

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023



MEMORIAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

We welcome singer/songwriter/musician Reggie Greenlaw to Memorial this morning! Note that Reggie is the arranger of all the selections played. Thank you, Reggie, for sharing your gifts with us!

Prelude: “In the Garden”, “Amazing Grace”, “Simple Gifts”

Reggie Greenlaw: Hammered Dulcimer

Welcome

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 siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved 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.

Gathering Hymn: *O God Our Help in Ages Past* ELW #632

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Lector: Steve Jungst

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

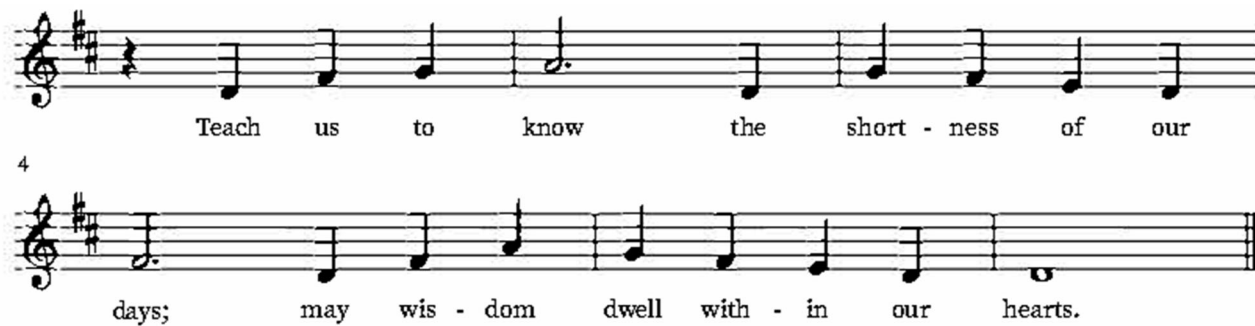
¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

REFRAIN



¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

³**You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."**

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night; REFRAIN**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. REFRAIN**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Lector: Steve Jungst

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

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 25:14-30

The Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *“Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us”* - ELW #707

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

Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering

Music Voluntary: *“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”*

Reggie Greenlaw, hammered dulcimer

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

Hymn during Communion

"Lamb of God" WOV Setting 5

"What a Friend We have in Jesus" - Reggie Greenlaw, Hammered Dulcimer

"I Come with Joy" - ELW #482



☒ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

Announcements

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.

Sending Hymn: *"Light Dawns on a Weary World"* ELW #726

Dismissal

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

Postlude: *"How Can I Keep from Singing"*
Reggie Greenlaw, hammered dulcimer

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.

*Please keep the family of +Lynn Harris in your prayers
following his death*

*Please keep Karen Blank and family in your prayers
following the death of Karen's husband, +Don Blank*

*Please keep Larry & Deb Parker and family in your prayers
following the death of Larry's brother, +Ron Parker*

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

*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*

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

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

Thanksgiving Eve Service (and pie!)

Mark your calendars: Memorial's Thanksgiving Eve service will be held Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM, followed by delicious pie! All are invited to attend and to bring pie or other treats to share.

Angel Tree

Thank you to all who adopted an angel from the tree in the Narthex! If you would still like an angel, please contact the NCRC.

Food at First Volunteers Needed!

With an average of 350 meals served per night, the Food at First crew needs your help! Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex for the following dates/times:

- Prep from 6:30-8 on Wednesday the 29th @ Memorial.
- Food/service prep is from 3-4:30 on Thursday the 30th @ the Methodist Church.
- Meal Packaging is from 4:30 to 6 at the Methodist Church.

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon

Nevada Parks and Recreation's annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held Tuesday, November 21 at Memorial at 11:30 AM. Free-will donations will be accepted. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 515-382-4352.

If you would like to donate toward the preparation of the meal, monetary donations are being accepted until Monday, November 13, and can be brought to Memorial's office. Thank you!

Join the Choir for Christmas!

Please consider joining the Memorial Choir for the Christmas season. Singers are welcomed in all sections, especially sopranos. Rehearsals Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. We sing for Advent worship on Sunday, December 10, Christmas Vespers on Sunday December 17 - 7:00 pm, and for Christmas Eve on Sunday December 24, 5:00 pm. Come and worship the Christ Child with your voice

Attention Youth and Families: Join us at *Wednesday Night Live!* #

Calling kids and youth of all ages of Memorial Lutheran! 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.

A Special Note Regarding Tithe.ly Fees#

We so appreciate all that give using the online/mobile giving platform Tithe.ly! If you haven't already, please consider including Tithe.ly processing fees as part of your one-time and recurring gifts. To do this, simply check the "Cover Fees" box when setting up your gift. If you have already set up a recurring gift and would like to start including the fees, you'll need to delete this gift and set it up again with "Cover Fees" checked.

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

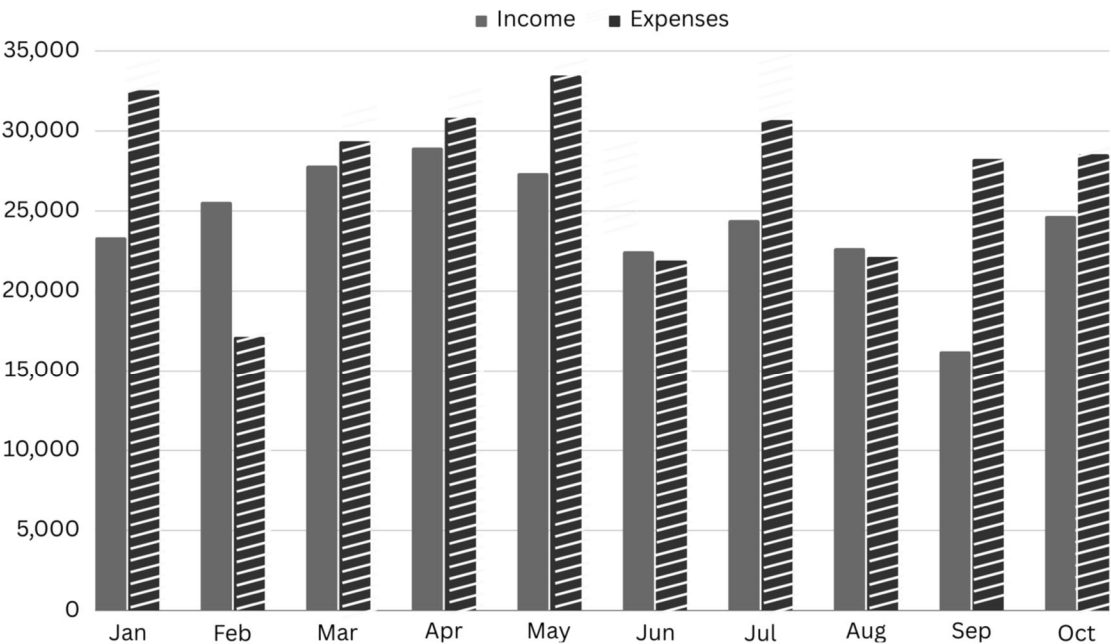
Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know?*** In Tithe.ly, you can select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Drive for the Drive pavement project!



General Fund 2023

Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of October 31, 2023

Income: \$243,770 Expenses: \$275,230 Current Deficit: (-\$31,460)



Save the Date

Thanksgiving Eve Service (and pie!)

When: Wednesday, November 22, 7:00 PM

Sanctuary Decorating for Advent and Christmas

When: Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, December 7, 6:30 PM (first Thursday of every month)

Where: Cubbies on Main

Peace Not Walls Forum

Led by guest preacher Pastor Chris Cowan of our synod's Peace Not Walls organization

When: Sunday, December 3 following worship

Interfaith Power & Light Forum

Led by Clair Miller

When: Sunday, December 17 following worship

“In the Still of the Night” Christmas Vespers Program

When: Sunday, December 17, 7:00 PM

Memorial Lutheran Church
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@memluthnevada  Memorial Lutheran  Memorial Lutheran ELCA

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