

# Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023





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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*” - arr. Paul Manz  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
+ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,**  
yet we fail to follow you.  
**We are overwhelmed**  
by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.  
**For the harm we have caused,**  
known and unknown, forgive us.  
**For the unjust demands we place on others**  
and your creation, forgive us.  
**For the ways we turn away**  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.  
**Lead us back to you**  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Song: “*Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven*” ELW #864**

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**

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

*Lector: Steve Lekwa*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

*Lector: Steve Lekwa*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

<sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in common time, treble clef, and key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are integrated into the music:

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

The Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

<sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

<sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

*Pastor Gloria Dovre*

## **Hymn of the Day: "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" ELW #605**

### **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:** "Joydance" - John Behnke  
*Memorial Handbells*

#### **Offering Prayer**

God of power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each staff containing a line of text corresponding to the melody. The lyrics are as follows:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

### Hymns during Communion

"We Come Now to Your Table" ACS #970  
"Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW #359

### 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

## **Prayer after Communion**

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

The God of glory,  
+ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" ELW #543**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" - arr. Albert Travis  
*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 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*

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

**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

### TODAY: Golf Outing at Indian Creek Country Club

We have reserved some Tee Times between 2pm and 3pm today, Sunday, September 17, 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 \$25 per person to golf 9 holes with a cart, and we will also be accepting donations for Memorial's "Drive for the Drive" pavement project. 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.

### NEXT WEEKEND: Camping with Memorial September 23 - 24

Join us at Hickory Grove September 23-24 for the MLC Camping Weekend! If you are planning to come out (even if you're planning to swing in and only say 'hello') would you **please RSVP by going here: <https://bit.ly/3EZT14h>** (or by using the QR code) and adding your name? This will greatly help us with our planning - thank you!

All are invited to join us for activities at the Oriole Ridge Lodge at Hickory Grove, including **Sunday worship at 10:00am on the 24th also outdoors at the lodge** (there will be **no** worship at Memorial next Sunday). Please note that if you intend to stay the night, you must secure your own campsite by contacting the campground. Camping weekend activities include:

- Kayaking, fishing, or swimming, including a "most fish caught" contest
- All ages photo scavenger hunt
- Yard and table games (if you have a cribbage board, please bring it!)
- Crafts
- Cornhole tournament
- Campfire with s'mores
- Seed harvesting service project
- Sunday worship at the lodge
- Sunday brunch and Bingo following worship



### Attention Youth and Families: Introducing *Wednesday Night Live!*!

Calling kids and youth of all ages of Memorial Lutheran! **You're invited!** This year we are starting something new... We want to invite you to bring a friend and join us for *Wednesday Night Live!* Come and engage with God, Scripture, and other young people each Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 PM. To sign up, grab a registration form at church or you can fill out the online form here: <https://bit.ly/459i0xu> or by visiting [mlcnevada.org](http://mlcnevada.org).

*Can't wait to see you at Wednesday Night Live!*

## **Check out our important website calendar and photo updates!**

If you haven't visited [mlcnevada.org](http://mlcnevada.org) lately, be sure to take a look: our calendar has been revamped and updated, and will continue to be updated as new events and meetings are planned, so please check back often to keep up-to-date with Memorial happenings and announcements.

In addition, a new "Review in Photos" page under the "About" drop-down in the top menu has been created with many recent photos from events, ministries, and more across our congregation. This page will be updated each month with new photos. We give a *huge* thank you to Steve Jungst for all of his work in updating and creating these pages and for taking photos!

## **Registration Open for Nevada's CROP Hunger Walk**

On Sunday, October 1, come join us in fighting hunger locally and globally!

We're excited to turn this year's walk into a "color" walk/run\*. Grab your family and/or a friend to come join you in the fight against hunger.



12:30 - Walking tacos available in the Pavilion

1:00 - Walk send-off

- *The color walk part of the event is entirely optional! If you'd like to participate in this fun part of the day, wear a shirt that you would like to get "colored" at the event!*

Want to walk with us? Join our team: "Memorial Lutheran Church - Nevada, IA", register as an individual, start your own team, or make a donation by visiting

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/nevadaia> or by using the QR code.

## **Community Trunk-or-Treat at Memorial**

Trunk-or-Treat returns! Bring your family and friends to Memorial's parking lot Saturday, October 28 between 5:00 and 6:00pm for trick-or-treating around decorated vehicles. Walking tacos will be available with free-will donations benefitting Nevada's Good Samaritan Fund. There will also be a "Best Decorated Trunk" contest with a prize for the winner! Want to bring your decorated vehicle and hand out candy? Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3L8eoDH> use the QR code, or contact the church office.



## **Important Reminder Regarding Giving to Special Projects**

We so appreciate gifts received for special projects such as "A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place" (heating and cooling) and "Drive for the Drive" (pavement). If you would like to support these projects, please make sure to specify the project name with your gift. This ensures that your gift goes directly to the project and helps us keep an accurate record of funds received / still needed. Thank you for your support!

## **"Created to be: Good Neighbors" - An Event for Iowa Youth**

God created us to be just who we are-- and calls us to love our neighbors with the gifts God gave us. 8th-12th Graders, especially those interested in the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering are invited to join in on this evening of fun, faith, and fellowship.

We're hoping to form a group from Memorial to carpool down to Ankeny. Please let Pastor Kathleen know if you would be interested in joining!

**What:** Dinner & interactive worship for 8th-12th graders

**When:** October 14, 5-8pm

**Where:** Resurrection Lutheran, 914 NW Ash Dr., Ankeny, IA

### **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 Drive for the Drive pavement project!***



## *Save the Date*

### **TODAY: Golf Outing**

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

Where: Indian Creek Country Club

Cost: \$25/person for 9 holes with a cart; we will also be accepting donations for the “Drive for the Drive” pavement project.

### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, September 20, 6:30—7:30pm

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

When: Thursday, September 21, 8:30—9:30 am

Where: MLC Chapel

### **Camping with Memorial**

When: September 23- 24

Where: Hickory Grove

### **Nevada CROP Walk for Hunger**

When: Sunday, October 1

### **Beer & Theology (first Thursday of every month)**

When: Thursday, October 5, 6:30 pm

Where: Old Chicago (Ames)

### **Blessing of the Animals**

When: Saturday, October 7

### **Community Trunk-or-Treat at Memorial**

When: Saturday, October 28

### **Rite of Confirmation**

When: Sunday, October 29 during 9:00 worship

### **Ministry Endowment Fund Reception**

When: Thursday, November 9



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