



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...

Christmas... why it's the most wonderful time of the year! We all have precious memories of how we celebrated Christmas as a child. If I close my eyes, for even a moment, I can almost see it: the twinkling lights on the tree, the vast array (and aroma) of wonderful foods, and all those relatives - a whole house full of them. Those were the days!

When I was a child my family celebrated Christmas over and over again, starting with a big party with lots of aunts and uncles, and cousins and friends, at my grandpa and grandma Andersons' home on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning we celebrated at my parents home, then we'd go to grandpa and grandma Raemischs' home for more food and more presents and more relatives. Those were the days!

As the years went by, and our family life got more complicated, I remember lots and lots of Christmas parties, but they weren't the same after my grandparents died. As most of you well know, celebrating Christmas is very different when grandpa and grandma are gone and someone else is living in their house.

After my grandparents were gone, we'd start by celebrating Christmas at my mother-in-law's home a few days before Christmas, then we'd have a Christmas Eve party with the Anderson side of my family. We spent Christmas morning at my parents home followed by a party at my father-in-law's home on Christmas day. Later that day we'd have another party with the Raemisch side of the family.

I missed all of our family Christmas parties for 14 years when I was away from home, living in a gated community (prison). Then, after I got out of prison, I only got to celebrate Christmas with what was left of my family a few times before telling my mom that I wouldn't be home for Christmas anymore because pastors are pretty busy at Christmas.

These days, because our families have changed so much, Shelley and I spend Christmas with Bucky (our cat). This Christmas, since we don't have many relatives around, I'm thinking we'll just spend some time with Bucky and Jesus. One of my favorite Christians songs is called "Drinking Beer with Jesus." However, for our purposes I'll substitute the word "eggnog" for the word "beer" in the lyrics of the song that follow...

continued...

Drinking ~~Bear~~ Eggnog With Jesus

Thomas Rhett

If I could have an eggnog with Jesus
Heaven knows I'd sip it nice and slow
I'd try to pick a place that ain't too crowded
Or gladly go wherever he wants to go
You can bet I'd order up a couple tall ones
And tell the waitress to put 'em on my tab
Yeah, I'd be sure to let him do the talkin'
Careful when I got the chance to ask

Tell me, how'd you turn the other cheek
To save a sorry soul like me?
Do you hear the prayers I send?
And what happens when life ends?
And when you think you're comin' back again?
Yeah, I'd tell everyone, but no one would believe it
If I could have an eggnog with Jesus

If I could have a eggnog with Jesus
Yeah, I'd put my whole paycheck in that jukebox
And I'd fill it up with nothing but the good stuff
And sit somewhere and we couldn't see a clock

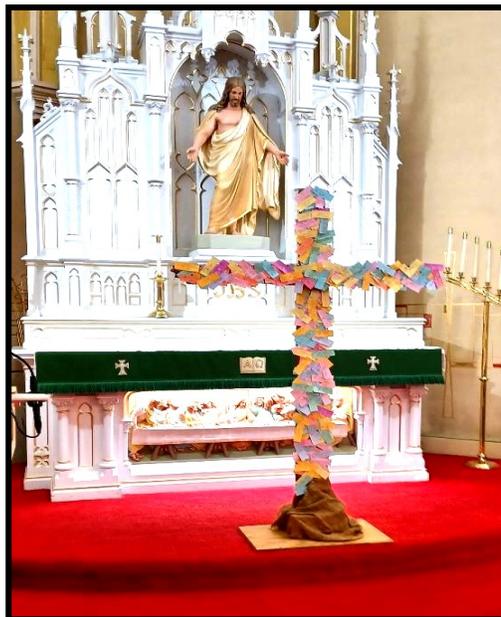
Now he can probably only stay, for just a couple rounds
But I hope and pray he's stayin' till we shut the whole place down

Ask him, how'd you turn the other cheek
To save a sorry soul like me?
What's on the other side?
Is Mom and Daddy alright?
And if it ain't no trouble, tell them I said hi
Yeah, I'd tell everyone, but no one would believe it
If I could have a eggnog with Jesus
Yeah, I'd tell everyone but no one would believe it
If I could have an eggnog with Jesus

Faith, Hope, Love...
Pastor Dave

**All Saints Day
Was Celebrated on Sunday
November 6th with Bishop
Amy Current Preaching**

Every year on All Saints Day we remember our loved ones who have died and passed on to glory before us. The names of our loved ones who have died are precious to us and hold a special place in our hearts. Here at St. Matthew, every other year, we honor our deceased loved ones in a very special way by placing a Living All Saints Day Cross in our sanctuary. We write the names of our loved ones who have died on beautiful water-colored strips of paper and pin them to our Living All Saints Day Cross. By doing that, we bring to life our precious memories of them. May God's peace be upon them. Amen.



**We Will Always
Remember, and Hold
in Our Hearts, the
Precious Memories
of Our Loved Ones
Who Have Died and
Passed on to Glory
Before Us.**



"Christmas... why it's the most wonderful time of the year!"

You can help make our sanctuary beautiful for Christmas by donating a poinsettia.

Plants will be displayed for the Christmas season, including our 3:30 & 6:00 pm Christmas Eve worship services.

This Christmas... Remember Your Loved One With a Poinsettia Donation

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with your payment by December 12th. Names will be listed in the Christmas worship bulletin and Echoes Newsletter.

Cost is \$10.00

Number of Plants _____

Given by _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

Mail this form with payment to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 226 N. Cedar St., Monticello, IA 52310 or drop it off at the church office by Dec. 12th.

Thank You!

 <p>Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship</p> <p>Candle Light Worship Service</p> <p>3:30 pm & 6:00 pm</p>
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Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022

Present: Pastor Dave, Stu Gerdes, Craig Thompson, Jeff Hinrichs
Carol Dirks, Diane Tuetken, Tricia Lambert
Craig called the meeting to order.

Pastor's Report: Although worship attendance at WOW and on Sunday is down in the aftermath of Covid-19, we're still averaging over 100 persons per week at worship. That's more than double the size of an average Lutheran church! Over 50% of the Lutheran churches in America average less than 50 persons per week in worship. There were four baptisms in September. Bishop Amy Current will be at WOW and Sunday worship in November. Bibles were handed out to kids and youth at WOW. Angie Wink has arranged for Lori Gravel to perform at WOW on Oct 26 and Nov 9.

Treasurer's Report: Stuart shared the financial report. Craig suggested moving some funds from our checking account to interest bearing CDs. This will be discussed at our Dec. council meeting.

Youth and Family Ministry Report: Tricia shared that they have created a menu to share with WOW families, as well as a food donation list. A few have signed up to help and we have received some food donations. The Youth Group checking and savings accounts will be closed and the remaining funds placed in the general fund. A Christmas program is being planned.

Trustees' Report: Nothing to report. **Elders' Report:** Nothing to report. **Deacons' Report:** Nothing to report

Old Business: Stuart called the sign company to see about replacing the glass on the sign in front of the church. The glass has become "blurry" making it hard for people to read the sign. Although the sign company is out of business, Stuart will continue to work on it. There was also discussion about replacing the carpet on the front and back steps. No action was taken.

New Business: Carol Dirks requested that we change our worship music schedule. She proposed having organ music twice a month and music from our church sound system twice a month. Pastor Dave will take Carol's suggestion to the Worship Committee for consideration.

Next Council meeting: Sunday, December 11 following worship.
Devotions for December: Pam

Please Notice This



**ST. MATTHEW
ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday Jan. 29, 2023
After Worship**



Oh Holy Night

**WOW Christmas Program
Wed. Dec. 14th
6:30 pm**

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayers please contact us at stmatthewmonticello.com or call the church office at (319) 465-3262 and we'll add you to the St. Matthew Prayer Chain. If you'd like to be part of the St. Matthew Prayer Chain please email or call us and we'll add you to the list of Prayer Chain members. Then, as prayer requests come in, you'll receive an email letting you know who to pray for.

If you, or someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact St. Matthew by email or phone call and we'll add your request to the Prayer List that's published in our Sunday Worship Bulletin. We'd love to pray for you and your loved ones, because there is power in prayer.



Women's Bible Study

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.

Men's Bible Study

The 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30 am, and every Thursday at 10:00 am. Social distancing will be observed and wearing a face mask is optional.

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son**

Pastoral Care

If you'd like a pastoral visit, either by phone or in person (at your home or at the church office) simply call or email Pastor Dave at pastordaveraemisch@gmail.com or (319) 975-0512. Please do, I'd love to visit with you!



Special Guest Preacher Sunday Nov. 27th

Rev. Dr. Ann Fritschel, Wartburg Theological Seminary Professor Emeritus will be our special guest preacher on Sunday November 27th. Please join us for this special worship service.

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What if today,
we were just
grateful for
everything?”

CHARLIE BROWN

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			
WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
October 16	44	58	102
October 23	50	66	116
October 30	37	82	119
November 6	56	64	120
October	St. Matthew Ministry	Benevolence	Building
Income	\$12,864.03	\$151.00	\$ 1,296.00
Expenses	\$ 9,155.43		
January 1 Balance	\$ 94,333.70		
September 30 Balance	\$ 85,329.29		
Year-to-Date			
Income	\$118,339.55	\$ 5,025.50	\$20,400.00
Expenses	\$117,476.32	\$12,905.82	



Thank you for your generous financial support of ministry here at St. Matthew, your church

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path.”
 (Prov. 3:5-6)

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

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Weather related church cancellations for St. Matthew can be found on KCRG.



If you can't make it to church, for any reason, our worship services are broadcast on Local Access Cable 4 every Friday at 10:00 am & Sunday at 9:00 am year-round. You can also view our worship services anytime on our church website: stmatthewmonticello.com.

December & January Ushers & Communion Assistants

December Ushers: Larry Scharff, Shelley Raemisch, DaLana Rigby, Nanci Paulsen

December Communion Assistant: Sheralyn Lahr

December Altar Guild: Pam Kray

January Ushers: Pam Kray, DaLana Rigby

January Communion Assistant: Greg Wink

January Altar Guild: Pam Kray

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

- ◆ Denny Joslyn 402
- ◆ Dorothy Norton 512
- ◆ Deb Johnson 503
- ◆ Ron Wink 502



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., D104,
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.

SEWING CIRCLE

Next gathering is December 14th at 1:00 pm in the Church Fellowship Room.
We'll continue to assemble quilts for individuals in need. Please join us.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT ORG. PERMIT
NO. 111
MONTICELLO, IOWA**

