

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 1, 2024



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: "Sonata I:II" - Charles Ore
Lois Theesfield, organ

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering Song: "Awake, My Soul with the Sun" - ELW #557

Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

*Congregation reads the **bold print***

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³**they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵**They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
against the innocent.**

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation

All sing twice through

Celtic Alleluia

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

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

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Gospel according to Mark

Glory to You, O Lord

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Lead Me, Guide Me" - ELW #768

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: *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"* - arr. Bender/
Diemer
Lois Theesfield, organ

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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;
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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



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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

Hymns during Communion

"Take My Life, That I May Be" - ELW #685, verses 1-4

"Light Dawns On a Weary World"- ELW #726

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

God all mighty,

God most merciful

+ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Guide My Feet" - ACS #987

Leader All

1 Guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand
 3 Stand by me while I run this race.
 4 I'm your child
 5 Search my heart

Guide my feet
 Hold my hand
 Stand by me while I run this race.
 I'm your child
 Search my heart

Guide my feet
 Hold my hand
 Stand by me while I run this race,
 I'm your child
 Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" - arr. Paul Manz
 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 Bernie Mens and family in your prayers following the death of his wife, +Lois Mens

Please keep Bert Ann Ray and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Chuck Ray

Please keep Jo Rod and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Bob Rod

Daniel Everitt
prayers for healing
nephew of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch

Judy Johnson

Katy Beno
sister of Sandy Christian

Kathy Larsen

Eric Forsyth

Ardith Forsyth

Crystal Vines

Katie Bass
niece of Judy Coverdale

Wayne Johnson

Troy Vincent

Kati Stieler
sister-in-law of Dan Stieler

Johann Thiel

Mike Neal

Christina King

Sherry Kluever

Kim Elliott

Marsha Kane

Pr. Marcia Kisner

Marlene Waddell

friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch

John Bass
son-in-law of Ron & Gloria Jacobson

Carol Vincent

Cassie Harrell

Jean Smith

Janet Jacques

Easton Farrington

Janice Hartz

Jackie Byers
daughter of Shellie Black

Donna See

Norma Dannan
friend of Betty Runge

Fred Samuelson

Jaylee Bartleson

George Forsyth

Janeen Driscoll

Julie Sutherland

Jan Cook

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

Save the Date: “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday is Sept. 8

Bring a friend and join us as one of more than 8,700 congregations engaging in service work to make a positive change in our community, build and deepen relationships, and share God's love. We will have a shortened 9:00 am worship service, followed by the activities below (choose what fits you best!)

Following our service activities, all are invited to a church potluck beginning at 11:30 am. Please bring something to share!

Service Activities

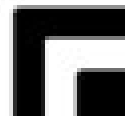
- ◆ Volunteer at Harmony Clothing Closet
- ◆ Tie quilts for LWR
- ◆ Removing of woody vegetation along Butterfly Trail
- ◆ Cleaning inside and around church

Registration Open for Nevada's CROP Hunger Walk

On Sunday, October 6, come join us in fighting hunger locally and globally! This year’s CROP Hunger Walk will include live music and walking tacos at Evergreen Lane as we walk to SCORE Park and back. Whether you join in the walk or come out and support the walkers, grab your family and/or a friend to join in the fight against hunger!

- ◆ 12:00 - Walking tacos and live music begin at Evergreen Lane
- ◆ 1:00 - Walk send-off

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/cropwalks/event/nevadaia> or by using the QR code.



Help Needed to Deliver Groceries from Ames to Story City

A resident of Story City is looking for help in delivering groceries from Ames to his and/or his sister's home. If you can help, please call the church office for more details. Thank you!

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” t-shirts are here! Suggested donation: \$15 / shirt

Thank you to all who placed an order for “God’s Work. Our Hands.” t-shirts. You may pick up your shirt in the Narthex and if you are able, a suggested donation per shirt comes to \$15. Please bring these donations to the box on the wall outside Emily’s office, or place it in the offering plate. Please make sure to label them “GWOH T-shirt”. Thank you!

Honoring +Chuck Ray: New Silent Auction for Duck Decoys

Memorial Lutheran member +Chuck Ray has donated an additional eight hand-carved and meticulously hand painted duck decoys to the church. Although Chuck created them to attract ducks, each one is also a beautiful piece of art that would be an attractive decoration in any home. It is Chuck's desire that they be auctioned and the proceeds given to the church. The decoys will be on display as a “silent auction” from Sunday, September 1 through Sunday, September 15. Each will have a silent auction signup sheet. Those interested in purchasing one or more of the decoys can enter their name and their bids as many times as they like. Bids will close at 10:30 AM on September 15, and each decoy will go to the highest bidder.

HELP WANTED - PART TIME!!

Now that we have your attention, Memorial Choir is seeking soprano, alto, tenor, and bass voices to join us this fall as we begin a new program year. Qualifications for this "job" are minimal but sincere: A desire to sing our Lord's praises in a group setting is all it takes! High school age and up. Please consider this invitation. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 3, 7:30-8:45 pm. For more information contact Lois Theesfield, 515-231-1477 or loistfield@gmail.com

Do you have musical gifts to share?

Our Faith Formation Team is looking for a flexible volunteer or a team of flexible volunteers to teach and lead simple Christian songs and music activities with students in preschool - 6th grade during Wednesday Night Live. Wednesday Night Live meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year from 6:30 - 7:30 pm with some exceptions. If you would be willing to either help or lead in any way please contact Pastor Kathleen at Pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org. Thank you for considering!

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>

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.

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, Capital Improvement (for upcoming building projects), A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), and more!**



Stay Connected with Memorial

Keep up-to-date with Memorial and community events, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and more; sign up to receive emails and/or periodic texts at bit.ly/memorialconnect or by using the QR code.



Save the Date

MLC Volunteers Needed at Harmony Clothing Closet

When: Monday, September 2, 4:00—7:00 PM (any amount of time you can help would be greatly appreciated!)

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals Resume

When: Tuesday, September 3

Weekly Wednesday Night Live!, Confirmation, and Youth Group Resume

When: Wednesday, September 4

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, September 5, 6:30 PM

Where: Old Chicago

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

When: Sunday, September 8

MLC Food at First Volunteers Needed

When: Thursday, September 19

Camping with Memorial

When: September 28—29

Where: Hickory Grove Park

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, October 3, 6:30 PM

Where: Old Chicago

Nevada CROP Hunger Walk

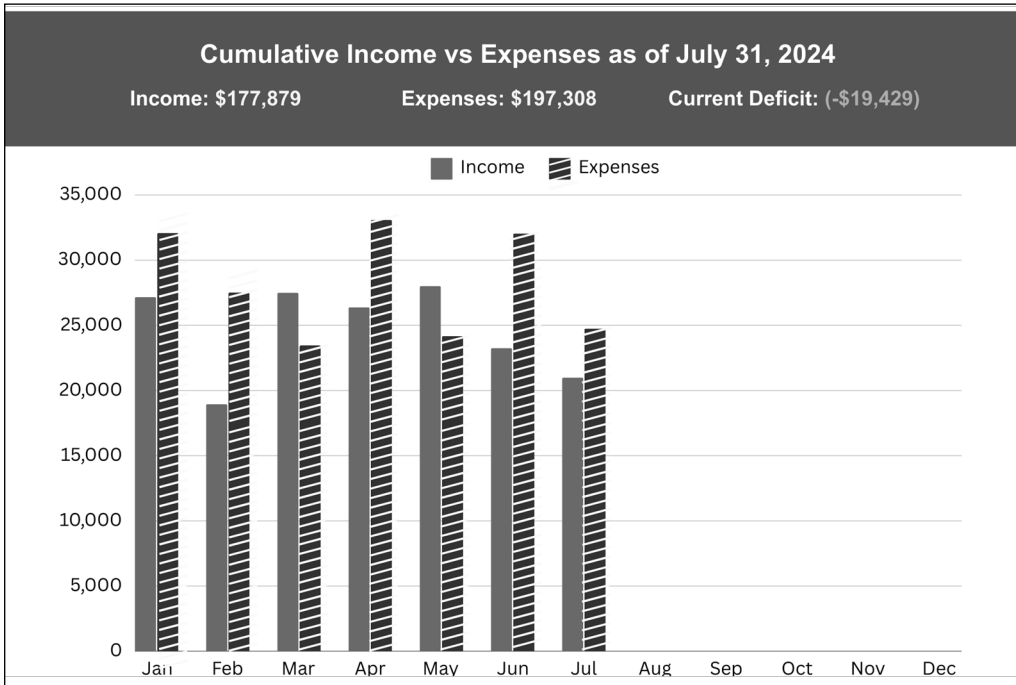
When: Sunday, October 6, 12:00 PM: walking tacos & entertainment

1:00 PM: Walk send-off

Capital Improvement Projects



General Fund Giving



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Memorial Lutheran

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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