

17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Today we hear our beautiful new 6th and 7th octaves of Low Chimes for the first time as they are incorporated into the harmonic mix of our existing handbells. Malmark Chimes of this size are not meant to be loud. In fact, it is known that the true sound quality of these bass chimes is heard from five to ten feet (and beyond) out from the choir. They embellish the fundamental harmonic tones of the handbells, and create almost more of a “feeling” than sound. We dedicate these instruments to the Glory of God. May they impact your listening and reach deep into your souls with new inspiration.

Prelude: “Joyous Spirit” - Valerie Stephenson
Memorial Handbells

Welcome

Gathering Song: “As the Saints of Old” ELW #695

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145

O My God and King and Savior **145F**

Unison G C/G D/G C/G G C/G Gmaj7 C/G

1 O my God and King and Sav - for, I will bless you ev-ery day;
 2 All your works speak of your king-dom, where you reign e - ter-nal-ly,
 3 God, you gave the hun-gry man-na, now your church you dai-ly feed,

G C/G D/G C/G G C/G Gmaj7 C/G

you are great, be - yond all tell-ing, yet will lis-ten when I pray.
 yet from where your great com-pas-sion reach-es out to com-fort me;
 o-pen-ing wide your hand and pour-ing gifts of life to those in need.

G Bm7 Cmaj7 Am7 G Bm7 Cmaj7 D

A - ges past have sung your prais - es; now my gen - er - a - tion sings
and your saints on earth ac - claim you, as your mer - cies they re - call,
Ev - ery day I'll strive to serve you, seek - ing nei - ther wealth nor fame,

G C/G D/G C/G G C/G Bm/D G

of your glo - ry, splen - dor, good - ness, and to you its hom - age brings.
know - ing you will nev - er leave them for you made and love them all.
on - ly strength to speak your prais - es, and to bless your ho - ly name!

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart

Gospel Acclamation

All Creation Sings, Setting 11

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

The Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard

said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ELW #588

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 Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Music Voluntary: *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"* - arr. Douglas Wagner
Memorial Handbells

Offering Prayer

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
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.

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.

Holy, Holy

All Creation Sings, Setting 11

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria y po - der,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,
cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.
heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

The 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

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

Hymns during Communion

"Lamb of God" - ACS Setting 11
"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" ELW #659

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: *“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”* ELW #669

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“Prelude in Bb Major”* - J S Bach

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.

Prayers for the family of +Dorothy Heintz following her death

Prayers for Judy Craven and family following the death of her husband +Mel Craven

De Carsrud	June Copenhaver	<i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>
Becky Johnson	<i>mother of Diane Martin</i>	Eric Forsyth
<i>relative of Judy Johnson</i>	Pastor Andrea Myers	Crystal Vines
Randy Theesfield	<i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i>	Wayne Johnson
<i>brother of Lynn Theesfield</i>	Charlie Lloyd	Troy Vincent
Lynette Meis	Bert Ann Ray	Mike Neal
<i>friend of Steve & Nan Jungst</i>	Wayne Kinyon	Christina King
Mike Coverdale	Loren Bryant	Sherry Kluever
Beverly Johnson	<i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Kim Elliott
June Rush	Jill Rhodes	Pr. Marcia Kisner
<i>sister of Joan Ridgway</i>	Connie Robinson	Marlene Waddell
Nan Jungst	<i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>
Paul Johnson	Barb McDaniel	Cassie Harrell
Mary Brinkman	Ken Huffaker	Jean Smith
Ashley and Ming Xu	<i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Easton Farrington
<i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>	Ardith Forsyth	Janice Hartz
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Eileen Miller	Jackie Byers
Teresa Krebs	Karen Anderson	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Kari Toot	Caleb Roof	Donna See
Tanya Sorem	Evelyn Onstot	
Julie & Craig Sutherland	Katy Beno	

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.*

This Week at Memorial

Monday, September 21 - Sunday, September 27

21 Monday Church Office Closed	22 Tuesday 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal <i>Sanctuary</i> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal <i>Sanctuary</i>	23 Wednesday 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Live / Confirmation Class	24 Thursday 8:30 AM Bible Study <i>Chapel</i>
25 Friday 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 emily@mlcnevada.org or call the church office.	26 Saturday	27 Sunday Outdoor Worship @ Hickory Grove Park (Oriole Ridge Lodge) 10:00 AM <i>Note: there will be no worship at Memorial or online. Come join us at Hickory Grove!</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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▶ 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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Save the Date

Wednesday Night Live / Confirmation / High School Youth Group

When: Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 PM

Bible Study

When: Thursday, September 24, 8:30 AM

Where: Chapel

Outdoor Worship & Brunch @ Hickory Grove Park

When: Sunday, September 27, **10:00 AM**

Where: Oriole Ridge Lodge @ Hickory Grove Park

Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

When: Tuesday, September 29, 5:00 PM

Where: Online via Zoom

Wednesday Night Live / Confirmation / High School Youth Group

When: Wednesday, September 30, 6:30 PM

Beer @ Theology

When: Thursday, October 1, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

Blessing of the Animals

When: Saturday, October 3, 10:00 AM

Where: MLC East Courtyard

Nevada CROP Hunger Walk

When: Sunday, October 4, walk send-off at 1:00 PM

Where: Evergreen Lane (walk is to SCORE Park and back; come to Evergreen Lane early for live music!)

MLC @ Harmony Clothing Closet

When: Monday, October 5, volunteers needed any time between 4:00 and 7:00 PM

Announcements

Save the Date: Worship at Oriole Ridge Lodge - Sunday, September 27, 10:00 am, followed by potluck

Join us at the beautiful Hickory Grove Park for worship at Oriole Ridge Lodge on Sunday, September 27 at **10:00 AM**, followed by a potluck. **Please bring a dish or side to share!**

There will also be the opportunity to try your hand at fishing along the shoreline. If you think you may be interested in fishing, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex; this helps us have an idea of how many poles, etc. to bring. Thank you!

Save the Date: Nevada CROP Walk Sunday, October 4, 2026

Join us as we gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world at Nevada's CROP Hunger Walk! We'll walk from Evergreen Lane to SCORE Park and back and enjoy live music by "One More Time" and snacks at Evergreen Lane. Whether you join in the walk or come out and support the walkers, grab your family and/or a friend to join in the fight against hunger!



New this year – join the Memorial Lutheran Church team for some friendly community competition!

Area churches, organizations, businesses, families, and more are invited to create or join a team using the QR code or by visiting <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/nevadaia>

The teams with the most participants and most money raised will have their photos featured in "Our Nevada" and receive the Golden Shoe award.

When: Sunday, October 4, 1:00 PM walk send-off; come early for live music!

Where: Evergreen Lane, 1204 H Ave.

Lector Sign-up

Please sign up to read the lessons in worship!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Go to this link (or use the QR code below) to go to access our invitation page on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/HCqtmvb>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact the office and we can sign you up manually.

OR

You can scan this code with your smartphone camera now:



Wednesday Night Live (WNL) Classroom and/or Music Help Needed!

Our Wednesday Night Live numbers have grown, and we are hoping to enroll even more new families this fall. If you are willing to help weekly, once a month, or just intermittently, we would love to have you! If you are musically inclined and would like to help in that area, in the classrooms, or during volunteer opportunities, we can use your support. If you have questions as to what the expectations and or time commitment are for any of these opportunities, please contact **Wendy Long** at wendlong75@yahoo.com.

Raising Readers Volunteer Opportunity

Raising Readers in Story County is seeking volunteers to help children develop their literacy skills. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of local youth!

- Story Pals serves preschoolers at Central Elementary once/week, 9/23-12/9
- Reading Buddies is for young elementary students, meeting twice/week, 9/16-11/18

For more information, see the flyers in MLC's narthex, email hannabell@raising-readers.org, or call 515-520-8686.

The Psalmist says: "O Come, Let us SING unto the Lord!"

Memorial Choir resumes rehearsals September 1 and we would love to welcome you into our family of singers. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:45 pm in our sanctuary, we gather to prepare hymns, liturgy, and songs to enhance our worship. If you ever thought of joining us, now is the time. We have an exciting year planned with new anthems, an outreach visit to local retirement communities, and the traditional Christmas Vespers to prepare for. Please come September 1st and give us a try. For more information contact Lois Theesfield at loistfield@gmail.com.

Do you enjoy planning fun events and activities? Join the Fellowship & Outreach Team!

Memorial's Fellowship & Outreach Team is seeking additional volunteers to help organize fun events like Trunk-or-Treat, Christmas in July, BINGO & Nachos, and more. We meet once every other month; contact Emily Dalthorp or the main office if you're interested!

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!**



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.





FUN FAITH FAMILY RESOURCES!

Discover fun, interactive
activities that help your family
grow in faith and life together.

Simple, meaningful ideas
for everyday moments that
make faith come alive!



faith forward
families passing faith on