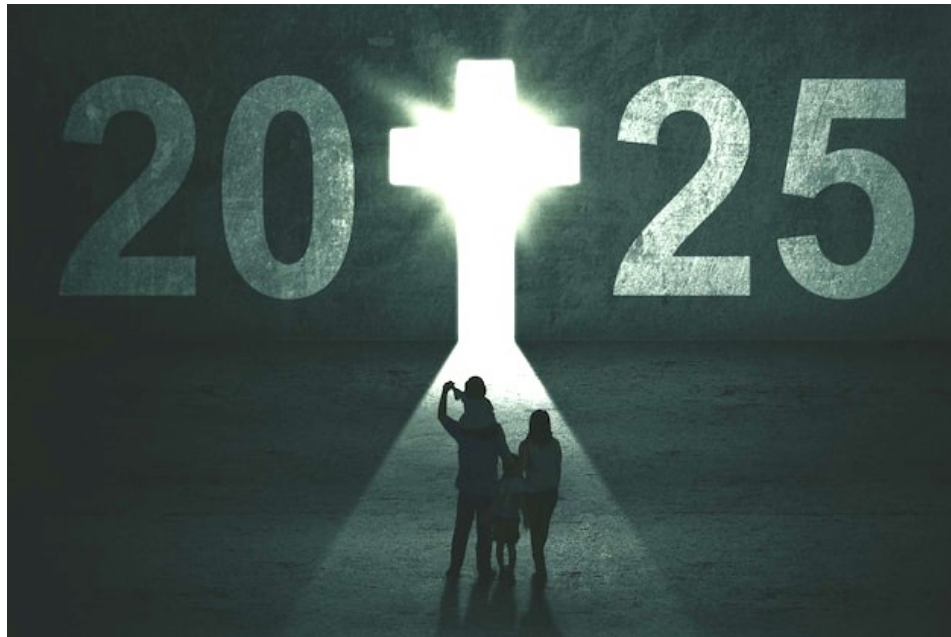


St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Sundays at 9:00am
WOW Wednesdays at
5:30 pm (Sept—April)
stmatthewmonticello@gmail.com
Pastor Dave Raemisch
Cell Phone (319) 975-0512
Office Phone (319) 465-3262



The Year of The Cross

A message from Pastor Dave...

The Year of the Cross

Life is full of choices, changes, and challenges. Nevertheless, no matter how old you are, this is the God's honest truth: The new year can be the best year of your life if you make it the year of the cross! Right now, at this very moment, take a few minutes to contemplate what your life will be like in the new year and beyond. As you do, sincerely ask yourself if 2025 will be the year of the cross or the year of the selfish soul for you. The choice you make will set your life on one path or another.

Every new year brings with it some things we expect and some things we never could have imagined. As I contemplate the new year (2025 will be my ninth year serving as your pastor) I can't help but wonder how our lives, and our church, will change as time goes by.

We do know that our Youth and Family Ministry Program will be changing in the new year. Our WOW leaders, Tricia and Tim Lambert will be completing their term as our youth leaders in April, so we're looking for someone to serve the youth and families of WOW on a part-time basis (approx. 5 hours/week) starting May 1, 2025. Primary responsibilities include leading a children's bible study at WOW on Wednesday evenings from October to April and leading four days of Vacation Bible School in June. Please get in touch with a church council member or Pastor Dave if you know someone who would like to help lead WOW.

The older I get, the more I'm beginning to realize that tomorrow is not promised to any of us. Every new year brings with it precious opportunities to get it right before we go. The things that make us happy and the things that frustrate and irritate us will all fade away. So let's make 2025 the year of the cross.

As we enter the new year, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity you have given me to serve as your pastor. Right now, the sign in front of our church says, "Relax and count your blessings," so let's give that a try in 2025. It just might be the best year of our lives! As for me, I've never had it so good. Thanks be to God... and Shelley, and Bucky, and all of you.

Remember to make 2025 "The Year of the Cross!"

Faith, Hope, Love...
Pastor Dave

**St Matthew Lutheran Church
Council Meeting November 10,2024**

Call to Order

The November church council meeting was called to order by Jeff Hinrichs. Those present were Stu Gerdes, Diane Tuetken, Carolyn Dirks, Nancy Gerdes, Carolyn Tonn, Pastor Dave, Jeff Hinrichs, Dave Titman, Tricia Lambert and Nanci Paulsen **Devotions** given by Tricia Lambert **Minutes** were previously reviewed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave reported that he recently officiated at three baptisms and one funeral (at Goettsch Funeral Home). There will be two worship services on Christmas Eve, 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report: reviewed.

Carolyn Dirks made a motion to accept the above reports. Stu Gerdes seconded. Motion carried.

Youth and Family Ministry: Tricia stated that April 9th will be the last WOW for the season. Vacation Bible School will be in June. A wonderful First Communion Service for 4th-6th graders was held on Nov. 6th.

Personnel Announcement: After seven years of dedicated and devoted service to the children and families of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Tricia & Tim Lambert will be ending their service as our Youth & Family Ministry Leaders at the end of April. Thank you so very much, Tricia & Tim. You did a great job! If you know anyone who would be interested in serving as our part-time Youth and Family Ministry Leader (approx.. 5 hrs. per week) starting in May, 2025 please contact the church office or a church council member.

Trustees Report: Jeff Hinrichs said they are lining up someone to take care of the snow removal of the parking lot. Still working on the men's restroom.

Elder's Report: Nothing to report

Deacon's Report: Nothing to report

Old Business: Repairs of the men's restroom is still in progress.

New Business: The Benevolence committee will be meeting. There was discussion on how to handle the CD that will mature in February.

The annual meeting is scheduled for January 26th, 2025. Stu Gerdes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Dirks seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be held January 12th with Jeff Hinrichs giving devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Paulsen



Poinsettias Given In Loving Memory

In memory of Don Monk from Pastor Dave & Shelley.

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 Sharon Kearney from Bret & Pam Hardersen

**In memory of Loved ones that have gone before us from Gaylen &
Pam Kray**

In memory of Our Family from Jim & Joan Berends

In memory of Marlene Moats and Bill Norton from Shane & Tara Norton

**In memory of the Charlie Tonn and other Tonn & Czizek deceased
family members from Carolyn Tonn**

**In memory of Mom & Dad, Grant, 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 my husband, Jack; son, Bill; Grandson, Gryphon and all
family and friends from Helen Heiken**

In memory of Dave Paulsen from Nanci Paulsen

**In memory of Henry & Cathryn Ehltz; Nicholas Eby from Jeanette &
Michael Elkin**

In memory of Maxine Eby from Harold Eby

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

(Cont.)



Poinsettias Given In Loving Memory (Cont.)

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

In memory of Louie & Laura Struve, Neal & Gertrude Hayden from Rex & Sara Struve

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

In memory of Ron Meyer from Janet Meyer

In memory of Friends and Family who have passed on from Tom & Jill Brokaw

In memory of Marvin/Dorothy Jansen, Greg Jansen from Dana & Vicki Edwards

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jake Paulsen and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Martinsen From Janice Woodroffe

In memory of Rich and Art Kromminga from Taryn, Tanner, Jack, Ryder & Heidi Fellingner



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES Are now available!

**Please pick up your 2025
Offering Envelopes
in the Narthex**



**Just a
reminder...**

Tax Statements For 2024 Offerings

Please note that all financial offerings for 2024 must be received in the church office by December 31st. Any offerings received after that date (no matter what date is on the check or offering envelop) will be recorded in next year's 2025 giving statements.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
November 17	56	64	120
November 24	55	No WOW	55
December 1	46	57	103
December 8	54	47	101

November	St. Matthew Ministry	Building
Income	\$10,594.24	\$ 1,194.00
Expenses	\$10,389.77	
January 1 Balance	\$23,549.89	
November 30 Balance	\$33,321.96	
Year-to-Date		
Income	\$131,341.40	\$10,063.00
Expenses	\$121,569.33	

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: Greg Wink

February Altar Guild: Pam Kray



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.



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.

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

Monticello Care Center

500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

- ◆ David Griffith 203
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Deb Johnson, 104 Wilson Ct., Apt. #14, Anamosa, IA 52205
- ◆ Irene Behrends, The Views of Marion, 720 Oakbrook Dr., #C109, Marion, IA 52302
- ◆ Sharon Kromminga, 4501 Victory Blvd., Apt. 1210, Yorktown, VA 23693

Joyful Baptism Celebration



Marlow Bockenstedt, daughter of Carley Hinrichs and Austen Bockenstedt was baptized on Sunday, December 22nd. Marlow is the granddaughter of Jeff and Sandy Hinrichs.



**Meeting
Notice**

**The Annual Meeting
of St. Matthew Lutheran
Church will be held on Sunday,
January 26, 2025 right
after worship.**

**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**

