



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



# 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**This is the year that I will...**

## **A message from Pastor Dave...**

### **2023 Annual Report Pastor David Raemisch**

As the world turns, and changes in ways that most of us never could have imagined when we were younger, this much I know for sure: St. Matthew Lutheran church is walking in the light of Christ as never before. God is most certainly pleased with the beautiful reality that grace lives here at St. Matthew. We are driven by love, not by law. Grace matters here!

February 15<sup>th</sup> will mark my seventh year serving as your pastor. As I reflect upon the past seven years, three things stand out: First, there are lots of kids having lots of fun learning about God and growing in faith at WOW. When I got here there were no kids coming to worship at Saint Matthew, but now we have a bunch of kids participating in worship at WOW; Second, our church is becoming ever more grateful, gracious, and generous. Thanks be to God, we're not quite as greedy, grumpy, and grouchy as we were a while ago; Third, with the passing of each year, it gets more and more difficult for me to preside at funerals.

When I first got here, in 2017, I barely knew the people whose funerals I conducted, but lately it's been hard to say goodbye to so many dedicated and devoted members of our church. In the last seven years we've lost so many members that I sometimes wonder what it would be like to look out from the pulpit as I'm preaching and see Nancy Marsh, Marv Wink, Charlie Tonn, Don & Ardis Hagen, Irene Mardorf, Dave Pluger, Berniece Like, Norm & Betty Hinrichs, Ray Rieniets, Milly Hinrichs, Armin Jacobs, Dilly Wennkamp, Mike Martinsen, Dave Paulsen, Ron & Mary Wink, Dale Zimmerman, Loren Freese, Denny & Suzzane Joslyn, Gladys Tholen, Fred & Fran Iben, Art Kromminga and so many others all together again at church. In my mind's eye, I can almost picture them sitting in church, full of life, and worshipping the Lord during a service here at St. Matthew. Many of you know exactly where they used to sit during worship, and after seven years here, so do I.

Over the years, the world has changed dramatically, and things aren't quite what they used to be here at St. Matthew. We all know that for quite some time we've had an aging congregation. As time marches on, and...

...our church inevitably declines, financial concerns are bound to surface. The years ahead will be challenging, but along the way never forget that God is still here, moving in our church and in our lives. We love and serve the living Lord - the God of all our days. I'd like to close my 2023 annual report by sharing with you some of the lyrics from the song "Way Maker." It goes like this:

"You are here, Moving in our midst. We worship you. We worship you.  
You are here, Working in this place. We worship you. We worship you.  
Way maker, Miracle worker, Promise keeper, Light in the darkness,  
Our God, That is who you are.

You are here, Touching every heart. We worship you. We worship you.  
You are here, Healing every heart. We worship you. We worship you.  
You are here, Turning lives around. We worship you. We worship you.  
You are here, Mending every heart. We worship you. We worship you.  
Way maker, Miracle worker, Promise keeper, Light in the darkness.  
That is who you are; We worship you.

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Faith, Hope, Love...  
Pastor Dave

### **January & February Ushers & Communion Assistants**

**January Ushers:** Pam Kray, DaLana Rigby

**January Communion Assistant:** Greg Wink

**January Altar Guild:** Pam Kray

**February Ushers:** Greg Wink, Jim & Jackie Reuter, Nanci Paulsen

**February Communion Assistant:** DaLana Rigby

**February Altar Guild:** Pam Kray



### **In Sympathy**

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the  
family of Dennis Joslyn who died on  
Wednesday, November 29, 2023



**St Matthew Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting December 17, 2023**

**Call to Order**

The December meeting of St Matthew was called to order by Jeff Hinrichs. Those present were Stu Gerdes, Carolyn Dirks, Pastor Dave, Carolyn Tonn, Jeff Hinrichs, Dave Titman, Diane Tuetken, DaLana Rigby, Nancy Gerdes, Tricia Lambert and Nanci Paulsen. Also present was Marty Scharff

**Devotions** were given by Nanci Paulsen.

Marty Scharff presented a report on the condition of the pipe organ and the repairs that are recommended. After much discussion it was decided to put on the agenda for the annual meeting.

**Minutes** were previously reviewed. It was noted that Carolyn Tonn's name was missing from those present at the October Council meeting.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor highlighted things that have been happening here at St. Matthew. Lent runs from February 14<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup> with Easter on March 31. Next year Jim Reuter and Jeff Hinrichs will be leading worship on two of the Sundays when Pastor is on vacation, and David Goode will lead worship on another Sunday.

**Treasurer's Report:** reviewed

**Board of Education:** Tricia said the Children's program will be Wednesday evening December 20 at 6:00. This year WOW service features lessons on The Important People of the Bible.

**Elder's Report:** Carolyn Dirks reported there is still a need for volunteers for giving communion for the homebound. Stu Gerdes made a motion to accept the above reports as presented, Carolyn Dirks seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** NTR

**New Business:** Pastor Dave's Housing Allowance for 2024 was approved and signed by Jeff Hinrichs. Discussion was had on how much to give to the SE-IA Synod in 2024. It was decided that it would be looked at when working on the 2024 budget. Stu Gerdes made a motion to accept the Endowment Fund Allocations as presented with Carolyn Dirks seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan Lahr will be going on as a member of the Endowment Committee.

The following people will be finishing their terms on the church council at the annual meeting in January, Nanci Paulsen, Dave Titman, Pam Kray and Jeff Hinrichs. All have agreed to stay on for another term. The annual meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> following the church service. DaLana Rigby made a motion to adjourn and Stu Gerdes seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Nanci Paulsen



### **Poinsettias Given In Loving Memory**

**In memory of Dennis Arduser from Jean Arduser**  
**In memory of John Koch and Ray Kleinow from Ruth Kleinow**  
**In memory of Ron Raemisch and Thomas & Ena Mae Gille from Pastor  
Dave & Shelley Raemisch**  
**In memory of Ed Simon, Otto & Lovelda Thielen, Edward & Mildred  
Simon from LaFonda Simon**  
**In memory of Frederick & Kathryn Rieniets and Vernon & Loretta  
Chapman from Warren & Kathy Rieniets**  
**In memory of Ron & Mary Wink from Mike & Pam Wink**  
**In memory of Shirley Hearn, Mark Hearn, Margaret Hoag, Phil Tuetken  
from Roger Hearn**  
**In memory of Dorothy & Marvin Jansen from Vicki Edwards &  
Greg Jansen**  
**In memory of Bob & Celeste Gerdes; Gilbert, Lois & Wendy Hearn;  
Hannah First; Mickey from Merle & Nancy Gerdes**  
**In memory of Ron & Mary Wink; Milton Hughes; Kathleen Hoagland  
from Greg & Angie Wink**  
**In memory of Judie Ortgies & Emil Ortgies from Dennis Ortgies**  
**In memory of Aaron McAtee & Holly Iben, may they rest in peace from  
Gaylen & Pam Kray**  
**In memory of the Charlie Tonn and other Tonn & Czizek family  
members from Carolyn Tonn**  
**In memory of Mom & Dad, Gaylan & Sharon from Diane Tuetken**  
**In memory of all who help at church from Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs**  
**In honor of Loved Ones from Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs**  
**In memory of James Peterson; Bill & Rachel Griffith, Merle Griffith  
from Diana Peterson and the Griffith Family**  
**In memory of Armin Jacobs from Betty Jacobs and Elton & Arminda  
Townsend**  
**In memory of Albert & Marie Fass; Patricia Fass, Gladys Tholen and  
Henry W. & Sophia Jacobs from Betty Jacobs and Elton &  
Arminda Townsend.**  
**In memory of Lorenz & Loretta Zimmerman; Glenn & Bernice  
Behrends; & Dale Zimmerman from Grace Zimmerman**

continued...

## Poinsettias Given In Loving Memory

In memory of my Son Bill; Great Grandson; Parents; One Brother;  
3 Sisters from Helen Heiken

In memory of Dave Paulsen from Nanci Paulsen

In memory of Matt Pumphrey; Cal Woodard; Morgan & Ann Hyde;  
Dee Ann Pumphrey from Families of Delores Woodard &  
Stephanie Pumphrey

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ehltz; Nicholas Eby from Jeanette &  
Michael Elkin

In memory of Mike Martinsen from Diane Martinsen

In memory of Maxine Current Eby & Our Parents from  
Harold Eby

In memory of Roger Busch; Cary Busch; Fred & Elizabeth Busch;  
Geraldine & Irven Pithan from Regena Busch

In memory of Our Parents from Dan & Sheralyn Lahr

In memory of Louie & Minnie Tapken; Bonnie Tapken from Don &  
Phyllis Tapken

In memory of Delphine Wennekamp from Donna Ulferts

In memory of Our Parents & other Loved Ones & Friends from Rex &  
Sara Struve

In memory of Our Family from Jim & Joan Berends

In memory of August & Loretta Dirks, Learow & Meta Tobiason from  
Loren & Barbara Dirks

In memory of Our Parents, Bruce & Barb Klein; Harry & Norma Shady  
from Jeff & Julie Klein

In honor of our children, Jeremy, Alex, Kendra & Miranda from Jeff &  
Julie Klein

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

<u>WEEK OF:</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>WOW</u>	<u>TOTAL for WEEK</u>
November 12	48	65	113
November 19	60	No WOW	60
November 26	42	61	103
December 3	48	59	107
November	St. Matthew Ministry		Building
Income	\$ 7,620.12		\$ 1,077.00
Expenses	\$ 12,815.59		
January 1 Balance	\$ 34,648.39		
November 30 Balance	\$ 22,065.25		
Year-to-Date			
Income	\$131,905.12		\$13,257.00
Expenses	\$144,488.26		

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

**Monticello Care Center**  
500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

- ♦ 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 Joslin, River Bend Retirement Community, 813 Tyler St., NE, Cascade, IA 52033

**2024 OFFERING  
ENVELOPES**

**Are now available!**

**Please pick up your 2024 Offering Envelopes in the Narthex**

**Women's Bible Studies**

Second Tuesday of the month at  
9:00am.

**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.

**NOTICE**

**ST. MATTHEW  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday Jan. 28, 2024  
After Worship**

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

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