

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 30th, 2023



MEMORIAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” - M. Rotermund & J. Bender
Lois Theesfield, organ

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God’s mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of + Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Gathering Song: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” ELW #533, verses 1,3,5

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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Lector: Judi Twedt

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Lector: Judi Twedt

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it

is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to You, O Lord

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore

every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Be Thou My Vision” ELW #793

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 Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Music Voluntary: “Be Thou My Vision” - John Behnke
Lois Theesfield, organ

Offering Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

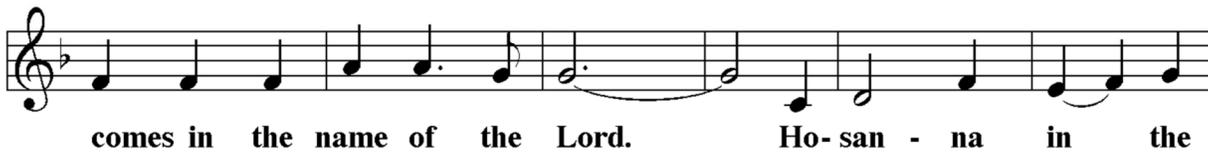
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

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

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

Hymns during Communion

"Lamb of God" WOV Setting 5

"We Come Now to Your Table" ACS #970

Lamb of God



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

We Come Now to Your Table, Lord



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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Prayer after Communion

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
+ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Neither Death nor Life" ELW #622

All sing verses and refrain; led by Dave Lekwa

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”* - arr. Bert Carlson
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 Nancy Christian and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Larry Christian

Please keep Norma Jean Smith and family in your prayers following the death of her son, +Darrel Smith

Prayers for the family and friends of +Tina Palmisano following her death (sister-in-law of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch)

Prayers for the family and friends of +Georgiann Grant following her death

Prayers for the family and friends of +David Blumer following his death

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Wayne Kinyon | John Bass | Katie Brockmeier |
| Kathy Lynn Johnson | <i>son-in-law of Ron & Gloria Jacobson</i> | <i>granddaughter-in-law of Ruth Brockmeier</i> |
| Christina King | Carol Vincent | Norma Dannan |
| Sherry Kluever | Cassie Harrell | <i>friend of Betty Runge</i> |
| Christina Yeo <i>(cousin of Diane Eilers)</i> | Jean Smith | Jami Tharp |
| Dick Settle | Annette Dalthorp | Fred Samuelson |
| Kim Elliott | Ellie Lynch | Jaylee Bartleson |
| Jenny Adelmund | Ernie Ruhde | Sheila Collingwood <i>mother of Lyndsey De Vos</i> |
| Jan Seibel | Sierra Parr <i>cousin of Kim Stieler</i> | Judy Coverdale |
| Jeanie & Jerry Gibson | Janet Jacques | Family and friends of +James Stephens |
| Marsha Kane | Easton Farrington | George Forsyth |
| Pr. Marcia Kisner | Janice Hartz | Janeen Driscoll |
| Marlene Waddell <i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i> | Connie Krupp | Lynn Harris |
| Sandy Muesburger <i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i> | Randy Matthews <i>friend of Mike Coverdale</i> | Julie Sutherland |
| | Jackie Byers <i>daughter of Shellie Black</i> | Jan Cook |
| | Donna See | |

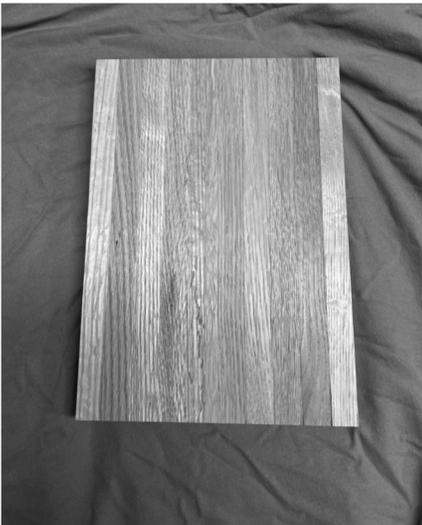
Announcements

“Dive in to Fall” Pool Party

The Faith Formation team is inviting all Memorial family and friends to dive in to Fall with a pool party at Chris Nady's house (1207 H Ave., Nevada, IA 50201) the evening of Wednesday, August 16th. Come on out and beat the heat as we welcome in another school year. Food will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Golf Outing at Indian Creek Country Club

We have reserved some Tee Times between 2pm and 3pm on Sunday, September 17th, 2023 at Indian Creek Country Club. The format will be 9 hole best shot so it doesn't matter if you are a golfer or not. We just want folks to come out for the fellowship and enjoy a nice fall day outside. The cost is \$35 per person to golf 9 holes with a cart. Part of the proceeds will go to the parking lot project at Memorial. Please contact Emily at the church office at 515-382-6509 to sign up or just show up Sunday, September 17th at 2pm and we will put you with a group if you don't have one. More information will follow soon.



Take Home a Piece of Memorial Memorabilia

There's still time to own a bit of Memorial Memorabilia! The pews that were removed to make room for the bell choir and to make the sanctuary more wheelchair friendly are available through a free-will donation either as pews, or as pieces of pews. They are solid oak that has been sawn and laminated much like a cutting board would be (see picture). The pews are either 69 inches long or 98 inches long. If those sizes won't fit your deck/porch/entryway, they can be cut down to whatever length you need (Steve Jungst would even be willing to do that for you). If you would prefer to have some of the wood, that can be arranged as well. Because of the construction, the backs and seats would make excellent blanks for cutting boards or charcuterie boards.

Pews and/or pieces are available for free-will donations, and any money raised will be used to offset capital improvement funds being used to repave the driveway. If you're interested, call or text Steve Jungst at 515-451-7057 or contact Carl Link, but don't wait too long. One way or another, this once in a lifetime opportunity will be gone soon!

Deadline Approaching to Apply for a Ministry Endowment Fund Grant

There's less than a week left to apply for a 2023 grant from our Mission Endowment Fund! We are interested in supporting creative and innovative projects to serve the community and world. Following the example of Jesus of Nazareth, we have a bias for projects that serve the overlooked and the neglected. We also value:

- small projects, (because they are often seeds of change);
- projects that are built on collaboration with others;
- projects that draw diverse people together;

- and projects that evoke simplicity and self-giving generosity.

Applications are due **Friday, August 4, 2023, at 12 Noon (CDT)**. For more information and to apply, see the details and application here: bit.ly/3Cm6v8M There are also applications available in the Narthex.

“Blast Back to School”—School Supplies Needed!

Did you know that on average, families spend over \$100 per child to purchase necessary school supplies? For many families this is just not possible on limited budgets. Story County’s Blast Back to School Event aims to relieve the burden of back to school expenses for local families of K–12 students through the donation of supplies and backpacks. You can help by bringing supplies (see the list below) to Memorial this summer, which will then be distributed to schools. Please leave the supplies outside the front office—thank you for your help!

Supplies most needed are:

- Headphones
- Earbuds
- #2 Pencils
- Pens (Black, Blue, and Red)
- Highlighters
- Pink Erasers
- Pencil Pouches
- Box of 10 Broad Line Markers
- 24-pack Colored Pencils
- 24-pack Crayola Crayons
- Dry Erase Markers
- Glue Bottles
- Glue Sticks
- Plastic (no paper please) Pocket Folders
- 1-inch Binders
- Plastic School Supply Boxes
- Wide-ruled Spiral Notebooks
- College-ruled Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebooks
- Backpacks

You’re Invited: Thursday Morning Bible Study in Chapel

You’re invited to join Pr. Kathleen in reading the upcoming weekend texts together every Thursday morning from 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel. All are welcome to stop in!

Camping with Memorial September 23rd - 24th

Planning for our annual camping outing at Hickory Grove is in the works! It’s not too early to reserve your spot for the weekend of September 23/24: **please note that if you intend to stay the night, you must secure your own campsite by contacting the campground.** Stay tuned for more details for this fun weekend!

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 select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Capital Improvement Fund for the concrete project!

Save the Date

Thursday Morning Bible Study

When: Thursday, August 3rd, 8:30—9:30 am

Where: MLC Chapel

Beer & Theology (first Thursday of every month)

When: Thursday, August 3rd, 6:30 pm

Where: Old Chicago (Ames)

“Dive in to Fall” Pool Party

When: Wednesday, August 16 (time TBD)

Where: Chris Nady’s house: 1207 H Ave., Nevada, IA 50201

Golf Outing

Call the church office for more details and to sign up for a tee time

When: Sunday, September 17th (tee times between 2:00 and 3:00)

Where: Indian Creek Country Club

Camping with Memorial

Please note that if you intend to spend the night, you must reserve your own campsite by contacting the campground.

When: September 23rd - 24th

Where: Hickory Grove

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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