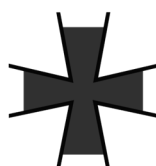


First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



MEMORIAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Anna Laura Page

Handbell Ensemble: Stacie Link, Emily Dalthorp, Jeanie Ferneau, Cathy Carsrud

Welcome

WARM THE TIME OF WINTER

Hymn text: Ruth Duck

Gathering Rite

Music: Lori True

1. Gathering Song



1. When the wind of win - ter blows, bring - ing times of
2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of
3. When in days of fall - en snow, change con - founds or



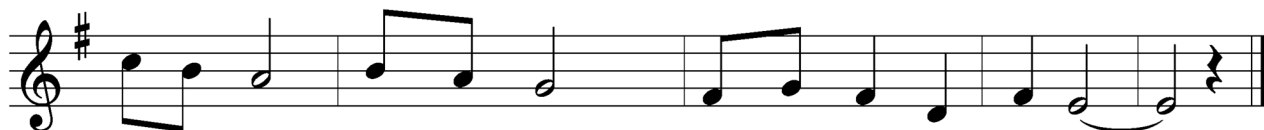
sol - i - tude, fill the si - lent, ic - y night;
death comes near, hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear,
love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise



be our hearts' com - pas - sion.
while the eve - ning deep - ens.
phoe - nix of our grow - ing.



Ho - ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.



Ho - ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.

2. Penitential Rite

Introduction and verse precede congregational call and response

Cantor

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e -
Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e -
Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e -

All

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e,
le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste,
le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e,

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" ELW #240, verse 1

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Lector: Steve Jungst

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
**4 O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Lector: Steve Jungst

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark

Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Chris Cowan

Hymn of the Day: "Come Now, O God" ACS #902



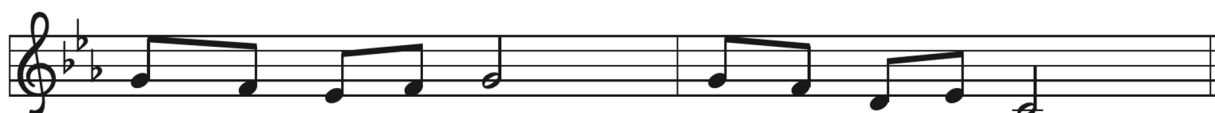
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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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 “*Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*” arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Handbell Ensemble: Stacie Link, Emily Dalthorp, Jeanie Ferneau, Cathy Carsrud

Offering Prayer

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - arr. Cynthia I Gonzales, Ph.D., Music Director at First Lutheran Church—San Marcos, TX

Leader

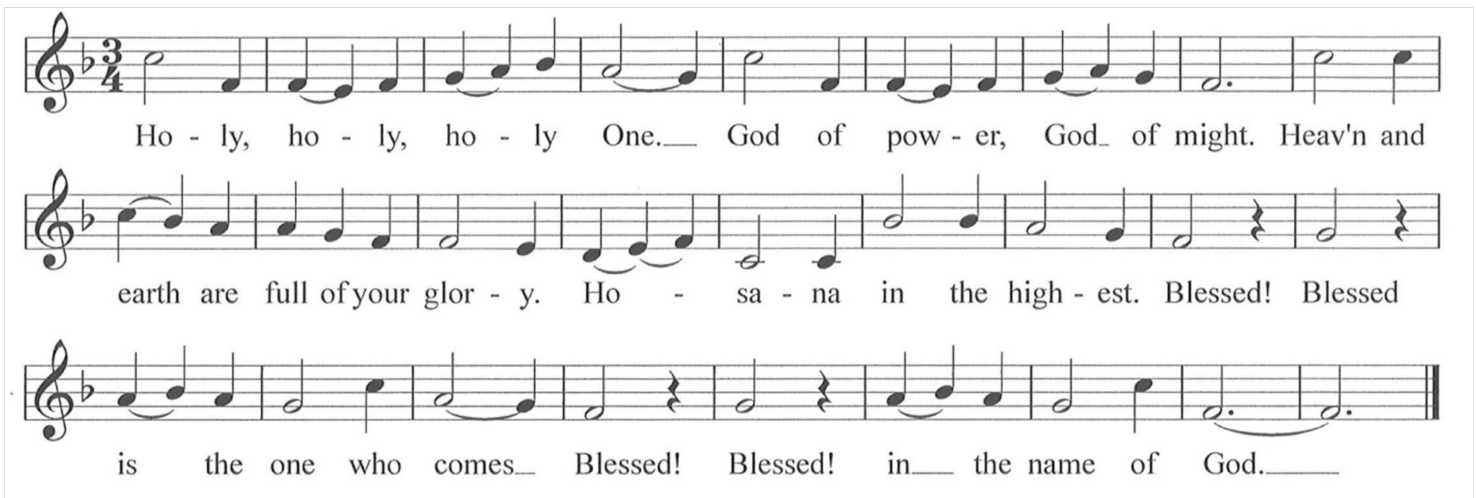


Eucharistic Prayer

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished.

Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.

Holy, Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

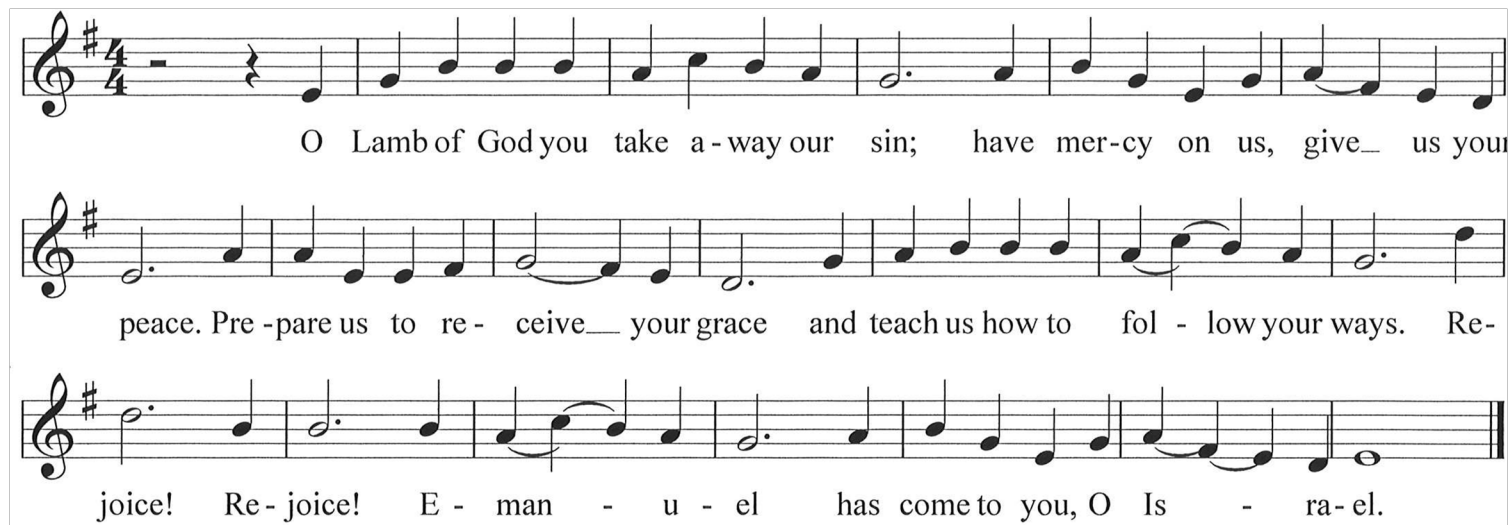
Thanks be to God!

Communion Hymns

"Lamb of God" - arr. Pastor David Eck, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

"The King Shall Come" ELW #260

Lamb of God



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give_ us your
peace. Pre- pare us to re- ceive_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-
joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

Prayer After Communion

Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Soon and Very Soon" ELW #439

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Oh, Come, Emmanuel" arr. Wilbur Held

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.

*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*

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

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

TODAY following worship: Peace Not Walls Forum

We have no words to express the suffering in Palestine and Israel, particularly in Gaza, at this time. We feel helpless in the face of the news. And yet, words must be said. What are the facts, what must we say, and what can we do, for the sake of those suffering in the Holy Land? Please join Rev. Christine Cowan, chair of the SEIA Synod Peace Not Walls Working Group, for a forum as we explore what it can mean to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God at this time.

Joint Longest Night Worship Service

When: Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Where: Central Presbyterian Church

For many, Christmas can be a difficult time that brings a mix of feelings including pain and grief. This will be a service in which you are invited to come as you are to come hear Scripture, prayers, and music that will center around God's presence among all who struggle and long for comfort. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and hold space for any kind of grief and loss that they have experienced. This worship service is a joint service offered by Central Presbyterian and Memorial Lutheran.

Donations Needed for Crisis in Middle East

A word from our wider church body: *"Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes."*

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region."

Please go here to donate: <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>

It's that time of year - Poinsettias!

From now until December 17 you may order poinsettias. You may designate your poinsettia in honor of a loved one, in thanksgiving, or simply just because! The poinsettias are scheduled to arrive for our Christmas Eve worship services and may be taken home following the 9 AM worship service on Christmas Day. Please fill out an order form in the Narthex or contact the church office if you would like to place an order.

Stocking Giveaway with St. Patrick's

We are partnering with St. Patrick's and other local congregations to help provide for the upcoming Stocking Giveaway on Sunday, December 10, 2023 between 1-3 PM at St. Patrick's. In addition to providing gifts for stockings for kids ages 0-18 years old, meal bags will also be provided for approximately 75 families. Memorial has been invited to provide approximately 20 spaghetti meals. Each meal will consist of 1 box of spaghetti, 2 jars of sauce, and 1 can of green beans. Please find the sign up sheet on the GO AND DO board outside the Sanctuary and add your name to a slot(s) there. You can drop off food items as well as stocking stuffer items in the office by Wednesday, December 6, 2023. 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

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!



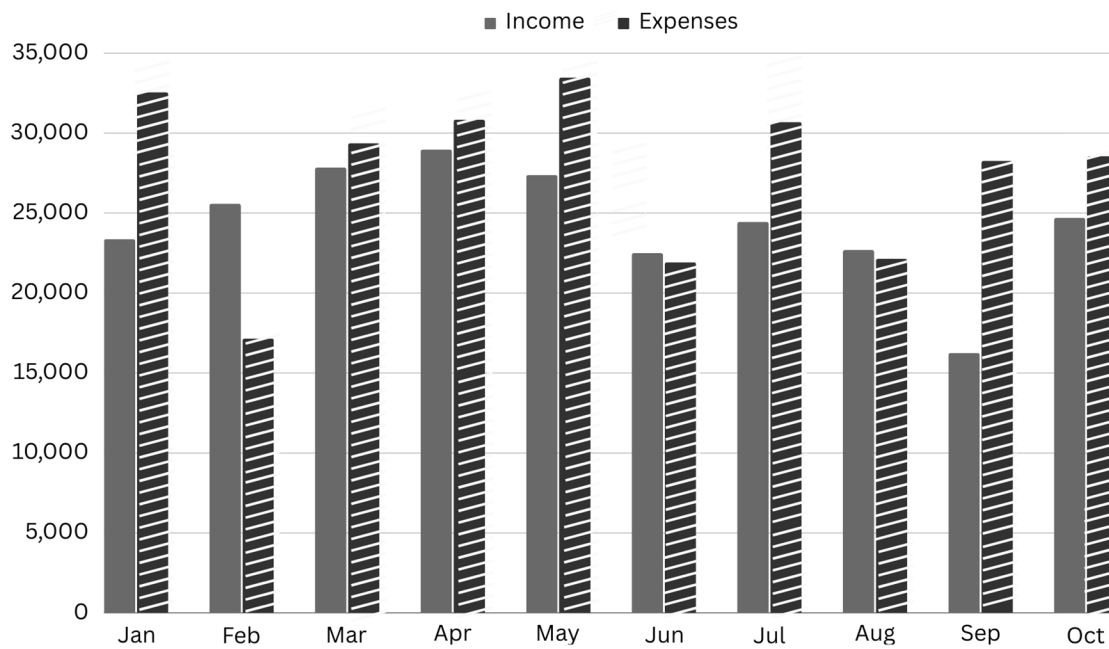
General Fund 2023

Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of October 31, 2023

Income: \$243,770

Expenses: \$275,230

Current Deficit: (-\$31,460)



Save the Date

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

Beer & Theology

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

Where: Cubbies on Main

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

Joint Longest Night Worship Service

When: Thursday, December 21, 2023, 5:30 PM

Where: Central Presbyterian Church

Memorial Lutheran Church
701 11th Street, Nevada, IA 50201
Phone 515-382-6509
pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org
emily@mlcnevada.org
www.mlcnevada.org

@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