



April 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Sundays at 9:00am
WOW Wednesdays at
5:30 pm (Sept—April)
stmatthewmonticello@gmail.com

Pastor Dave Raemisch
Cell Phone (319) 975-0512
Office Phone (319) 465-3262



A message from Pastor Dave...

As I'm writing this message, at the beginning of March, the people of Ukraine (a Christian nation) are being invaded by Russia, an evil empire led by an evil dictator if there ever was one. Evil is the absence of God. As a pastor, I try to stay out of politics because I've learned that I can get myself in plenty of trouble by just talking about religion (and the Badgers)! But the coming of Easter compels us to consider the on-going battle between good and evil in the world.

The Bible calls Satan the "god of this age" and the "ruler of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31). We know that God almighty, the King of kings and Lord of lords, is the ultimate sovereign but for now, during the church age - the time between the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ - Satan is having his way with far too many people and doing lots of damage in the world. Knowing that, helps us better understand the evil around us.

It's pretty easy to see the influence of sin and Satan on the people of the world. Indeed, that's why I became a pastor. It wasn't because I was all "churchy" and tight with God that I became a pastor; rather, I so clearly saw how sin ravages our lives that it deeply troubled me. Then came an overwhelming awareness that there's an answer to the sin problem: the love of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

During these strange days on planet earth, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by it all. So often it feels like the world is going to hell in a hand basket and falling apart at the seams. We just can't seem to help ourselves... we fight with each other, we fight with family, we fight over religion and politics on a local, national, and international level, we even fight an on-going battle between good and evil in our own hearts and minds. No wonder we're sick and tired of it all and worn out by the fray!

The season of Lent calls us to slow down and reflect on the meaning of life, to think deeply about who we are and our place in God's world. Every moment of every day we have choices to make, big choices about who we are and who we serve.

When Joshua feared for his future, and the future of his people, he turned to the Lord for courage and strength. That's what I tend to pray for more than anything else these days, courage and strength to make it through the day without snapping out on someone or losing it over something that won't even matter 10,000 years from now. Have you...

continued...

...ever done that? Snapped out on someone and then, in regret, asked God to help you be a better person tomorrow. When Joshua was overwhelmed by all the things going wrong in his world, he asked God for help. This is what God said to Joshua, and this is what God says to us.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Easter reminds us that, each and every day, we get a fresh start. No matter how bad our world was yesterday we get a fresh start, by faith, with each brand new day. And each and every day we get to make the same choice Joshua got to make.

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods of this age or the gods and idols of materialism. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

He is Risen!

...and it makes a difference

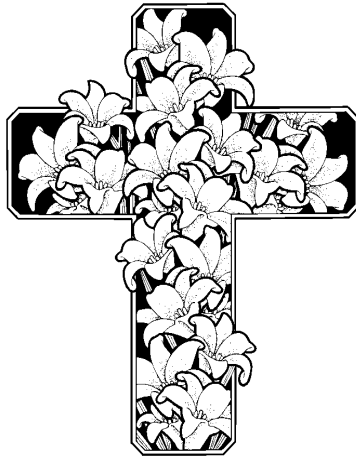
Faith, Hope, Love...

Pastor Dave



**Pastor Dave & Shelley Celebrating Five Years
of serving St. Matthew Lutheran Church**





**Remember and Honor a Loved One by
Purchasing an Easter Lily for the St. Matthew Sanctuary**

Please complete this form and return it with your payment
to the church office by Sunday April 3rd.

Cost per Easter Lily is \$8.00

Name _____



Number of Plants _____

Plant #1 in Memory of _____

Plant #2 in Memory of _____

Names of loved ones that are remembered and honored will be
recognized on Easter Sunday and in a future edition of Echoes.

Those who purchase Easter lilies may take them home with
them anytime after worship on Easter Sunday, April 17th.

	<p><i>In Joyful Celebration</i></p> <p>On March 6th we celebrated the baptism of Theo Norton, son of Kendal and Timothy Norton. May the peace of God be upon them.</p>	
	<p><i>In Sympathy</i></p> <p>We extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Anne Marie Plueger who died on March 1, 2022. May peace be upon the Plueger family</p>	



Women's Bible Studies

Second Tuesday of the month at 9:00am. Social distancing will be observed and wearing a face mask is optional.

Every Wednesday after worship at WOW a women's Bible study group will meet in the church library.

Women's Sewing Circle

Will be meeting the 2nd Wed. of each month at 1:00 pm.

Men's Bible Studies

The 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30 am, and every Thursday at 10:00 am. Face masks not required.

<p>Give thanks with a grateful heart</p> <p>Give thanks to the Holy One</p> <p>Give thanks because He's given</p> <p>Jesus Christ, His Son</p>
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	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Lent & WOW	Mar. 23	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:50 pm
Lent & WOW	Mar. 30	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:50 pm
Lent & WOW	Apr. 6	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:50 pm
Lent & WOW	Apr. 13	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:50 pm

Lenten soup supper served every Wednesday evening Mar. 2nd to April 6th.
 * Lenten supper and worship will be held on Mar. 16th, but there won't be any WOW classes after worship due to Spring Break.

Four Sacred Worship Services

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

During Holy Week

Palm Sunday	April 10	9:00 am
Lent & WOW	April 13	see above
Maundy Thurs.	April 14	6:30 pm
Easter Sunday	April 17	9:30 am

**St Matthew Lutheran Church
Council Meeting February 13th, 2022**

Call to Order

The February meeting of St Matthew Lutheran Church was called to order by DaLana Rigby. Those present were Stu Gerdes, Pastor Dave, Craig Thompson, Carolyn Dirks, Dave Titman, Pam Kray, Tara Norton, Jeff Hinrichs, DaLana Rigby and Nanci Paulsen. **Devotions** were given by Craig Thompson. **Minutes** were previously reviewed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor discussed what's been happening at St. Matthew, particularly noting the impact of Covid-19 on Sunday and WOW attendance.

Treasurer's Report: nothing to report

Jeff Hinrichs made a motion to accept the above reports and Craig Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Youth and Family Ministry: Pam Kray said the kids will be practicing the bells for Easter service.

Trustees Report: Nothing to report

Elders: Dave Titman said the Elders will be meeting the 2nd Sunday every other month opposite of the council meetings. Carolyn Dirks said she will be taking Prayer Shawls to several residents at the care center.

Deacon's Report: Nothing to report **Old Business:** No old business

New Business: The Pastor's housing allowance was reviewed. Stu Gerdes made a motion to approve the 2022 Housing Allowance; Pam Kray seconded. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was to fill council positions for the next term. DaLana Rigby agreed to stay on as Council President. Craig Thompson as Vice President, Jeff Hinrichs as Trustee, Nanci Paulsen as Elder. Jeff Hinrichs made a motion to accept the placements and Stu Gerdes seconded. Motion carried.

Next was a discussion on possible changes to our 2023 Offering Envelopes. Option #1 for 2023 Offering Envelopes: Two offering categories: St. Matthew Ministry & Building.

Option #2 for 2023 Offering Envelopes: One offering category: St. Matthew Ministry.

Option #3 for 2023 Offering Envelopes: Keep all three categories as they were in 2022 (St. Matthew Ministry, Benevolence, Building).

There was extensive discussion on the best way to make recording, tracking, and distribution of benevolence funds easier while still keeping benevolence funding active and transparent without reducing the amount of benevolence money dispersed to charitable causes.

Jeff Hinrichs made a motion to accept Option #1 with two categories, Pam Kray seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be April 10th, 2022 with Nanci Paulsen having Devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Paulsen

ASH WEDNESDAY 2022



Confirmation

Congratulations Confirmation Class of 2022

On Sunday April 24, 2022 at the 9:00 am worship service,
we'll celebrate the completion of Confirmation
for six awesome young people.

Kauree Dirks*

Derek Hardersen

Olivia Takes

Gavin Kahler

Reese Evans

Riley Evans

*Completed final portion of Confirmation at Immanuel Lutheran, Independence, IA

Lutheran Disaster Relief for Ukraine

Gifts given through ELCA will be used entirely (100%) to provide
support for people impacted by the conflict.

By Check

Make checks payable to
Lutheran Disaster Response.
Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response"
on your check's memo line
and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

By Phone

Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Oper-
ators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-
5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Online

ELCA.org or ELCA.org/disaster

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			
WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
February 20	50	71	121
February 27	49	128	177
March 6	70	58	128
February	St. Matthew Ministry	Benevolence	Building
Income	\$14,676.18	\$263.00	\$567.00
Expenses	\$11,343.10	\$5,905.82	
January 1 Balance	\$97,667.30		
February 28 Balance	\$94,869.78		
Year-to-Date			
Income	\$26,811.66	\$569.00	\$6,423.00
Expenses	\$23,703.36	\$5,905.82	

St. Matthew Church Council - 2022

President—DaLana Rigby (319) 821-1250

Vice President—Craig Thompson

Secretary—Nanci Paulsen

Treasurer—Stuart Gerdes

Board of Elders—Dave Titman

Carolyn Dirks

Nanci Paulsen

Board of Deacons—Anita Kramer

DaLana Rigby

Board of Trustees—Craig Thompson

Jeff Hinrichs

Board of Education—Pam Kray

Tara Norton

Pastor Dave Raemisch—Advisory Non-Voting Member

Tim & Tricia Lambert—Advisory Non-Voting Members

Call the Church Office at 319-465-3262 to contact the Council Members.

April & May Ushers & Communion Assistants

April Ushers: Jim & Jackie Reuter, Stuart Gerdes, Dale Jo Yousse

April Communion Assistant: Stuart Gerdes

April Altar Guild: Pam Kray

Maundy Thursday (April 14th) Ushers: Jim & Jackie Reuter

Easter Sunday (April 17th) Ushers: Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs

May Ushers: Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs, Greg Jones, Steve Goode

May Communion Assistant: Sandy Hinrichs

May Altar Guild: Pam Thompson

Please remember our members with a prayer, a card, or a visit.

Pinicon Place

1615 Breca Ridge Dr, Anamosa, IA 52205

- ♦ Lorna Rieniets 105
- ♦ Raymond Rieniets 104



Monticello Care Center

500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

- ♦ Neal Bleadorn 407
- ♦ Dorothy Norton 512
- ♦ Deb Johnson 503
- ♦ Robert Zirkelbach 505



Pennington Square, 502 Pinehaven Dr.

- ♦ Denny Joslyn 106

Individual Addresses:

Sycamore Gardens, 107 E. 9th St., Monticello, IA 52310:

John Boss	#102	Ann McNamara	#118
Jean Robison	#110	David Griffith	#122

- ♦ Darlene Gottleaber, 327 N. Gill, Monticello, IA 52310
- ♦ Gladys Tholen, 4520 Ford Ave., NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405;
Ph # (319) 390-0750
- ♦ Irene Behrends, The Views of Marion, 720 Oakbrook Dr., A216,
Marion, IA 52302
- ♦ Dan Ulferts, 1701 Meadow Ridge Dr., Apt. 37, Anamosa, IA 52205
- ♦ Bonnie Chappell 316 S. Sycamore, Monticello, IA 52310
- ♦ Kim Stadtmueller, 2005 49th St., Marion, IA 52302

Reach out to those who can't make it to church with a card or letter to show we are thinking of them.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
226 N. Cedar
Monticello, Iowa 52310

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