

13th Sunday After Pentecost
“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday
September 7, 2025



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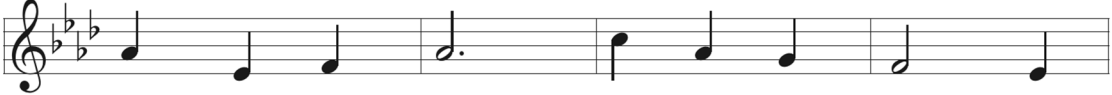
Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: “With The Lord Begin Your Task” - arr. Michael Burkhardt
Lois Theesfield, organ


*“With the Lord begin your task, Jesus will direct it;
For His aid and counsel ask, Jesus will perfect it.
Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
Grant that it may well be done To Thy praise forever.”*

Welcome

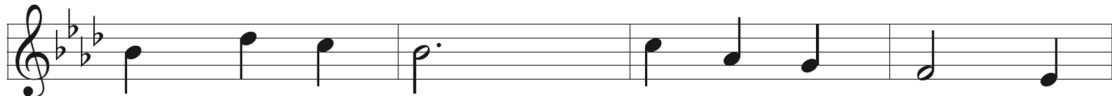
Gathering Hymn: “God’s Work Our Hands” ACS #1000, vs 1 - 2



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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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

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you

and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**4 It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Gospel Acclamation - ELW Setting 10



Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33

The Gospel according to Luke
Glory to You, O Lord

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: “Thuma mina, Nkosi yam / Send Me Jesus” -
ELW #549**

- 1. Send me, Jesus; Send me, Jesus; Send me, Jesus;
Send me, Lord.**
- 2. I am willing; I am willing; I am willing, willing, Lord.**
- 3. Send me, Jesus; Send me, Jesus; Send me, Jesus;
Send me, Lord.**

Prayers of Intercession

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God, we pray,
open our hands in love.

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray,
open our hands in love.

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, "
open our hands in love.

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now [names and needs added as desired]. Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray,
open our hands in love.

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray,
open our hands in love.

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray,
open our hands in love. "

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the Crucified and-Risen One Jesus.
Amen.

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.

Announcements

Celebration of Vocation and Blessing of Hands for Ministry

We are called to proclaim the good news:
God is at work!

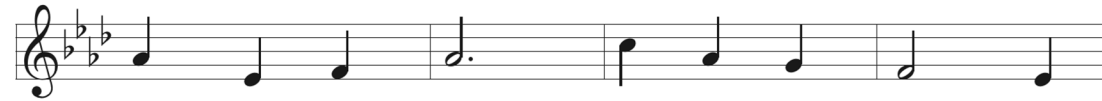
This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:
God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.
God is at work in us!

In our service today, and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.
God is at work through our hands!

God bless your hands and your work,
that through you God's love may be known.
Amen.

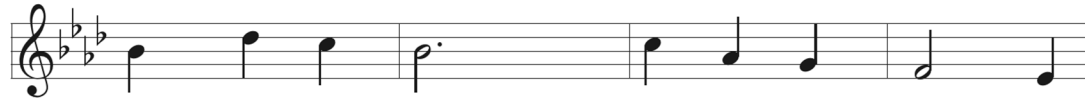
Sending Hymn: "God's Work Our Hands" ACS #1000, vs 3 - 4



3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"The Lord Now Send Us Forth"*

Lois Theesfield, organ

*"The Lord now sends us forth
With hands to serve and give,
To make of all the earth
A better place to live."*

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	Ardith Forsyth	Kim Elliott
June Copenhaver <i>mother of Diane Martin</i>	Eileen Miller	Pr. Marcia Kisner
Pastor Andrea Myers <i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i>	Karen Anderson	Marlene Waddell <i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>
Charlie Lloyd	Caleb Roof	Carol Vincent
Bert Ann Ray	Evelyn Onstot	Cassie Harrell
Wayne Kinyon	Marty Schuler	Jean Smith
Loren Bryant <i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Katy Beno <i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Easton Farrington
Jill Rhodes	Eric Forsyth	Janice Hartz
Gloria Jacobson	Crystal Vines	Jackie Byers <i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Connie Robinson <i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Katie Bass <i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Donna See
Barb McDaniel	Wayne Johnson	Norma Dannan <i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Ken Huffaker <i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Troy Vincent	Fred Samuelson
Emma Nelson <i>granddaughter of Steve & Nan Jungst</i>	Johann Thiel	Jaylee Bartleson
	Mike Neal	George Forsyth
	Christina King	Janeen Driscoll
	Sherry Kluever	

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: “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

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

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

Weekly Bible Study

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

Executive Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 9, 2:00 PM

Where: Lounge

Lutheran World Relief Work Day

When: Wednesday, September 10, 1:00 PM

Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation, and Youth Group

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

Weekly Bible Study

When: Tuesday, September 16, 2:00 PM in Chapel

Fellowship & Outreach Team Meeting

When: Wednesday, September 17, 4:30 - 5:30 PM

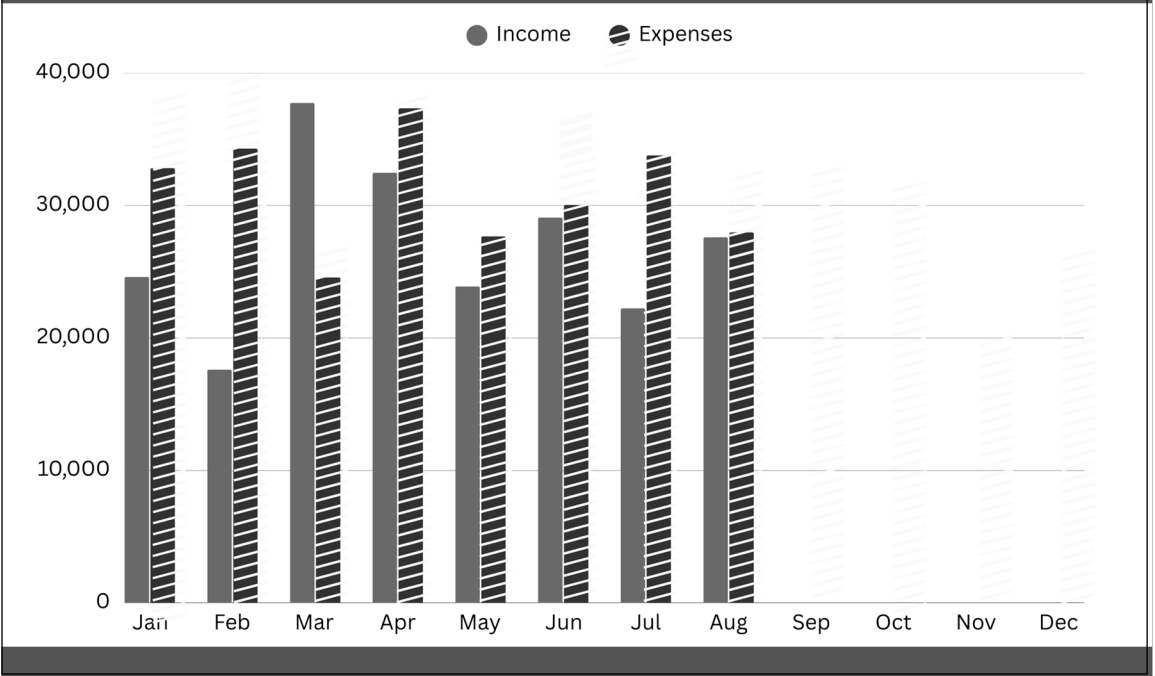
Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation, and Youth Group

When: Wednesday, September 17, 6:30 PM

General Fund 2025

Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of August 31, 2025

Income: \$215,318 Expenses: (\$248,561) Current Deficit: (\$33,243)



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 8 - Sunday, September 14

8 Monday Church Office Closed	9 Tuesday 2:00 PM Bible Study in Chapel 5:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	10 Wednesday 1:00 PM Lutheran World Relief Work Day 6:30 - 7:30 PM Wednesday Night Live and Youth Group 6:30 - 7:30 PM Confirmation	11 Thursday 5:00 PM Finance Team Meeting
12 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.	13 Saturday	14 Sunday 9:00 AM Worship at Memorial and online	

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

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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