

March
2024



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

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



Do You Know Him?

Easter Worship

Sun. March 31

9:00 am

A message from Pastor Dave...

The season of Lent is a perfect time for reflection. As I contemplate the cross, two things come to mind. First, the radically transformational power of grace; and second, the counter-cultural nature of the cross.

It's hard for most of us mainstream, middle-class Christians to fully grasp how radically counter-cultural the cross of Jesus Christ really was, and still is today. Most of us are not very comfortable with thoughts, words, and deeds that run contrary to our deep seated social, political, and cultural comfort zones. And, given how things are in the world today, we often feel overwhelmed and anxious, sometimes even unsafe. One author described the world like this.

It is self-evident that the world is more wicked and immoral than it has ever been before. There is no good government, no true faith, no fidelity, no obedience - only selfish perversity and people in need of correction. The world is full of suffering, shame, misery, and unfaithfulness because so many people want to be free of all authority, and do whatever they please, no matter who it hurts. Children and people of all ages are wild and out of control.

That is how Martin Luther described the world 500 years ago! The book of Ecclesiastes provides perspective: *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun (Ecc.1:9).*

Thank God for the radically transformational power of grace; for by it even the least of us, and even the worst of us, can experience radical renewal, recovery, restoration, and revitalization.

If you've ever seen a person's life changed by faith, then you know the power of grace. If you've ever prayed for someone who desperately needs a new attitude and approach to life, there's only one thing that can help them - the radically transformational power of grace.

I thank God for the overflowing and abundant grace that I've experienced in my life, and I pray that your life may be filled with the love and grace of God as well. He Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!

Faith, Hope, Love...
Pastor Dave

Lent



Lenten & Holy Week 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		9:00 am	
WOW**	Mar. 27	5:30 pm	6:15 pm	6:45 pm
Maundy Thurs.	Mar. 28		6:00 pm	
Easter Sunday	Mar. 31		9:00 am	

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.



**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.

St Matthew Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting January 29th, 2024

Called to Order by President Jeff Hinrichs. The annual meeting was held on Jan. 29th, 2024 following morning services (39 members present). Pastor opened with prayer.

Minutes: The minutes from the 2023 annual meeting were reviewed. Merle Gerdes made a motion to accept the minutes and Kathy Gerdes seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave highlighted key events that happened during the last year. Pastor also expressed appreciation to our council members for their service, and noted that he has now been serving as our pastor for 7 years. He reported that, in that time, we have lost many dedicated and devoted church members to illness and death.

President's Report: Jeff Hinrichs expressed the appreciation to all the staff, volunteers, and members of St. Matthews Lutheran Church for the success of 2023.

Board of Elders: Carolyn Dirks reported that homebound communion is going well. People receiving the communion appreciate the fellowship with the people visiting.

Board of Deacons: Nine charities received \$300.00 each from Benevolence: Austin Strong Foundation; Friends of the Library; Avenue of Flags; Sleep in Heavenly Peace; Monticello Senior Dining; ELCA Disaster Relief; ELCA Global Relief; Monticello Shop with Cop; and, the Monticello Food Pantry. An additional \$150.00 each went to Advancement Services of Monticello and Systems Unlimited of Monticello.

Board of Trustees: Jeff Hinrichs reported that the church sign in front of the church had the clear panels replaced with new lexan. The carpet was replaced on the front steps and the education unit entry. The third AC unit was added for the sanctuary. Also railings were added to the elevator entrance.

Youth Ministry: The report was reviewed. Trisha Lambert highlighted that the Youth Program had a great 2023 year.

WELCA Report: Reviewed. It was a great year with an excellent Fall Dinner!

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented and reviewed.

Endowment Fund: Report was reviewed. **Memorial Fund:** Report was reviewed. Stu Gerdes made a motion to accept the above reports as presented. Merle Gerdes seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: The 2024 budget was reviewed; Jeff Hinrichs described changes from last years budget. DaLana Rigby made a motion to accept the 2024 budget as presented. Deb Kuhn seconded. Motion carried. Next on the agenda was the topic of organ repair. After discussion, and in consideration of limited organist availability and our church's financial situation, it was decided not to spend the substantial amount of money required for repairs (over \$34,000.00). We will use the organ for as long as we can, then for the long-term good of the church we will explore purchasing a high quality key board that can be used with our sound system (est. cost \$3,000.00). Stu Gerdes made a motion to adjourn and Carolyn Dirks seconded. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Paulsen
Council Secretary

St Matthew Lutheran Church **Special Budget Meeting** **January 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hinrichs.
Those present were Nancy Gerdes, Carolyn Dirks, Carolyn Tonn, Dave Titman, Jeff Hinrichs, Stu Gerdes, Diane Tuetken, DaLana Rigby, Pastor, Pam Kray and Nanci Paulsen.
Devotions were given by Jeff Hinrichs.

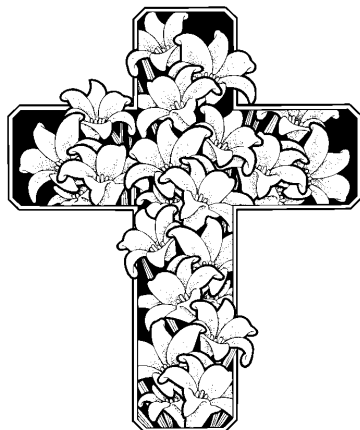
New Business: The 2024 budget was presented and reviewed. Carolyn Tonn raised several questions on some of the lines and there was discussion on how the budget committee came up with those figures. Stu Gerdes made a motion to approve the 2024 budget and Carolyn Dirks seconded. Motion carried.

Nancy Gerdes stated that the \$50,000.00 CD is up for renewal. DaLana Rigby made a motion to renew the CD for another year with interest being rolled over. Dave Titman seconded. Motion carried.
Next on the agenda were the organ repairs that were recommended. After much discussion, it was decided to not move forward at this time and bring up the repairs at the annual meeting. Dave Titman made a motion to table the organ repairs and Pam Kray seconded. Motion carried.
Stu Gerdes made a motion to adjourn and Nanci Paulsen seconded.
Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Paulsen
Council Secretary

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			
WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
January 14	Cancelled	42	42
January 21	37	42	79
January 28	51	63	114
February 4	55	54	109
February 11	47	79	126
January	St. Matthew Ministry		Building
Income	\$ 8,079.22		\$ 873.00
Expenses	\$11,979.27		
January 1 Balance	\$ 23,549.89		
January 31 Balance	\$ 19,649.84		
Year-to-Date			
Income	\$ 8,079.22		\$ 873.00
Expenses	\$11,979.27		

Easter Lily Memorials



The Easter Season is drawing near, so we're inviting you to help enhance the beauty of our church by providing an Easter Lily for display.

The cost per Easter lily is \$10.00.

Please fill in the following form and return it with your money to the church office by March 25th.

Those who purchase Easter lilies may take them home with them after the Easter Sunday worship service.

Thanks for your help.

Name _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

Number of plants _____

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 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
- ♦ Sharon Kromminga, Grand Living At Indian Creek, 325 Collins Rd., SE, #434, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

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.

March & April Ushers & Communion Assistants

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

March Communion Assistant: Pam Kray

March Altar Guild: Pam Kray

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

April Communion Assistant: Stuart Gerdes

April Altar Guild: Pam Kray

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

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