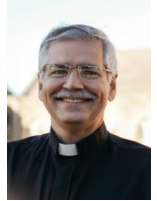


September
2024



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

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



You Are Welcome Here!

A Message From Pastor Dave...

Fall officially begins on Sunday, September 22nd at 7:44 am, just a little while before our 9:00 am worship service. As we leave Summer behind, and move toward Winter, I'm wondering about your favorite season, and why you like that time of year.

My favorite season used to be Fall, but not for the reason that some of you may suspect. I really wasn't that much of a college football fan earlier in my life, because I was always so busy hunting from September to December. I loved being in God's great outdoors, experiencing the wonders of nature in Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Alaska, and the Northwest Territories over the years. Those were some great trips, adventures that filled my soul and satisfied my craving for... for what?

Over the years, I've told friends and family that when I was on those hunting trips, I never felt more alive. What makes you feel most alive? All year long I looked forward to, and lived for, those great adventures. It was my passion in life, and then it was gone. My car accident made me a felon, so I am no longer allowed to possess or use firearms. My great hunting adventures came to an end so quickly, and so unexpectedly, that I still haven't gotten over the pain of losing something that I loved so much. And, I also have to deal with the reality that it was my own sin that caused my loss.

Most of you know what it's like to experience a devastating loss. Many of you have experienced traumatic losses in your lives, events that crushed your soul and left you aching for what you lost. That includes such things as the pain and discomfort of death, disease, disability, divorce, job loss, and on it goes. No matter the cause, when our lives are forever changed by loss we have a choice to make. In each and every crises we face, there is a good and godly way to respond and an ungodly way to respond. The defining moments of our lives set us on one path or the other.

I thank God that my Lutheran heritage and upbringing gave me a foundation of faith to draw upon when my own sin (my car accident) led to a catastrophe that devastated two families. In prison, I had a choice to make: to turn away from God or toward God. We all know people who turned away from God when they had nowhere else to turn, and we all know people who turned toward God when they had nowhere else to turn.

continued...

continued...

The main job of the church is to plant seeds of faith, giving people something to hold on to that is bigger than themselves and bigger than whatever passions drive their lives. Hunting and fishing were the driving passions of my life from childhood to middle-age. Today, most kids are driven by their passion for volleyball, basketball, baseball, football, dance, gymnastics, wrestling, and so many more.

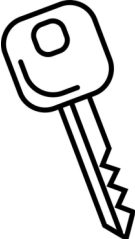
However, as their lives unfold sooner or later the day will come, as it does for all of us, when all hell breaks loose in their lives. On that day, all the trophies and ribbons won in sports and dance competitions won't mean a thing! Where will they turn, and what or who will they count on then?

That is why we are church. And that is why, in spite of all the challenges we face as a church trying to survive and thrive in the modern world, we carry on with the mission God gave us: to grow in faith and share the love of God with all people. This Summer we had over 50 children participate in Vacation Bible School, and worship at WOW always has a bunch of kids singing great Christian songs and learning about God as their faith grows. We are thankful that Tricia, Tim, Pam, Angie, and Treva teach wonderful, life changing Bible lessons at WOW & VBS.

So, in spite of how hard it is to be church in this messed up postmodern world, I say - fear not, what we are doing here at St. Matthew matters! That's why we do it. Thank you for your support of God's work here at St. Matthew, you are making a difference!

Faith, Hope,
Love...
Pastor Dave





**Please Return Church Keys
That Are Not Being Used**

Over the years, many keys to the church have been distributed. If you have one and don't need it anymore please return it to the church office. They are Square like the key at the left.



*The Fall Dinner is right
around the corner!*



**Many hands
make light work**



**A Big
THANK
YOU!**





**Many thanks to those
who were able to come
and help prepare the
corn for the Fall Dinner!**



**IMPORTANT
SCHEDULE
CHANGE!!**

**September & October
Holy Communion Schedule**

Holy Communion will be celebrated
on Sept. 1st and Sept. 22nd, and
Oct. 13th & Oct. 20th.

**TRUST
IN THE
LORD**
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.
IN ALL YOUR
WAYS
SUBMIT
TO HIM,
AND HE WILL
MAKE YOUR
PATHS
STRAIGHT.
PROVERBS 3:5-6

WOW Starts October 2nd

Meals Served Twice a Month

5:30 pm pizza night

1st & 3rd Wed. every month.

Every Wednesday

Worship 6:00-6:30 pm

Kids Bible Classes 6:30-7:00 pm.

Announcing a \$12,368.00 Per Year Cost Savings for Our Church

As of August 15th we have changed from a paid janitor to volunteers doing janitorial work. This will save our church \$8,268.00 per year. Also, Tricia & Tim Lambert, our Youth and Family Ministry leaders, have generously offered to take a 50% reduction in their pay saving the church \$4,100.00 per year. In addition, Rosy Hurt our secretary, bookkeeper, and payroll administrator only works 10 hours per week.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
July 21	53	No	53
July 28	56	WOW	56
August 4	57	until	57
August 11	51	October	51

July St. Matthew Ministry Building

Income	\$37,063.72*	\$ 824.00
Expenses	\$13,820.81	

January 1 Balance	\$23,549.89
July 31 Balance	\$32,100.88

Year-to-Date		
Income	\$97,924.72	\$6,821.00
Expenses	\$89,373.73	

* includes \$10,000 from Building & \$10,000 from Memorial fund

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

Monticello Care Center

500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

- ◆ Mary Tschantz 208
- ◆ Dorothy Norton 506

Pennington Square

502 Pinehaven, 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.

September & October Ushers & Communion Assistants

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

September Communion Assistant: Nanci Paulsen

September Altar Guild: Pam Thompson

October Ushers: Stuart Gerdes, Jim & Joan Berends

October Communion Assistant: Carol Dirks

October Altar Guild: Grace Zimmerman

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

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