

February  
2024



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



Happy Valentine's  
Day!

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

Ready or not here it comes—the most significant and sacred season of the church year will quickly be upon us. The season of Lent and Holy Week are happening early than usual this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 14th (Valentines Day), Palm Sunday on March 24th, and Easter Sunday on March 31st.

As we move into the most sacred season of the church calendar, it's a perfect time to reflect upon who we are and our place in God's world. Most of us don't give nearly enough thought to who we are and our place in God's world until it's too late. We're so busy living our lives that we don't take time to ponder who we are and God's purpose for our lives.

However, as a pastor I frequently find myself facing hard realities about life and death and the short time that we have before we fly away. For example, every time that I prepare funeral services I put together worship bulletins that contain the names of those who have died.

Most recently, it was our beloved Denny Joslyn who flew away to be with the Lord. In preparing Denny's funeral bulletin, I used a bulletin template that I last used for Art Kromminga's funeral. The power of the moment overwhelmed me as I deleted Art's name from the funeral bulletin template and replaced it with Denny's name. Tears welled in my eyes as I faced the loss of Art and Denny as well as my own mortality.

That... is a big part of what Lent is all about. During funerals, we say the sacred and holy words, "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust" at graveside committal services as our loved ones are lowered into their graves. During the season of Lent we mark a cross of ash on our foreheads and say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

But death cannot hold the children of God, and so comes Easter morning promising us that the best is yet to come. I do believe that, one fine day, I'll see Art and Denny again. I do believe that our faith, our hope, and our love reach far beyond the grave. Come spend Ash Wednesday with God in the house of the Lord called St. Matthew. Come walk with Jesus during the season of Lent, and prepare yourself for Easter morning and the best news ever.

Faith, Hope, Love...

Pastor Dave

# Lent



## Lenten Worship Services

	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Ash Wed.	Feb. 14	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Lent & WOW	Feb. 21	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Lent & WOW	Feb. 28	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Lent & WOW	Mar. 6	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Lent*	Mar. 13	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	no classes
Lent & WOW	Mar. 20	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Palm Sunday	Mar. 24			
WOW**	Mar. 27	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Easter Sunday	Mar. 31			

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten soup supper served every Wed. evening Feb. 14th to Mar. 20th.

\*Lenten soup supper and worship will be held on Mar. 13th, but there won't be any WOW classes after worship due to Spring Break.

\*\*Regular WOW meal, worship, and classes on March 27th.

INCLEMENT  
WEATHER  
INFORMATION



**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](http://stmatthewmonticello.com).

**2023 - 2024**  
**Church Budget Summary**  
**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**2023**

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Budget = \$145,417.95 (2023 Budget did not include Benevolence)  
Offering Income = \$146,763.49  
Expenses = \$157,861.99 (2023 expenses include Benevolence  
giving of \$8,250.00)  
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Net Operating Loss \$11,098.50

**2024**

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Proposed Budget = \$153,917.95

The proposed 2024 budget includes a \$2000.00 increase in Pastor Dave's health insurance and pension expenses, a \$1,000 increase in gas heating expenses, a \$500.00 increase in church office phone and internet expenses, and the addition of \$5,000.00 in Benevolence expenses. Benevolence expenses were not included in the 2023 budget.



Thank you for your generous support of ministry at St. Matthew!

# Proposed 2024 Church Budget

(To be voted on at our January 28 annual meeting)

	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
<b>PASTOR EXPENSES</b>		
Pastor's Salary	\$23,102.50	\$23,102.50
Housing Allowance	\$37,344.00	\$37,344.00
ELCA Health Ins. & pension	\$25,000.00	\$27,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Pulpit Supply Pastor	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Pastoral Expenses	<b>\$86,446.50</b>	<b>\$88,446.50</b>

\*Pastor Dave's 2024 pay (\$60,446.50 / year) equals salary and housing allowance combined.

## OFFICE MAINT/ADMIN EXP.

Church Secretary Salary	\$ 10,103.45	\$10,103.45
Janitor	\$ 8,268.00	\$ 8,229.00
Organist	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00
Employee Payroll Tax	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Copier & Computer Exp	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Church Electric	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Church Water	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Church Gas	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Church Phone & Interne	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total Office Maint/Admin Exp.	<b>\$41,071.45</b>	<b>\$42,571.45</b>

## YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Director Salary	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 8,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Scholarships	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Youth & Christian Ed	<b>\$13,700.00</b>	<b>\$13,700.00</b>

## WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EXP.

Worship & Altar Guild	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Convention	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Total Worship & Fello. Exp.	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>

## BENEVOLENCE

\$ 0.00 \$ 5,000.00

Benevolence not listed  
in 2023 Budget

<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$145,417.95</b>	<b>\$153,917.95</b>
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Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.  
(1 Corinthians 13)

## **February & March Ushers & Communion Assistants**

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

**February Communion Assistant:** DaLana Rigby

**February Altar Guild:** Pam Kray

**March Ushers:** Jim Eby, Cliff Mardorf, Dan Lahr, Craig Thompson

**March Communion Assistant:** Pam Kray

**March Altar Guild:** Pam Kray

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

<b>WEEK OF:</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>WOW</b>	<b>TOTAL for WEEK</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>December 17</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>166</b>	No Wow	<b>166</b>
<b>December 31</b>	<b>43</b>	No Wow	<b>43</b>
<b>January 7</b>	<b>50</b>	No Wow	<b>50</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>St. Matthew Ministry</b>		<b>Building</b>
Income	\$ 14,858.37		\$ 936.00
Expenses	\$ 13,373.73		
January 1 Balance	\$ 34,648.39		
November 30 Balance	\$ 23,549.89		
<b>Year-to-Date</b>			
Income	\$146,763.49		\$14,193.00
Expenses	\$157,861.99		

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

**Anamosa Care Center**

1209 E 3rd St, Anamosa, IA 52205

♦ Don Monk 403

**Monticello Care Center**

500 Pinchaven, Monticello, IA 52310

♦ Dorothy Norton 506

♦ Deb Johnson 503

**Pennington Square**

502 Pinchaven, Monticello, IA 52310

♦ Mary Tschantz 101

**Individual Addresses:**

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

John Boss #102

Jean Robison #110

Ann McNamara #118

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

## GOD IS LOVE

**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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