

Why We Give
Member Stories

Gary Palmen
Member of Memorial Lutheran Community since 1996

What do you love to do at Memorial and why?

I love to care for the building. When my wife and I first came to this church thirty years ago things looked very different. Many families were looking for a church home as were we. Looking for a place to fit in, I noticed a group of older guys that seemed to always be doing projects such as the installation of the motorized screen, updating the bathrooms, removing equipment and general building upkeep.

Who invited you to be part of this activity?

The guys were Duane Tangen, Randy Roen, Dave Josephson and Ken Oleson. They were all older than me but I knew this is where I fit in with my skills being a Journeyman Millwright. We did the prep work for the installation of the tile in the kitchen moving the appliances, cutting down doors and preparing the floor. This was just one of the many projects we tackled. They have all moved on or have passed away.

Now I'm one of the older guys still doing what I can. I share my time and talents fixing what needs fixing and improving what can be improved. I built a new platform for the HVAC unit purchased through our recent Capital Campaign. I also restored the bell so on Sundays the children can ring it easily welcoming the neighborhood to Memorial. This brings me great joy!

Why do you give to Memorial? Has it changed over the years?

Our giving has increased over the years but working with my hands gives me the most reward.

My wife, Jenny, also contributes time getting the church ready for events and holidays. I try to see how she envisions her designs and help her to create what's necessary along with help from many other members.

It's important to both of us that the building looks good inside and out to honor our Lord Jesus Christ. Creating a beautiful place to enable people to feel joy while they worship in our church is a shared goal.

Stewardship 2026

Activating Our Mission: Maintaining Momentum







