

# Memorial Methodist Church

105 East Est

APRIL 2026

“Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, ‘Behold your King!’ They cried out, ‘Away with him, away with him, crucify him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar.’ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’”

It's 3:00 P.M. on Friday, April 3, A.D. 33.  
The town of Jerusalem.

It's dark and has been for three hours. As if someone has blocked out the sun, which is strange since it's the middle of the afternoon. Jerusalem is bustling with people. Jews have come from all around to observe Passover. Many have walked for days just to get here. Just outside the city walls, Roman soldiers are executing three criminals along a common, well-traveled road. While their crimes are unknown, their sentence is obvious: death by crucifixion, where they attach, or hang, a man by his hands and feet along a vertical pole topped with a crossbar. Once hung, gravity exerts downward pressure on the man's body, which stresses his lungs, decreasing lung capacity and, hence, his ability to breathe. To take a breath, he must push up with his feet and pull up with his arms, producing a slow, painful death.

There's nothing quick about it.

Crucifixions were known to take all day. Records indicate a range of thirty-six hours to nine days.<sup>3</sup> With each passing hour, fluid builds up in the man's lungs, causing a slow death. He is caught between a desire to breathe and the decreasing ability to push and pull, and as that ability decreases, the man drowns. Suffocates. This form of death is considered one of the most painful ways to die.

Despite artistic portrayals to the contrary, crucified criminals were hung at eye level. This allowed passersby to see everything. The naked bodies. The shoulders popped out of joint. Hear their cries. Proximity to the dying allowed them to spit. Mock. Remind them of all the foolish things they said and did in this life and how that futile attempt had brought them to this point.

How they were getting what they deserved.

These three men will die. Right here. Today.

During His life on earth, the man on the cross claimed to be the Son of God. A claim punishable by death. This is the question. Given that claim, He now hangs below a sign written in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin that says: "JESUS OF NAZARETH. THE KING OF THE JEWS." The religious elite milling around want to rewrite it to say, "This man says He is King of the Jews," but Pilate wrote what he wrote, and he's not changing it.

Whatever the truth, and whoever this man is, He is struggling, and He looks anything but kingly. And if this really is God's Son, why on earth would God let this happen to Him? The soldiers hung Him on this cross with a nail through each wrist and nailed through the side of each heel. There were two reasons for this: a high concentration of nerves, equaling greater pain, and fewer blood vessels, meaning he couldn't bleed out before the torture had time to set in. It also made pushing up and pulling that much more painful as the condemned did so against the tearing flesh.

The man looks unnatural. Almost unrecognizable as a man. Prior to hanging Him here, someone got hold of Him with a cat-o'-nine-tails. A scourge. Tipped with bone, glass, or nails. Which, when slung at His body, wrapped around, embedding into His flesh. When ripped backward again, it removed chunks of the man's neck, back, face, and sides. He's a hamburger. Shredded. Proving he is the most evil of men.

During the course of His agony, the man says seven things, most of which are strange. He forgives His torturers. Says something to His mother and another man, but it does little good as she is inconsolable. He speaks to the criminal at His side. Then, for the first and only time, He speaks about Himself, saying He's thirsty. He cries out for His Father, asking why he has been left there to die. Alone. Forsaken. Finally, with His last breath, He bows his head and gives up His Spirit.

But just prior to giving up His Spirit, He utters a single word. Just one word. It echoes off the rocks and the ears of those milling about. Judging by the looks on their faces, they know the word but pay little attention to it. The babbling of a dying man. Tetelestai.

A simple word. It means, "It is finished." Something has come to an end. Concluded. Accomplished. The word is well-known, as it was used frequently by first-century bankers. When noting that a debt obligation had been fulfilled, they would write or stamp "Tetelestai" on the debt ledger. "Paid in full."

According to the dying man, something has been accomplished or completed. Something was made perfect. But what? The only thing finished is Him. The fact is this: His rebellion failed. He lost. Rome won. Looks like He should've kept His mouth shut.

Which gives rise to the question: Who is this man? Why is He dying? What horrible crimes did He commit? Further, what did He finish? And why would this tormented man speak "tetelestai" as His last word?

I wish you, Jesus.

## Teacher & Volunteers Appreciation & The Year End Party

I can't believe we are already winding down the year and looking ahead to summer! We have had a great semester this far and are excited to end on a fun note. Two things to pass along. First, we will be recognizing our teachers and volunteers on Sunday, April 26th. We are so grateful for each one of them and their hearts to serve and share the love of Christ with our kids and each other. Second, Wednesday, April 29th, will be our Year End Party at TJ's Family Fun Center! We will be bowling and enjoying pizza from 6:00-7:30 pm! Please join us as a church family to celebrate all the blessings that this year of worship and growth together has brought.

**April's Memory Verse:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."  
Galatians 5:22-23

**ENGAGEMENT** - If you are wanting to engage a little more with what your kids are doing this month, you can look ahead, read together, and/or discuss the following each week:

- Acts 2:1-13 **The Holy Spirit Came**
- Galatians 5 **The Holy Spirit Changes Us**

# Children's Ministries

## VBS

Top o' the morning! From the lush meadows in the countryside to the cobblestone streets in the city, there is something everywhere you turn to delight in, in Ireland. So journey with us to *Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23*. Every step along our path will teach us about the Good Shepherd and how He cares for His sheep in Vacation Bible School.

Join us May 26-29! Starting at 9:00 am in the sanctuary there will be lively folk music, a skit featuring Stillwater Farm, and lads and lasses will be learning Bible verses. The fun continues all morning as the kids rotate from classroom time to playing games, making crafts and other fun projects. Lunch will be served and our time together for each day will end back in the sanctuary at 12:45 pm. So pull on your work boots, grab your walking staff, and get ready for a grand ol' time at *Emerald Crossing!*

We are planning for 100+ children; if you are available any day(s) during that week, there will be a place for you at VBS! Contact Julie Cuellar at [julie@mccookmmc.com](mailto:julie@mccookmmc.com).

Registration will be open after Easter so be on the lookout for that! In the coming weeks will also have a list of items to be donated for snacks, lunch and crafts so be checking the bulletin for that list. This church and members make the children and VBS a priority. We can't thank each of you enough for that!



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 26-29

VBS SERVICE MAY 31

# Youth Ministries

## Take N' Bake Fundraiser

Here are some pics of the youth making lasagna for the "Take N' Bake" fundraiser to help fund ski trip scholarships. A special thanks to the youth board for helping organize and execute the fundraiser!



## Jr. High FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

FCA has been supported by the church, through the youth ministry fund, for the last four years and counting. Every week, generous people like you make it possible for these students to enjoy Lucy's Donuts. Currently, more than 50 junior high youth attend every Friday morning before school.



# Youth Ministries

## Youth Ski Trip

This year's Ski Trip was a success! Ahead of time we were warned of unseasonably warm weather and a lack of snow that could potentially ruin the trip. However, the weather was perfect and there was plenty of snow for the kids to enjoy safely skiing up and down the mountains of Snowy Range Ski Resort. We had 37 youth and 10 sponsors go on the ski trip this year. The best part about the trip was the worship nightly at "Table of the Wilderness Camp" with other like minded high school youth from the surrounding area. This year, several of the youth that attended put their faith in Jesus Christ for the first time, and many rededicated their life to Christ. Thanks again for all the support and prayers we've received for this year's Ski Trip!



## Growing, Learning, and Praising God Together

We have had so much fun during the month of March! Tammy Solomon gave us a special tour of Dr. Haugen's office and taught us how to take good care of our teeth. We also enjoyed making volcanoes and learning about the different types of weather. Our class had so much fun creating leprechaun traps. It was a great opportunity to use our imaginations and be creative! As we prepare for Easter, we are learning that Jesus died for our sins and made a way for us to be with Him forever. Thank you, Jesus!

Our Bible verse for April is:

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

We will be holding our Open House and Fall Registration on Tuesday, April 7th, from 5:00–6:30 pm in the preschool room.

Our morning class track meet will take place on the church playground at 10:30 am, and our afternoon class will meet at Norris Park at 2:30 pm on April 13th.

Graduation will be held on April 12th at 7:00 pm. We warmly invite you to attend.

Blessings,  
Traci Wiemers

# U p c o m i n g   E v e n t s

## SUNDAYS

Worship Services | 8:45 & 10:45 am  
Sunday School | 9:50-10:40 am  
Adult Sunday School | 10-10:40 am  
Nursery | Infants-PK | 8:30 am-12 pm  
3Sixteens | 6-12th | 6 pm

## MONDAYS

Praise Band Rehearsal | 7 pm

## WEDNESDAYS

Men's Bible Study | 6:30 am  
Women's Bible Study | 9 am  
W.O.W. | PK- 8th | 6-7:30 pm  
W.O.R.D. | 9-12th | 7 pm

## THURSDAYS

Community Supper | 5:30 pm

## SATURDAYS

Men's Bible Study | 7 am

## MEETINGS

April 9 | Trustee meeting | 7pm  
April 9 | MMW meeting | 1:30 pm  
April 14 | Care Team meeting | 9:30 am  
April 14 | Ad Council meeting | 5:30 pm

## THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Articles Due

## LITTLE BLESSINGS EASTER BREAK

April 2-6 | No School

## MAUNDAY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL

April 2 | Register at [mccookmmc.com](http://mccookmmc.com)

## GOOD FRIDAY | April 3

At Garden Prairie

## EASTER | April 5

Sunrise Service | 7 am  
Gray's Shop | 71661 Rd 386  
Potluck Breakfast | At the church  
After Sunrise Service  
Easter Services | 8:45 am & 10:45 am

## SENIOR TRIP

April 24-26

## TEACHER & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

April 24-26 | Services 8:45 am & 10:45 am

## YEAR END PARTY

April 29 | 6-7:30 pm  
TJ's Fun Center

*Thank you for reading!*

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH



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