

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** "Kum Bah Yah" - arr. Barbara Brocker

*Emily Dalthorp, bell tree solo*

## Welcome

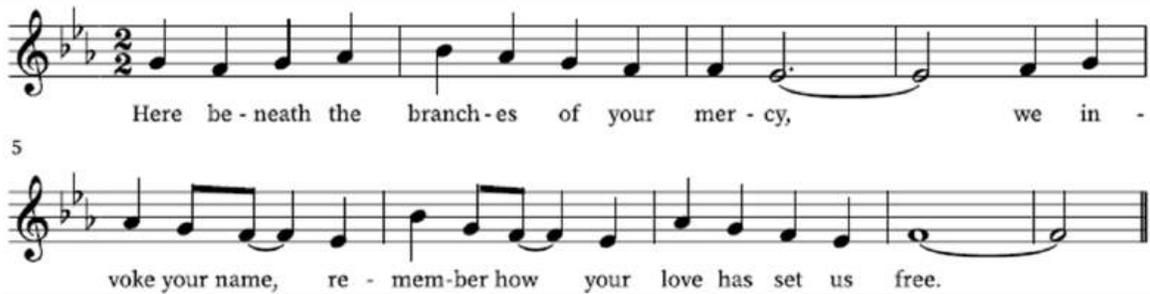
**Gathering Song:** "Beneath the Tree of Life - Gathering Song" -  
Marty Haugen

Refrain

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is as follows:  
Staff 1: Quarter notes G4, A4, B4, quarter rest, quarter notes G4, F4, E4, D4.  
Staff 2: Quarter notes C4, B3, A3, G3, quarter rest, quarter notes G3, F3, E3, D3.  
Staff 3: Quarter notes C3, B2, A2, G2, quarter rest, quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2.  
Staff 4: Quarter notes C2, B1, A1, G1, quarter rest, quarter notes G1, F1, E1, D1.  
Staff 5: Quarter notes C1, B0, A0, G0, quarter rest, quarter notes G0, F0, E0, D0.  
Staff 6: Quarter notes C0, B-1, A-1, G-1, quarter rest, quarter notes G-1, F-1, E-1, D-1.  
Lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words in brackets to indicate phrasing.

\*[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 4



Here be - neath the branch - es of your mer - cy, we in -  
5  
voke your name, re - mem - ber how your love has set us free.

### 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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

<sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

<sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

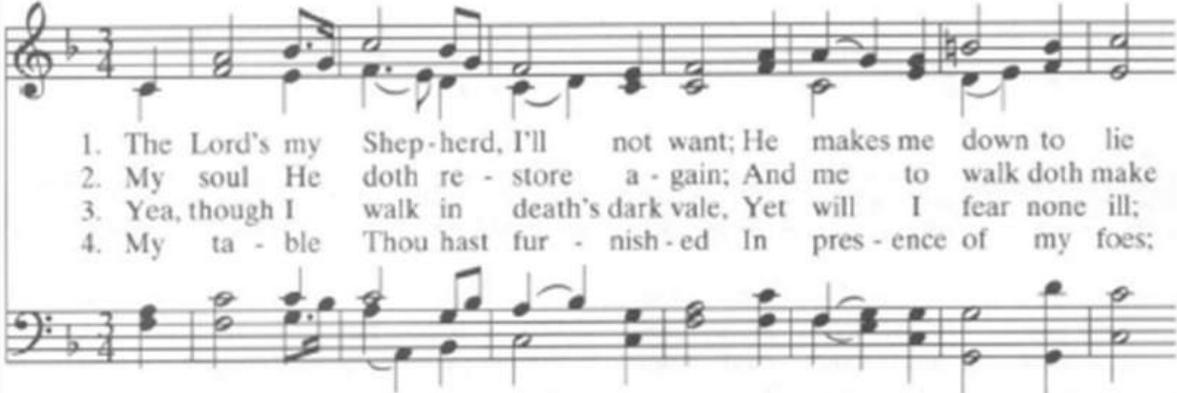
## Psalm 23

# The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want 170

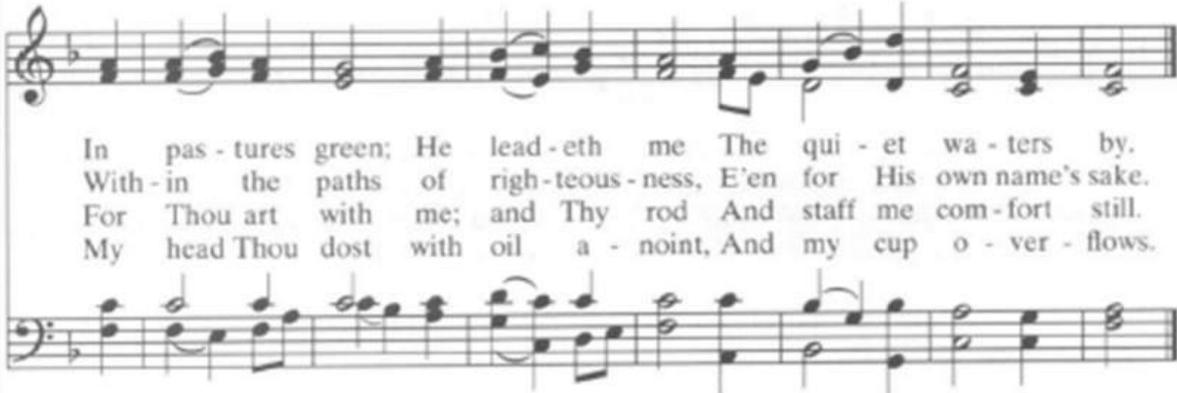
CRIMOND CM

Scottish Psalter, 1650

Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872  
Harm. T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929



1. The Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie  
2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; And me to walk doth make  
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear none ill;  
4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence of my foes;



In pas - tures green; He lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.  
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
My head Thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

Music: Harmonization from *The Scottish Psalter*, 1929. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

## Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

## 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 9:1-41

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

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work

the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you

already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

## **Sermon**

*Pastor Rachel Mithelman*

## Hymn of the Day: "When We Must Bear Persistent Pain" - ACS #1014



1 When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer  
2 Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for  
3 We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may  
4 In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our



with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence,  
bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and  
smile to greet the sun, to do your work with  
frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you



breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.  
live and love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.  
clear - ing mind, and bless your name when day is done.  
in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## 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:** *“Amazing Grace”* - arr. Cathy and David Moglebust  
*Emily Dalthorp, handbell solo*

### **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.* 01

## 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**

***"Amazing Grace"* - ELW #779**

## **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: *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"* - ELW #324**

### **Dismissal**

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

**Postlude: *"Pavana"* - William Byrd**  
*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 Danna <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

### March Madness Returns!

Let's celebrate March Madness with some friendly competition! Join our ESPN Tournament Challenge group "Memorial Lutheran Church" using the QR code →, or the link in the recent "MLC March Madness 2026" email. The group password is MLC2026. Brackets will be available later today (Selection Sunday) and will lock on Thursday, March 19 at 11:15 am Central time. Good luck!



### 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, sides, and general help in the kitchen. 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.

### 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.

## **Donation Statements Update**

In an effort to reduce costs associated with mailing giving statements, we'll be moving to mailing statements twice a year (January and July) rather than quarterly. However, if you would like a copy of your individual statement at any point in the year, we would be happy to mail it or email it to you. Thank you!

## **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.

## 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!***



# This Week at Memorial

Monday, March 16 - Sunday, March 22

<b>16 Monday</b> Church Office Closed	<b>17 Tuesday</b> 6:00 PM* Handbells Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>18 Wednesday</b> 6:00 PM Mid-week meal followed by Lenten worship - WNL will meet from 6:30 - 7:00 in the Chapel	<b>19 Thursday</b>
<b>20 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>21 Saturday</b> 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM <b>National Quilt Day</b> Come join other volunteers in a day dedicated to sewing and assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief.	<b>22 Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Worship in-person and online 10:30 AM Book Study: "The Last Week" 2:00 - 4:00 PM Bowling @ Sports Bowl	

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

**Memorial Lutheran Church**  
 701 11th Street, Nevada, IA 50201  
 Phone 515-382-6509  
[pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org)  
[emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org)  
[www.mlcnevada.org](http://www.mlcnevada.org)

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Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry  
 Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement  
 Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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