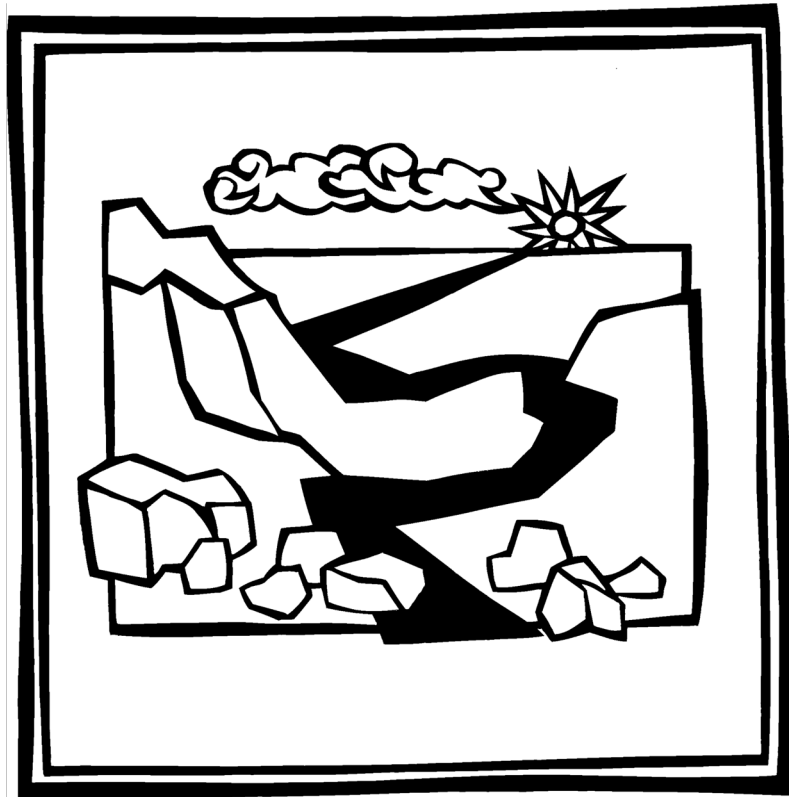


Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024





Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* - arr. John Behnke
Lois Theesfield, organ

Welcome

Call to Worship

In a world that is lonely,

We will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,

We will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,

We will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.

We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

Gathering Song: *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* - ELW #257 verses 3-4

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, The words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. But here on this bright morning we remember: you too are speaking. Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind. We are leaning closer. We are beginning again. Speak to us, as only you can. **Amen.**

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Light a Candle

Advent 2

Light a can - dle for peace in the dark - ness, Souls con - tent, we
know You are near; Ad - vent watch - ing and wait - ing for Je - sus, God with
us, re - solv - ing our fears, Em - man - u - el, peace is
here; peace is hear!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Light a Candle'. It consists of four staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Light a can - dle for peace in the dark - ness, Souls con - tent, we'. The second staff continues with 'know You are near; Ad - vent watch - ing and wait - ing for Je - sus, God with'. The third staff has 'us, re - solv - ing our fears, Em - man - u - el, peace is'. The fourth staff concludes with 'here; peace is hear!'.

First Reading: Ruth 1

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then Naomi started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each

of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi;
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹I went away full,
but the Lord has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi
when the Lord has dealt harshly with me
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who

came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation: "We are Waiting for Jesus" - ACS #905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

The Gospel according to Luke
Glory to You, O Lord

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Hymn of the Day: "To Be Known"

Words by Anna Strickland; Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872



Re - call the truth that we once knew:
For in the gar - den God de - clared
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty
Both you and I are in - ter - twined



We were not made for sol - i - tude
That our brief lives on earth be shared
Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty
The warp and weft of hu - man - kind



We need com - mun - i - ties of faith
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed
So please don't try to go a - lone



Where we can feel God's warm em - brace
Who hold us in our joy and grief
To be di - vid - ed and con - fined
Your hu - man heart needs to be known

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: *"Prepare!"* - Dale Peterson
Memorial Choir

Offering Prayer

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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

Loving God, you have created us for connection—
with you, with one another, and with all of creation.
From the very beginning, you walked with us, calling us beloved.
Through covenant and promise, you showed us the depth of your love,
and when we turned away, you remained faithful.
In this season of Advent, we remember how you draw near to us again.
You chose to enter into this world as Emmanuel—God with us—
to remind us that we are never alone,
that we are seen, loved, known, and celebrated.
And so, with Ruth and Naomi,
with Mary and Joseph,
with angels and shepherds,
and with all who have walked the long journey of faith,
we join their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy

To the tune of *Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella*, "Everlasting Light" by David Eck

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

The 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

Hymns during Communion

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" - ELW #247, verses 1-2

"All Earth is Hopeful" - ELW #266

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God,

Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.

And just like that, we have hope.

Just like that, we begin again.

Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.

Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.

Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.

We are grateful.

Amen.

Election of Council Members

Announcements

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,

God in the darkness and the light,

God, our hope for the journey,

+ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" - ELW #264

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Prepare the Royal Highway" - arr. Charles Ore

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 Pastor Anita Nuetzman and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Dennis Nuetzman.

Please keep the family of +Darla Bohrer (niece of Sandy Christian) following her death

Please keep Steve Halverson in your prayers following the death of his brother, Craig Halverson, in Dallas, Texas on Thursday, October 24. Craig graduated from Nevada High School in 1969

Jo Rod	Katie Bass <i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Jacobson
Kelsee Holzmer <i>granddaughter of Joyce Mack</i>	Wayne Johnson	Carol Vincent
Diane Eilers	Troy Vincent	Cassie Harrell
Mary-Anne Jungst <i>sister-in-law of Steve Jungst</i>	Kati Stieler <i>sister-in-law of Dan Stieler</i>	Jean Smith
Steve Schrum <i>father of Jill Rhodes</i>	Johann Thiel	Easton Farrington
Jake Jacobson	Mike Neal	Janice Hartz
Evelyn Onstot	Christina King	Jackie Byers <i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Marty Schuler	Sherry Kluever	Donna See
Katy Beno <i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Kim Elliott	Norma Dannan <i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Kathy Larsen	Marsha Kane	Fred Samuelson
Eric Forsyth	Pr. Marcia Kisner	Jaylee Bartleson
Ardith Forsyth	Marlene Waddell <i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>	George Forsyth
Crystal Vines	John Bass <i>son-in-law of Ron & Gloria</i>	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

It's that time of year - Poinsettias!

From now until December 19 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 10 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.

Quiet Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22 at 5 pm at Memorial Lutheran

We know that the holidays can often be a difficult time. This season can be filled with too much noise, too much rushing around, or maybe too much grief. This season may not feel like what you want or expect Christmas to feel like. Whatever you may be experiencing in this season, you belong and are invited to come and be with others. Come and hear scripture. Come and pray. Come as you are to find hope and peace in the companionship of Christ and others.

Generous Gifts Tree

As you walked into the Narthex this morning, you may have noticed the return of our Generous Gifts Tree! You will see a very colorful little tree filled with all kinds of present-shaped ornaments with different monetary values written on them, and you will notice there are some rather substantial gifts hanging on the tree.

Now if you recall recent communications from our treasurer and Stewardship Committee, you will remember that we have been (and are continuing to be) behind with our projected giving for the year. As of October 31, 2024, we are **behind approximately \$33,000** for our General Fund income vs expenses. If we were to **all pray, discern, and work together** to be able to generously give what is on each of these ornaments on top of our regular giving, we would be caught up with our projected giving to the General Fund.

We are asking that you would take a look at the tree, talk with others in your household, and listen if God might be urging you to take one or maybe even more gift ornaments to add to your regular giving. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Important Year-end Giving Information

Thank you for your continued generous support of Memorial Lutheran Church! This email is to help you plan your end of year giving if you wish to receive contribution credit for gifts in 2024.

In order to comply with the IRS, we will only be able to accept gifts for contribution credit in 2024 if the following are true:

1. We receive the gift in the office or the office mailbox by midnight on 12/31/2024 **and the gift is dated 12/31/2024**. Please use the mailbox outside the North doors if the office is closed.
2. A mailed gift is dated **AND** postmarked on or before 12/31/2024. If you intend to mail your gift, date your check 12/31/2024 or before and get it to the post office by closing on 12/31/2024 - **make sure to take it to the counter and ask it to be postmarked in your presence** - this assures it is done on that same day.
3. A gift from distributions such as an IRA is also dated **AND** postmarked by 12/31/2024.
4. Make your gift online using [tithe.lv/give](https://titheliv.give) before midnight on 12/31/2024.

Thank you for your attention to this important information regarding our mission and ministry together in Nevada and beyond! We wish you all blessings of this Christmas season and a most joyous New Year!

Thank you for your Thrivent Choice Dollars contributions!

We would like to thank all those who have designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Memorial. In addition to funding **annual scholarships** for students attending ELCA schools, Thrivent Choice Dollars have been distributed in the following ways this year: **\$2,500** toward Memorial's "A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place" Heating/Cooling Project and **\$500** to much-needed hygiene products for Cubbie's Cupboard. Thank you for your generosity!

Tributes for Pr. Duane Miller's Retirement

Pastor Duane Miller, Memorial's interim pastor from September 2019 through April 2021, is retiring and his son would like to collect words of tribute from our congregation. If you would like to contribute, please email your congratulations, memories from his time at Memorial, etc. to emily@mlcnevada.org, or place them in the secure box outside Emily's office. Thank you!

Sing for the Christmas Season!

If you love Christmas Carols and songs and the joy of singing, please consider joining the Memorial Choir for the season. All sections would welcome additional singers. Our rehearsals are on Tuesdays, 7:30-8:45 pm, in the sanctuary. We are preparing not only for Advent and Christmas worship services, but also for CHRISTMAS VESPERS on Thursday December 19, 6:30 pm, where the Choir, Handbells, and Children participate in a program of Word and song. Please contact Lois Theesfield to claim your "spot". Music is waiting for you!

MLC Member Survey

Earlier this year our congregation council set a goal to reach out to Memorial's membership in the hopes of listening well to the needs and hopes of our congregation. A subcommittee was formed to create a survey that would help in identifying what needs are being met, as well as what needs are not currently being met. The council needs everyone's honest feedback in order to identify how we can best serve and love as Memorial Lutheran Church. Thank you in advance for your time and your thoughts. Your participation will help us to grow and abide together in Christ for the sake of the world.



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 set up one-time or recurring gifts to the General Fund, Capital Improvement (for upcoming building projects), the “A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place” heating and cooling project, and more!***



Save the Date

Mid-week Advent Worship & Supper

When: Wednesday, December 11, 6:00 PM—Supper; 7:00 PM—Worship

Mid-week Advent Worship & Supper

When: Wednesday, December 18, 6:00 PM—Supper; 7:00 PM—Worship

Christmas Vespers - “Come: Greet the Child”

An evening of handbell, vocal, and instrumental music

When: Thursday, December 19, 6:30 PM

Deadline to Order Christmas Poinsettias

When: Thursday, December 19

Quiet Christmas Service

When: Thursday, December 22, 5:00 PM

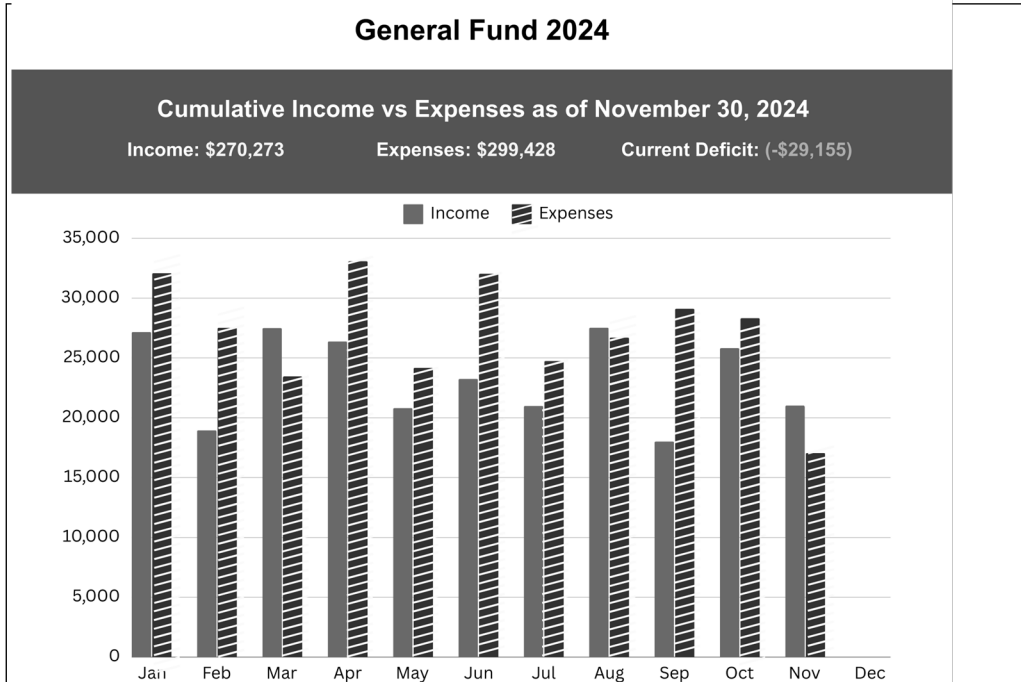
Christmas Eve Worship Services

When: Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM

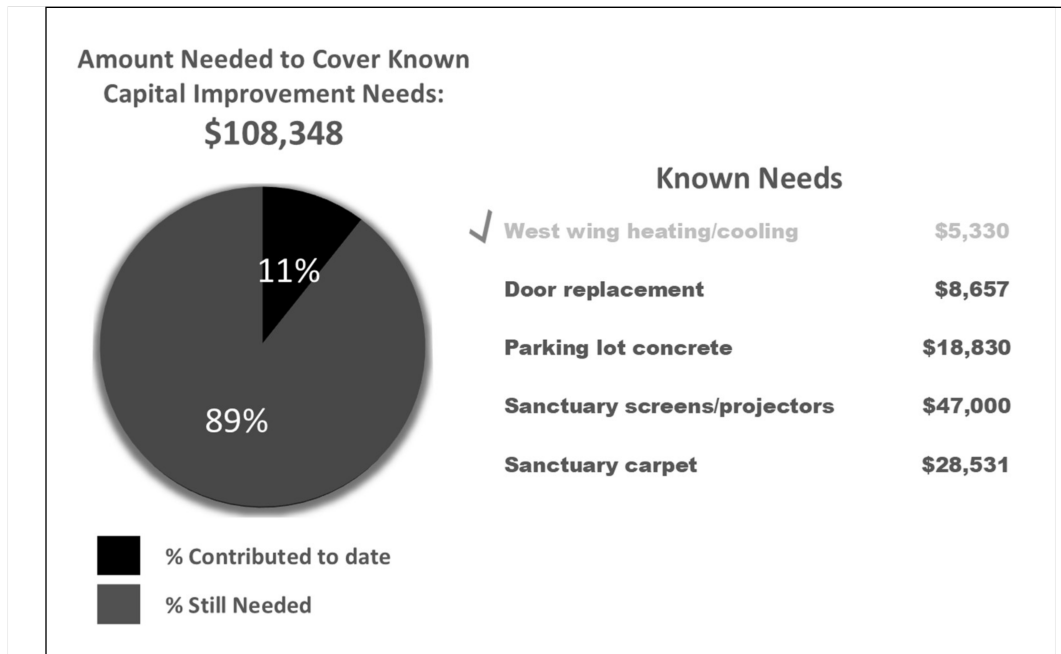
Christmas Day Lessons & Carols Service

When: Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 AM

General Fund Giving—Help us end the year ahead!



Capital Improvement Needs



Memorial Lutheran Church
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Phone 515-382-6509
pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org
emily@mlcnevada.org
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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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