

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *“This Little Light of Mine”* with hymntune *Galilee*—arr. Keith Hampton

Lois Theesfield, piano

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

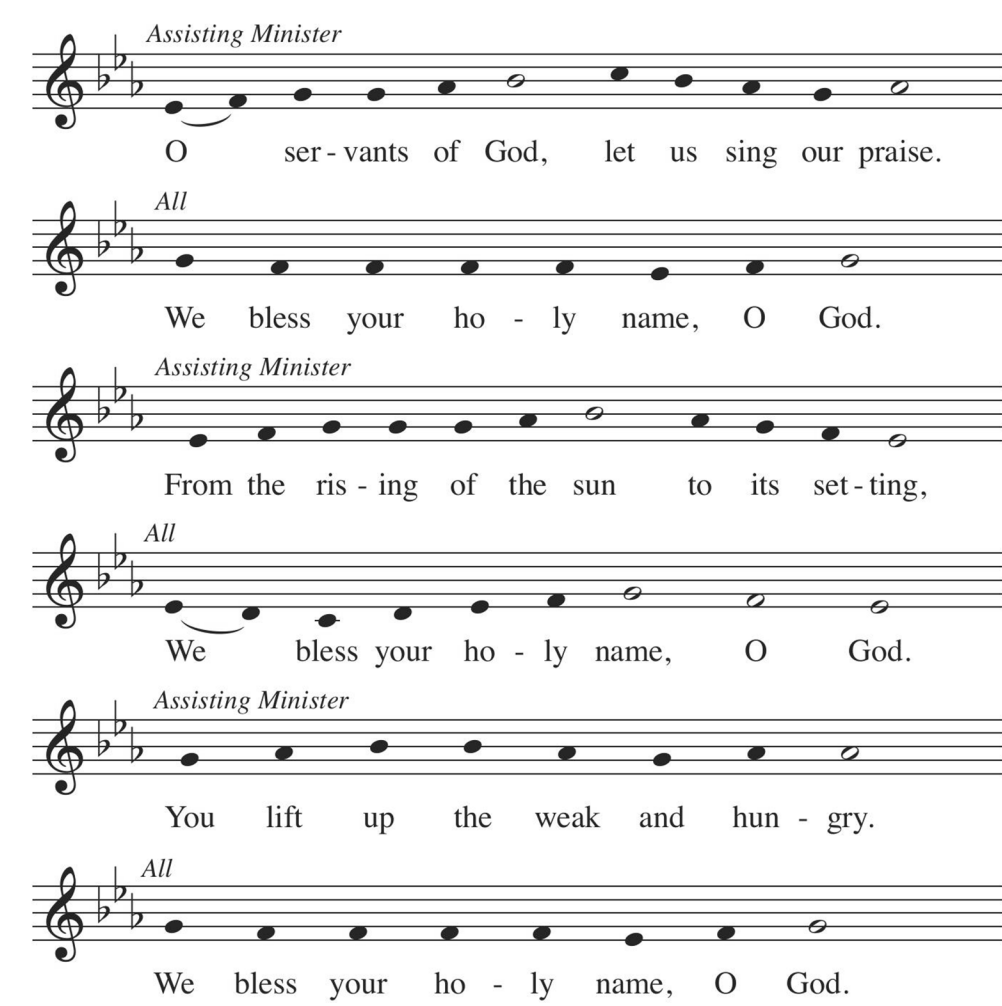
Silence is kept for reflection.

**Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

**Gathering Hymn: “Gathering” from “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen
& Susan Briehl**



Assisting Minister
O ser-vants of God, let us sing our praise.

All
We bless your ho-ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister
From the ris-ing of the sun to its set-ting,

All
We bless your ho-ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister
You lift up the weak and hun-gry.

All
We bless your ho-ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister *All*

Refrain

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the

prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,

to a morn-ing where the prom-ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962
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Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!
 The LORD called me before I was born;
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
 he made me a polished arrow;
 in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
 yet surely my cause is with the LORD
 and my reward with my God."
- ⁵ And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Music Offering: *“I Am Sending You Light”* - Melanie DeMore
Memorial Choir; Mary Brinkman, soloist

*I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you.
I am sending you light, to hold you in love.*

*No Matter where you go, no matter where you’ve been;
You’ll never walk alone. I feel you deep within.*

*No matter what you feel, or what you choose to show;
I’m always there for you, and so I want you to know.....*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place

call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

Refrain

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

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

Verse

Your words are sweet to taste,

sweet - er than hon - ey to our mouth.

To Refrain

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-42

The Gospel according to John
Glory to You, O Lord

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult" - ELW #696

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Music Voluntary: *"I Need Thee Every Hour"* - arr. Dan Boone
Memorial Choir

Offering Prayer

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 - "Unfailing Light" - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

Presider *All*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider *All*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good everywhere and always to give you thanks and praise, Holy God, mighty and immortal, through your Son Jesus Christ. Sharing our life, he lived among us, revealing your boundless love, a light to all the nations, and life for ev'ry people
And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

All
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 in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,
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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Hymns during Communion

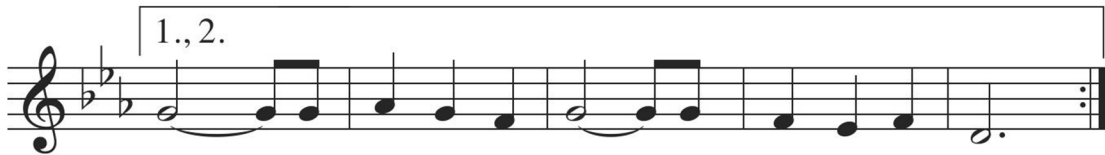
"Lamb of God" - *"Unfailing Light"* - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl
"Lamb of God" - ELW #336

Lamb of God

(Unfailing Light)



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



world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn after Communion: “Now Lord You Let Your Servant Go in Peace” from “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

All

Now Lord, you let your

ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My

own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a

light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the

glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

Post Communion Prayer

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

Please see insert

Blessing

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
+ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine" - ELW #677

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"Trumpet Tune in C"* - Michael Helman
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 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.

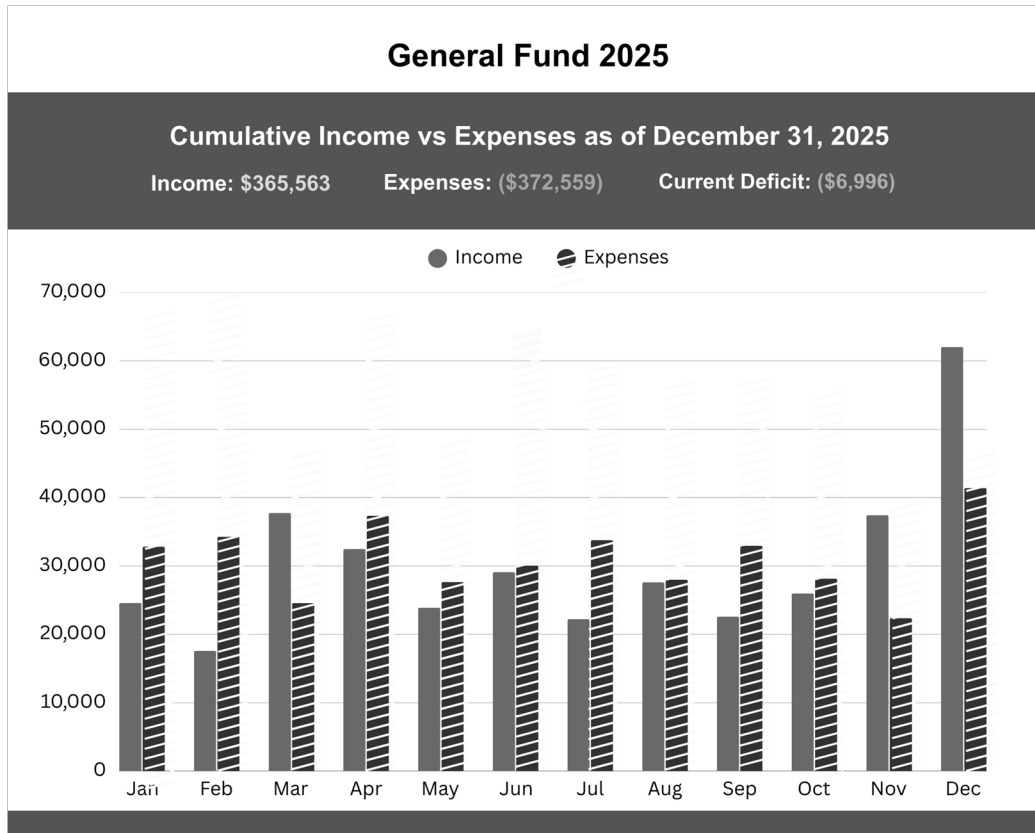
Ashley and Ming Xu <i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>	Barb McDaniel	Christina King
Julia Zaffarano	Ken Huffaker <i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Sherry Kluever
Joan Stensland	Emma Nelson <i>granddaughter of Steve & Nan Jungst</i>	Kim Elliott
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Ardith Forsyth	Pr. Marcia Kisner
Teresa Krebs	Eileen Miller	Marlene Waddell <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 <i>mother of Diane Martin</i>	Katy Beno <i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Janice Hartz
Pastor Andrea Myers <i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i>	Eric Forsyth	Jackie Byers <i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Charlie Lloyd	Crystal Vines	Donna See
Bert Ann Ray	Katie Bass <i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Norma Dannan <i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Wayne Kinyon	Wayne Johnson	Fred Samuelson
Loren Bryant <i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Troy Vincent	Jaylee Bartleson
Jill Rhodes	Johann Thiel	Janeen Driscoll
Connie Robinson <i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Mike Neal	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

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting our mission and ministry at Memorial throughout 2025. As you can see in the most up-to-date General Fund income versus expenses chart, in December our congregation gave a combined \$62,043 to the General Fund! We're deeply grateful for your support and generous participation as we seek to share the love and welcome of Christ with neighbors near and far. We are looking forward to what God will do in us and through us in 2026.



Newcomer Orientation

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 join in a casual conversation and ask any questions you might have after worship on Sunday, January 25. We'll then recognize and receive new members in worship on Sunday, February 1. Please reach out to Pastor Kathleen at pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org with any questions or to let us know we'll see you there

MLC Directory - Please Update Your Information

Happy 2026! As we begin a new year, we would like to make sure parishioners' contact information is up to date through Instant Church Directory. If you already have an Instant Church Directory account, you can either make sure your information is accurate through their app or by logging in through their website at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> and going through the steps on the next page. If you are new to Instant Church Directory, please reach out to Pastor Kathleen at pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org with the email address you want associated with your entry and she can help get you set up. Thank you!

1. Access Church directory online or through your browser: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>
2. Enter your e-mail address which you first used in the directory
3. You may be e-mailed a log-in code. Check your e-mail and then enter the provided code
4. Click "Edit My Info" in the top right corner of your screen
5. Make and save any changes you would like

Prizes Needed for Community BINGO & Nachos February 22

Memorial will be hosting our annual BINGO & Nachos event on Sunday, February 22 and we're in need of prizes! We're looking for items with a value of around \$5 (or less) for a variety of ages (kids and adults). If you would like to donate a prize or two, please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

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.



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.

Stewardship Committee Meeting

When: Monday, January 19, 6:30 PM

Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation

When: Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 PM

Weekly Bible Study

When: Thursday, January 22, 9:00 AM

Newcomer Orientation

When: Sunday, January 25 following worship

Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation

When: Wednesday, January 28, 6:30 PM

Weekly Bible Study

When: Thursday, January 29, 9:00 AM

Memorial Volunteers @ Harmony Clothing Closet

When: Monday, February 2, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation

When: Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 PM

Weekly Bible Study

When: Thursday, February 5, 9:00 AM

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, February 5, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

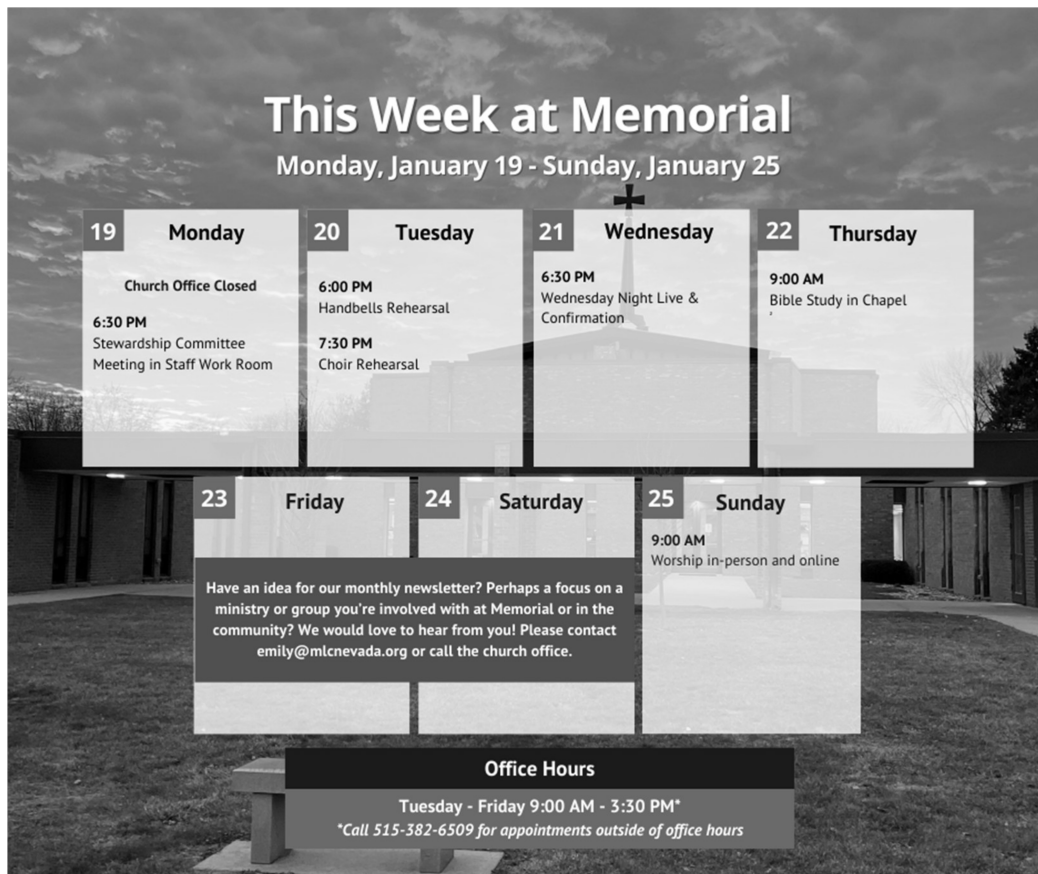
When: Sunday, February 8 following worship

Executive Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 10, 5:00 PM

Community BINGO & Nachos

When: Sunday, February 22, 5:30 - 6:30 PM



Memorial Lutheran Church
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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

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