

May
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



He makes
all things
New
Including You!



A Message From Pastor Dave...

Easter is all about a fresh start and a new beginning, so here's something for you to think about as you live out the rest of 2026, and the rest of your life! Do you spend most of your time living in the Fruit of the Spirit or the Fruit of the Selfish Soul?

The fruit of the Spirit is...

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,
and self control.**

(Galatians 5:22-23)

The fruit of the selfish soul is...

**sarcasm, cynicism, condescension,
pessimism, antagonism, arrogance,
apathy, malice, hostility, negativity,
and a critical heart.**

Every word that we say, and every thing that we do, tells others who we are, so I'm wondering... What do your words and deeds say about you?

You were saved for a reason!

Faith, Hope, Love...
Pastor Dave

Here's What Was Happening At St. Matthew 50 Years Ago

What were you doing in 1975? Do you remember what was happening in your life back then? When I graduated from high school in 1975, I was young enough to avoid the Vietnam War draft, which ended on January 27, 1973. I can't help but wonder how differently my life would have turned out if I were a few years older and ended up in Vietnam.

I recently came across a copy of our 1975 Annual Report, so I thought you might like to see what was happening at St. Matthew back then.



In 1975, Harold Naig was the pastor and our church council had sixteen members, including Frank Frostestad, Emma Heiken, James Eby, Loren Freese, Lowell Guard, Victor Jenson, Ken Weber, Phil Gerdes, Dennis Ortgies, Learow Tobiason, Arthur Holub, Rex Struve, Cliff Mardorf, Jon Husman, Norman Hinrichs, and Marvin Jansen. Today we only have seven persons serving on our church council.

In 1975 we averaged 230 people in worship every Sunday, down from an average of 293 in worship every Sunday in 1971. Sunday School had 127 kids enrolled and 17 teachers in 1975, down from 199 students and 20 teachers in 1971. There were 15 baptisms and 20 kids confirmed in 1975, down from 24 baptisms and 26 kids confirmed in 1971. Today, there are so few families involved in church that we haven't held Confirmation Class for the last two years, and we had only one baptism in 2025.

...A look back in time reveals just how much the value of a dollar has changed in fifty years. In 1975, offering income at St. Matthew was only \$28,679.00 and total expenses for the year were \$29,301.00. During the year, a financial shortfall was covered by transferring \$600.00 from the Memorial Fund to the General Fund.

In 1975, Pastor Naig lived in the church parsonage and was paid an annual salary of \$11,250.00 on top of free housing, which included utilities and maintenance. Today, Pastor Dave's salary is \$62,844.00, which includes a housing allowance because there's no parsonage provided.

The church secretary was paid \$1,485.00 for the year in 1975 compared to \$10,103.00 per year today. In 1975, the church janitor was paid \$2,400.00 per year. Today, in order to save money, volunteers do all our janitorial chores. The church organist got paid \$310.00 for the year in 1975 compared to \$2,700.00 in 2025.

The cost of insurance for the church was \$1,033.00 per year in 1975 compared to \$14,273.00 this year. In 1975 the church water bill was \$88.11 for the whole year compared to \$1,007.00 in 2025. And the heating bill was \$345.00 for the year in 1975 compared to \$4,050.00 in 2025.

In 1975 our church was a member of the American Lutheran Church. That year we gave \$6,460.00 to support the denomination. Today we're a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and gave only \$3,000.00 to support our denomination in 2025.

In 1975, we received \$8,962.00 in Benevolence offerings and spent \$8,960.00 supporting good and worthy causes. In 1975, we did not have a Mission Endowment Fund. In 2025, our Mission Endowment Fund spent \$11,555.00 supporting good and worthy causes. Our Fall Dinner, which was called the Family Dinner back then, had a net income of \$357.25 in 1975. In 2025, the Fall Dinner netted \$3,000.00, which was distributed to support good and worthy causes right here in Monticello.

The world that we live in today is a very different place than it was in 1975. Over the past fifty years, our country has changed dramatically, and Christian churches across America have changed in startling and disturbing ways, causing many of us to wonder what the future holds for our beloved church. As the years go by it's getting harder and harder ...

... to accept the many changes that are happening in the world and in the church. But no matter what the future holds, this much I know for sure, we can find peace in Christ.

When we feel anxious and worried about the things that are happening in America, and in the church, and even in our own families our best bet is to turn to God where we'll find peace, the peace that passes all understanding.

Peace Be With You,
Pastor Dave



This summer, St. Matthew will participate in the community-wide Vacation Bible School program, August 3-7. Updates and registration information will be posted on our church Facebook page.

CARD SHOWER REQUEST

Please help us celebrate Mary Ebensberger's 70th birthday on May 7th by sending her a birthday card at the Monticello Nursing & Rehab Center, Room #210, 500 Pinehaven Dr., Monticello, IA 52310.

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



Easter Lily Memorials

Thank you to the following people
for donating Easter Lilies.



- In memory of Vernon & Loretta Chapman and Frederick & Kathryn Rieniets from Warren & Kathy Rieniets.
- In memory of John Koch and Ray Kleinow from Ruth Kleinow.
- In memory of Ronald Raemisch and Thomas & Ena Mae Gille from Pastor Dave & Shelley Raemisch.
- In memory of Matt Gerdes, Carl Sternhagen, Richard Davis, and Donna Joslin from Pastor Dave and Shelley Raemisch.
- In memory from Gaylen & Pam Kray.
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jake Paulsen and Mrs. & Mrs. Paul Martensen from Janice Martensen Woodroffe.
- In honor of all military from Janice Martensen Woodroffe.
- In memory of Mom, Dad, Grant, Gaylan, and Sharon from Diane Tuetken.
- In memory of Learow & Meta Tobiason; August & Loretta Dirks from Loren & Barbara Dirks.
- In memory of Loved Ones from Don & Phyllis Tapken.
- In memory of Dale Zimmerman, Lorenz & Loretta Zimmerman and Glenn & Bernice Behrends from Grace Zimmerman.
- In memory of Maxine Eby from Harold Eby.
- In memory of Mary Lou Benjamin, James & Kathleen Novy, Vincent Thomas from Jane Conrad & Aaron Thomas.
- In memory of all my Family and Friends from Helen Heiken.
- In memory of Henry & Kathryn Ehltz, Nicholas Eby from Jeanette Elkin & Michael.
- In memory of Bill & Rachel Griffith, Merle Griffith, Robert Griffith and James Peterson from Diana Peterson.
- In memory of Lyle, Marge, Ben & Clara Behrends, Evelyn & Louis Berends from Jim & Joan Berends.
- In memory of Dave Paulsen from Nanci Paulsen.
- In memory of Dale & Joan Chally from Scott & Patricia Chally Family.
- In memory of Maria Klein from Scott & Patricia Chally and children.
- In memory of my husband Kenneth Sparks from Reva Sparks.
- In memory of Ron & Mary Wink, Milton Hughes & Kathleen Hoagland from Greg & Angie Wink.
- In memory of Our Parents from Dan & Sheralyn Lahr.
- In memory of Robert & Celestia Gerdes, Gilbert, Lois & Wendy Hearn, Natalie First, Matt Gerdes from Merle & Nancy Gerdes.
- In memory of Roger & Cary Busch, Elizabeth & Fred Busch, Geraldine & Irven Pithan from Regena Busch.
- In memory of Richard Davis from Lorna Davis & family.
- In memory of Jim Eby, Charles & Lois Eby, Robert Eby, Robert Eby, Jr., Ruth & John Nissen, John Jr. Nissen, Janette Nissen Ames from Ann Eby.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
March 15	46	39	85
March 22	52	43	95
March 29	64	40	104
April 5 (Easter)	122	25	147
April 12	56	—	56

March	St. Matthew Ministry	Building
Income	\$23,673.17	\$ 3,390.00
Expenses	\$11,501.88	
January 1 Balance	\$44,253.65	
March 31st Balance	\$51,547.16	
Year-to-Date		
Income	\$52,586.50	\$ 7,189.00
Expenses	\$45,292.99	

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

Monticello Care Center

500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

◆ Dorothy Norton 209 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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