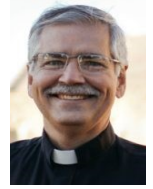


July
2026



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

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



Happy 4th of July!

**Thank God For
Political And Spiritual Freedom!**

A Message From Pastor Dave...



Near the end of every worship service I proclaim the blessing. You know how it goes...

**The Lord bless you, and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace**

The blessing that I proclaim during every Sunday worship service comes from Numbers 6:22-27. It goes like this.

The Priestly Blessing From The Book of Numbers

The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: " ' "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." ' "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

As I was thinking about the blessing we say every Sunday, I came upon an interesting bit of Iowa history. Turns out there once was a small village in Iowa named, Blessing. The village of Blessing was located seventy-two miles due west of Monticello, IA.

In 1882, a Roman Catholic church was built in Blessing by Fr. O'Brien, resident priest at nearby Eagle Center, IA. The Church was attached to Eagle Center as a mission until 1892, when Fr. Sheehy arrived as a resident priest. The use of the church as a Roman Catholic parish was eventually discontinued; however, Blessing Cemetery remains an active cemetery. Blessing's population was 25 in 1902. The town of Blessing, IA was named after James J. Blessington.

The blessing that I proclaim every Sunday at the end of worship has a two-fold purpose. Right before I proclaim the blessing, I say "Now receive the blessing," clearing indicating that the blessing is meant for those who are present and participating in worship.

But the blessing also has a greater, more gracious, purpose as well. It's critically important for us to remember that our faith is not all about us! We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others.

continued...

According to the Gospel of Matthew, being a Christian involves so much more than just loving and taking care of those who love us. Indeed, the Bible tells us that we get no extra credit from God for simply doing what we're supposed to do in taking care of our loved ones.

Be A Blessing To Others

"If you love only the people who love you, you will get no reward. Even the unbelievers do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than unbelievers. Even those who don't know God are nice to their friends. So you must be gracious and good to all people, just as your Father in heaven is gracious and good."

Matthew 5:46-48

Faith, Hope, Love...

Pastor Dave



August Holy Communion Schedule

Holy Communion will be served
on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th
Sundays in August

In Sympathy

We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of Dorothy Norton, who passed away on May 27th, and Darlene Gottleber, who passed away on June 9th.





In our country, the 4th of July began as a way to celebrate our freedom from the oppression of the British empire. Those many years ago, our forefathers and foremothers gave birth to a nation where religious and political freedoms are guaranteed by the constitution and all people have civil rights. We thank God for our political and spiritual freedom!

4

“This is My Song”

(Lloyd Stone & Georgia Harkness, 1939)

This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh hear my song, oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give thee, let thy will be done.



**Monticello Community
Vacation Bible School
August 3rd-7th
9am-12pm
3 year old (potty trained)-6th grade**

**Youth
Registration:**

<https://forms.gle/4m3Zya3Cd8a6ZKVsd8>



**Volunteer
Link:**

<https://forms.gle/rTRPK34QztGPKD8>



July & August Ushers & Communion Assistants

July Ushers: DaLana Rigby, Nanci Paulsen

July Communion Assistant: Kenny Ginther

July Altar Guild: Ann Eby

August Ushers: Greg Wink, Steve Goode, Shane & Tara Norton

August Communion Assistant: DaLana Rigby

August Altar Guild: Ann Eby

This summer, St. Matthew will participate in the community-wide Vacation Bible School program. Registration information appears above.



For Vacation Bible School this year we are collecting the cardboard center of paper towels for a craft project. There will be a box for the collection in the back entrance of the church.

**May The Peace That Passes All Understanding
Guard Your Heart And Mind In Christ Jesus.**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEEK OF:	SUNDAY	WOW	TOTAL for WEEK
May 24	48	No WOW	48
May 31	61	Until	61
June 7	54	Sept. 30	54
June 14	61		61

May	St. Matthew Ministry	Building
Income	\$ 7,956.70	\$ 710.00
Expenses	\$11,468.83	
January 1 Balance	\$44,253.65	
May 31st Balance	\$46,585.24	
Year-to-Date		
Income	\$70,728.07	\$ 8,609.00
Expenses	\$68,396.48	

Thank You For Your Generous Support of St. Matthew!

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

Monticello Care Center

500 Pinehaven, Monticello, IA 52310

♦ 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
- ♦ 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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