

# Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** "Air" - Gottlieb Muffat

*Lois Theesfield, organ*

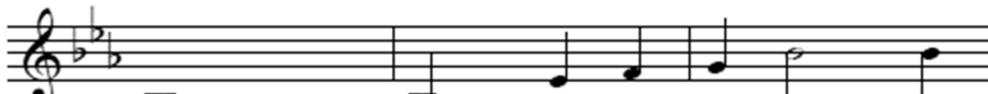
## Welcome

**Gathering Song:** "Beneath the Tree of Life - Gathering Song" -  
Marty Haugen

Refrain



\*[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of



life. [Come and gath - er] be -



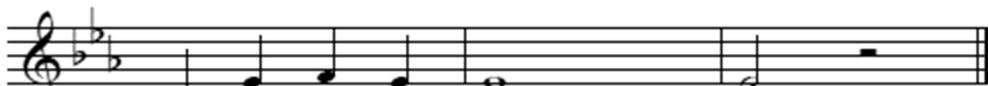
neath the tree of life; Root of



wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re -

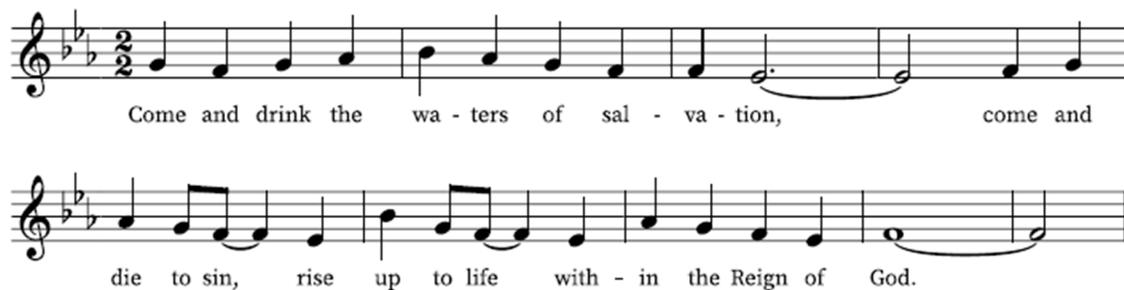


lease. [Come and gath - er] be -



neath the tree of life.

### Verse 3



Come and drink the wa - ters of sal - va - tion, come and  
die to sin, rise up to life with - in the Reign of God.

### Refrain



\*[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of  
life. [Come and gath - er] be -  
neath the tree of life; Root of  
wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re -  
lease. [Come and gath - er] be -  
neath the tree of life.



## Penitential Rite



*Leader: May almighty...everlasting life.*



## Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the

staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 95

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.*

### Refrain

Oh, that to-day you would lis-ten to God's voice, "Hard - en not your hearts."

- <sup>1</sup> **Come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**
- <sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- <sup>3</sup> **For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.**
- <sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- <sup>5</sup> **The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land. *Refrain***
- <sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- <sup>7</sup> **For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and  
the sheep of God's hand.  
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!**
- <sup>8</sup> **"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert. *Refrain***

- <sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
 they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.  
<sup>10</sup> Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'  
<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
 'They shall never come to my rest.'" *Refrain*

**Refrain**

Oh, that to-day you would lis-ten to God's voice, "Hard - en not your hearts."

**Children at Heart Sermon**

**Gospel Acclamation - from "Now the Feast and Celebration" -  
 Marty Haugen**

*Congregation:*  
 Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and  
 mer-cy; Come, seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God. *Repeat*

**Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42**

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

- <sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.  
<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give

me a drink.”<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”

<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So

the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” - ELW #332**

## **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:** *“The Road Home”* - Stephen Paulus  
*Memorial Choir; Carol Vincent, soloist*

### **Offering Prayer**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**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.**

### Preface

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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” - “Beneath the Tree of Life” - Marty Haugen***

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, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, 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**

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## **Hymns during Communion**

*"Jesus, Lamb of God"* - ELW #199  
*"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"* - ELW #623

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
+ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn: "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" - ELW #811**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *"Kyrie"* - Francois Couperin  
*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.*

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

**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: Final “Solas” viewing in Chapel**

Today will be the final showing of Memorial Choir members’ participation in “Solas” at Carnegie Hall last November. Come hear this moving piece with 200+ singers and a full orchestra.

### **Lutheran World Relief - National Quilt Day - March 21, 9 am - 2:30 pm**

March 21, 2026 is National Quilt Day. Come join other volunteers in recognizing this day with a day dedicated to sewing and assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The work day will last from 9 am - 2:30 pm in Memorial's fellowship hall, and all ages are welcome to stay for a short time, or all day! Snacks and lunch will be provided through a Thrivent Choice grant. Please reach out to Kathy Bergmann with any questions.

### **Let’s go bowling! - Sunday, March 22, 2 - 4 pm**

All are invited to an afternoon of bowling at Sports Bowl on March 22. Cost will be \$6 per person and includes two games plus shoes. Please note that children 12 and under will need to be accompanied by an adult. We'll see you at Sports Bowl!

### **Chili & Soup Cook-off - Wednesday, March 25, 6 pm**

Our annual Chili & Soup Cook-off is March 25 and we are looking for entries! Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office if you would like to contribute and be in the running for this year's favorite chili or soup! Donations at the event will go to ELCA World Hunger. Our mid-week Lenten worship service will follow at 7 PM.

## **Easter Lily Dedications Due March 31**

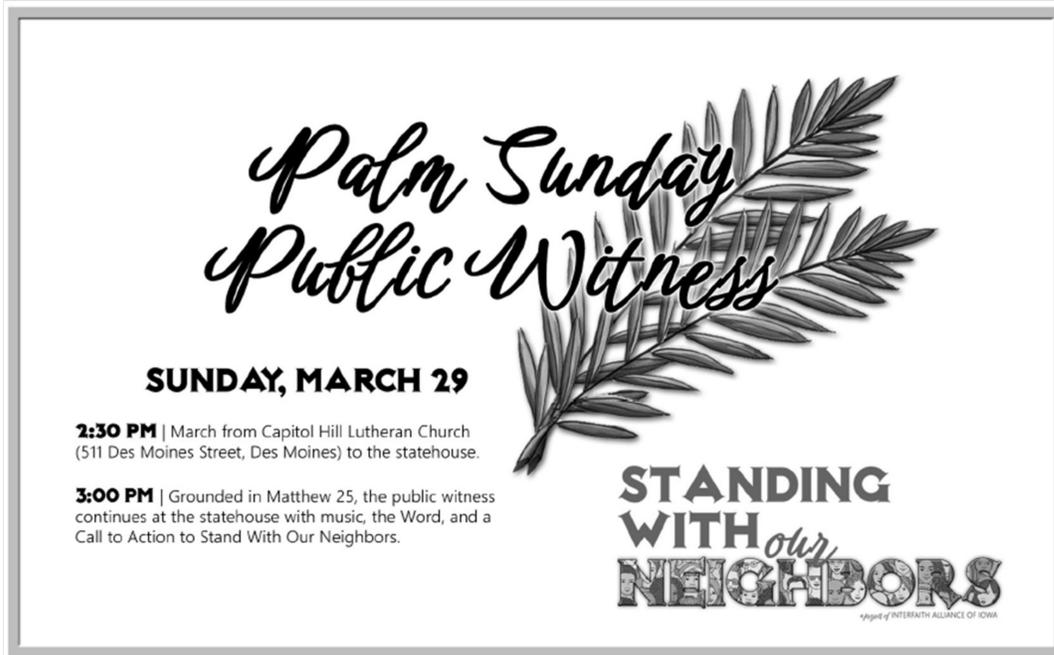
Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one and help decorate the church for Easter! Please fill out a form in the narthex or contact the church office. A suggested donation is \$8 per lily (payments may be brought to the church office or dropped in the secure box outside Emily's office). Thank you!

## **Holy Communion Workshop - Wednesday, April 1, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Sanctuary**

When we gather at the Lord's Table we give thanks that it is Christ's table and that Christ's invitation extends to all. At Memorial Lutheran children are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the discretion of their parents. This is an opportunity for young kids to come and learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class is geared towards students in 2nd grade with a parent present alongside them. Some children may have not yet begun receiving Holy Communion while some have. All are welcome to come and attend this class. The following evening there will be a special time of blessing and recognition during the Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd at 7 pm for those who participated in the class the night before. Please contact Pastor Kathleen at [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) with any questions or to RSVP.

## **Walk to the Cross - Friday, April 3**

Come with us as we walk to symbolize Jesus' walk and carry our cross on Good Friday, April 3. We will start at Central Presbyterian Church (932 5th St) at 12:00 noon and walk to St. Patrick Catholic Church (1110 11th St.) There will be a short service at St. Patrick's about 12:20. If you are unable to walk, please just meet us at St. Patrick's. In case of inclement weather, the walk will be cancelled, and the service will begin at 12:00 at St. Patrick's.



## Thrivent Choice Dollars Update

Greetings on behalf of the Thrivent Choice Committee. Just a friendly reminder about designating your Thrivent dollars to Memorial as March 31 is the deadline. Recent Thrivent Choice projects include being able to provide **\$2,640** to assist Memorial youth in attending Lutheran Lakeside Camp, as well as providing **\$2,500** toward the final payoff of our “A Welcoming Space...” heating and cooling project loan. Thank you for your support!

## Prayer Shawl & Quilt Invitation

As we prepare for the 2026 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, congregations across the synod are invited to help surround this gathering in prayer, comfort, and peace blessings. The theme, “Peace be with You,” will be embodied through the gift of handmade prayer shawls and lap quilts; creations that offer color, warmth, and care from the hands and hearts of people across our synod. Can you knit, crochet, or sew? Would you be willing to donate a prayer shawl, a lap quilt, or a quilt? Please let us know in the office!

## **Feeding Haiti's Kids - Friday, April 17, 6-8 pm**

We are trying to organize volunteers to pack meals for Feeding Haiti's Kids at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames (1416 20th Street). We have 11 slots for volunteers. All volunteers must be 8 years and older and anyone under 12 must have an adult with them. Please contact Pastor Kathleen to sign up.

## **BINGO & Nachos - thank you for your donations!**

*Thank you* to all who provided prizes, helped serve, and made free-will donations at our BINGO & Nachos event! Your generosity helped us raise more than \$400 for Memorial's Dorcas Fund, which provides assistance to individuals in need. 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](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.**

### **TODAY! Final viewing of “Solas”**

*Memorial choir’s Carnegie Hall debut alongside 200+ vocalists!*

When: Sunday, March 8, 10:30 AM

Where: Chapel

### **TODAY! Book Study: “The Last Week”**

When: Sunday, March 8, 10:30 AM

Where: Library

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

When: Tuesday, March 10, 5:00 PM

**Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper** (each Wednesday during Lent leading up to Holy Week)

When: Wednesday, March 11, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

### **Finance Team Meeting**

When: Thursday, March 12, 5:00 PM

**Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper** (each Wednesday during Lent leading up to Holy Week)

When: Wednesday, March 18, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

### **Council Meeting**

When: Thursday, March 19, 7:00 PM

### **National Quilt Day**

*Come join other volunteers in a day dedicated to sewing and assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief.*

When: Thursday, March 21, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

### **Bowling with Memorial**

When: Sunday, March 22, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Where: Sports Bowl

### **Stewardship Team Meeting**

When: Monday, March 23, 6:00 PM

**Chili & Soup Cook-off**

When: Wednesday, March 25, supper at 6 PM followed by our mid-week Lenten worship at 7 PM

**Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, March 26, 8:30 AM

**Palm Sunday Worship**

When: Sunday, March 29, 9:00 AM

**Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, April 2, 8:30 AM

**Maundy Thursday Worship**

When: Thursday, April 2, 7 PM

**Walk to the Cross**

*Begins at 12 noon at Central Presbyterian with walk to St. Patrick's; service will follow at St. Patrick's*

When: Friday, April 3, 12 noon

**Good Friday Worship**

When: Friday, April 3, 7 PM

**Easter Dawn Worship**

When: Sunday, April 5, 7 AM

**Easter Brunch**

*Fundraiser for Memorial Youth*

When: Sunday, April 5, 7:45 - 8:45 AM

**Easter - He is Risen!**

*Egg hunt to follow 9 AM service*

When: Sunday, April 5, 9 AM

# This Week at Memorial

Monday, March 9 - Sunday, March 15

<b>9 Monday</b> Church Office Closed	<b>10 Tuesday</b> 5:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting  6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>11 Wednesday</b> 1:00 PM Lutheran World Relief work day  6:00 PM Mid-week meal followed by Lenten worship - WNL will meet from 6:30 - 7:00 in the Chapel	<b>12 Thursday</b> 8:30 AM Bible Study in Chapel  5:00 PM Finance Team Meeting
<b>13 Friday</b> 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 <a href="mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org">emily@mlcnevada.org</a> or call the church office.	<b>14 Saturday</b>	<b>15 Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Worship in-person and online  10:30 AM Book Study: "The Last Week"	

**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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