

May
2024



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

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



"April Showers Bring May Flowers"

**The
Grass Withers
And
The Flowers Fade,
But
The Word of God
Stands Forever**

(Isaiah 40:8)

A message from Pastor Dave...

On Sunday April 14th, we celebrated the confirmation of six young people. The theme for the day was: "If I Told You My Story 52 Years From Now." Fifty-two years ago - in 1972 - Rev. Naig was the pastor here at St. Matthew and twenty-three young people got confirmed that year. In 1972 over three-hundred people attending worship every Sunday. By comparison, we only have about sixty people at worship on any given Sunday, these days. The world has changed a lot in fifty-two years! I wonder what the world will be like 52 years from now, in 2076.

Fifty-two years ago - in 1972 - I got confirmed at St. Lukes Lutheran Church in Middleton, WI. On the day that I got confirmed, I never could have imagined that my life would turn out the way it has. In some ways it's been much better than I ever could have imagined; in some ways, much worse. Right now, take a moment to think about the best and worst days of your own life; then ponder how differently things have turned out compared to what you might have imagined when you were only fourteen years old.



Pictured from left to right, Landon Stogdill, Emma Hardersen, Anicka Kahler, Addie Norton, Pastor Dave Raemisch, Paige Pumphrey, and Mackylie Marlowe

During the Confirmation celebration I challenged those being confirmed to think about who they will be fifty-two years from now. I then told...

Continued...

...them exactly what God expects from them during the next fifty-two years of their lives. Indeed, this is what God expects from each of us. The prophet Micah said. “This is what the Lord requires of you—seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

As regards those who were confirmed this year, we hope and pray that, no matter where life takes them in the next fifty-two years, the seeds of faith planted during their years at WOW will be with them through thick and thin as their lives unfold. Below you’ll find a few excerpts from the Faith Statements our confirmation students completed.

Confirmation Faith Statement Excerpts

During my time at WOW and Confirmation class I learned a lot. By attending worship so often my faith is stronger and I learned how to share the love of God with all people.

Confirmation and WOW have helped me better understand different kinds of people. I have learned that some people aren’t very kind, caring or nice, but I should still do my best to be kind, caring, and patient with them.

One of my favorite memories of WOW is how Pastor Dave would dress up for Halloween, I loved his costumes!

I have grown in faith a lot because of WOW and Confirmation. When WOW first started I wasn’t sure I was going to like it, but as the years went by I have learned many things about faith. As I got older, I lost a little bit of my faith, but going to confirmation helped me gain it back.

I have become closer to God since I’ve been going to church more, and I have a better understanding of the work of God and how to share the love of God.

I think God loves me because if he didn’t he wouldn’t have helped me through everything that I’ve been through. Jesus is the Lord of my life because He just is!

Being a person of faith means I always look for Jesus, not just when I need him the most, but all the time throughout my day. Faith helps me push forward through the daily struggles.

Continued...

Confirmation Faith Statements Continued

During hard times, I pray to God to help me get through it, which I never used to do before. To share the love of God with all people, I show compassion and pray for others when I know they are struggling or just need a little happiness in their life.

I remember watching the video lessons during worship at WOW then talking about them after worship. We learned how to relate them to our own lives.

I do believe that God loves me and has called me by name to life in Christ. By going to WOW and Confirmation class, I know I can trust and depend on God when I need Him.

I try to be grateful, gracious, and generous. I'm not always like that, but I try. Sometimes I am greedy, grumpy, and grouchy, but everyone is like that sometimes. I try not to be that way.

Faith helps me through life by knowing I can pray to God and he will lead me through things and help me make good decisions. I get so much out of faith because I know I always have someone I can trust and talk to when I have no one else.

During my time in Confirmation I've learned that God loves me no matter what.

It means a lot for me to think of myself as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Our lives are a journey, a long haul with many peaks and valleys along the way. The fact is, those who have learned to trust and count on God are in a much better position to cope with whatever life throws at them. That's why we are a church! That's our mission—to grow in faith and share the love of God with all people, so they can learn to love and trust God!

Faith, Hope, Love...
Pastor Dave





If you'd like a pastoral visit please contact Pastor Dave at (319) 975-0512 or by email at pastordaveraemisch@gmail.com

I'd love to visit with you about life and faith at your convenience, either in your home or at my office here at church.
So let's get together.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			
WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
March 24	50	61	111
March 31	99	71	170
April 7	44	70	114
April 14	126	48	174
March	St. Matthew Ministry		Building
Income	\$13,302.56		\$ 1,359.00
Expenses	\$11,210.56		
January 1 Balance	\$ 23,549.89		
March 31 Balance	\$ 22,124.54		
Year-to-Date			
Income	\$33,886.18		\$ 2,977.00
Expenses	\$35,311.53		

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



VBS is Back!

All Are Welcome!

VBS Is Free For All Who Attend

(Free Will Donations Accepted)

Vacation Bible School

June 10th-13th

Time 9:00am—12:30pm

Snacks & lunch provided

Preschool Class: 3 yrs. to entering kindergarten.

Elementary Group: K to entering 6th grade

Tricia Lambert
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
226 N. Cedar St.
Monticello, IA 52310
319-480-0276

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 Pinhaven, Monticello, IA 52310

- ◆ Mary Tschantz 208
- ◆ Dorothy Norton 506

Pennington Square

502 Pinhaven, Monticello, IA 52310

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
- ◆ Deb Johnson, 104 Wilson Ct., Apt. #14, Anamosa, IA 52205

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.

May & June Ushers & Communion Assistants

May Ushers: Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs, Steve Goode

May Communion Assistant: Pam Kray

May Altar Guild: Pam Thompson

June Ushers: DaLana Rigby

June Communion Assistant: Nanci Paulsen

June Altar Guild: Grace Zimmerman

**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**

