

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



**There Were Angels In The Church
During The WOW Christmas Program!**

A message from Pastor Dave...

Pastor Dave's Annual Report

The older I get, and the longer that I serve as your pastor, the more I can relate to the iconic opening from the NBC television show "Days of Our Lives." It went like this: "Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives." Annual meetings are a time for reflection on what was, what is, and what is to come. That's what we do at annual meetings!

I began serving our church on February 15, 2017, so the coming year will be my 9th year here at St. Matthew. We've seen lots of changes during that time - some good, some not so good. On the bright side, WOW has been a tremendous success due mostly to the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. But I also want to acknowledge the tremendous work that Tricia and Tim Lambert have done as our Youth & Family Ministry leaders. They did a great job! Tricia and Tim will be ending their service as the leaders of WOW in April 2025, so we'll need to find someone to serve the youth and families of our church.

Much like annual meetings, baptisms and funerals are a good time for reflection on what was, what is, and what is to come. At baptisms, we can't help but wonder what the future holds for the precious little children who are being baptized, and funerals cause us to ponder the changes in our lives that are bigger than us. During the last year, we had 8 baptisms but only one funeral here at St. Matthew. That's pretty unusual, in that I usually preside at almost one funeral per month!

The financial condition of our church will be discussed during the annual meeting; suffice to say, we're doing pretty well, all things considered. As our Sunday congregation ages, and our WOW congregation gets caught up in the cares and concerns of this world (volleyball, basketball, dance, gymnastics, etc.) our worship attendance and financial condition continue to decline. Hard realities are hitting the church of the 21st century!

Finally, I want to express my profound appreciation for the gift you have given me in allowing me to serve as your pastor for the last eight years. Thanks to you, and Shelley, these have been the best years of my life.

Many of you know that I've talked about retiring 2 1/2 years from now, when I turn 70 in July, 2027. However, the other day Shelley and I saw a news report about Chuck Grassley indicating that Chuck is now 91 years old and still going strong. It occurred to us that, if I were to serve as your pastor for as long as Chuck has served Iowa, I'd have 24 more years to go here at St. Matthew! Just a thought :-)

Faith, Hope, Love...
Pastor Dave

Lent



Lenten Worship Services

	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Ash Wednesday	Mar. 5	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Until 7pm
Lent & WOW	Mar. 12	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Until 7pm
Lent*	Mar. 19	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	no classes
Lent & WOW	Mar. 26	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Until 7 pm
Lent & WOW	Apr. 2	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Until 7 pm
Lent & WOW**	Apr. 9	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	no classes
Palm Sunday	Apr. 13		9:00 am	
Maundy Thurs.	Apr. 17		6:00 pm	
Easter Sunday	April 20		9:00 am	

Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten soup supper served every Wed. evening Mar. 5th to April 2nd.

*Lenten soup supper and worship will be held on Mar. 19th, but there won't be any WOW classes after worship due to Spring Break.

Last WOW of the Year Pizza Party April 9th

**Pizza Party at 5:00 pm then Worship at WOW at 6:00 pm.

WOW Christmas Program Was Awesome!



Tricia & Tim Lambert
Have Done a Wonderful
Job Leading WOW for
7 Years! Thank You!





Special Thanks to Tricia and Tim Lambert, Pam Kray, Treva Guyer, Angie Wink, and Diane Tuetken.



The Kids Did a Great Job!



**The Kids' Bell Choir Played "Joy To The World"
And Brought Joy To The Heart of God!**

Proposed 2025 Church Budget

(To be voted on at our January 26 annual meeting)

	Actual 2024 Expenses	Proposed 2025 Budget
PASTOR EXPENSES*		
Pastor's Salary	\$23,102.50	\$23,102.50
Housing Allowance	\$37,344.00	\$37,344.00
ELCA Health Ins. & pension	\$25,810.92	\$27,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 175.54	\$ 200.00
Pulpit Supply Pastor	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Pastoral Expenses	\$86,832.86	\$88,646.40
*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	\$ 5,167.50	\$ 0
Organist	\$ 2,933.98	\$ 3,000.00
Employee Payroll Tax	\$ 1,901.99	\$ 2,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,316.38	\$ 3,500.00
Copier & Computer Exp	\$ 1,036.98	\$ 1,100.00
Church Electric	\$ 3,816.61	\$ 5,000.00
Church Water	\$ 1,100.43	\$ 1,100.00
Church Gas	\$ 2,736.00	\$ 5,000.00
Church Phone & Interne	\$ 3,116.83	\$ 3,200.00
Total Office Maint/Admin Exp.	\$35,230.15	\$34,503.45
YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
Youth Director Salary	\$ 6,662.52	\$ 6,000.00
Christian Education	\$ 2,479.30	\$ 3,500.00
Total Youth & Christian Ed	\$ 9,141.82	\$ 9,500.00
WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EXP.		
Worship & Altar Guild	\$ 4,474.20	\$ 5,000.00
Convention	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Total Worship & Fello. Exp.	\$ 4,674.20	\$ 5,200.00
BENEVOLENCE EXP.*	\$ 3,125.00	\$ 0
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	\$ 221.30	\$ 0
Total	\$139,225.33	\$137,849.85

*2025 Benevolence Giving will be allocated from the Mission Endowment Fund.



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



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.

Don't Look Back!

Don't Let Regret & Resentment Ruin Your Life.

**"Jesus said... 'No one who puts a hand to the plow
and looks back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'"
(Luke 9:62)**

Here's my take on Luke 9:62. Although this is one of my favorite Bible verses, it's not an easy one for me to live into or live out. We all have regrets and resentments that keep us from being the kind of person God is calling us to be. Regret and resentment rob our peace and lead us into selfish and self-destructive thinking and behavior. My past failures, which include an awful car accident, a painful divorce, and prison often weigh heavy on my mind. As the years have gone by, and my faith has grown, I've learned that the best I can do is to ask God to help me live honorably and faithfully. That's really the best any of us can do, as we walk by faith. Peace be with you.

Pastor Dave

The Purpose of Our Church
Is To Grow In Faith
&
Share The Love Of God
With ALL People



BE HONEST

How are you doing, so far, in the new year?
Are you being grateful, gracious, and generous
or greedy, grumpy, and grouchy?

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
December 15	Cancelled		
December 22	65	No	65
December 24—3:30 pm	110	WOW	164
December 24—6:00 pm	54	til	--
December 29	52	January	52
January 5	57	55	112
December	St. Matthew Ministry		Building
Income	\$15,106.74		\$ 1,046.00
Expenses	\$11,716.64		
January 1 Balance	\$21,478.33		
December 31 Balance	\$37,888.37		
Year-to-Date			
Income	\$155,635.37		\$11,109.00
Expenses	\$139,225.33		

February & March Ushers & Communion Assistants

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

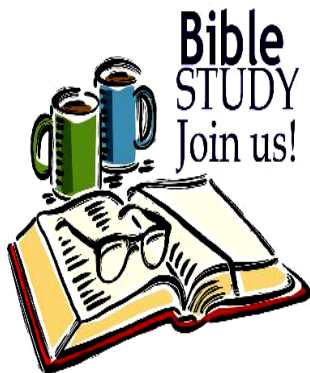
February Communion Assistant: Greg Wink

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



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.

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

- ◆ Darlene Gottleber, 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

Help Wanted

Youth & Family Ministry Leader

The new leader of WOW (Worship on Wednesday) will be responsible for leading a simple 30-minute Bible Lesson for the children of WOW right after worship at WOW on Wednesday nights, October to April. The leader will also coordinate Pizza night at WOW on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from Oct. to April. In addition, the leader of WOW coordinates the WOW Christmas Program, leading practices during class time after worship during the weeks preceding the Christmas Program.

The leader of WOW is also responsible for coordinating the St. Matthew Vacation Bible School program, which is held for four half-days in June.

The out-going WOW leader, Tricia Lambert will be available to help the new leader get started and comfortable with how we do things at WOW.

The new leader of WOW will be paid for 5 hours per week, year-round, starting April 1, 2025. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Dave or a Church Council member.

WOW Is Wonderful Faith Filled Family Fun Time!

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

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