

# Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

September 10, 2023



“God’s work. Our hands.”



Join us for a day of service!





**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday**  
**September 10, 2023**

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** *“Simple Gifts”* - arr. John Carter  
*Lois Theesfield, piano*

**Welcome**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Trusting that Jesus dwells in our midst and loves us into life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

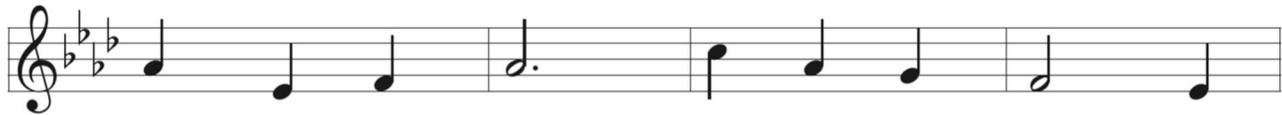
We give you thanks, Holy One, for washing us and drawing us into your community.  
We give you thanks for the waters that have shaped and formed your people in  
every time and place:

**For water that washed the earth and brought about your promises;**  
**For water that parted so that your people could dance in freedom;**  
**For water that quenched the thirst of your promised people;**  
**For water that shaped a holy land;**  
**For water that washed a foreigner clean;**  
**For water that satisfied a woman who did not even know she was thirsty; For water**  
**that welcomed an outsider on the road;**  
**For water that cleanses and makes whole;**  
**For water that drenches us and makes us your own.**

Holy One, we give you thanks that your love flows over and into and through us. May your  
Spirit live in us, that we might live for others.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

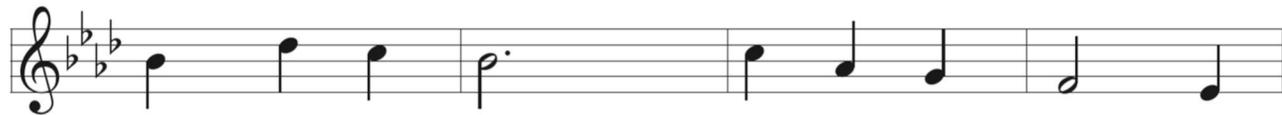
## Gathering Song: "God's Work Our Hands" ACS #1000, vs 1-2



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*Lector: Jeff Seyller*

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?”

<sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

**Special Music:** “*Blessed Assurance*” - Piano arrangement by David Cherwien

*Memorial Choir; Congregation joins on final refrain*

### **Refrain**

***This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.***

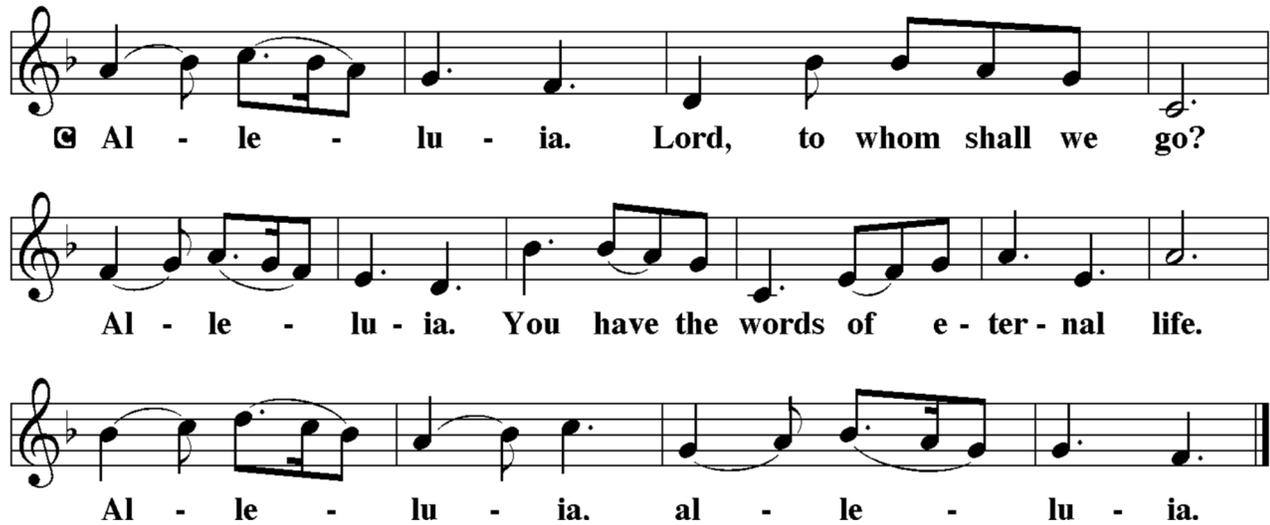
## **Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14**

*Lector: Jeff Seyller*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

The Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: "To Be Your Presence" ELW #546**

### 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**

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God, we pray,  
**open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray,  
**open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray,  
**open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now [names and needs added as desired]. Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray,  
**open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray,  
**open our hands in love.**

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray,  
**open our hands in love.**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the Crucified and-Risen One Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## 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.

## Announcements

### Celebration of Vocation and Blessing of Hands for Ministry

We are called to proclaim the good news:

**God is at work!**

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

**God is at work in the world still today!**

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

**God is at work in us!**

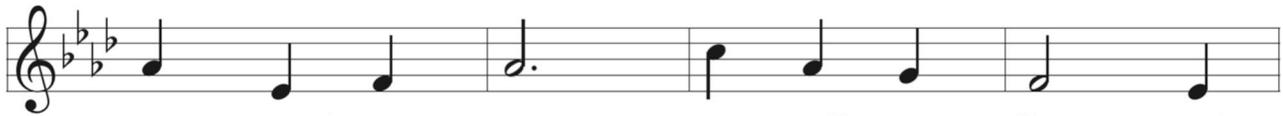
In our service today, and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

**God is at work through our hands!**

God bless your hands and your work,  
that through you God's love may be known.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "God's Work Our Hands" ACS #1000, vs 3-4



3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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### Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude: "This Little Light of Mine" - arr. Keith Hampton

*Lois Theesfield, piano*

## Prayers for Healing

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

*Please keep Nancy Christian and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Larry Christian*

*Please keep Norma Jean Smith and family in your prayers following the death of her son, +Darrel Smith*

*Prayers for the family and friends of +Tina Palmisano following her death (sister-in-law of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch)*

*Prayers for the family and friends of +Georgiann Grant following her death*

*Prayers for the family and friends of +David Blumer following his death*

Andrea & John Snyder	John Bass	Donna See
Wayne Kinyon	son-in-law of Ron & Gloria Jacobson	Norma Dannan friend of Betty Runge
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Carol Vincent	Jami Tharp
Christina King	Cassie Harrell	Fred Samuelson
Sherry Kluever	Jean Smith	Jaylee Bartleson
Dick Settle	Annette Dalthorp	Sheila Collingwood mother of Lyndsey De Vos
Kim Elliott	Ellie Lynch	Judy Coverdale
Jenny Adelmund	Ernie Ruhde	Family and friends of +James Stephens
Jan Seibel	Sierra Parr	George Forsyth
Marsha Kane	cousin of Kim Stieler	Janeen Driscoll
Pr. Marcia Kisner	Janet Jacques	Lynn Harris
Marlene Waddell friend of Virginia Palmisano- Goettsch	Easton Farrington	Julie Sutherland
Sandy Muesburger friend of Virginia Palmisano- Goettsch	Janice Hartz	Jan Cook
	Connie Krupp	
	Jackie Byers daughter of Shellie Black	

**Hospitalizations.** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

## Announcements

### **Attention Youth and Families: Introducing *Wednesday Night Live!***#

Calling kids and youth of all ages of Memorial Lutheran! **You're invited!** This year we are starting something new... We want to invite you to bring a friend and join us for *Wednesday Night Live!* Come and engage with God, Scripture, and other young people each Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 PM. To sign up, grab a registration form at church or you can fill out the online form here: <https://bit.ly/459i0xu> or by visiting [mlcnevada.org](http://mlcnevada.org).

*Can't wait to see you at Wednesday Night Live!*

### **Golf Outing at Indian Creek Country Club**

We have reserved some Tee Times between 2pm and 3pm on Sunday, September 17th, 2023 at Indian Creek Country Club. The format will be 9 hole best shot so it doesn't matter if you are a golfer or not. We just want folks to come out for the fellowship and enjoy a nice fall day outside. The cost is \$25 per person to golf 9 holes with a cart, and we will also be accepting donations for Memorial's "Drive for the Drive" pavement project. Please contact Emily at the church office at 515-382-6509 to sign up or just show up Sunday, September 17th at 2pm and we will put you with a group if you don't have one.

### **Camping with Memorial September 23rd - 24th**

Camping weekend is approaching! All are invited to join us for activities the on Saturday and Sunday the 23rd and 24th at the Oriole Ridge Lodge at Hickory Grove, including **Sunday worship at 10:00am on the 24th also outdoors at the lodge**. There will be **no** worship at Memorial that Sunday. Please note that if you intend to stay the night, you must secure your own campsite by contacting the campground. Camping weekend activities include:

- Kayaking, fishing, or swimming, including a "most fish caught" contest
- All ages photo scavenger hunt
- Yard and table games (if you have a cribbage board, please bring it!)
- Crafts
- Cornhole tournament
- Campfire with s'mores
- Seed harvesting service project
- Sunday worship at the lodge
- Sunday brunch and Bingo following worship

### **Check out our important website calendar and photo updates!**

If you haven't visited [mlcnevada.org](http://mlcnevada.org) lately, be sure to take a look: our calendar has been revamped and updated, and will continue to be updated as new events and meetings are planned, so please check back often to keep up-to-date with Memorial happenings and announcements.

In addition, a new "Review in Photos" page under the "About" drop-down in the top menu has been created with many recent photos from events, ministries, and more across our congregation. This page will be updated each month with new photos. We give a *huge* thank you to Steve Jungst for all of his work in updating and creating these pages and for taking photos!

## Registration Open for Nevada's CROP Hunger Walk

On Sunday, October 1, come join us in fighting hunger locally and globally! We're excited to turn this year's walk into a "color" walk/run\*. Grab your family and/or a friend to come join you in the fight against hunger.



12:30 - Walking tacos available in the Pavilion

1:00 - Walk send-off

- *The color walk part of the event is entirely optional! If you'd like to participate in this fun part of the day, wear a shirt that you would like to get "colored" at the event!*

Want to walk with us? Join our team: "Memorial Lutheran Church - Nevada, IA", register as an individual, start your own team, or make a donation by visiting <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/nevadaia> or by using the QR code.

## Community Trunk-or-Treat at Memorial

Trunk-or-Treat returns! Bring your family and friends to Memorial's parking lot Saturday, October 28th between 5:00 and 6:00pm for trick-or-treating around decorated vehicles. Walking tacos will be available with free-will donations benefitting Nevada's Good Samaritan Fund. There will also be a "Best Decorated Trunk" contest with a prize for the winner! Want to bring your decorated vehicle and hand out candy? Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3L8eoDH> use the QR code, or contact the church office.



## "Created to be: Good Neighbors" - An Event for Iowa Youth

God created us to be just who we are-- and calls us to love our neighbors with the gifts God gave us. 8th-12th Graders, especially those interested in the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering are invited to join in on this evening of fun, faith, and fellowship.

We're hoping to form a group from Memorial to carpool down to Ankeny. Please let Pastor Kathleen know if you would be interested in joining!

**What:** Dinner & interactive worship for 8th-12th graders

**When:** October 14, 5-8pm

**Where:** Resurrection Lutheran, 914 NW Ash Dr., Ankeny, IA

## Important Reminder Regarding Giving to Special Projects

We so appreciate gifts received for special projects such as "A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place" (heating and cooling) and "Drive for the Drive" (pavement). If you would like to support these projects, please make sure to specify the project name with your gift. This ensures that your gift goes directly to the project and helps us keep an accurate record of funds received / still needed. Thank you for your support!

## 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.

**Did you know?** In Tithe.ly, you can select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Drive for the Drive pavement project!



## *Save the Date*

### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, September 13th, 6:30—7:30pm

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

When: Thursday, September 14th, 8:30—9:30 am

Where: MLC Chapel

### **Golf Outing**

When: Sunday, September 17th (tee times between 2:00 and 3:00)

Where: Indian Creek Country Club

Cost: \$25/person for 9 holes with a cart; we will also be accepting donations for the “Drive for the Drive” pavement project.

### **Camping with Memorial**

When: September 23rd - 24th

Where: Hickory Grove

### **Nevada CROP Walk for Hunger**

When: Sunday, October 1st

### **Beer & Theology (first Thursday of every month)**

When: Thursday, October 5th, 6:30 pm

Where: Old Chicago (Ames)

### **Blessing of the Animals**

When: Saturday, October 7th

### **Trunk-or-Treat**

When: Saturday, October 28th

### **Rite of Confirmation**

When: Sunday, October 29th during 9:00 worship

### **Ministry Endowment Fund Reception**

When: Thursday, November 9th





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