

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *“Songs of the Shepherd”* - arr. John Carter

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” and *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*
Lois Theesfield, organ

Welcome

Gathering Song: *“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”* - ELW #619

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.**

“Now the Feast” - Marty Haugen

Refrain
Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1
Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

3

Verse 2
Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and
 might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
 for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3
Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
 make us peo - ple of God; to make
 all things new. *to Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

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: John 10:1-10

The Gospel according to John

Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

- ELW #954

Senior Recognition and Blessing

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering

Music Voluntary: *“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”*

- arr. Anna Laura Page

*Handbell Ensemble: Pr. Kathleen Lotz, Emily Dalthorp, Emilia Stage,
Nancy Clough, Nathalie Cruden, Cathy Carsrud*

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.*

Preface

It is our duty and delight ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
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

"Have No Fear Little Flock" - ELW #764

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *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: *“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”* - ELW #789

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”* - arr. David Cherwein
Lois Theesfield, organ

Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

Please keep the family of +Johann Thiel in your prayers following his death

Please keep the family of +Norma Gandrup in your prayers following her death

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

Hospitalizations: *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

Save the Date

Wednesday Night Live and Confirmation

When: Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 PM

Bible Study

When: Thursday, April 30, 8:30 AM

Where: Chapel

Memorial Musicians Spring Concert: “Gospel, Spirituals, Hymns, and More!”

When: Sunday, May 3, 4:00 PM

Where: Sanctuary

MLC at Harmony Clothing Closet - Volunteers Needed!

When: Monday, May 4, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Wednesday Night Live and Confirmation

Note: this will be the final WNL and Confirmation for the 2025-2026 school year.

When: Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 PM

Bible Study

When: Thursday, May 7, 8:30 AM

Where: Chapel

Beer & Theology

When: Thursday, May 7, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

Executive Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 12, 5:00 PM

Finance Team Meeting

When: Thursday, May 14, 5:00 PM

Announcements

Memorial Musicians Spring Concert "Gospel, 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!

Thank you for your support of the Luther College Collegiate Chorale!

Thank you to all who helped in bringing the very talented Luther College Collegiate Chorale to Memorial for their concert on April 23! To those who spread the word; organized logistics; served as overnight hosts; cooked supper for the choir; brought desserts; served on the clean-up crew; and of course, attended the concert, **thank you!** This would not have been possible without everyone lending a hand.

If you would like to view the livestream of the choir's upcoming homecoming concert, visit the Luther College Collegiate Chorale's YouTube channel on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 PM.

Prayer Shawl & Quilt Invitation

As we prepare for the 2026 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly May 15-16, 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!

Stay Connected with Memorial

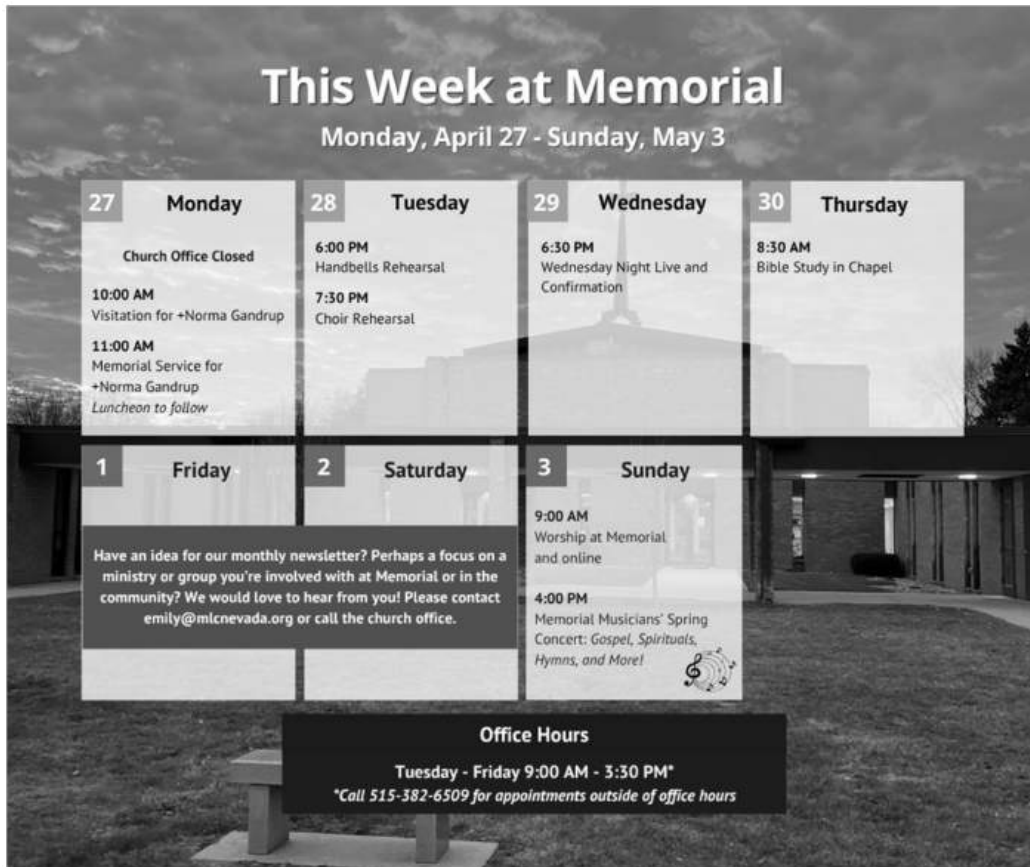
Keep up-to-date with Memorial and community events, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and more; sign up to receive emails and/or periodic texts at bit.ly/memorialconnect or by using the QR code.



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!***





Memorial Lutheran Church
 701 11th Street, Nevada, IA 50201
 Phone 515-382-6509
pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org
emily@mlcnevada.org
www.mlcnevada.org

[@memluthnevada](https://www.instagram.com/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

Texts and graphics from From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20739. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
