

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** *“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”* - setting by Wilbur Held  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Welcome

**Gathering Song:** *“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”* - ELW #389

## 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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

<sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and  
“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;

once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to

him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."  
<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" - ELW #816**

## **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 the Risen Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

**Music Voluntary:** *“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”* - arr. John Leavitt  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

### **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**

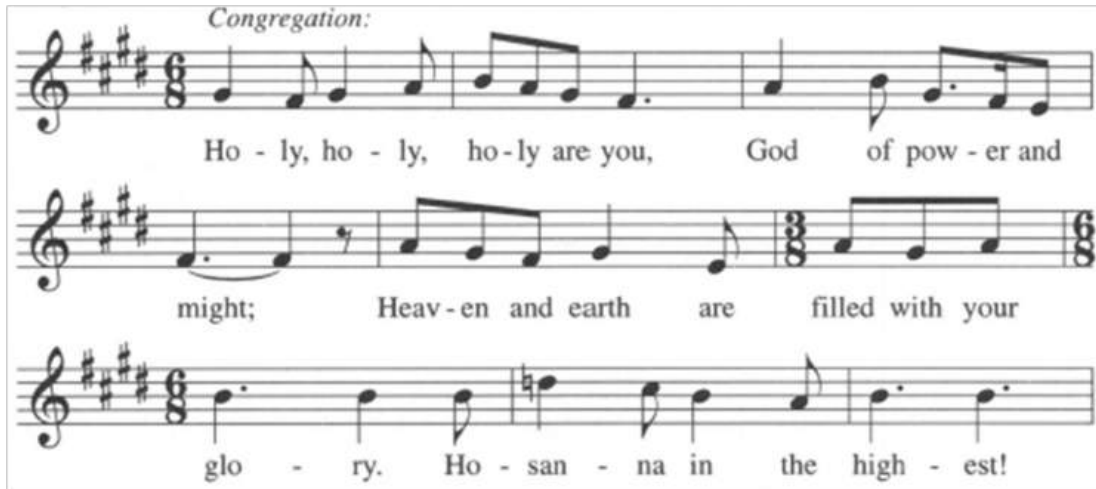
*This is Christ's table and Christ's meal. All are welcome here. Kids are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents. If you are unable to come forward please let an usher or the pastor know so that we can bring you Communion at your seat.*



## 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  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



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  
*"You are the Way"* - ELW #758**

# 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: "Be Not Afraid" - ELW #388**

*All sing three times through*

### **Dismissal**

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

**Postlude:** *"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"* - arr. Michael Burkhardt  
*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 +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 &amp; 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**

### **TODAY: 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

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

When: Wednesday, May 13, 1:00 PM

### **Bible Study**

When: Thursday, May 14, 8:30 AM

Where: Chapel

### **Finance Team Meeting**

When: Thursday, May 14, 5:00 PM

## Announcements

### **TODAY: Memorial Musicians Spring Concert "Gospel, Spirituals, Hymns, and more!"**

*Sunday, May 3, at 4pm*

Join us this afternoon 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 recorded livestream of the choir's homecoming concert, visit the Luther College Music Department's YouTube channel.

### **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!**



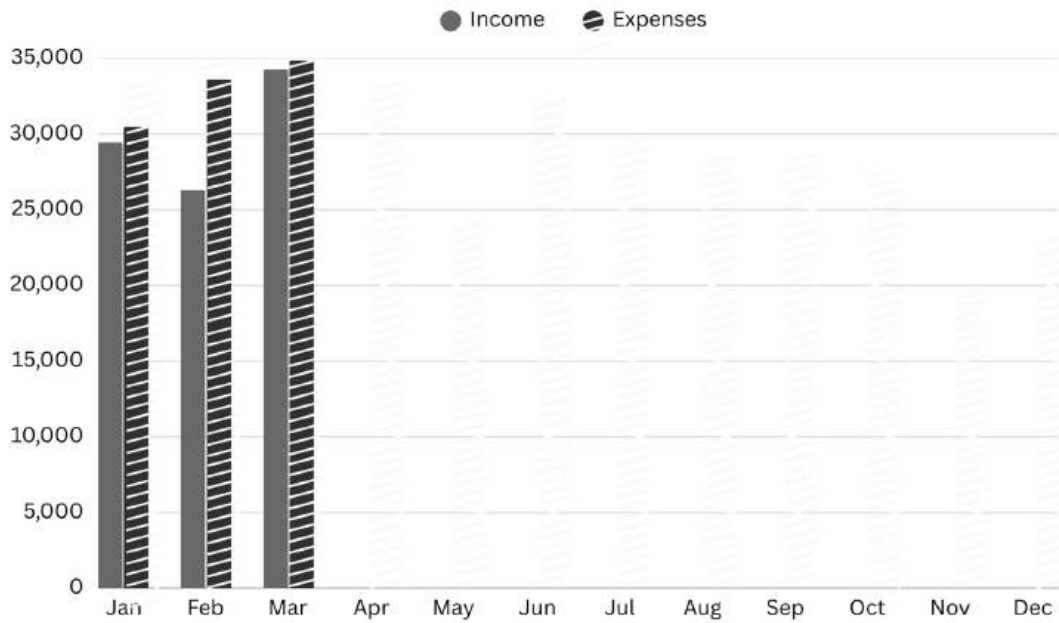
## General Fund 2026

### Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of March 31, 2026

Income: \$90,030

Expenses: (\$98,910)

Deficit: (\$8,880)







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[@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

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