

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026



MEMORIAL  
**LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH

# **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 1, 2026**

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

*Flowers are in honor of Mike & Connie Kinyon's 50th wedding anniversary*

## **Prelude**

*Emily Dalthorp, 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.

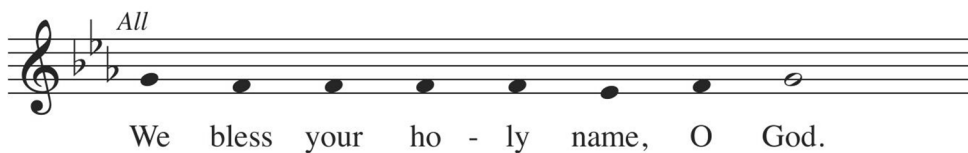
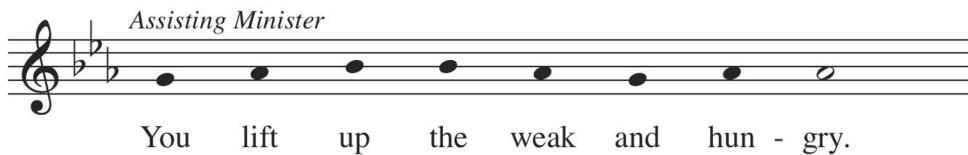
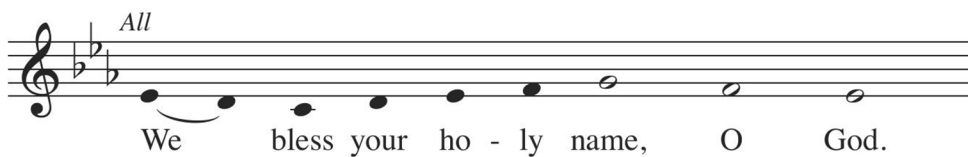
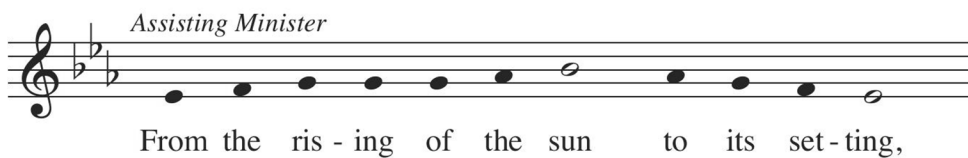
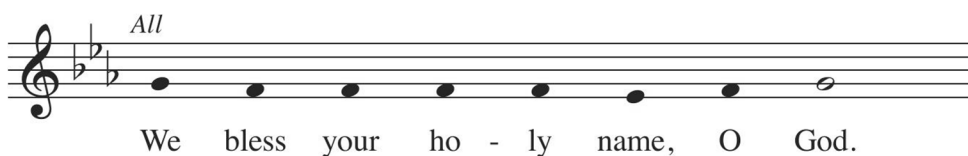
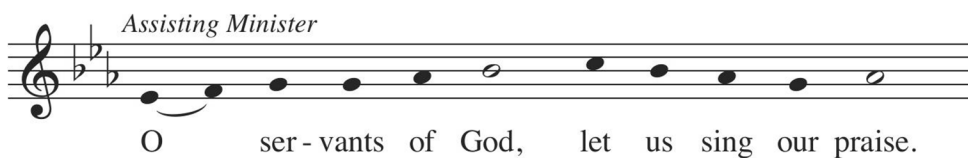
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**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* *All*



And your glo - ry shines a-bove the heav - ens We



bless your ho-ly name, O God.

## ***When a Star Is Shining - ACS #915***



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,  
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.





*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, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. . **Amen.**

## First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:  
 Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
 and let the hills hear your voice.
- <sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
 and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
 for the LORD has a case against his people,  
 and he will contend with Israel.
- <sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you?  
 In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- <sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
 and I sent before you Moses,  
 Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the  
debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through  
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save  
those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

<sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and  
foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and  
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s  
foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger  
than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were  
wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble

birth.<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God.<sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,<sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

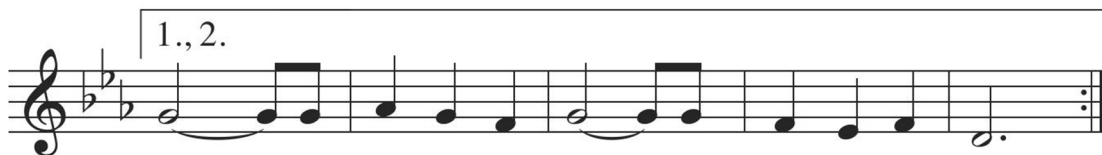
**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

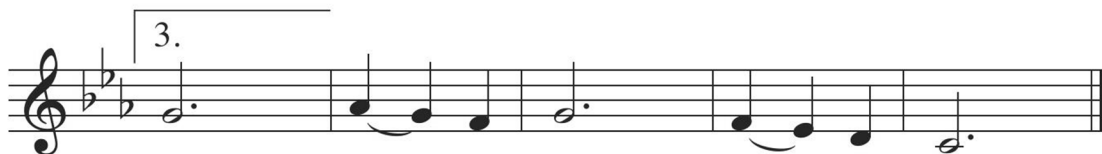
### Gospel Acclamation - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl



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.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12**

The Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: “When the Poor Ones” - ELW #725**

## **Reception of New Members**

*Sydney Alderson*

*The Frahm Family*

*The Holcomb Family*

*Joan Ridgway*

*Following the presentation the presiding minister continues*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The church is a community of people with varieties of gifts, united as one in the Spirit of Christ.

We are a people who care for one another, forgive one another, help one another and love one another, even as we have been loved by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The church is Christ's body, brought together in one faith, one Baptism, and one Spirit.

We are the people of Christ who believe that Jesus is God's revelation and our salvation. We are all one body in Christ.

We rejoice that you have expressed a desire to be a part of this community of faith and to join us in experiencing, living and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. I ask you, will you join us in worshipping God, hearing God's Word and sharing in the Lord's Supper? Will you join us in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people and striving for justice and peace in our community and in our world?

If so, please respond with, I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**(New members) I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

And I ask you, people of the congregation, will you welcome these new members into our community, offering your support and encouragement and partnering with them in the great commission to proclaim God's Word, making disciples of all nations?

If so, please respond with, We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

**(All) We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

The church is a people who share a common confession of faith. And so with the church throughout the world we now proclaim our faith together in the words of the 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.**

Let us pray,  
Gracious God, with eyes wide open, we celebrate new life, grace and mercy as we gather in faith to thank you for shaping us in this holy community. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and keep us ever mindful of the family we are in you, the Lord and Author of our lives. **Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

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

## **Offering**

## **Music Voluntary**

*Emily Dalthorp, piano*

## 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***

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*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 he 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.

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## **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  
*"O God of Mercy, God of Light"* - ELW #714

**Lamb of God**  
*(Unfailing Light)*



**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: "Rise Up, O Saints of God" - ELW #669**

## **Dismissal**

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

## **Postlude**

*Emily Dalthorp, piano*

## 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.*

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

**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.*

## **Save the Date.**

### **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

### **Fellowship & Outreach Team Meeting**

When: Wednesday, February 11, 4:30 PM

### **Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation**

When: Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 PM

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, February 12, 9:00 AM

### **Finance Team Meeting**

When: Thursday, February 12, 5:00 PM

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

When: Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, February 19, 9:00 AM

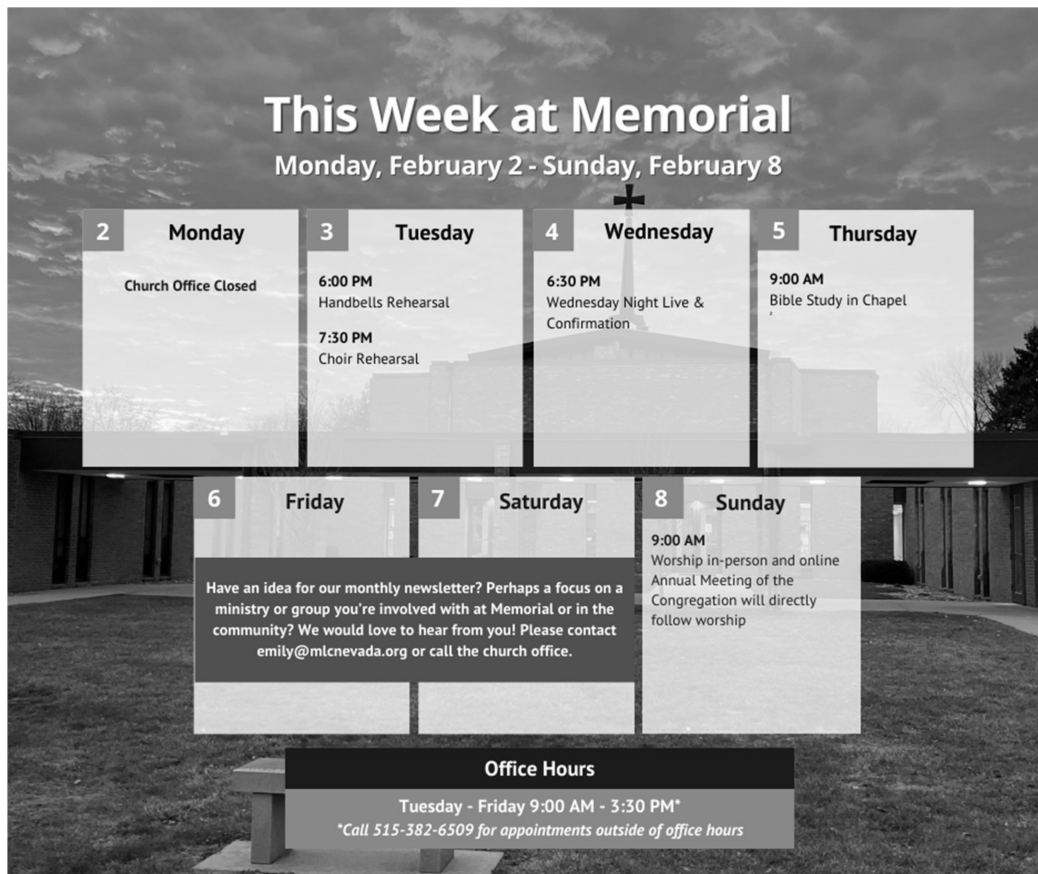
### **Council Meeting**

When: Thursday, February 19, 7:00 PM

### **Community BINGO & Nachos**

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





**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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