

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



MEMORIAL  
**LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” and “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” - arr. John Carter

*Lois Theesfield, piano*

## Welcome

### WARM THE TIME OF WINTER

Hymn text: Ruth Duck

Gathering Rite

Music: Lori True

#### 1. Gathering Song

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

1. When the wind of win - ter blows, bring - ing times of  
2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of  
3. When in days of fall - en snow, change con - founds or

sol - i - tude, fill the si - lent, ic - y night;  
death comes near, hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear,  
love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise

be our hearts' com - pas - sion.  
while the eve - ning deep - ens.  
phoe - nix of our grow - ing.

Ho - ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.

Ho - ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.

## 2. Penitential Rite

*Introduction and verse precede congregational call and response*

The musical score is written for three parts: Cantor, All, and a congregational response. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The Cantor part consists of three measures of music, each with three lines of lyrics. The All part also consists of three measures of music, each with three lines of lyrics. The congregational response part consists of three measures of music, each with three lines of lyrics. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

*Cantor*

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e -  
Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e -  
Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e -

*All*

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e,  
le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste,  
le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e,

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chri - ste e - le - i - son.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Advent Candle Lighting

### Light a Candle

*Lisa Waites*

Light a can - dle for love in the dark - ness, Hearts con - tent, we know You are  
near; Ad - vent watch - ing and wait - ing for Je - sus, God with us, Your  
pur - pose is clear, Em - man - u - el, love is  
here; love is hear!

### First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

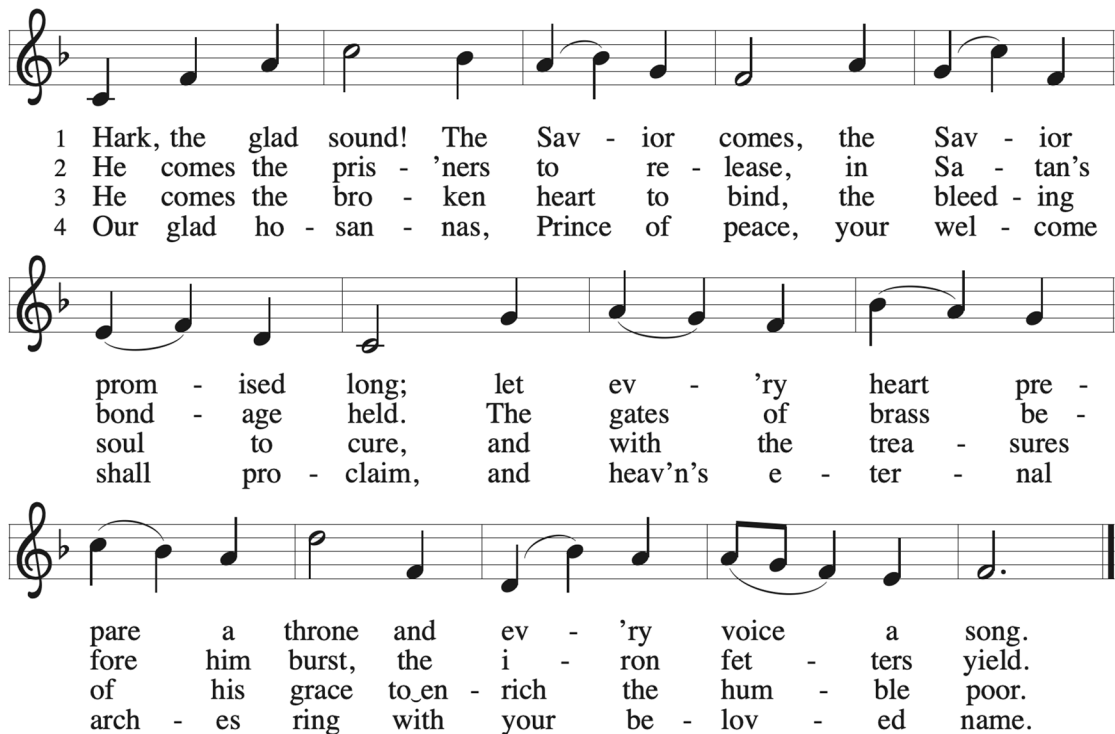
<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation: “Hark the Glad Sound” - ELW #239, verse 1



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

The Gospel according to Matthew

### Glory to You, O Lord

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him

Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: “O Come O Come Emmanuel” - ELW #257, verses 1-4**

## **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:** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* - arr. David Cherwien  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*



## **Offering Prayer**

Nourishing God,  
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.  
**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.*

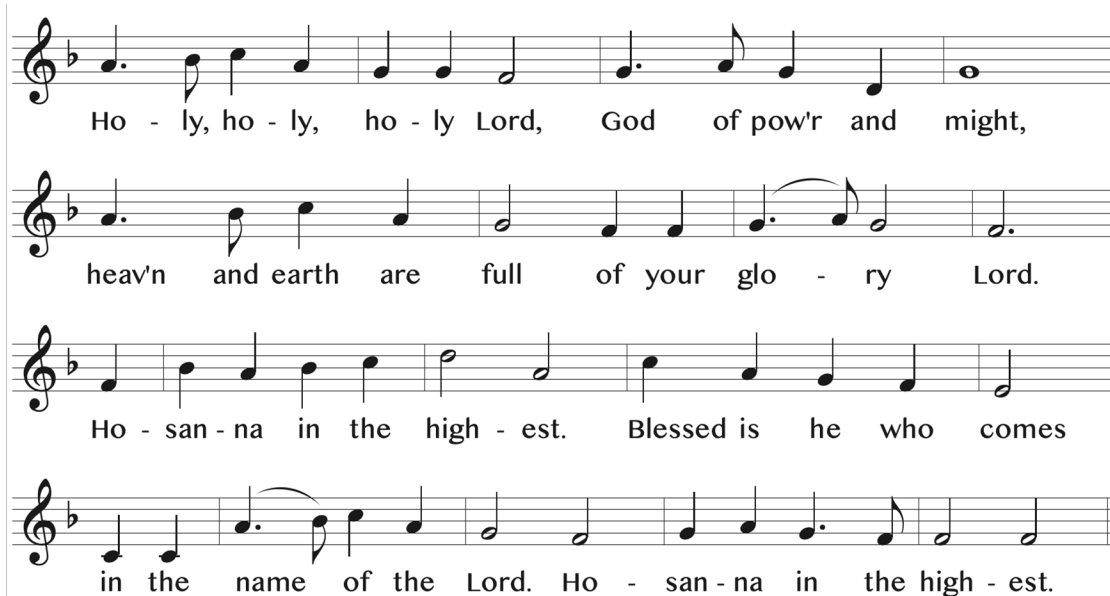
## The Great Thanksgiving - arr. Cynthia I Gonzales, Ph.D., Music Director at First Lutheran Church—San Marcos, TX

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Leader</b><br> <p>The Lord be__ with you.</p>                   | <b>Congregation</b><br> <p>And al - so__ with you.</p>       |
| <b>Leader</b><br> <p>Lift up__ your hearts.__</p>                  | <b>Congregation</b><br> <p>We__ lift them to__ the Lord.</p> |
| <b>Leader</b><br> <p>Let us__ give thanks to__ the Lord,</p>       | <b>Congregation</b><br> <p>to the Lord our God.</p>          |
| <b>All</b><br> <p>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p> |  |

## 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.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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”*** - arr. Cynthia I Gonzales, Ph.D., Music Director at First Lutheran Church—San Marcos, TX



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

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

## Hymns during Communion

*"Agnus Dei"* - - arr. Cynthia I Gonzales, Ph.D., Music Director at First Lutheran Church—San Marcos, TX  
*"All Earth is Hopeful"* - ELW #266

**Agnus Dei**

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a-way the sin\_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us peace. Grant us peace O Lord.

## Prayer After Communion

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## Announcements

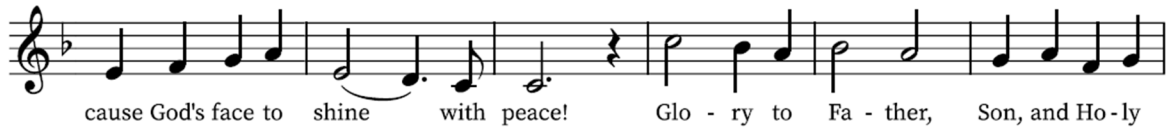
## Benediction

Rev. Ali Boomershine Haugerud

LEADER



CONGREGATION



**Sending Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**  
- ELW #257, verses 5-8

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: "Prepare the Royal Highway"** - arr. Paul Manz  
*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 Shelley Ludeman and family in your prayers following the death of her sister, Rhonda Thompson*

*Please keep Kenzie and Fred Alderson and family in your prayers following the death of Fred's mother Beverly Alderson.*

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Ashley and Ming Xu<br><i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>       | Connie Robinson<br><i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>          | Mike Neal   |
| Julia Zaffarano   | Barb McDaniel   | Christina King  |
| Steve Lekwa   | Ken Huffaker<br><i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>              | Sherry Kluever  |
| Joan Stensland  | Emma Nelson<br><i>granddaughter of Steve &amp; Nan Jungst</i> | Kim Elliott   |
| Kathy Lynn Johnson  | Ardith Forsyth  | Pr. Marcia Kisner   |
| Teresa Krebs  | Eileen Miller   | Marlene Waddell<br><i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i> |
| Kari Toot   | Karen Anderson  | Cassie Harrell  |
| Tanya Sorem   | Caleb Roof  | Jean Smith  |
| Julie & Craig Sutherland                                  | Evelyn Onstot   | Easton Farrington   |
| June Copenhaver<br><i>mother of Diane Martin</i>          | Katy Beno<br><i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>                 | Janice Hartz  |
| Pastor Andrea Myers<br><i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i> | Eric Forsyth  | Jackie Byers<br><i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>                |
| Charlie Lloyd   | Crystal Vines   | Donna See   |
| Bert Ann Ray  | Katie Bass<br><i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>                  | Norma Dannan<br><i>friend of Betty Runge</i>                    |
| Wayne Kinyon  | Wayne Johnson   | Fred Samuelson  |
| Loren Bryant<br><i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>              | Troy Vincent  | Jaylee Bartleson  |
| Jill Rhodes   | Johann Thiel  | Janeen Driscoll   |
|   |   | 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

### Birthday Card Shower!

Bert Ann Ray is turning 88 years old/young on December 23, 2025. Her family is trying to help her be showered with cards with little notes. No money please and thank you.

Cards can be sent to her at:

Bert Ann Ray  
100 S. 6th Street #205  
Nevada, Iowa 50201

### 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 Finance Team 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 November 30, 2025, we are **behind approximately \$29,137** 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.

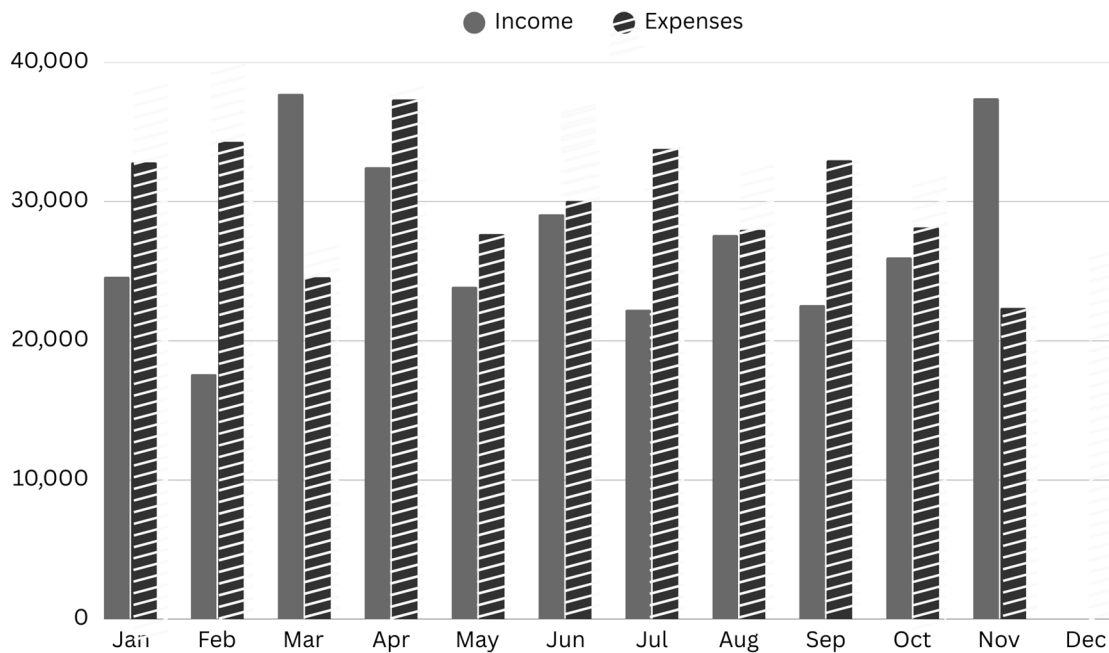
## General Fund 2025

### Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of November 30, 2025

Income: \$301,322

Expenses: (\$330,459)

Current Deficit: (\$29,137)



## Important Year-end Giving Information

Thank you for your continued generous support of Memorial Lutheran Church! The following information is to help you plan your end of year giving if you wish to receive contribution credit for gifts in 2025.

In order to comply with the IRS, we will only be able to accept gifts for contribution credit in 2025 if the following are true:

1. We receive the gift in the office or the office mailbox by midnight on **12/31/2025 and the gift is dated 12/31/2025**. Please use the mailbox outside the North doors if the office is closed.

2. A mailed gift is dated **AND** postmarked on or before 12/31/2025. If you intend to mail your gift, date your check 12/31/2025 or before and get it to the post office by closing on 12/31/2025 - **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 12/31/2025.
4. Make your gift online using [tithe.ly/give](http://tithe.ly/give) before midnight on 12/31/2025.

## 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.



## 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!



## **Save the Date**

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Tuesday, December 23, 2:00 PM

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

When: Wednesday, December 24, 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM

### **Christmas Day Lessons & Carols Service**

When: Thursday, December 25, 10:00 AM

### **Church Office Closed**

When: December 25 - 26; January 1 - 2

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Tuesday, December 30, 2:00 PM

### **MLC at Harmony Clothing Closet - volunteers needed!**

When: Thursday, January 5, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

### **Council Retreat**

When: Saturday, January 10, 2026

Where: Fellowship Hall

***Note: there will be no January Beer & Theology.  
We'll resume on Thursday, February 5***





## This Week at Memorial

Monday, December 22 - Sunday, December 28

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>22 Monday</b><br><br>Church Office Closed | <b>23 Tuesday</b><br><br>2:00 PM<br>Bible Study in Chapel   | <b>24 Wednesday</b><br><br>4:00 PM Christmas Eve<br>Worship (in-person and<br>livestreamed)<br><br>8:00 PM Christmas Eve<br>Worship (in-person only) | <b>25 Thursday</b><br><br>10:00 AM Christmas Day<br>Worship<br><br>Church Office Closed |
| <b>26 Friday</b><br><br>Church Office Closed | <b>27 Saturday</b><br><br>Have an idea for our monthly<br>newsletter? Perhaps a focus on<br>a ministry or group you're<br>involved with at Memorial or in<br>the community? We would<br>love to hear from you! Please<br>contact <a href="mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org">emily@mlcnevada.org</a><br>or call the church office. | <b>28 Sunday</b><br><br>9:00 AM<br>Worship in-person and online  |   |

**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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@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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