

The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ November 22, 2020

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our sisters and brothers.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin that divides your beloved human community.
Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through +Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalm 95

Second Reading *Ephesians 1:15-23*

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,

what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel *Matthew 25:31-46*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'



⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, +Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be Part of Online Fellowship After Worship Each Sunday.

We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

Council Election Information Mailed. All confirmed members of Memorial will receive a mailing with information and a ballot for electing council members for the 2021-2023 terms. Please take time to read through the materials and then cast your ballot. There will be a return envelope for returning your ballot postmarked on or before December 2. Thank you to all who were nominated and gave prayerful consideration to serve on the council.

Advent Devotions with Holy Communion

Pastor Duane will offer small gatherings during the weeks of Advent for devotions and Holy Communion. A schedule is being developed that will include both daytime and evening openings. You can call for a reservation at 382-6509, or use the Sign Up Genius:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ca8ac2ea20-advent>

The National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival comes to audiences **FREE** in a virtual, multi-media format on December 11. *The Incarnation: For the Healing of the World* brings music from around the globe announcing the birth of Christ with messages of peace and joy that nothing – not even a pandemic – can take away. **Friday, December 11, 2020 – 8pm (CST) @ NLCA.com**

Thank You for Supporting the Nevada Community. Your donations of canned goods help to feed Nevada families and all of the angels have been adopted for the Angel Tree. Thank you!

FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

For Those Hospitalized

.Edith Bloomquist, *Rolling Green Skilled Care*

Prayers for Healing

Shellie Black, Sherry Kluever, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Karen Anderson, Almeda Warner, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Gary Kluever, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen