

# Good Friday

April 3, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

*The following are Scripture readings to assist you in a time of meditation.  
Please feel free to read them at your own pace, taking time to meditate on what  
God is saying to you this evening.*

## Meditation in Music

*Lois Theesfield, organ*

### Isaiah 52:13--53:12

*The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.*

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

<sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—

<sup>15</sup>so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

<sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

## Psalm 22

- <sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup>My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;  
by night, but I find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup>Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup>Our ancestors put their trust in you,  
they trusted, and you rescued them.
- <sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup>But as for me, I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- <sup>8</sup>“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”
- <sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
- <sup>10</sup>I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
- <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.
- <sup>12</sup>Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- <sup>13</sup>They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a slashing and roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup>Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.
- <sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones  
while they stare at me and gloat.
- <sup>18</sup>They divide my garments among them;  
for my clothing, they cast lots.
- <sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>Deliver me from the sword,  
 my life from the power of the dog.  
<sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth!  
 From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.  
<sup>22</sup>I will declare your name to my people;  
 in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.  
<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
 Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.  
<sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
 neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;  
 but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.  
<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
 I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.  
<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
 Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!  
<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
 all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
 who rules over the nations.  
<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.  
<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
 whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.  
<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
 saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## Hebrews 10:16-25

*In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is accomplished and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others, we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.*

[After the Holy Spirit says,] <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:  
 I will put my laws in their hearts,  
 and I will write them on their minds,"  
<sup>17</sup>he also adds,  
 "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."  
<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.  
<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the

house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## Gathering

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray,

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may remain seated.*

## Gospel

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.  
**(Congregation reads the bold text)**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> **So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.** <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" <sup>5</sup> **They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."** Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" **And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."** <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these

men go.”<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.”<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus.<sup>11</sup> Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

*The first candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn: “Jesus, I will Ponder Now” ELW #345, verse 1**

**Jesus, I will ponder now  
on your holy passion;  
let your Spirit now endow  
me for meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
may the image cherish  
of your suff’ring, pain, and death,  
that I may not perish.**

<sup>12</sup> So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup> First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup> but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” **He said, “I am not.”** <sup>18</sup> Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup> **When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”** <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” **He denied it and said, “I am not.”** <sup>26</sup> One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup> **Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.**

*The second candle is extinguished*

**Hymn: “Stay With Me”** ELW #348  
*All sing through twice*

**Stay with me,  
remain here with me,  
watch and pray.  
Watch and pray.**

<sup>28</sup> Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” <sup>30</sup> **They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”** <sup>31</sup> Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” **The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.”** <sup>32</sup> (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup> **They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!”** Now Barabbas was a bandit.

*The third candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” ELW #349, verse 1**

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> **They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face.** <sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” <sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” <sup>6</sup> **When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”** Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” <sup>7</sup> **The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”**

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus” ELW #349, verse 2**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.**

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup> He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate tried to release him, **but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”**

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.

<sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" <sup>15</sup> **They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"** Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" **The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."** <sup>16</sup> Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn: "Stay With Me" ELW #348**

*All sing through twice*

**Stay with me,  
remain here with me,  
watch and pray.  
Watch and pray.**

So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup> and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup> **Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"** <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

**Hymn: "Were You There" ELW #353, verse 1**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> **So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."** This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

<sup>25</sup> And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*The final candle is extinguished.*

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup> (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup> These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” <sup>37</sup> And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup> After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup> They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Hymn: “Were You There”** ELW #353, verse 5

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

### **Bidding Prayer**

*Adapted from Rev. Kara Shaw*

On Good Friday, the church has a long-standing practice of offering a series of prayers that are sometimes called the “solemn intercessions.” They move through the whole world — the church, leaders, those who suffer, those who don’t know God, those in need — and we pray for each in turn.

But here’s the heart of it: These aren’t just “regular prayers.” These are the church crying out from the cross.

They are slow, spacious, and intentional. Each prayer is offered, then silence is kept and broken with our cries to God for the world, and then together as the Body of Christ, we respond. It’s less about saying a lot, and more about making room for the weight of what we’re holding together.

In many ways, they echo Jesus’ own cries from the cross — not polished, not rushed, but grounded in the reality of suffering. With the hope that God hears, we pray.

Not to fix things.  
Not to explain things.  
But to place the whole world into God’s presence.

If it’s helpful, think of this moment as widening the circle:  
We begin with Jesus’ suffering,  
we recognize our own,  
and then we carry everyone with us into prayer.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world.

For all who gather in Jesus’ name,  
for those who lead and those who serve,  
for those who proclaim the gospel,  
and for those who struggle to believe.

*Silence*

God of mercy,  
when the church feels fragile or divided,  
when faith feels uncertain or worn thin—hold us together in your love.

Remind us that even in our weakness,  
you abide with us.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for the nations of the world and for all who are entrusted with authority.

For leaders, lawmakers, and all who serve the common good,  
that they may seek justice and walk in wisdom.

*Silence*

God of justice,  
in a world torn by violence and fear,  
where power is misused and truth is fragile—

bring courage to those who lead,  
and protection to those who are most vulnerable.

Even here, in the midst of what is broken,  
you abide.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer.

For those who are sick or dying,  
for those who grieve,

for those who are lonely, afraid, or overwhelmed,  
for all who carry burdens too heavy to name.

*Silence*

God of compassion,  
you know the depth of human pain.

You know the grief that has no words,  
the sorrow that shakes the body,  
the loss that feels too great to bear.

Draw near to all who suffer.

Hold them in your mercy.  
And remind them that they are not alone.

You abide where they suffer.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who feel far from God.

For those who doubt,  
for those who have been hurt by the church,  
for those who feel forgotten, abandoned, or unseen.

*Silence*

God of presence,  
when faith feels distant  
and hope feels out of reach—

meet your people in that place.

In questions.

In silence.

In longing.

You do not turn away.

You abide with us.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for all in need.

For those without food or shelter,  
for those without safety or security,  
for those caught in systems of injustice,  
and for all whose dignity is denied.

*Silence*

God of mercy,  
open our eyes to the needs of the world.

Where there is hunger, bring provision.  
Where there is fear, bring peace.  
Where there is injustice, bring transformation.

And when we are called to act,  
in our courage to respond, you abide.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for ourselves, and for those whose names we carry in our hearts.

*Silence*

God of love,  
you know us completely.

You know the grief we carry,  
the questions we cannot answer,  
the longing we cannot name.

In the silence of our prayers, you abide.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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.**

## **Procession of the Cross**

*With the cross at the back, all turn to face it.*

Behold, the life-giving Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.

**Come, let us adore. Come, let us adore.**

*As the cross reaches the center of the sanctuary*

Behold, the life-giving Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.

**Come, let us adore. Come, let us adore.**

*As the cross reaches the front of the sanctuary*

Behold, the life-giving Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.

**Come, let us adore. Come, let us adore.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

*All are invited to come forward and reverence the cross. You may kneel before the cross or touch it. Then depart in silence as you feel ready. Our worship together continues on Easter morning at either 7 AM or 9 AM.*

## 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 the family of Joan Stensland in your prayers following her death*

*Please keep Shelley Ludeman and family in your prayers following the death of her sister, Rhonda Thompson*

June Rush <i>sister of Joan Ridgway</i>	Loren Bryant <i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Wayne Johnson
Nan Jungst	Jill Rhodes	Troy Vincent
Paul Johnson	Connie Robinson <i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Johann Thiel
Bill Couser	Barb McDaniel	Mike Neal
Mary Brinkman	Ken Huffaker <i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Christina King
Ashley and Ming Xu <i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>	Emma Nelson <i>granddaughter of Steve &amp; Nan Jungst</i>	Sherry Kluever
Julia Zaffarano	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 <i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Donna See
Bert Ann Ray		Norma Dannan <i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Wayne Kinyon		Fred Samuelson

**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**

### **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!

### **Memorial Musicians Spring Concert "Gospels, Spirituals, Hymns, and more!"**

*Sunday, May 3, at 4pm*

Mark your calendars for this annual event featuring Memorial's Handbell and Vocal choirs along with special guest instrumentalists. Your attendance encourages the music ministry of our church and gives thanks and appreciation for their dedication and faithfulness throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

### **Luther College Collegiate Chorale to Perform at Memorial!**

*Thursday, April 23, at 7pm*

We are excited to share that the Luther College Collegiate Chorale (of which Sarah Miller is a member!) will be performing at Memorial on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 PM as part of their tour!

As a host, Memorial will be providing food and access to lodging for the 49 choir members, and we are looking for families or individuals willing to host a minimum of 2 choir members for a night. If you would be interested (or know of others in the community who would be), please contact Lois Theesfield or the church office for details. Thank you for your support of this exciting opportunity!

## 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, 4-6 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 30 - Sunday, April 5

<b>30 Monday</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>31 Tuesday</b>  6:00 PM* Handbells Rehearsal  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>1 Wednesday</b>  6:30 PM Holy Communion Instruction	<b>2 Thursday</b>  8:30 AM Bible Study in Chapel  7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship
<b>3 Friday</b>  12:00 PM Walk to the Cross begins at Central Presbyterian  6:40 PM Meditative music prior to Good Friday Worship  7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	<b>4 Saturday</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>5 Sunday</b>  7:00 AM Easter Dawn Worship  7:45 - 8:45 AM Easter Brunch <i>Fundraiser for Memorial Youth</i>  9:00 AM "Easter - He is Risen!" Worship at Memorial and online <i>Easter egg hunt will follow</i>	

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

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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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