

Memorial Methodist Church

105 EAST EST

MAY 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 thirty-six hours to nine days. 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 deserve.

These three men will die. Right here. Today.

During His life on earth, the man on the middle 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 tearing flesh.

The man looks unnatural. Almost unrecognizable as a man. Prior to hanging Him here, someone got ahold 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 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 left Him 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.
Jeff Kelley

Children's Ministries

What a wonderful, whirlwind of a semester it has been! We wrapped up the month of April with classroom parties, scavenger hunts, celebrating the amazing teachers and volunteers who make this all possible, and a fun night of bowling at TJ's Family Fun Center. I continue to be in awe of our Lord and the way He is moving in this space. I'm grateful for all the hands and hearts who so selflessly give of their time, talents, and resources to pour into these kids. You all ROCK!





Grab your shepherd's staff and whistle for your sheepdog, an adventure at Memorial Methodist Church is about to begin!

MAY 26-29
9:00AM-12:45PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

FOR KIDS ONE YEAR AWAY FROM KINDERGARTEN UP TO THOSE GOING INTO 5TH



Scan the code to register or visit mccookmmc.com





2026 SUMMER CAMPS

Register online for the grade they will be entering fall 2026. All camps check-in from 8pm on "opening day" & check-out from 10:00am on "closing day". Scholarships and financial aid are available. Ask your request during online registration.

Register Online : www.comeca.camp

SESSION	DATE	AGE	COST
CONNECT #1	May 30 - June 1 2 Day / 2 Nights	Grades 6 - 9	\$220
CONNECT #2	June 2 - 6 4 Day / 4 Nights	Grades 1 - 5	\$440
CONNECT #3	June 7 - 9 2 Day / 2 Nights	Grades 1 - 5	\$220
CONNECT #4	June 10 - 14 4 Day / 4 Nights	Grades 6 - 9	\$440
SUNSHINE CAMP	June 30 - July 2 3 Day / 2 Nights	PreK - 2nd Grade (WITH ADULT GUARDIAN)	\$220 PER PERSON
FAMILY CAMP	July 3 - 5 2 Day / 1 Nights	All Ages	\$500 PER PERSON

*Family Camp Includes Meals & Activity Pass for up to 5 individuals.

2026 PUBLIC EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
EASTER SUNRISE	April 5	7:00 AM
OPEN CAMP DAY	May 24	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
COMECA COOKOUT	August 8	5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
DINE IN DECEMBER	Dec. 6, 13, 20	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

CAMP JOBS

Summer Staff Positions are open for ages 16 and up! We have a variety of roles available. We are all dedicated to one mission: Providing a place where all people can experience Christ.

If you or someone you know feels called to serve at Comeca this summer, please apply at: www.comeca.camp/join-our-team

MISSION IMPACT CAMPS

New this year: Mission Impact Camp! These events give more opportunities for you and your family to grow in your relationship with Jesus. Each Mission Impact Camp is unique; some for couples, some for families, some for a certain demographic, but all of these camps keep Jesus at the center & open up space for life-changing moments! We will share details on our Facebook page and website as they become available!

75670 ROAD 417 COZAD, NE 69130
308-784-2808

We can't wait to welcome all the kids at the end of this month for VBS. Registration is now open, so spread the word and let's grow the kingdom!

Summer offers the time to slow down and enjoy new things. Camp Comeca offers wonderful sessions where kids of all ages can laugh, explore, and grow spiritually through exciting activities, theme nights, and outdoor activities. If you have any questions or need help registering, please reach out to myself, or Kelli! Our church generously offers camp scholarships as well.

Youth Ministries

This year's senior trip was nothing short of amazing. Although each senior connected to our church over the years is invited to come on the trip, not all of them are able to go. But for the ones who did, God was already working everything out for their good (Romans 8:28). This year we had five seniors that came; Dylon Trehal, Dylan Kollmorgen, Cole Walter, Isaac Crayton, and Aiden Doak. We stayed at *Bear Trap Ranch* just outside of beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. The camp resides at the bottom of three majestic mountains. Many of the cabins on site have been there over 100 years. This is the fourth year we have made this trip with the senior class, and every year I continue to be blown away by how God has used this trip to move in incredible ways!

Three days and two nights is not that long of a stay, and you'd think nothing of great impact spiritually could take place in such a short amount of time. However, we serve a God that can take a little and multiply it beyond our wildest imagination. And that's just what God did on this trip! It was so moving to see these young men engage during the sessions we had throughout our stay. The first night we started in 1 Kings 18 & 19. The next morning, they read the entire chapter of Psalm 119, and we discussed how great God's laws, word, commands, precepts, and statutes are. We also spent time in Deuteronomy 6, Matthew 5:13-16, and Matthew 14:13-36. The last morning, we opened to Romans 12 and discussed what it means to be transformed by leaning into God's means of grace like scripture, prayer, communion, and fellowship with other believers. We also discussed the incredible gifts each one of them has been given by God to serve the body of Christ which is the church.

One of the more impactful times the seniors had is when we talked about relationships, specifically with their future companion. This involved making a list of what we call the "non-negotiables" when looking for a companion. We also made a list of relationship "boundaries." The conversation lasted into the wee hours of the morning. God was speaking to the hearts of these young men through his word and during our time of fellowship together. But not only that, God was speaking to these young men through his creation (Romans 1:20). The time spent hiking up and down mountains was so refreshing! To be out in God's creation without any distractions softened the hearts of us all to be open to what the God of the universe wanted to tell us.

I want to extend my gratitude to all of you for the love and support of our seniors over the years. It truly does take a community of believers to help teach our children the way that they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Just know that you are making an impact in the lives of these young men and all the young people that are connected to our wonderful church family. What a blessing it is to be a part of the ministry of the Memorial Methodist Church of McCook, NE. A ministry that God started generations ago and will continue to reach future generations long after we are gone!



Congratulations to our Preschool Graduating Class of 2026!



Back Row: Back Left to Right
Leddy Kobza, Oliver Wagner, Jack Rupert, Crew Rippen, Owen Wagner, Oakley Stang, Ty Dixon
Front Row: Back Left to Right
Emma Paz, Madden Wagner, Nora McConnell, Landry Ruggles, Declan Lines, Riggs Hartzler, Henry Sanga

These students have worked hard, and we are so proud of all they have accomplished. We wish them every success as they begin their school journey and pray that they will always seek and follow Jesus. Graduation will be held on April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and celebrate with us.

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

May 7 | Trustee meeting | 7 pm
May 12 | Care Team meeting | 9:30 am
May 13 | MMW Ladies Night | 6:30 pm
May 19 | Ad Council meeting | 5:30 pm
May 20 | Sarah & Esther Circle | 11:30 am

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Articles Due

SENIOR SUNDAY SERVICE

May 3 | 10:00 am

MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE

May 10 | 10:00 am

LITTLE BLESSINGS GRADUATION

May 12 | 7:00 pm

NEBRASKA CHRYSALIS

May 22-24

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

May 26-29 | 9-12:45 pm

VBS SERVICE

May 31 | 10:00 am

McCook Methodist Women will be hosting their Ladies Night Out event on Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme is Irish, and a meal will be served to celebrate! Please bring only yourselves- no food, drinks, or table service needed. All church ladies and their guests are invited!

Thank you for reading!

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH



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