

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”* - arr. Cherwien/Held
Lois Theesfield, organ

Welcome

Gathering Song: *“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”* - ELW #707

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In + Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

Kyrie - ELW Setting 8


Refrain




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual

body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation - *ELW Setting 8*

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

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

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

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

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38

The Gospel according to Luke
Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Build a Longer Table” - ACS #1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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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: *"Calling My Children Home"* - arr. Joseph Jennings
Memorial Choir

*Those lives were mine to love and cherish
To guard and guide along life's way.
Oh, God forbid that one should perish,
That one alas should go astray.*

*Back in the years with all together,
Around the place we'd romp and play.
So lonely now, I often wonder,
Oh, will they come back home someday?*

*I'm lonesome for my precious children
They live so far away.
Oh, may they hear my calling
And come back home someday.*

*I gave my all for my dear children,
Their problems still with love I share.
I'd brave life's storms, defy the tempest
To bring them home from anywhere.*

*I lived my life, my love I gave them,
To guide them through this world of strife.
I hope and pray we'll live together
In that great glad here after life.*

*I'm lonesome for my precious children
They live so far away.
Oh, may they hear my calling, calling,
And come back home someday.*

Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

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.

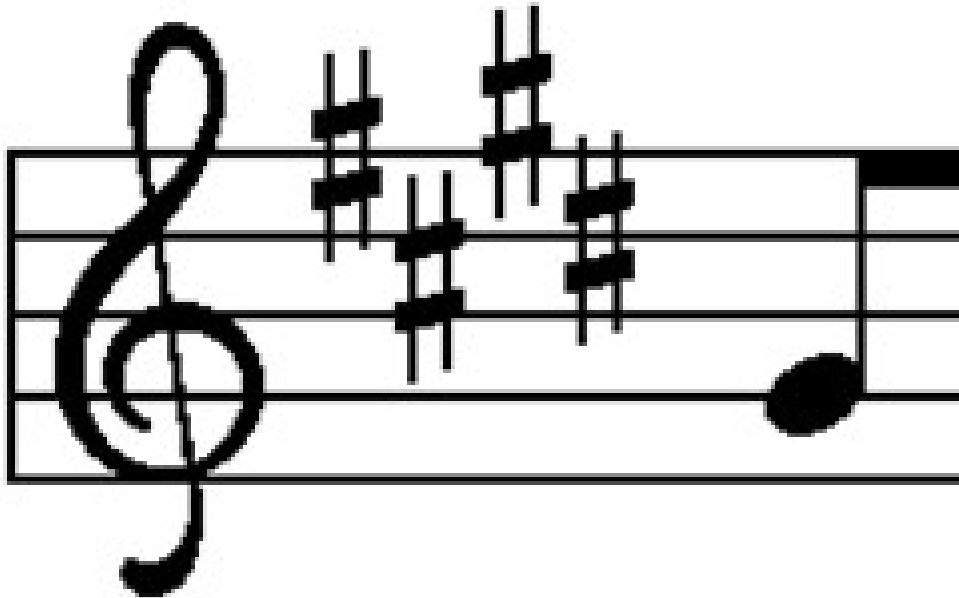
Eucharistic Prayer

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy - ELW Setting 8



TT

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Hymns during Communion

“Lamb of God” - ELW Setting 8

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” - ELW #656

Lamb of God - ELW Setting 8



Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God
+ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Jesus the Light of the World" - ACS #914, stanzas 3-4



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Grand Choeur" - Gordon Young

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 John Pelzer and family in your prayers following the death of his father

Please keep Jana Ballantyne and family in your prayers following the death of her mother, Shirley Mae Weyant

Please keep Arlys & Mike Neal and Lauren Chitty and their entire family in your prayers following the death of their daughter and sister, Cindy Grosz.

Barb McDaniel	Eric Forsyth	<i>Jacobson</i>
Ken Huffaker	Crystal Vines	Carol Vincent
<i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Katie Bass	Cassie Harrell
Emma Nelson	<i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Jean Smith
<i>granddaughter of Steve & Nan Jungst</i>	Wayne Johnson	Easton Farrington
Ardith Forsyth	Troy Vincent	Janice Hartz
Gene Newsome	Johann Thiel	Jackie Byers
Eileen Miller	Mike Neal	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Karen Anderson	Christina King	Donna See
Caleb Roof	Sherry Kluever	Norma Dannan
Jake Jacobson	Kim Elliott	<i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Evelyn Onstot	Pr. Marcia Kisner	Fred Samuelson
Marty Schuler	Marlene Waddell	Jaylee Bartleson
Katy Beno	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>	George Forsyth
<i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	John Bass	Janeen Driscoll
Kathy Larsen	<i>son-in-law of Ron & Gloria</i>	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

New Member Orientation - Thursday, April 24 at 6 pm


Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be a member at Memorial Lutheran? Are you considering joining the people of God at Memorial by taking the step of becoming a member? If so, we invite you to attend an orientation on the evening of Thursday, April 24. Join us for a meal and conversation about how Memorial seeks to live into God's mission here in Nevada. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, April 27. Please RSVP by e-mail Pastor Kathleen at PastorKathleen@mlcnevada.org.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Update

Greetings on behalf of the Thrivent Choice Committee. Just a friendly reminder about designating your Thrivent dollars to Memorial as March 31 is the deadline. This past year with your generous designations we were able to assist Memorial youth in attending Lutheran Lakeside Camp (\$2,150), contribute to student personal hygiene items through Cubbies Cupboard (\$500), and help with Memorial's "A Welcoming Space= A Welcoming Place" heating and cooling project (\$2,500). Thank you for your support!

Opportunity of a Lifetime

The Memorial Choir has been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall, New York City!! This invitation is not just for the MC singers, but for any Memorial member (and friends of) that would love to participate in this once-in-a-life-time opportunity! The concert, under the direction of composer/song-writer Heather Sorenson, will take place November 17, 2025. 250+ choristers with a full professional orchestra, will premier Heather's newest cantata, Solas. Rehearsals will take place two days prior to the event, with a gala reception planned for all participants following the performance. DCINY (Distinguished Concerts International New York) sponsors this event and provides a quality performance experience for all Performing Arts Partners. Interested? Want more information? Please contact Lois Theesfield, Minister of Music, Memorial Lutheran Church.



Celebrating our loan payoff - don't forget to update your Tithe.ly recurring giving!

As you may have heard, we joyfully announced the payoff of our “A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place” heating and cooling project loan! If you have been giving through Tithe.ly as an automatic recurring gift to “A Welcoming Space=A Welcoming Place”, please make sure to cancel this giving and prayerfully consider moving it to another area in need through Tithe.ly, such as Capital Improvement or one of our special building projects. If you have questions, please contact Emily Dalthorp. Thank you!

Nevada Kiwanis Club Bedding Drive - Donations Needed!

The Nevada Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a bedding drive for the Ames Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace during the month of February. Their mission is **“NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!”** Since November of 2023, Sleep in Heavenly Peace has been building and delivering beds to children in Ames and Nevada who need a bed and a safe place to sleep. Kiwanis is collecting new plain colored twin sheet sets, blankets, mattress pads, and pillows. Donation boxes will be located at **Fareway, State Bank, First Interstate Bank, Availa Bank, City Hall, and Story County Medical**. Please help Kiwanis support the efforts of Sleep in Heavenly Peace to provide beds and bedding for children in our community so that **“No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.”** Thank you!



Online Giving with Tithe.ly—New Funds Available for Designated Gifts

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 Fund, Drive for the Drive Pavement Project, Sanctuary Screens Fund, Sanctuary Carpet Fund, and more!**



Save the Date

TODAY: Book Study Begins: “*The Rapture Exposed*”

When: Sunday, February 23 following worship

Where: MLC Chapel

TODAY: MLC Iowa Wolves Outing

When: Sunday, February 23, 3 PM - We'll meet at 2:30 PM at the north entrance of Wells Fargo Arena

Fellowship & Outreach Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 25, 6 PM

MLC at Harmony Clothing Closet - Volunteers Needed!

When: Monday, March 3, 4 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

When: Wednesday, March 5, 7 PM

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, March 6, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

Remembrance Team Meeting

When: Sunday, March 9, 10:30 AM

Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper (each Wednesday during Lent leading up to Holy Week)

When: Wednesday, March 12, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

Lutheran World Relief Work Day

When: Wednesday, March 12, 1 PM

Our 2025 Goals

As discussed and approved at the January 2025 council meeting

1. We will gather with Memorial members with an emphasis of creating an environment of belonging, fellowship, and family.
2. We will build on the ongoing ecumenical work.

Our 2025 Council

Steve Lekwa, President

Wayne Kinyon, Vice President

Erin Rewerts, Secretary

Hattie Rhodes, Treasurer

Carl Link

Connie Kinyon

Denise Rehor

Emilia Stage

Larry Parker

Lynn Rhodes

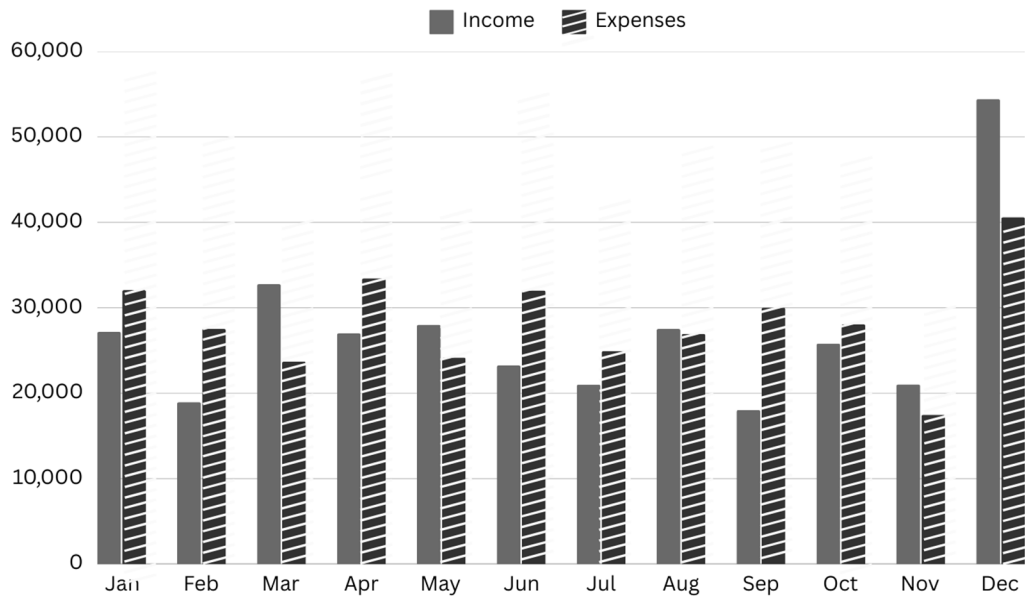
Mike Neal

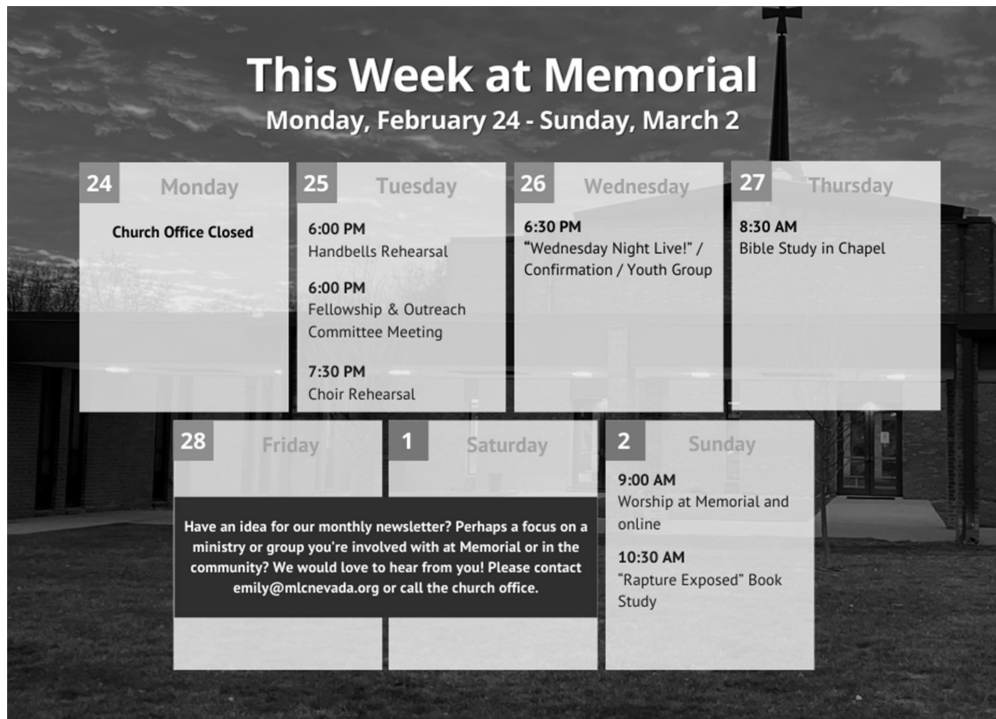
Steve Jungst

2024 General Fund Cumulative Income vs Expenses

Income: \$324,971

Expenses: \$340,937





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

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