

Meet Rev. Lester Spies!

Thank you for taking time to visit our website to learn more about Memorial Lutheran Church and its mission in our community and beyond.

I have been blessed to serve at Memorial on a full-time basis since February 2019. Prior to that, I served part-time during a period of transition during 2017-2018. Before moving to Wisconsin in 2002, I served parishes in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and my home state of Texas. I have served parishes in urban, suburban, and country settings.

I am married to Dr. Barbara Spies, a former faculty member at Cardinal Stritch University in the Business and Communication department. When Stritch closed its doors as an institution, she accepted a position as Director of Mission Services and Pastoral Care at Felician Village in Manitowoc. We have four children – Ryan (who has a Master's degree in Nuclear Physics from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada), Anna (who has a Master's degree in Mathematical Modeling and Scientific Computing from University College Cork in Cork, Ireland), Kristen (who has a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin), and Michelle (who has a Bachelor's degree in Animal Behavior from The University of New England in Biddeford, Maine). My wife and I live and work in the world of social sciences. Our kids have found fulfillment in math and the natural sciences. It makes for interesting conversations and stimulates constant questions and learning.

Memorial Lutheran Church has a rich history. However, one of the reasons why I love serving at Memorial so much is because the congregation is constantly striving to focus on the future. If you are looking for a place that is asking a lot of great questions and open to moving wherever the Spirit of God is leading in this time and this place, Memorial Lutheran Church just might be a great fit for you.

Currently, we worship each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Special services during Lent and for festival celebrations like Christmas are also offered as appropriate during the year.

Memorial Lutheran Church has many wonderful ongoing ministries including a quilting group that meets every Wednesday morning, crafting groups that meet on occasion, fellowship opportunities that happen throughout the year at a variety of times, Bible study and book study groups, and the like. However, one of the things that I think Memorial does best is its social ministry with the greater community. Members of the church help to partner with other congregations to support their ministries as we are able, provide cooked meals monthly for area hunger programs, collect food for families in need throughout the greater Milwaukee area, give to local missions and ministries on a quarterly basis, and respond to various community concerns as the needs are made known – just to name a few.

Memorial Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org) and a part of the Greater Milwaukee Synod (www.milwaukee-synod.org). Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday (with rare exception due to pastoral vacation). All

baptized Christians are invited to participate in this sacrament. You do not have to be a Lutheran or a member of Memorial Lutheran Church to participate. Holy Communion is the Lord's Supper, and Jesus invites you to join the table of fellowship through the waters of your baptism. Children and youth who have not been instructed or who have not received First Communion in their current congregations are invited to come forward for a blessing.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities and would like to learn more about them, I invite you to email me at revlesterspies@gmail.com, or you could call or text me at (262) 424-8177.

In Christ,
Pastor Lester Spies

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