



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...**

On Sunday April 16th we celebrated the confirmation of eleven young people. One of the requirements for confirmation is to write a personal faith statement that asks each student to answer a series of questions about their own personal faith journey. On the following two pages you'll find some beautiful and remarkable quotations taken directly from our confirmation students' faith statements.

# Confirmation

The following students were confirmed  
on Sunday April 16th at the 9:00 am worship service.



Front Row (left to right): Nevaeh Norton, Deeanna Pumphrey, Eden Devilbiss, Kaesyn Husmann, Boe Jones, Alyvia Husmann.  
Back Row (left to right) Jim Reuter, Ty King, Jack Lambert, Charly Lloyd, Taye Schmit, Parker Johnson, Pastor Dave.

## **Confirmation Students' Faith Statements**

“For me to think of myself as a follower of Jesus Christ would be to accept that I make mistakes, and cannot control my own life. A lot of people like to think that they are first and know how to control their life, but they are wrong. Accepting this makes it easier to follow Jesus. He can make the choices for me, that are the best for me, even if I think otherwise.”

“The thing I remember most about WOW is the music and how everyone dances to it and sings along. I try to share the love of God by being more kind to people.”

“I’ve grown in faith by going to WOW every week and listening to pastor preach about Jesus and how he rescued us. I’ll remember the videos the most because they taught me about Jesus. I hope that following Christ will lead me down the right path in life and help me.”

“I think one way I’ve grown in faith is that ever since I started coming to WOW I started praying everyday whether it be for myself or those that I love. I think the way I’ve learned to share the love of God is that I got some of my friends to come to WOW and join us in church. One thing I remember most from confirmation is to look for the positive things that happen during the week.”

“Faith helps me be better to the people around me. I have grown in faith by accepting God and all the things he’s done in my life. I will remember all the pastor’s jokes and the video lessons during worship.”

“What I remember most from WOW is that if you don’t want to deal with something that’s happening in your life, you can always talk to someone from church about whatever it is that’s bothering you because everyone has something not so great happening in their personal life.”

“I’ll be honest: in my life I have put my relationships, sports, and school before God, which I shouldn’t because God will be the only person to be with me through everything.”

## **Confirmation Students' Faith Statements**

"I feel I have become closer to God by learning stories about faith, the Bible, and what God does everyday. I have invited people to church and usually sit with my friends or family, but sometimes I just sit alone during worship and talk to God myself. I have been singing more in worship and enjoy confirmation class and learning from Jim."

"I've grown closer to God and learned how to be a good Christian. I especially remember being in the Christmas program when I was younger. There are still times when I put other things above faith, like music, sports, and whatever, but I'm working on making faith the most important part of my life."

"I love watching my little sister sing during worship at WOW, she dances and hops. I like watching the puppet videos, it's a different way to learn."

I have occasionally brought a friend to worship. She didn't know what we did because she hadn't been to church in a few years. She enjoys coming to WOW. What I remember most is that everyone gets included in everything. Even before being in confirmation class, as a kid you would be included."

"Because of WOW, I know for certain that God loves me no matter what and has called me by name to life in Christ because Jesus died for my sins and loves me no matter what. Jesus is the Lord of my life because there is no other God."

"Although faith is very important to me, there are times in my life when I put other things before my faith. Letting myself get worried is one of those things. Being worried and stressed over school is putting school before my faith because it's like saying God can't handle this, so I should worry and stress over it. Another way I don't put my faith first is by not hanging out with the right people. It's important to hang out with friends that have more faith than you do so they can help you grow yours, but a lot of the people I hang out with do not incorporate God into their life at all. That, to me, is not putting faith first because I care more about being friends with them than their faith."

I have grown in faith by attending church every week. What I remember most about WOW is pastor Dave's jokes and the Bible stories he tells every week."



**What a Day!**  
**Eleven Awesome Young People Confirmed.**





## **RECONFIRM AND REAFFIRM YOUR FAITH NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE**

Below you'll find 12 signs of spiritual maturity, so I have to ask:  
Do these describe you...or not so much. At St. Matthew the  
purpose of our church is to grow in faith and share the  
love of God with all people. That means we  
cherish spiritual humility and seek  
after spiritual maturity.

1. Your life is grounded in the love of God.
2. You have broken free from the power of the past.
3. You listen to your anger, sadness, and fear.
4. You slow down for Sabbath.
5. You recognize your brokenness and vulnerability.
6. You live in such a way that others see your faith.
7. You have less interest in material things.
8. You engage in conflict maturely.
9. You refuse to judge the spiritual journeys of others.
10. You let go of the need to be right.
11. You embrace endings and losses as part of a faithful life.
12. You are more grateful, gracious, and generous, and much less greedy, grumpy, and grouchy.

Faith, Hope, Love...  
Pastor Dave



## **Church Council Meeting April 16, 2023**

The April meeting of the church council was called to order by Jeff Hinrichs. Those present were Stu Gerdes, Nancy Gerdes, Diane Tuetken, DaLana Rigby, Jeff Hinrichs, Carolyn Tonn, Dave Titman, and Pam Kray. Devotions were led by Pam. Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed.

**Pastor Dave's Report.** A funeral was held on March 25th for Donald Stott, a local man who died on Dec. 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor. There were five baptisms this month and another is planned for May. Worship attendance for the last eight months averaged 66 persons per week at WOW and 51 persons per week on Sunday. Over the last 8 months, combined WOW and Sunday morning worship attendance averaged 117 persons per week. By comparison, over half of the 9,000 ELCA churches in America average less than 50 per week in worship. Eleven young people were confirmed on Sunday April 16th, a very special thanks to Jim Reuter our lead confirmation teacher. Next year WOW will start on Sept. 6th and end on April 10th. Bible Lessons during worship at WOW in 2023-2024 will focus on the people of the Bible. A very special thanks to Tim and Tricia Lambert, Angie Wink, Connie Gerdes and Pam Kray for all they do for the families of WOW.

**Treasurer's Report** (Nancy Gerdes) : February offerings were \$2,000.00 less than expenses, but March offerings were \$6,000.00 more than expenses. Thank you to those who are financially supporting our church! Direct deposit of church employees paychecks is working very well.

**Youth & Family Ministry** (Pam Kray) VBS will be in early June, date to be determined once local school schedules are set.

Stu motioned to accept reports, DaLana seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Discussed recarpeting front and back outdoor steps. The project is on-going and in process.

**New Business:** Discussed a possible outdoor playground donation to the church. If accepted, we'd likely need to spend a significant amount fencing in the playground and our liability insurance costs would likely increase. Subject was tabled for future discussion. We discussed church grounds maintenance. Cleaning and weeding of outdoor areas is becoming a problem issue that will have to be addressed. Discussed possibility of moving church worship banners from balcony area to a storage area in the nursery, which is no longer used. Will further explore that possibility. Discussed securing a portable air conditioner unit for use when Bible studies are conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Dave & Pam Kray



**WOW Children's Bell Choir  
Performs During Holy Week  
Worship Services at St. Matthew.**



**In Joyful Celebration**

We joyfully celebrated the baptism of Bryson Davis,  
Charly Lloyd, Nikoli Helgens, Alyvia Devaney, and  
Isayah Devaney on Sunday April 2, 2023.





<b>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>			
<b>WEEK OF:</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>WOW</b>	<b>TOTAL for WEEK</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>St. Matthew Ministry</b>		<b>Building</b>
Income	\$ 16,982.97		\$ 1,169.00
Expenses	\$ 10,891.07		
January 1 Balance	\$ 34,648.39		
March 31 Balance	\$ 41,323.82		
<b>Year-to-Date</b>			
Income	\$ 38,020.34		\$ 3,457.00
Expenses	\$ 31,344.97		

### **April & May Ushers & Communion Assistants**

**May Ushers:** Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs, Steve Goode

**May Communion Assistant:** Pam Kray

**May Altar Guild:** Pam Thompson

**June Ushers:** DaLana Rigby, Stephanie Pumphrey

**June Communion Assistant:** Nanci Paulsen

**June Altar Guild:** Grace Zimmerman



### **Women's Bible Studies**

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

### **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.



## Easter Lily Memorials

Thank you to the following  
people for donating Easter Lilies.



- In memory of Denny Dirks, Wm Eugene Dirks, and Russell Dirks from Rosie Dirks Hendricks.
- In memory of Shirley Hearn, Mark Hearn, Margaret Hoag, and Phil Tuetken from Roger Hearn.
- In memory of Vernon & Loretta Chapman and Frederick & Kathryn Rieniets from Warren & Kathy Rieniets.
- In memory of John Koch and Ray Kleinow from Ruth Kleinow.
- In memory of F. Dean Anderson, Phillip J. Anderson and Daniel J. Anderson from Mark Dirks Family.
- In memory of F. Dean Anderson, Phillip J. Anderson and Daniel J. Anderson From Louise M. Anderson.
- In memory of our departed loved ones from Ray & Lorna Rieniets.
- In memory of Judie Ortgies from Dennis Ortgies.
- In memory of Ron Raemisch and Tom & Ena Mae Gille and from Pastor Dave and Shelley Raemisch.
- In memory of Charlie Tonn, and Tonn & Czizek families from Carolyn Tonn.
- In memory of our family and friends who have gone before us from Gaylen & Pam Kray.
- In memory of Ed Simon, Otto & Lovelda Thielen, and Edward & Mildred Simon from LaFonda Simon.
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jake Paulsen and Mrs. & Mrs. Paul Martensen from Janice Woodroffe.
- In memory of Ralph & Rena Otten, Gerd & Bertha Hanssen and Don Hanssen from Shirley Hanssen
- In memory of Mom, Dad, Gaylen & Sharon from Diane Tuetken.
- In memory of Dave Paulsen from Nanci Paulsen.
- In memory of Loved Ones from Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs.
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ehlts and Nicholas Eby from Jeanette Elkin.
- In memory of Ron & Mary Wink from Greg & Angie Wink.
- In memory of Learow & Meta Tobiason and August & Loretta Dirks from Loren & Barbara Dirks.
- In memory of Bonnie Tapken from Don & Phyllis Tapken.
- In memory of Dale Zimmerman, Lorenz & Loretta Zimmerman and Glenn & Bernice Behrends from Grace Zimmerman.
- In memory of Our Parents from Dan & Sheralyn Lahr.
- In memory of James Peterson, Bill & Rachel Griffith and Merle Griffith from Diana Peterson.
- In memory of Mike Martinsen from Diane Martinsen.
- In memory of David Paulsen, Byrdena & John Boysen from Heidi & Gary Boysen & family.

**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 506
- ♦ Deb Johnson 503

**Pennington Square**

502 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

- ♦ Mary Tschantz 101

**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
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Donna Joslyn, River Bend Retirement Community, 813 Tyler St., NE, Cascade, IA 52033

## **Vacation Bible School Is Back**

**Everyone Is Welcome!**

**VBS Is Free For All Who Attend**

**VBS Is Happening In June**

**Check For Dates & Times on Our Facebook Page**

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