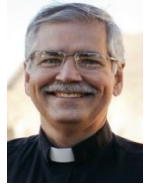


April
2026



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Sundays at 9:00am
WOW Wednesdays at
5:15 pm (Oct—April)
stmatthewmonticello@gmail.com

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



News on Next Year's
Confirmation Program Inside

A Message From Pastor Dave...

Easter morning is all about renewal, restoration, and revitalization. Day by day, as our faith is renewed by prayer and worship, we grow ever more deeply into an eternal perspective on the trials and travails of this life. As Christians, we believe in, and benefit from, the radically transformational power of grace. So I'm wondering, where did you first learn about grace and the love of God?

Somewhere along the way, perhaps in Sunday School or Confirmation Class, we learned to love the Lord, and we learned that we are precious children of God, deeply loved and cherished by our Father who art in heaven.

The most sacred mission of the church is to impart lessons on faith and life in Christ. Along the way many of us learned, the hard way, that sin has consequences. But so does faith! As we navigated our way through life, and were confronted with circumstances and situations that threatened our well-being and future, we drew upon the lessons we learned in Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Worship to lean on and trust God even as we faced the valley of the shadow of death.

Below, and continuing on the next page, you'll find our Confirmation plans for next fall. During worship at WOW we'll be teaching critically important lessons covering all the major topics typically addressed in confirmation classes. Then, right after each worship service, we'll hold Confirmation Class during which we'll discuss and apply the lessons learned in worship.

WOW & CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE (2026-2027)

During the fall of 2026 and the spring of 2027, Bible Lessons during Worship at WOW will cover confirmation topics. During our one-year confirmation program students (6th –10th graders) will be required to attend Worship at WOW at 6:00 pm and Confirmation Class immediately following Worship.

Attendance is required and will be recorded. Any student missing more than four Worship services will not be confirmed.

Wednesday Evening Worship At WOW Bible Lesson Topics

Sep. 30, Spiritual vs. Religious (communion)

Oct. 7, Sin & Forgiveness (communion)

Oct. 14, Attitude of Gratitude

Oct. 21, Martin Luther & the Reformation (communion)

Oct. 28, How To Be a Disciple

Nov. 4, The Bible & The Church (communion)

Nov. 11, The Apostles Creed

Nov. 18, Baptism (communion)

Nov. 25, No WOW – Thanksgiving

Dec. 2, Angels & Devils (communion)

Dec. 9, Faith & Prayer

Dec. 16, **WOW Christmas Program**

Dec. 23, No WOW - Christmas Break

Dec. 30, No WOW - Christmas Break

Jan. 6, Fruit of the Spirit, Overview (communion)

Jan. 13, Fruit of the Spirit - Love & Joy

Jan. 20, Fruit of the Spirit - Peace & Patience (communion)

Jan. 27, Fruit of the Spirit - Kindness & Goodness

Feb. 3, Fruit of the Spirit - Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self-Control. (communion)

Feb. 10, **Ash Wednesday** - Moses & 10 Commandments Overview

Feb. 17, First & Second Commandments (communion)

Feb. 24, Third & Fourth Commandments

Mar. 3, Fifth & Sixth Commandments (communion)

Mar. 10, Seventh & Eighth Commandments

Mar. 17, No WOW – Spring Break (Lenten service will be held)

Mar. 24, Ninth & Tenth Commandments (communion)

Mar. 28, **Easter Sunday**

Mar. 31, Two Kinds of Righteousness (communion)

Apr. 7, The Gospels

Apr. 14, Communion Lesson & First Communion Celebration (communion)

Apr. 18, **Sunday Morning Confirmation Celebration**

Confirmation Instructors: Jim Reuter & Pastor Dave



Lent



Lent & Holy Week Worship Services

	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Lent*	Mar. 18	5:15 pm	6:00 pm	no class
Lent & WOW	Mar. 25	5:15 pm	6:00 pm	6:30-7 pm
Palm Sunday	Mar. 29		9:00 am	
WOW	Apr. 1	5:15 pm	6:00 pm	6:30-7 pm
Maundy Thurs.	April 2		6:00 pm	
Easter Sunday	April 5		9:00 am	
Last WOW of the Year	April 8	5:15 pm	6:00 pm	6:30-7 pm

Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten soup supper served on Wed. evening Mar. 18th and Mar. 25.

*Lenten soup supper and worship will be held on Mar. 18th, but there won't be any WOW classes after worship due to Spring Break at school.

Beautiful Bulletin Board at Church by Diane Tuetken

*I will
Cling
to the
old
rugged
Cross*

On a hill far away
Stood an old rugged cross
For it was on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died
to Pardon and sanctify me

REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION
OF JESUS CHRIST

HE IS RISEN!

HALLELUIA!

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.

Names of those remembered by purchasing an Easter Lily will be listed in the Easter Worship Bulletin and the Echoes Newsletter

The cost per Easter lily is \$5.00.

Please fill in the following form and drop it in the offering tray or return it with your money to the church office by Friday, March 27th.

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

Thanks for your help!

Name _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

Number of Plants _____

In Sympathy

We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Richard Davis who passed away on February 8, 2026.



April & May Ushers & Communion Assistants

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

April Communion Assistant: Stuart Gerdes

April Altar Guild: Pam Kray

May Ushers: Jeff & Sandy Hinrichs, Steve Goode

May Communion Assistant: Pam Kray

May Altar Guild: Pam Thompson

Church Council Meeting

(March 8, 2026)

Present: Pastor Dave, DaLana Rigby, Jef Hinrichs, Stu Gerdes, Trish Schmid, Greg Wink, Carol Dirks, Carolyn Tonn, Nancy Gerdes, and Tricia Lambert.

Pastor's Report: Attendance at our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 18th was good (75 persons), but was only half the number that attended in 2018. Earlier in this edition of Echoes, Pastor Dave provided a description of the 2026-2027 Confirmation Class curriculum, including attendance requirements. Funerals were conducted for Carl Sternhagen on Jan. 14, Richard Davis on Feb. 12, and Donna Joslin on Feb 27.

General Treasurer's Report: We are blessed to be doing very well financially. As of February 28th, we have \$39,375.87 in our General Fund. Thank you for your generous support of ministry at St. Matthew!

Building Treasurer's Report: All is well. This summer, we'll need to repair a portion of the sidewalk next to our eastside parking lot.

Youth & Family Ministry: This summer, St. Matthew will participate in the community-wide Vacation Bible School program, August 3-7. Declining attendance at WOW due to youth sports and dance programs is causing us to consider alternative programs for youth ministry. Trish Schmid will explore youth ministry options and report back to council in May.

Trustees Report: The exhaust fan in the Education Building men's restroom will be repaired.

Elder's Report: Easter in the first Sunday in April, so homebound communion will be delivered on the 3rd Sunday of April.

Deacon's Report: Nothing to report.

New Business: A new sanctuary projector has been installed and is operational. The total cost of the projector (\$10,571.01) was paid from the General Fund. Interestingly, the new projector has no bulb; instead it uses a laser to project slides.

Tricia Lambert provided an update on her seminary plans. She will be pursuing a Master's degree in Diaconal Ministry from Wartburg Theological Seminary. As a part-time seminary student, it will take Tricia four years to complete the program. Once completed, she will be qualified to pastor a church. Per earlier communication, our church council approved and sent \$800.00 to the SE-IA Synod to help cover Tricia's candidacy entrance costs. St. Matthew will be Tricia's official sponsoring church and Pastor Dave will be her official mentor.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
February 8	54	35	89
February 15	60	75	135
February 22	39	61	100
March 1	53	49	102
March 8	50	54	104

February	St. Matthew Ministry	Building
Income	\$15,039.84	\$ 800.00
Expenses	\$12,561.40	
January 1 Balance	\$44,253.65	
February 28 Balance	\$39,375.87	
Year-to-Date		
Income	\$28,913.33	\$ 3,799.00
Expenses	\$33,791.11	

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

Monticello Care Center

500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

♦ Dorothy Norton 207 David Griffith 209 Mary Ebensberger 210

Individual Addresses:

Sycamore Gardens, 107 E. 9th St., Monticello, IA 52310:

Ann McNamara #118 John Boss #102

- ♦ Dan Ulferts, 1701 Meadow Ridge Dr., Apt. 37, Anamosa, IA 52205
- ♦ Darlene Gottleber, 196 Amherst Cir., Oswego, IL 60543
- ♦ Bonnie Chappell, Pinicon Senior Living, 1615 Brecca Ridge, Anamosa, IA 52205
- ♦ Kim Stadtmueller, 2005 49th St., Marion, IA 52302
- ♦ Deb Johnson, 104 Wilson Ct., Apt. #14, Anamosa, IA 52205
- ♦ Sharon Kromminga, 4501 Victory Blvd., Apt. 1210, Yorktown, VA 23693
- ♦ Sara Struve, 766 Horizon Canyon Dr., Henderson, NV 89052
- ♦ Shirley Hanssen, P.O. Box 84, Monticello, IA 52310

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

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