week 29 – May 19 — Gentleness**

Key Idea: "I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in my dealings with others."

Key Verse: Philippians 4:5

**Week 30 – May 26 — Humility**

Key Idea: "I choose to esteem others above myself."

Key Verse: Philippians 2:3-4

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