Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26th, 2023





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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *"Spirit Dance"* - Brenda Austin *Memorial Handbells*

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

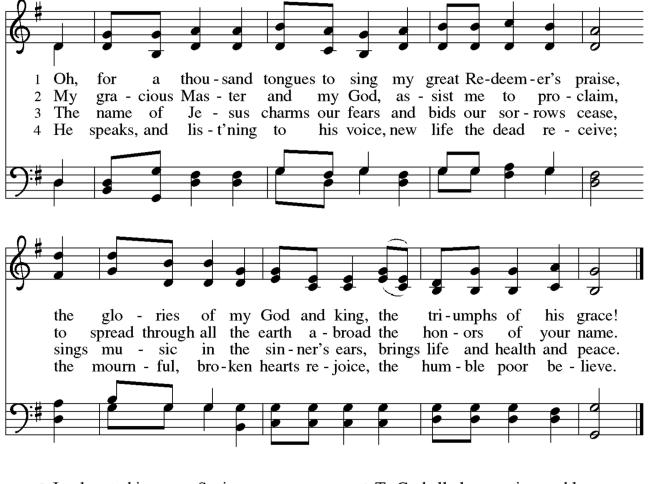
Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Song of Praise: *"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"* ELW #886



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
 O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Order for Holy Baptism - Landon James Konz

Presentation

- P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.
- P As you bring Landon James to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that Landon James may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made and work for justice and peace.

- P Do you promise to help Landon James grow in Christian faith and life? Then answer "I do"
- R I do.
- P People of God, do you promise to support Landon James and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
- C We do.

Profession of Faith

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the assembly.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- R I do.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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

Thanksgiving at the Font

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your

Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

C Amen.

Baptism

- P Landon James, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through the water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Landon James with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

- C Amen.
- P Landon James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen.

- P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Mandi and Jeff. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for Landon James. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child) by a representative of the congregation who says:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- P Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1 - 14

Lector: Chad Borwick

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GoD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

All refrains will be first spoken by Memorial Handbells and then repeated by the congregation; Verses spoken by Dave Lekwa

REFRAIN by ringers: "I wait for you, O Lord; In your word is my hope." REFRAIN by congregation: "I wait for you, O Lord; In your word is my hope."

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

REFRAIN by ringers: "I wait for you, O Lord; In your word is my hope." REFRAIN by congregation: "I wait for you, O Lord; In your word is my hope."

I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

REFRAIN by ringers: "I wait for you, O Lord; In your word is my hope." REFRAIN by congregation: "I wait for you, O Lord; In your word is my hope."

Second Reading: Romans 8:6 - 11

Lector: Chad Borwick

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

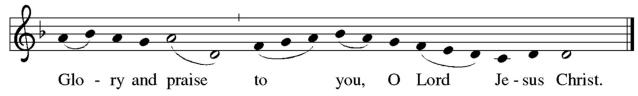
The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Children at heart sermon

Gospel Acclamation

All sing Acclamation; Assisting Minister sings Proper Verse

Acclamation



Proper Verse

I am the resurrection and the life; Whoever believes in me will never die. *Repeat Acclamation*

Gospel Reading: John 11:1 - 45

The Gospel according to John Glory to You, O Lord

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

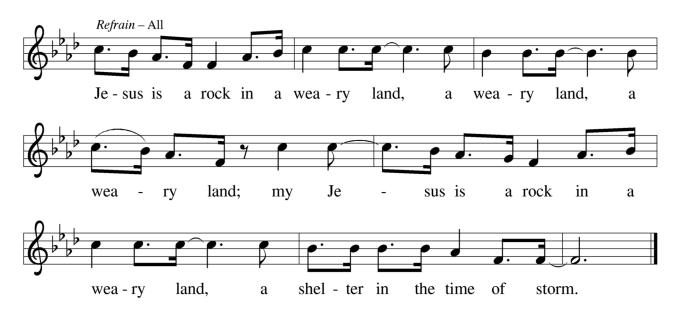
³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *"Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land "* **ELW #333** *Assisting Minister sings verses; All sing refrain*



- No one can do like Jesus, not a mumbling word he said; he went walking down to Lazarus' grave, and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain*
- When Jesus was on earth, the flesh was very weak; he took a towel and girded himself and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain*
- 3 Yonder comes my Savior, him whom I love so well; he has the palm of victory and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain*

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 power of 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

Sharing of the Peace

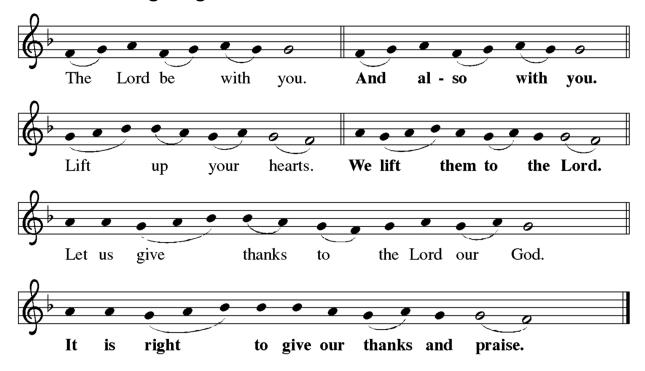
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Music Voluntary: *"Dry Bones"* - Hart Morris Memorial Handbells with vocal soloist Mary Brinkman

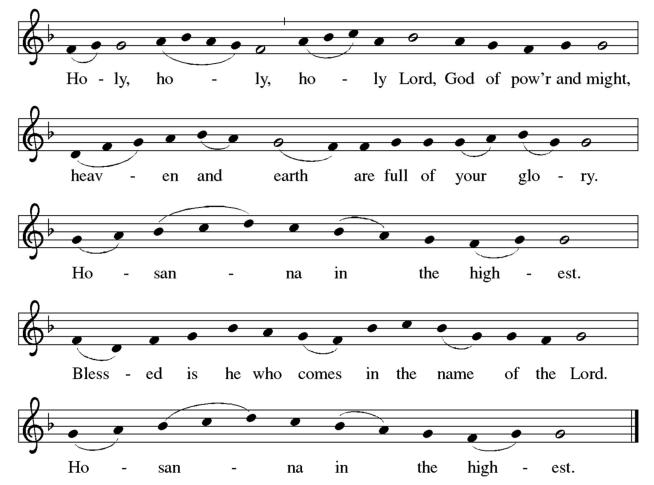
Offering Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.** **Great Thanksgiving**



Holy, Holy, Holy

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

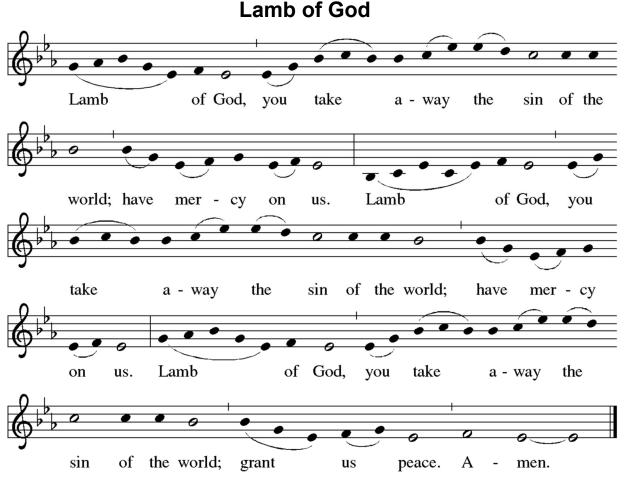
Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

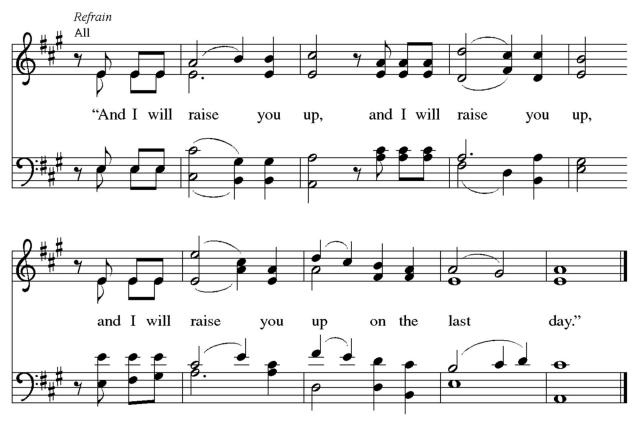
Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Hymns during Communion

"Lamb of God" ELW Setting 5 *"I Am the Bread of Life"* ELW #485



I Am the Bread Of Life Assisting Minister sings verses; All sing refrain



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- "I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons." *Refrain*
- 2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*
- 3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*
- 4 "I am the resurrection,
 I am the life.
 If you believe in me,
 even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*
- 5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who have come into the world. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

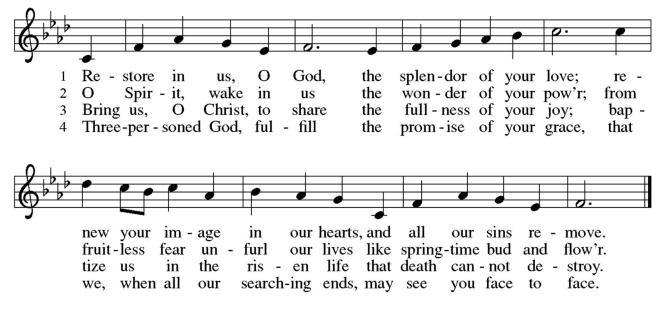
God who welcomes us back, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Restore in Us, O God" ELW #328



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Dismissal Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Prelude in E minor" - J. S. Bach Lois Theesfield, organ

Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

Prayers for Donna See and family following the death of her husband, Bill See.

Prayers for Betty Runge and family following the death of her husband, Leo Runge

Prayers for Judy and Kip Farthing following the death of their son, Wade Farthing

Prayers for Susan Radke and family following the death of her husband, Jerry Radke

Jan Seibel Nan Jungst Evelvn Winterboer mother of Sandy Golden Lily Miller Jeanie & Jerry Gibson Marsha Kane Pr. Marcia Kisner Marlene Waddell friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch Sandy Muesburger friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch John Bass son-in-law of Ron & Gloria Jacobson Denise Rehor Carol Vincent **Cassie Harrell**

Jean Smith Maddie Dunham Judy Johnson Annette Dalthorp Ellie Lynch Ernie Ruhde Sierra Parr cousin of Kim Stieler **Janet Jacques** Easton Farrington Janice Hartz Jim Dalthorp Connie Krupp Randy Matthews friend of Mike Coverdale Jackie Byers daughter of Shellie Black Donna See Katie Brockmeier

granddaughter-in-law of Ruth Brockmeier Norma Dannan friend of Betty Runge Michael Neal Jami Tharp Fred Samuelson Larry Christian **Jaylee Bartleson** Sheila Collingwood mother of Lyndsey De Vos Judy Coverdale Family and friends of +James Stephens George Forsyth Janeen Driscoll Lynn Harris Julie Sutherland Jan Cook

Announcements

TODAY: Greeter and Usher Training after worship

Are you interested in serving as a greeter and/or usher? As you may realize, these roles play an important part in us living out our shared congregational value of being a "welcome place in Christ." We want to gather anyone who currently serves from time to time as an usher or greeter along with anyone who may be curious about what serving in this ministry entails. We will refresh ourselves on the expectations of serving in this ministry and hopefully answer any questions you may have. Even if you haven't signed up, you are welcome to join us following worship this morning!

Faith Time Service Night March 29th

Our Faith Time Service Night will be on March 29th with tacos and Threads of Love and Food at First service work! Tacos will be served at 5:45pm, followed by service activities at 6:30pm.

Volunteers Needed: Memorial to Serve Food at First Meal March 30th

March 30th is Memorial's night to serve the Food at First meal! Please contact Kim Stieler if you will be available to help any time from 3:00 to 6:30 on the 30th. We will be prepping the tater tot casseroles for the meal during our Faith Time Service Night on the 29th.

Holy Communion Workshop—Saturday, April 1st, 9-11am

Are you curious to learn more about the special meal Jesus shares with us? If you are looking forward to receiving Holy Communion for the first time, or have already been receiving and want to learn just a little bit more about this meal and why it's so important to us as Christians, please email <u>pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org</u> to sign up. We will also have a time of special recognition for participants receiving Holy Communion for the first time at the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 6 at 7 PM.

Welcome Celebration for Ewan Peter Lotz - April 2nd

Celebrate and welcome Memorial's newest member (Ewan Peter Lotz, born January 5th, 2023 to Pr. Kathleen and Josh Lotz). We'll have cake and fellowship at 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 2nd. Gift giving is not necessary, but if you choose to do so, gift cards and cash to be used for a larger item would be very much appreciated.

You're Invited: SEIA Churches and Bread for the World Advocacy Training

Our Southeastern Iowa Synod is inviting those with a passion to end world hunger to attend an online Bread for the World Advocacy Training session. During this one-hour training, you will learn about Bread for the World and the current state of hunger in Iowa and around the world. You'll also learn about the Farm Bill and other federal legislation and why they are important to families facing hunger, and the importance of churches reaching out to U.S. senators. Join us to be educated, inspired and equipped to advocate for a world without hunger! This online training will be held this Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please register here: https://bit.ly/SEIA-Bread-Mar2023

Attention! Memorial Members Wanted for Synod Assembly!

Our Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly is coming up May 15-16. This year's business proceedings will be conducted entirely virtually on a Monday and Tuesday evening from 5:30-8:30 PM. Memorial needs two lay members to attend virtually on our behalf. Please e-mail <u>Pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org</u> or call the office to ask any questions or to let us know if you are interested in serving as a voting member. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in some unique work of the church and it's made a bit more accessible by nature of being online this year.

Unused Tennis Balls Needed

Do you have unused tennis balls that need a home? Please bring a few to the church office—our custodian, Mike Coverdale, will use them as a cleaning tool. Thank you!

Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using http://tithe.ly/give or by scanning the QR code.



Save the Date

TODAY: Greeter and Usher Training When: Sunday, March 26th, following worship

Camping Committee Meeting

Help us plan activities and logistics for our September 23rd—24th camping outing **When:** Tuesday, March 28th, 5:30pm

Faith Time Service Night *Tacos + Threads of Love and Food at First service activities* When: Wednesday, March 29th, 5:45pm

Memorial to Serve Food at First Meal When: Thursday, March 30th; volunteers needed any time between 3:00 and 6:30pm

Holy Communion Workshop When: Saturday, April 1st, 9-11am

Welcome Celebration for Ewan Peter Lotz When: Sunday, April 2nd, 2-4pm

Synod Assembly (online) When: Evenings of May 15th and 16th

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Memorial Lutheran Church

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@memluthnevada Memorial Lutheran Ø Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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