

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

*Emilia Stage is joined today by two of her mentors, Gretchen Theesfield and Nathalie Cruden, in edifying our worship with beautiful string music.
Thank you, Emilia, Gretchen and Nathalie.*

Prelude: “Canon in D” - Johann Pachebel

Violin Trio: Emilia Stage, Gretchen Theesfield, Nathalie Cruden

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,**

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

**Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.**

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “*Gather Us In*” ELW #532

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a}for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112

Refrain



- 1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!**
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever. *Refrain***
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.**
- 6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. *Refrain***
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.**
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.**
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish. *Refrain***

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation - ELW Setting 10

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Gospel according to Luke
Glory to You, O Lord

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite

the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “As We Gather at Your Table” - ELW #522

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: *"Bonen" (The Prayer) - Kitty Paakkonen*
Violin Trio: Emilia Stage, Gretchen Theesfield, Nathalie Cruden

Offering Prayer

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

The Meal

This is Christ's table and Christ's meal. All are welcome here. Kids are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents. If you are unable to come forward please let an usher or the pastor know so that we can bring you Communion at your seat.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

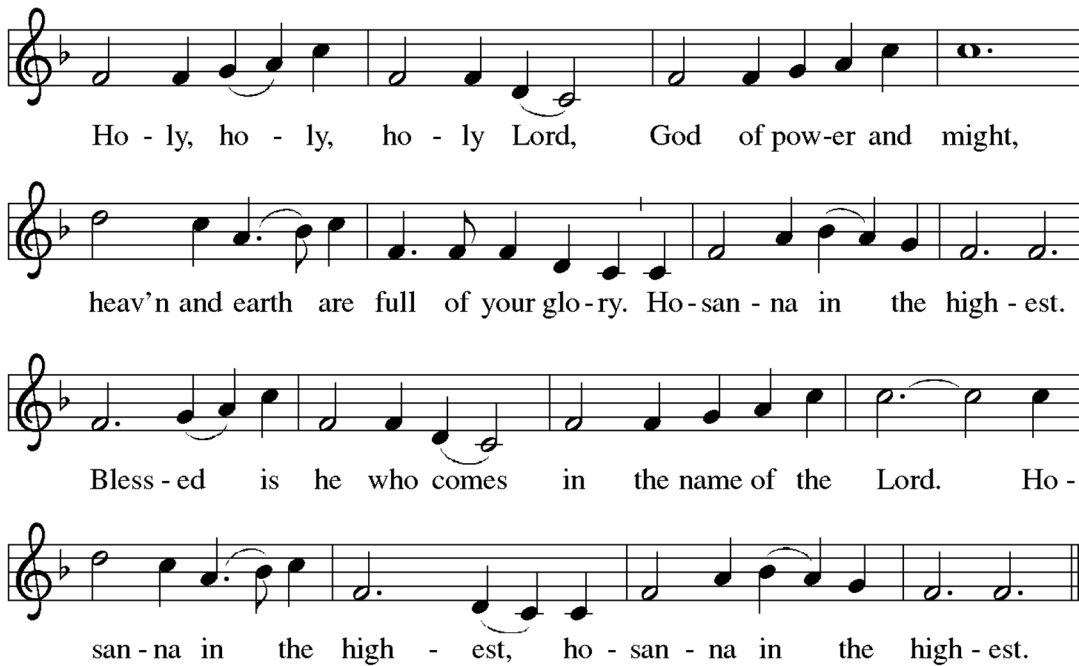
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

Music during Communion

"Largo from Concerto in D Minor" - J.S. Bach
Violins: Gretchen Theesfield, Nathalie Cruden

Prayer After Communion

Nurturing God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
+ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"* ELW #547

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"Allegro from Concerto in A Minor"* - Antonio Vivaldi
Violins: Gretchen Theesfield, Nathalie Cruden

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 Lou Ann Williams and her family in your prayers following the death of her husband Rob Williams on July 30, 2025.

Please keep the family of +Nancy Greiner in your prayers following her death.

Craig Sutherland
June Copenhaver
mother of Diane Martin
Pastor Andrea Myers
wife of Pastor Ronald Myers

Charlie Lloyd
Bert Ann Ray
Wayne Kinyon
Loren Bryant
brother of Arlys Neal

Jill Rhodes
Judy Johnson
Gloria Jacobson
Connie Robinson
sister of Shirley Klonglan

Barb McDaniel
Ken Huffaker
father of Kendra McCauley

Emma Nelson
granddaughter of Steve & Nan Jungst

Ardith Forsyth
Eileen Miller

Karen Anderson

Caleb Roof

Evelyn Onstot

Marty Schuler

Katy Beno
sister of Sandy Christian

Eric Forsyth

Crystal Vines

Katie Bass
niece of Judy Coverdale

Wayne Johnson

Troy Vincent

Johann Thiel

Mike Neal

Christina King

Sherry Kluever

Kim Elliott

Pr. Marcia Kisner

Marlene Waddell
friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch

Carol Vincent

Cassie Harrell

Jean Smith

Easton Farrington

Janice Hartz

Jackie Byers
daughter of Shellie Black

Donna See

Norma Dannan
friend of Betty Runge

Fred Samuelson

Jaylee Bartleson

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. 7

NEXT SUNDAY: 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. Please bring something to share!

Service Activities

- ♦ Volunteer at Harmony Clothing Closet
- ♦ Tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief
- ♦ Small ensembles visiting Windsor Manor
- ♦ Wednesday Night Live supply organizing
- ♦ Cleaning inside and around church
- ♦ Food at First prep
- ♦ Neighborhood yard clean-up as needed

Music Rehearsals Resume

Memorial Handbells and Memorial Choir resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 2, with handbells meeting from 6:00-7:15 pm, and choir meeting from 7:30-8:45 pm. Both groups welcome new members! All who are interested in finding out more information about bells or choir please contact director Lois Theesfield, loistfield@gmail.com or 515-231-1477.

Save the Date: Worship at Oriole Ridge Lodge - Sunday, September 14 , 10:00 AM, followed by potluck

Join us at the beautiful Hickory Grove Park for worship at Oriole Ridge Lodge on Sunday, September 14 at 10:00 AM, followed by a potluck. Please bring a dish or side to share!

Raising Readers in Story County Presents “Small Talk”

This fall, Raising Readers in Story County and the Nevada Public Library are excited to offer “Small Talk”, a fun (free!) weekly class where you and your baby (age 2 - 32 months) can play, talk, and learn together. Each week will feature new toys, books and hands-on activities; practical tips to boost your baby’s brain through everyday talk, a free book to take home, and ideas to build connections and support your baby’s development. A light meal will also be served to families. See the handouts in the Narthex to sign up.

When: Thursdays Sept. 18 - Nov. 20, 2025, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Where: Nevada Public Library

Support Lutheran Lakeside’s *For Every Season* Campaign

Memorial has had a long history of sending students and families to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for “the best week ever!” where campers are given unique opportunities to try new things, challenge themselves, enjoy creation, make friends, and grow in their faith. We invite you to join us in giving back to this Lutheran Lakeside through their *For Every Season* campaign, which aims to improve all property and facilities to dramatically increase year-round offerings, as they seek to offer a place of belonging for all people to find joy and purpose in God’s Creation. Visit lutheranlakeside.com or use the QR code to learn more and to give. *Thank you!*



Volunteers Needed: Ushers/Greeters for Sunday Mornings

We're looking for ushers/greeters to be welcoming faces to those worshipping with us on Sunday mornings. If you can help, please see the sign-up sheet on the main door into the Sanctuary, or contact the church office. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunity: Drivers Wanted

Would you be willing to offer a lift to members of Memorial that need transportation assistance to and from worship? If so, please contact the office so that we can provide you further information. Thank you so much for your willingness to help!

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 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 or by using the QR code.



Save the Date

MLC at Harmony Clothing Closet - Volunteers Needed!

When: Monday, September 1, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Weekly Bible Study - New Day & Time

When: Tuesday, September 2, 2:00 PM in Chapel

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals Resume

When: Tuesday, September 2

Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation, and Youth Group Resume

When: Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 PM

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, September 4, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

When: Sunday, September 7 following 9:00 AM worship

Weekly Bible Study

When: Tuesday, September 9, 2:00 PM in Chapel

Lutheran World Relief Work Day

When: Wednesday, September 10, 1:00 PM

Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation, and Youth Group Resume

When: Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 PM

Finance Team Meeting

When: Thursday, September 11, 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship at Oriole Ridge Lodge

Potluck to follow: please bring a dish or side to share

When: Sunday, September 14, 10:00 AM

Where: Hickory Grove’s Oriole Ridge Lodge

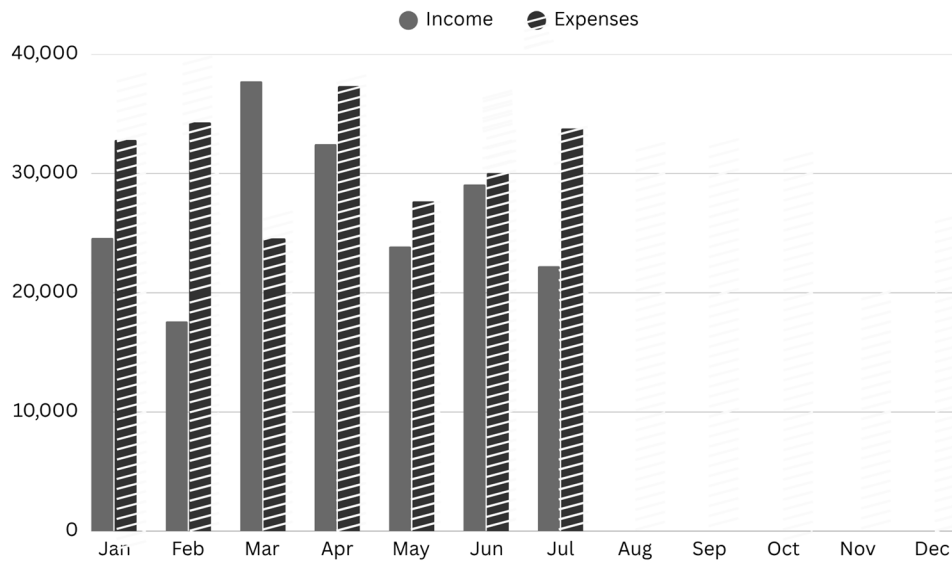
General Fund 2025

Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of July 31, 2025

Income: \$187,712

Expenses: (\$220,574)

Current Deficit: (\$32,862)



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

Carl Link

Larry Parker

Wayne Kinyon, Vice President

Connie Kinyon

Lynn Rhodes

Erin Rewerts, Secretary


Denise Rehor

Mike Neal

Hattie Rhodes, Treasurer

Emilia Stage

Steve Jungst



This Week at Memorial

Monday, September 1 - Sunday, September 7

1 Monday Church Office Closed 4:00 PM MLC @ Harmony Clothing Closet - Volunteers Needed!	2 Tuesday 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 PM Endowment Board Meeting in Lounge 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 Wednesday 6:30 - 7:30 PM Wednesday Night Live and Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00 PM Confirmation	4 Thursday 6:30 PM Beer & Theology @ Cubbies on Main
5 Friday 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 emily@mlcnevada.org or call the church office.	6 Saturday	7 Sunday "God's Work. Our Hands." 9:00 AM Shortened worship at Memorial and online followed by "God's Work. Our Hands." activities	

Office Hours
 Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM*
**Call 515-382-6509 for appointments outside of office hours*

Memorial Lutheran Church
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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