

# Easter Celebration Worship

April 5, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** *“The Day of Resurrection”* - arr. Michael Burkhardt  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Welcome

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

**you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.**

**You lead us beside still waters.**

We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you.  
**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.  
**We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Hymn: “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” - ELW #365**  
*Trumpet: Kevin Masemann*

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

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, 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: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging

him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** *“Risen Indeed”* - Victor Johnson

*Memorial Choir; Soloist: Dave Lekwa*

### **Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10**

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

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and

worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” - ELW #384**

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

**Music Voluntary:** *"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"* - Craig Courtney  
*Memorial Choir*

### **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**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.*



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. 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 of new life.  
 Receive the risen Lord.

## Hymns during Communion

“Lamb of God” - “Now the Feast” - Marty Haugen

“The Day of Resurrection” - ELW #361

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” - ELW #373

### LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 you break the chains of ha - tred and  
 you are the way of jus - tice and  
 you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
 fear:  
 peace:  
 love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation*



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
+ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Sending Song: “Thine is the Glory” - ELW #376**

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude:** “*Hallelujah Chorus*” - G.F. Handel  
*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 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**

### **Memorial Needs You - Share Your Spark!**

*Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary*

You're invited (and encouraged!) to attend a brief informational meeting to learn what Memorial has to offer and where you might see yourself fitting in to the picture. Join us Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 PM to learn how you can "share your spark"!

### **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.

### **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!

### **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: Easter Egg Hunt**

When: Following 9 AM service

### **MLC @ Harmony Clothing Closet**

*Volunteers needed!*

When: Monday, April 6, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

### **Finance Team Meeting**

When: Tuesday, April 7, 4:00 PM

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

When: Tuesday, April 7, 5:00 PM

### **Lutheran World Relief Work Day**

When: Wednesday, April 8, 1:00 PM

### **Wednesday Night Live and Confirmation Resume**

When: Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 PM

### **Bible Study in Chapel**

When: Thursday, April 9, 8:30 AM

### **Lutheran World Relief Work Day - packing for shipping**

When: Wednesday, April 15, 1:00 PM

### **Wednesday Night Live and Confirmation**

When: Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 PM

### **Council Meeting**

When: Thursday, April 16, 7:00 PM

# This Week at Memorial

Monday, April 6 - Sunday, April 12

<b>6 Monday</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>7 Tuesday</b>  4:00 PM Finance Team Meeting  5:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting  6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8 Wednesday</b>  1:00 PM Lutheran World Relief Work Day  6:30 PM Wednesday Night Live and Confirmation	<b>9 Thursday</b>  8:30 AM Bible Study in Chapel
<b>10 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>11 Saturday</b>	<b>12 Sunday</b>  9:00 AM Worship at Memorial and online	

**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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