

messenger

PEOPLE WHO SHARE

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
I Corinthians 12:27

~~~~~  
We recently set as our mission statement: *Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center is people who share God’s love and the message of His salvation with ISU students, internationals, families, singles, and people of all ages, enabling them to learn and grow by the grace of Jesus Christ.*

Right from the start the statement identifies Memorial as “people.” This certainly fits the New Testament understanding of what the Church is. Martin Luther expressed it this way in the Smalcald Articles: Thank God, a child seven years old knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd.

If we are people, then our ministry is first and foremost about people. Our organization, our property, our funds, our programs should exist to serve people. Jesus’ whole ministry was to serve His Father by serving humanity. As His followers, that is why we exist as the Church.

For ministry to happen to people, we need people. Funds and programs are helpful, but nothing replaces people in ministry. We often may look for some “magic bullet,” some special program or way of communicating to get people connected to Christ Jesus. But the way God has chosen to do that is through people. He chose His Son Christ Jesus to come to this world as a person to serve us people. Before Jesus ascended into heaven He told the disciples and us that He has chosen to carry on that service through His people, what Paul called “the body of Christ.”

With that spirit we encourage you to offer yourself in service. There are plenty of opportunities here at church like VBS, meeting with an international, being a prayer pal for confirmation students, or manning the tech booth. But any opportunity you find to serve other people is God’s people, the Church in action. For it is not just Memorial Lutheran Church, but all followers of Jesus who are people who share Christ. ~MTH

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Drawing by K. F. Dunker



## June Schedule

|                   |          |                       |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Saturday, June 2  | 5:00 PM  | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Sunday, June 3    | 8:30 AM  | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Sunday, June 3    | 11:00 AM | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Saturday, June 9  | 5:00 PM  | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Sunday, June 10   | 8:30 AM  | Informal Worship      |
| Sunday, June 10   | 11:00 AM | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Saturday, June 16 | 5:00 PM  | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Sunday, June 17   | 8:30 AM  | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Sunday, June 17   | 11:00 AM | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Saturday, June 23 | 5:00 PM  | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Sunday, June 24   | 8:30 AM  | Informal Worship      |
| Sunday, June 24   | 11:00 AM | Informal Worship (HC) |
| Saturday, June 30 | 5:00 PM  | Informal Worship (HC) |

## Worship Notes

Sunday June 3 we will be installing the new Board of Directors.

Sunday, June 10 we will be recognizing those who graduated from high school.

We are always looking for special music for the summer. If you would like to be a part of a special choir or ensemble or solo, contact one of the pastors.



who have served the past two years as our brass and choir directors respectively. We see them pictured.

April 22 we recognized  
← Alec Garringer and  
April 29 we recognized  
Jackson Daubitz ↓



## Education

“Why were the Assyrians so hated by people in the Bible?” “Why were the people of Israel so tempted to worship Canaanite idols?” “How could John the Baptist live in the wilderness?” Our Sunday morning Bible class for the summer beginning on June 3 will explore how we might find the answers to these questions. We will look at the geography, peoples, history, religions, archaeology, and daily life of the Bible. Studies in these areas are not needed to prove the truth of the Bible, but to help us to understand more clearly the truths of the Bible. The class will meet at 10 AM in the MLC Student Center.

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## Committee Report

### Summary of the Board of Directors Meeting May 8, 2018

Students Sarah Kreutner and Misa Hamanaka shared their ideas about Sunday School.

The board reviewed their self-evaluations.

People responded well to the financial shortfall earlier this year!

Dan Voss was hired to share the youth ministry position with Elaina Soulek.

The \$15,000 given, which the board voted in April to pay off the loan, was put back into the general offerings.

The Structured Mission Workshop is rescheduled for July 21.

Next meeting: June 12.

#### **Our new board of directors will be installed June 3**

President of the Congregation: Rich Weiss  
Treasurer: Garry Gruhn  
Members-at-large: Denise Balvanz, Tim Dacken, Debra Freese, Lynn Nehls, Andrew Smelser.

During the June 12 meeting they will chose a Chair of the Board and a Secretary.

Our special thanks to Don Beitz and Carolyn McCall, our outgoing President of the Congregation and Chair of the Board.

*We received this note along with a gift from student Natalie Hanson who graduated in May and served for several years as a peer minister. She will be starting a position in Waco, Texas at the end of the summer, but will be going on a mission trip this summer to Namibia and Botswana, Africa.*

Dear Memorial family,  
I have so appreciated all the wonderful, kind, caring people at MLC these last five years. This church has been so welcoming to me and many other college students over the years. Thank you for the love and feeling of family I've received here.

## Youth Activities

**The youth packaged up study break treats** to send to the former members of our youth group that are now in college.

**The youth plan to meet** on Tuesdays at 7 PM this summer for Bible study and meet at the homes of various youth. On Tuesday, June 5 they will meet at 6 PM at the Heilman's for dinner, activities, and a Bible study. Youth leaders Elaina Soulek and Dan Voss and college helper Luke Heilman will lead the youth sessions this summer.

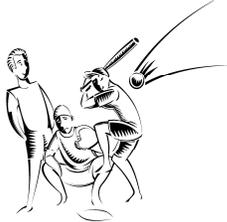
**Middle school events** will be held monthly this summer after the 8:30 AM service. The first meeting will be Sunday, June 11. The youth will meet for a snack on the east side of the Fellowship Hall and go outside to play kickball. Parents and siblings are encouraged to attend.

**June 21 is Lutheran Day at Adventureland.** All high school and middle school youth are invited. Parents are needed to provide transportation. A lunch will be provided.

### **LWML Mission Mites for June**

Haiti is a nation in need of special attention. Since the earthquake in 2010, Lutheran baptisms in Haiti have been multiplied beyond expectations and Lutheran church attendance is increasing. However physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ are left unmet. A center for the elderly people who have outlived their families, and some of whom are currently living in tents and deplorable conditions, is planned to be built on the same property where an orphanage was constructed in 2014. The children will have grandparents and the elderly will have children to make them smile. The center, built with funds supplied by this grant, would result in a dwelling with clean water, suitable waste containment, beds, food, and care for these forgotten people. Ministry in Mission desires to fulfill the intent of creating a true community for Haitian Lutherans by providing a safe living environment for all Haitians in the surrounding area and particularly the forgotten elderly society.

## Softball Schedule



|         |      |         |
|---------|------|---------|
| June 5  | 7:15 | Field 6 |
| June 5  | 8:15 | Field 5 |
| June 12 | 8:15 | Field 6 |
| June 12 | 9:15 | Field 5 |
| June 19 | 9:15 | Field 6 |
| June 26 | 9:15 | Field 5 |

*"I love the LORD because He hears my prayers and answers them. Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe."*  
Psalm 116:1-2

The **Sunday Morning Prayer Group** continues to meet from 8-8:25 AM before church in the international room. Do you have a prayer concern, a prayer of thanks, or time to join us as we pray for others and the church? Please join us for any of the 25 minutes, whatever works for you. Contact Carolyn McCall or Debra Freese for more information.

## Student Ministry

This month we will be sending out letters to incoming students. A follow up letter to their parents will be sent in July and a special student *Memo* will be sent in early August.

## Getting Involved

### Omaha Servant Event August 10-12, 2018

Serving others in the Omaha area begins on Friday, August 10 at 3:30 PM at the Assure Women's Center. We will tour the center and deliver baby clothes and baby items.

We will then help serve the evening meal to the homeless at 'Takin' It To The Streets' Mission or MOHMS Mission.

On Saturday, August 11, we will volunteer at Heartland Hope Mission in the morning and at the Open Door Mission in the afternoon.

On Sunday, August 12, we will attend church, enjoy a meal together and then head home.

Cost: \$195 Includes two night's lodging and meals.

Cost: \$50 if you do not need lodging. Please register before July 15.

Transportation provided by Iowa District West.

### Memorial is hosting the Fall LWML Rally.

The date is October 6. Anyone who would be willing to help plan the day is welcome to join friends doing the planning. We will need a theme and speaker and lunch of some kind to begin the process. Please join us on June 19 at 2:30 in the church basement.

Contact: Sally Hartman (233-2279), Jeanette LaGrange (232-8135), Linda Vogtlin (232-1671) for information.

## International Student Ministry

When Mallory Schon graduated in 2005, she “almost” signed up for a program through her alma mater, Kansas State University, to go to Europe and teach English. Instead she made what she considers the safe choice – moved to Texas, secured a job with a global company, received excellent training, and made good money. Although she left that company behind over a decade ago now, she has not lost the longing to help others specifically with language and understanding a culture that may be different than their own. Shortly after Mallory and her son Jett joined Memorial Lutheran, she saw the call for English conversation partners in the bulletin. Mallory knew God was giving her another chance of sorts in this area, and she was not going to pass up the opportunity a second time.

Mallory and Mihye Jang were paired up in September 2017 and they really are quite the pair. Mihye’s and Mallory’s first meetings were spent getting to know each other and typically grabbing coffee. This morphed into helping Mihye learn how to use her oven and prepare foods from recipes. Which Mallory adds, “She does fabulously – I would never turn down one of her brownies!” Mihye has spent time with both Jett and Mallory trying American delicacies like pigs in a blanket and chicken and noodles. Mihye has developed a particular fondness for beef chimichangas from El Azteca (Mallory prefers chicken), and they love to indulge in a cupcake from Ali Cakes on Main Street together.

But the day that sticks out the most is when Mihye shared with Mallory that she was pregnant – and that only Mallory and her husband knew! Mallory was beyond honored and immediately made sure Mihye was connected with medical professionals, had insurance in place, and appointments set up. As Mihye prepares for the arrival of her baby girl, Mallory has enjoyed getting to be a part of her journey. And Jett...has graciously come up with many baby names for Mihye to choose from! He couldn't be more excited to meet his Korean baby sister as he would like to be her big Iowa brother!

Mihye and Mallory are not just conversation partners. They are friends. They are family, and soon they will both be moms. They know their relationship was not by chance, but rather well planned and delicately timed for their lives. What a blessing God has provided them in each other!

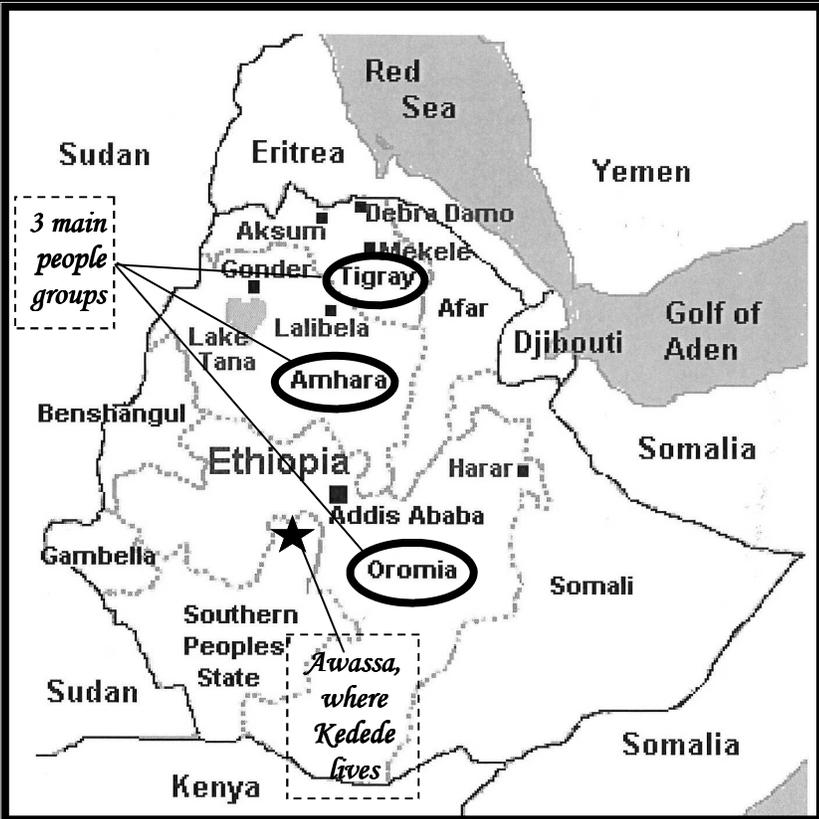
Regular summer classes will start June 10 after VBS. During VBS week a special class will be held each morning for internationals.

### **The summer class schedule with the teachers is:**

|            |                                                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mondays    | 10 AM --4 levels English-Wei Hua, Bruce Callahan, Elaine Cox, Barb Herstrom  |
|            | 11 AM --Idioms-Judy Newhouse                                                 |
|            | 1 PM --Bible study-Jenna Smith                                               |
| Tuesday    | 10 AM --Group conversations with volunteers from various churches            |
|            | 1 PM --Bible Study-Judy Newhouse                                             |
| Wednesdays | 10 AM --4 Levels English-Wei Hua, Bruce Callahan, Elaine Cox, Cheryl Olafson |
|            | 11 AM --Idioms-Judy Newhouse                                                 |
|            | 1:30 PM --Health class-Linda Vogtlin                                         |

May 10th a group of thirteen internationals went to Pella to see the tulips. The next day six people went to a free day at Reiman Gardens. Our thanks to those who helped with the special classes in May—Cecilia Hernandez, John Anderson, Patti Kimle, Nicole Lydell, and Bonna Pinneke. In June a trip is being planned for the Berry Patch.

# Kebede Ministry



We received this message from Kebede on May 9th:  
*We are having much better, peaceful situation since a new prime minister was appointed. It has been a little bit over one month now. We are able to travel freely and do our routine ministry activities in many of our mission areas. We all expect far better situations to come. The weather is very good for agriculture. Farmers are very happy and busy with field work. We are told that Solomon is going to graduate from his high school May 25. We usually encounter electric power outage frequently. This hampers a lot of daily activities. Still our internet connection is not good. We will let you know any new development.*

There was a period of unrest in Ethiopia that led to the resignation of the Prime Minister in February. As with much of Africa, Ethiopia has to deal

with tribal factions. It is similar to how before the Civil War many here saw their country first as their state, not the United States. In Ethiopia there are many tribes, but the three dominant ones are the Oromo, the Amhara, and the Tigray. The Oromo are the largest, but the Amhara and Tigray combined are more and they inhabit the areas of Ethiopia that remained independent from Muslim conquest and were Orthodox Christian. The Tigray, though the smallest of the three, have dominated the country in recent years. The oppressed Oromo protested. To get to where Kebede lives in the south from the capital in Addis Ababa, you have to travel through Oromo lands. This shut down travel so the Gerkens could not travel there in 2016 as planned. With the downfall of the Tigray prime minister there was concern about great conflict. However, a new prime minister, Aiy Ahmed, who is only 42 and is from the Oromo tribe has taken over and brought great hope as Kebede shared in his note. He has apologized for the actions against civil liberties which the government has done in past (which was noted in a resolution from the US House of Representatives).

The tribal prejudices affect so much in Ethiopia, including the church. One of Kebede's great joys in his ministry is that he is supported by us, so he is not bound by any tribe. He can work easily through tribal boundaries and be an example to others.

|                                          | <u>Budget Amt.</u> | <u>Collected Amt.</u> | <b><u>OTHER NEEDS</u></b> | <u>Budget Amt.</u> | <u>Collected Amt.</u> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Salary, wires, &amp; Work Program</u> | 40,760             | 15,737                | Gidola Cong.              | 5,000              | 1801                  |
|                                          |                    |                       | Women's Grp.              | 4,000              | 1300                  |
|                                          |                    |                       | Youth Grp.                | 4,000              | 300                   |
|                                          |                    |                       | Hursa Outreach            | 3,000              | 2000                  |
|                                          |                    |                       | Seed Project              | 6,000              | 1100                  |
| <b>Next payment on June 1</b>            |                    |                       |                           |                    |                       |

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

|         |                                                              |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 1  | Zach Heilman<br>Karsyn Pankonen                              |
| June 3  | Ariane Schmidt                                               |
| June 4  | Brenda Smith                                                 |
| June 5  | Brenna Bengtson<br>Jakoby Cesler<br>Korbin Cesler            |
| June 6  | Afton Coleman<br>Chloe Dacken<br>Mary Gillette               |
| June 7  | Elaina Soulek<br>Bailey Stewart                              |
| June 8  | Faye Booth<br>Kit Kitzman<br>Isabel Smelser                  |
| June 9  | Art Abel<br>Don Braymen                                      |
| June 11 | Sherry Hosteng                                               |
| June 15 | Jackson Kimle                                                |
| June 17 | Jace Larson<br>Luke Heilman<br>Sarah Stark<br>Zachary Larson |
| June 18 | Kristine Groth<br>Leyda Knapp                                |
| June 20 | Brynn Baier                                                  |
| June 22 | Tessa Johnson<br>Belinda Meis                                |
| June 23 | Marie Sunderman                                              |
| June 24 | Kiir Deng                                                    |
| June 25 | Muse Kebede                                                  |
| June 27 | Judy Newhouse                                                |
| June 28 | Willie Struss                                                |
| June 29 | Judy Beitz<br>Michelle Doyle                                 |
| June 30 | Chris Novak                                                  |

|    |                          |         |
|----|--------------------------|---------|
| 1  | Dennis & Sheila Atkinson | 3 yrs.  |
| 2  | Arlo & Lori Meyer        | 45 yrs. |
| 3  | Marvin & Karen Babcock   | 58 yrs. |
| 3  | Dave & Liz Beagley       | 7 yrs.  |
| 4  | Richard & Anne Osslund   | 51 yrs. |
| 6  | Scott & Donna Neubauer   | 36 yrs. |
| 9  | Jeff & Rhonda Johnson    | 22 yrs. |
| 9  | Craig & Suzanne Klocke   | 39 yrs. |
| 10 | Kristine & Bret Lang     | 1 yr.   |
| 12 | John & Kathy Lawrence    | 42 yrs. |
| 13 | Alan & Vonda Junck       | 26 yrs. |
| 13 | Lynn & Thomas Nehls      | 31 yrs. |
| 15 | Ryan & Alicia Smith      | 18 yrs. |
| 16 | Randy & Sandra Ausborn   | 34 yrs. |
| 17 | Bruce & Natalie Battles  | 19 yrs. |
| 17 | Steve & Connie Ringlee   | 40 yrs. |
| 25 | Mark & Lynn Astleford    | 24 yrs. |
| 27 | Kevin & Kathy Cole       | 26 yrs. |
| 29 | Brad & Joline Dye        | 33 yrs. |
| 30 | Casey & Tanja Frye       | 34 yrs. |

## Financial Report

| As of May 20, 2018 |                      |                     | To date, members and friends of Memorial Lutheran have donated their Thrivent for Lutherans "Choice Dollars" in the amount of \$2,183.00.<br>Thank you for your support. |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    | <u>Budgeted Amt.</u> | <u>Received</u>     |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Expenses</b>    | 195,344.00           | 215,273.00          |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Synod</b>       | 18,462.00            | 9,350.00            |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Missions</b>    | 2,846.00             | 0.00                |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Kebede</b>      | <u>18,316.00</u>     | <u>15,737.00</u>    |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Totals</b>      | <b>\$234,968.00</b>  | <b>\$240,360.00</b> |                                                                                                                                                                          |