

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** "Whenever I Think" - Zach Sprowls

Lois Theesfield, piano

### Welcome

**Gathering Song:** "Beneath the Tree of Life - Gathering Song" - Marty Haugen

*Refrain - All sing together*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Brackets indicate where optional phrases can be inserted. The score consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: \* [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life; Root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re - lease. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life. The final staff ends with a double bar line and a right-pointing arrow.

\*[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of

life. [Come and gath - er] be -

neath the tree of life; Root of

wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re -

lease. [Come and gath - er] be -

neath the tree of life.

\* The following phrases may be inserted wherever there are brackets.

Streams of mercy...  
No more dying...  
Sweet forgiveness...

Lay your burdens...  
Grace and pardon...  
Joy and new hope...<sub>1</sub>

*Verse 4 - All sing together*



## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

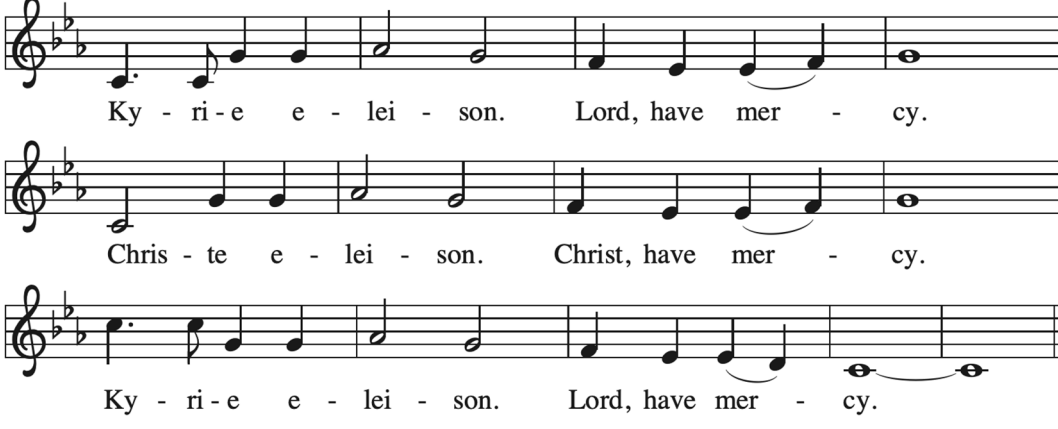
**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In + Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

## Kyrie - ACS Setting 12



The musical score is written for three voices on three staves, all in treble clef and G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy. The first and third staves end with a double bar line, while the second staff continues the melody.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

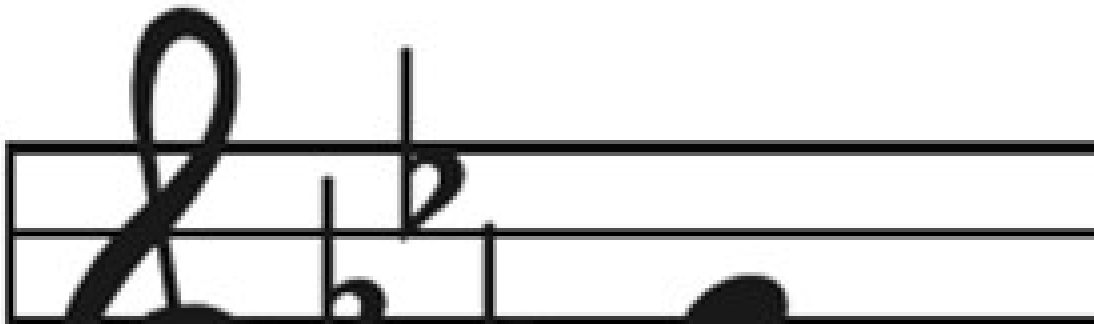
<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Children at Heart Sermon**

### **Gospel Acclamation - ACS Setting 12**



## **Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The Gospel according to Luke

**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that

will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Sermon**

## **Hymn of the Day: “Our Father, We Have Wandered” - ELW #606**

### **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:** *"You Are My All in All" - arr. Patricia Cota*  
*Memorial Handbells with vocal soloist Aly Sassman*

*You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek  
You are my all in all.  
Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool  
You are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.*

*Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Rising again, I bless your name  
You are my all in all.  
When I fall down, you pick me up, When I am dry you fill my cup  
You are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.*

**Offering Prayer**

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**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.**

**Preface**

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
 and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
 that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
 we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
 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 - "*Beneath the Tree of Life*" - Marty Haugen

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## **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**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

### **Hymns during Communion**

*"Lamb of God" (see next page)*

*"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" - ELW #608*

## Lamb of God

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

mer-cy on us. us. Grant us your peace.

1, 2. 3.

## Prayer after Communion

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Announcements

### Blessing

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
+ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** *“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”* - ELW #763

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** *“Larghetto”* - Johann Franck

*Lois Theesfield, organ*



## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep the family of Teresa Krebs and Stacie Link in your prayers following the death of their sister-in-law, Jean Monahan*

*Please keep Eric and Jenny Adelmund and family in your prayers following the death of Eric's father, Jesse Adelmund*

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

**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: Let's go bowling! 2-4 PM @ Sports Bowl**

Join us for bowling this afternoon! Cost will be \$7 per person and includes two games plus shoes. We'll see you at Sports Bowl!

### **Chili & Soup Cook-off - Wednesday, April 2, 6 PM**

We are still in need of chili and soup entries for the cook-off. Please contact the church office if you would like to contribute and be in the running for this year's favorite chili or soup! Donations at the event will go to ELCA World Hunger. Our mid-week Lenten worship service will follow at 7 PM.

### **Women of the ELCA SEIA Synod Spring Gathering - Saturday, April 5**

The Women of the ELCA's Cluster 1 Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 5 at Palestine Lutheran Church in Huxley. Registration is \$5 and will be available that morning from 9 - 9:30.

### **Easter Lily Dedications Due April 16**

Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one and help decorate the church for Easter! Please fill out a form in the Narthex or contact the church office at 515-382-6509 or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org). A suggested donation is \$8 per lily (payments may be brought to the church office or dropped in the secure box outside Emily's office). Thank you!

### **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](mailto: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!

## 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!

## 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!***



## 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](http://bit.ly/memorialconnect) or by using the QR code



## **Save the Date**

### **TODAY: Let's go bowling!**

*Cost is \$7 for two games and shoes*

When: Sunday, March 30, 2 - 4 PM

Where: Sports Bowl, Nevada

### **Chili & Soup Cook-off**

*Contact the church office to bring chili or soup*

*Donations benefit ELCA World Hunger*

When: Wednesday, April 2, 6 PM

### **Women of the ELCA Cluster 1 Spring Gathering**

When: Saturday, April 5 - Registration begins at 9 am

Where: Palestine Lutheran Church, Huxley

### **Church Potluck**

*Bring your favorite dish to share!*

When: Wednesday, April 9, 6 PM

### **Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday Worship**

When: Sunday, April 13, 9 AM

### **Maundy Thursday Worship**

When: Thursday, April 17, 7 PM

### **Good Friday Worship**

*Meditative harp music will be provided 30 minutes before worship begins*

When: Friday, April 18, 7 PM

### **Easter Dawn Worship**

When: Sunday, April 20, 7 AM

### **Easter Brunch**

*Fundraiser for Memorial Youth*

When: Sunday, April 20, 7:45 - 8:45 AM

### **Easter - He is Risen!**

*Egg hunt to follow 9 AM service*

When: Sunday, April 20, 9 AM

## 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

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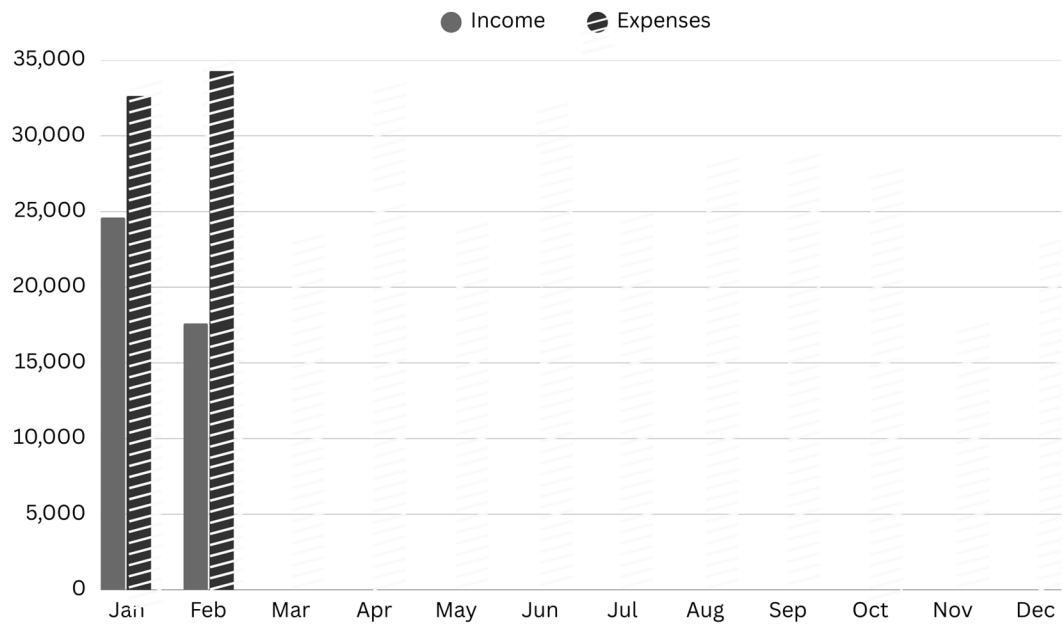
## General Fund 2025

### Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of February 28, 2025

Income: \$42,225

Expenses: (\$66,936)

Current Deficit: (\$24,711)





## This Week at Memorial

Monday, March 31 - Sunday, April 6

<b>31 Monday</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>1 Tuesday</b>  6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>2 Wednesday</b>  6:00 PM Chili / Soup Cook-off <i>We still need chili/soup!</i> Please contact the church office if you would like to bring your favorite chili, soup, or side. Thank you!	<b>3 Thursday</b>  6:30 PM Beer & Theology @ Cubbies on Main
<b>4 Friday</b>  Have an idea for our monthly newsletter? Perhaps a focus on a ministry or group you're involved with at Memorial or in the community? We would love to hear from you! Please contact <a href="mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org">emily@mlcnevada.org</a> or call the church office.		<b>5 Saturday</b>	<b>6 Sunday</b>  9:00 AM Worship at Memorial and online  10:30 "Rapture Exposed" Book Study in library

**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

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