

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

Today, there are many Americans who say they are "spiritual but not religious" when asked about their religious affiliation. Usually, those who hold this view about their faith do so with some confidence, too. Central to this view is a belief that while religious communities (i.e. the church) may be helpful for some people, it is unnecessary for living faithfully as a Christian. Why might this be and how should members of the church respond to people who hold these views?

One can identify multiple reasons for a person to say they are spiritual but not religious. Some have to do with actual beliefs; but more often than not they are probably more influenced by personal values or, sadly, some hurtful experiences with religious communities. For many, this issue may be complicated and not very well defined. Relating to people who have been genuinely hurt requires compassion, grace and humility. When a person hurts, they need care not criticism. Most recognize Jesus teaches the people of God to care for people. And yet, there is another unyielding side to this issue as well since the church is not an organization that people of faith join when they happen to have a felt need for it.

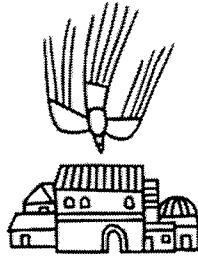
The church is an indispensable part of our spirituality because God intends it to exist as the living body of Christ in the world. Christians must bear witness to the truth that it is impossible to be authentically spiritual apart from being an active member of the Christian church. Through the work of the Holy Spirit a diverse range of people become incorporated into one as the body of Christ, repenting from a life marked by sinful, self-absorption. Being grafted into the body is not necessarily easy, but is always good because it results in spiritual wellness and growth. Looking back to the early church, we see that the situation in our own day has not really changed that much. Our heavenly Father works on us all much like a parent with a stubborn child. He works on us in and through other people in the church, bringing us into communities where we are to give and receive the love of God.

Your brother in Christ, Pr. Elliott Malm

WORSHIP — 9 AM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

SANCTUARY DEDICATION ON JUNE 9

Current and former members of Mabel First Lutheran Church are encouraged to participate in a dedication of the recently renovated sanctuary on Sunday, June 9. The dedication will take place during our regular Sunday morning service time. This day will be made even more meaningful as it coincides with the Day of Pentecost, a principal festival of the church year which marks the beginning of the Christian church.



(Note: a special meeting of the congregation will also be held after worship that day.)

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY COURSE

Adults who seek a more fully integrated Christian life are invited to participate in an 8-week course known as *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. In this course utilized by churches around the world, Pastor Peter Scazzero "unpacks core biblical principles to guide you into an experience of lasting, beneath-the-surface transformation in your relationship with Christ." Pastors Elliott Malm and Mary Waudby will jointly lead this course for the congregations of Scheie Lutheran and MFLC.

Every participant in this course must commit themselves to personal study with a daily devotional and book along with participation in the video-based weekly group sessions. Sessions will be at Mabel First Lutheran Church from 6:15-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays from June 12 to July 31.

Through financial support received from Thrivent Financial grant money, the course materials (book, workbook, and devotional) will be provided for participants at a reduced price of \$15.00 per person. Register online at <http://mabelfirst.org/learning/eh-spirituality-course> or call the MFL church office and register with Pastor Malm.

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