

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

October 1, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

## PRELUDE

# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Source of all life,

**C** We confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.

We fear that we are not good enough.

We hear your word of love freely given to us,

yet we expect others to earn it.

We turn the church inward,

rather than moving it outward.

Forgive us. Stir us.

Reform us to be a church powered by love,

willing to speak for what is right,

act for what is just,

and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

**P** God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"*

**ELW 634**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

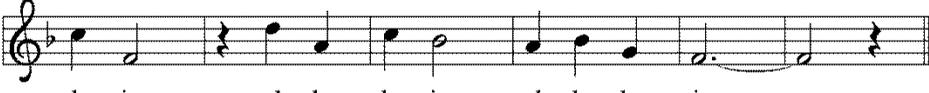
**C** And also with you.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



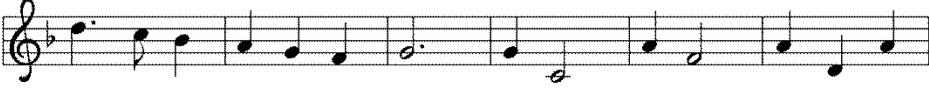
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



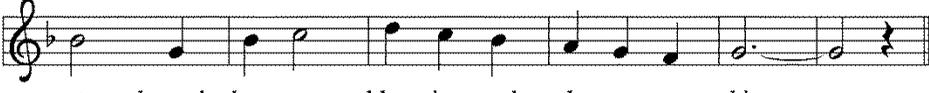
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

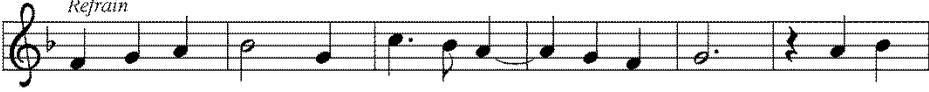


free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

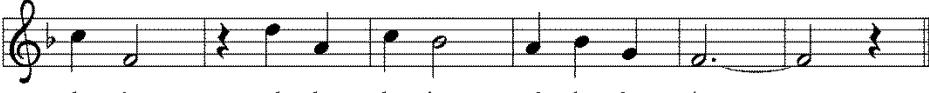


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

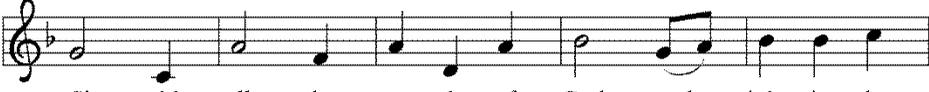
*Refrain*



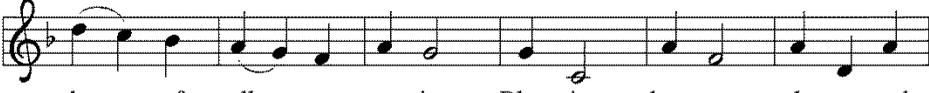
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ God of love, giver of life,
- ☑ **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32**

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

**T**he word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, *"The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"*? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ...

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, *"The way of the LORD is unfair."* Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, *"The way of the LORD is unfair."* O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 25:1-9



Psalm 25:6

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you;

let me not be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths. **R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way. **R**

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 2:1–13

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

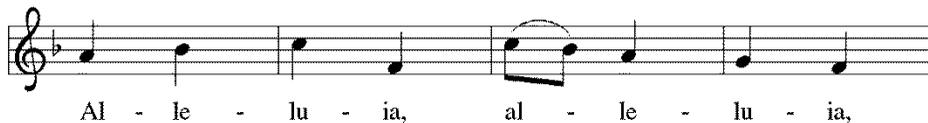
If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>*who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

**A** The word of the Lord.

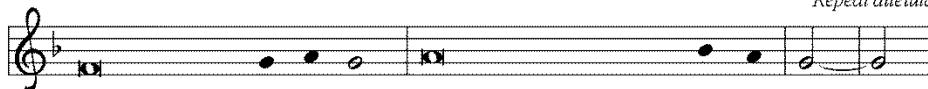
**G** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat alleluia*



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 21:23–32**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

**W**hen Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”<sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.”<sup>25</sup> “Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”<sup>26</sup> “But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.”<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

*“<sup>28</sup>What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’<sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.<sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.<sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.<sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”*

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (9:00 AM)

We Welcome: Jerry & Jeanne Arganbright, Suzanne Choiniere,  
Gail Durbin, and Nick & Amy Pignatore

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    Ⓟ Lord, in your mercy,  
                  ☩ hear our prayer.

*(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)*

**Thanksgiving:** For the baptism of Sofia Alejandra Valquier and Landyn Leon Ridpath-Valquier, children of Leon; for the marriage of Drew Shively & Michelle Fonda

**Illness:** Jr Green (husband of Marvel Green), Eunice Grunberg, Susie Henry, Dee Hiatt, Virginia Jensen, Bob Jones (father of Allison Albright)

**Sympathy:** To the family and friends of Louis Andersen

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.  
☩ And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Be Still and Know”*

Mary McDonald

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

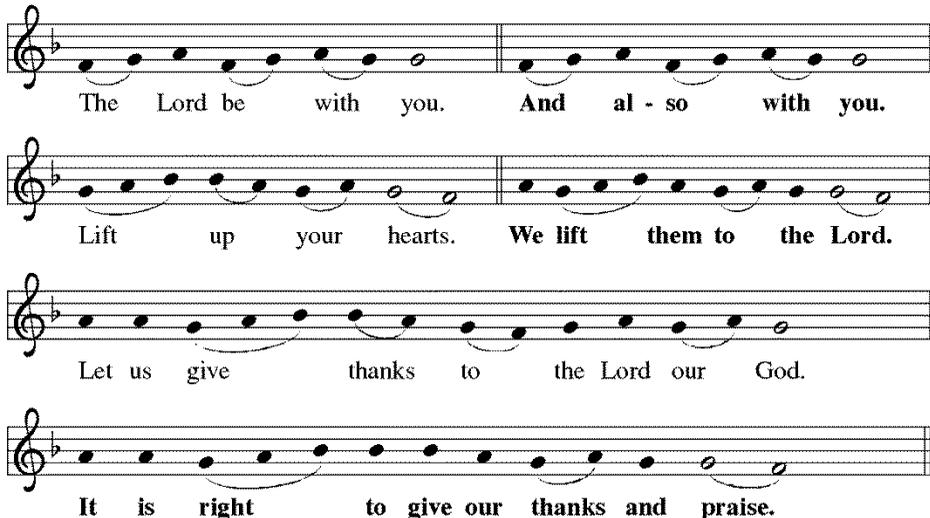
- ☑ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God of life,
- ☑ you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

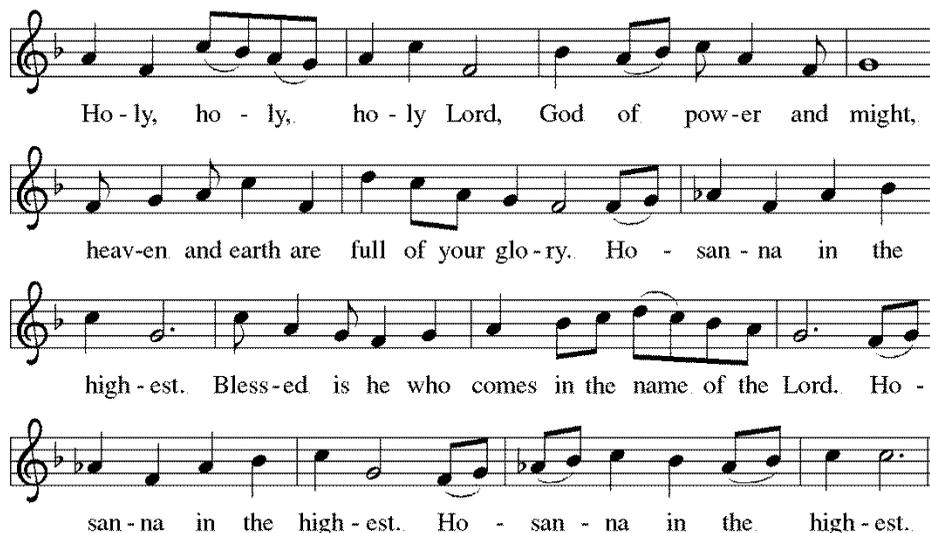
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*(The Thanksgiving continues)*

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...  
...and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

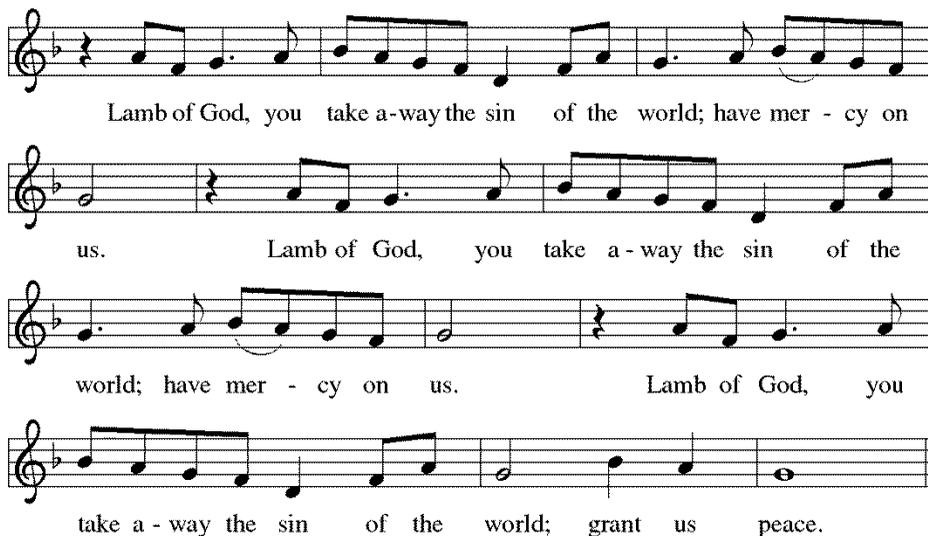
- ☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
☑ and make us one with you.

(sit)

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION “Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”*

ELW 623

*“O God, My Faithful God”*

ELW 806

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Holy and compassionate God,
- C** in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

## SENDING

### DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

#### BLESSING

- ☐ Almighty God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

#### HYMN

*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

ELW 545

#### DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Sound the good news.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

✠   ✠   ✠

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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

**WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE**

**KOUNTZE STAFF**

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Interim Christian Education Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Tim Walker	Chef
Søren Johnson	Assist. Bldg. Superintendent
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Director of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Assist. to the Bldg. Superintendent
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**SUNDAY, 9:00 AM**

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Dan Collett
Lector	Susie Henry
Ushers	John Georgeson Jim Comfort Joe Councill David Forrest Jeff Perkins Jeff Senn Fred Wachal Chad Wachholtz Janice Falk
Greeters	Lennea Davis Lori Senn Darlene Anderson
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Clara Kidder Madelyn Hinrichs

**SUNDAY, 11:00 AM**

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Peggy Johnson Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Grace Penrod Charlie Campbell

**HOLY COMMUNION** All who

are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP** We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

**NURSERY** is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

**ATTENDANCE CARDS** All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES** Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held January 14 & 21 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare.

**E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA** If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.



**TODAY AT KOUNTZE**

**KOUNTZE CAFÉ** Join us on Sundays for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Chef Tim and his volunteers. The suggested donation for breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM.

**THIS WEEK:** New Building Update and Guided Tour **NEXT WEEK:** TBA

**NEW MEMBERS** will be received this morning (10/1) at 9 AM. Please be sure to welcome them and introduce yourselves to these newest members of Kountze.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God in memory of family and friends by Laurine Savine; in honor of Richard Bock on his 80th birthday by Janis Daggeman and family.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for children 2 years—8<sup>th</sup> grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

**HIGH SCHOOL FORUM** Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center for Forum at 10:10 AM.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHOIR** rehearsal in the Adult Choir room each Sunday from 11—11:40 AM. Come and sing!

**PASTOR CARLOS SCHNEIDER** and wife Jan were in an auto accident recently and will not be able to attend the Kountze Commons dedication on October 8. They were parked and the other party hit the gas rather than brakes which resulted in some internal bleeding which became apparent days after the accident leaving Carlos weak and he is still building back strength. Low energy is the main problem. Also, there is some arm and back pain resulting from the impact. He just is not up to the trip at this point. Carlos also has been doctoring for a persistent problem with one of his eyes in which he has lost some sight. Pastor Carlos is doing much better now and time will be the best healing agent.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON BIBLICAL IMAGERY** continues. We will look at some of the rich images that pervade the Bible and what they mean. A six-week session. Come Mondays (beginning 9/25, 6 PM) or Wednesdays (beginning 9/27, 10:30 AM). Instructor: Dr. Sieling

**TAIZÉ SERVICE @ ST. JOHN'S** Monday, 9/28 at 8:15 PM in St. John's. It can be difficult to set aside time to be quiet and present to the Lord with our busy schedules. Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Mantra songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a

candle-lit environment. Services at Creighton last about 30-40 minutes and typically include a volume of the St. John's Bible. Everyone in the Creighton community and greater Omaha community is welcome!

**YESTERDAY'S YOUTH** It's here!! It's time for our Kountze version of Antiques Roadshow! Don't miss out on this spectacular event! Kountze member, Shayne Fili (CEO of Auction Solutions), will be here to lead our program. You are welcome to bring one item, whether it be old or just of interest, to learn a little something about it. Don't have an item to bring? You are still welcome to come and experience this once a year event. Tuesday, 10/3. A delicious Meatloaf lunch, with all the fixings, will be served at noon. Cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP by Fri. 9/29, to the church office. Any questions, call Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033). Absolutely ALL ages are welcome! See you there!

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** Saturday, 10/7, 4:30-5:00 PM in the Bride's Room near Sanctuary. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

God instructs, guides, and protects us.



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

- Sunday Matthew 21:23-32 Parable of the two sons
Monday Hosea 14:1-8 Return to the Lord
Tuesday Philippians 2:1-13 Imitating Christ's humility
Wednesday Isaiah 55:6-13 Turn to the Lord
Thursday John 15:7-17 Obeying the commands of Christ
Friday James 1:19-25 Do what the word says
Saturday Psalm 25 A prayer for guidance and help
Sunday Matthew 21:33-46 Parable of the vineyard tenants

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

Show me your paths and teach me to follow; guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you.

Psalm 25:4-5 (CEV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord, change our hearts and our minds. Give us a desire for your will and the courage to actually do it. Amen. (Ezekiel 30:31, Matthew 21:29)

**Mealttime Prayer:**

Lord, once again we are well fed; thank you for our daily bread. Help us not to moan or grumble; give us hearts both kind and humble. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who exulted our Lord Jesus Christ and who is a work in you, bless you to walk in humble service. (Philippians 2:1-13)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something you have learned about recently?
• What does it mean to believe in a forgiving God?
• How does God's forgiveness and instruction make a difference in your life?

**DEVOTIONS**

Read: Philippians 2:12-13.

The Christian life is filled with freedom and action. We are saved by grace and yet our way of life is to be filled with good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). There is a both/and perspective to the Christian life: God's gracious work alone saves and the Christian life is filled with good actions that give glory to God and serve the neighbor. In Philippians 2, the Apostle Paul places emphasis on our human commitment in "fear and trembling" to pursue the life of salvation. He then points out that our very will and ability to do so is enabled by the act and desire of God. Why is it important that our life of salvation is directed by the work and will of God? Why is it important that we actively give attention and commitment to the life of salvation given by God in Christ? End by praying the Lord's Prayer.

**SERVICE**

Read Matthew 21:28-31. Jesus tells a story about a father with two sons. The father tells the sons to go and work in the vineyard. One says he will but doesn't. The other says he won't but then does. Act out this parable. Talk about what it means to follow through with requests. Tell about a time you said you would do something for another person but did not do it. Receive God's forgiveness for your lack of action and consider how to fulfill commitments in the future.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Read Philippians 2:1-13. In this hymn of praise for Christ's humility and exultation, it states that people should bend the knee at the name of Jesus. In keeping with this text, if possible, kneel when you pray this week.

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INSTALLATION OF PASTOR ROYNESDAL will be held on Sunday, 10/8 at 3 PM, just prior to the dedication of Kountze Commons.

KOUNTZE COMMONS The dedication of Kountze Commons will be held Sunday, 10/8, at 3 PM in partnership with Methodist Community Health Clinic and Lutheran Family Services, our two major community partners and tenants of the building.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Sunday, 10/15, 12 PM. We encourage children and youth to attend a First Communion Class prior to receiving the sacrament. Often children in second grade participate in these classes, but a good rule of thumb to determine if the "time is right" is to consider whether your child is curious about participating in the Sacrament. In either case, please contact the pastors and church staff if you have any questions or would like more information. Those participating will receive their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, 10/29. Please register by calling the church office (402-341-7761).

PUMPKIN PATCH Save the date! On 10/15, between 4-6 PM, Kountze members and their families are invited to Wenninghoff's Pumpkin Patch for fun and fellowship. Bring your lawn chairs and circle up around the fire pit to roast hot dogs and marshmallows. Then, enjoy the petting zoo, bean bag toss, stuff a scarecrow, and more. Hayrack rides provided. Admission is \$7 per person. KMLC will provide hot dogs, chips, beverages, and s'mores. Please RSVP to the church office (402-341-7761) by 10/13. Wenninghoff's Pumpkin Patch is located at 6707 Wenninghoff Rd, in Omaha. We can't wait to see you there!

METRO-OMAHA COMMEMORATION OF 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION The Nebraska Synod and Western Iowa Synod will co-host a Lutheran Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a Festive Eucharist at St. John's Roman Catholic parish (Creighton University) at 2 PM, Sunday, 10/29. Reception to follow. Invite a friend! Registration for the event opened on 9/15 and can be found on the Nebraska Synod website. A link will be available in the Wednesday e-news.

**THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE**

**October 1 Sunday**

- Homebound Communion
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Receive New Members
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**October 2 Monday**

- 10:00 AM Pantry
10:00 AM Louis Andersen Funeral
6:00 PM Bible Study on Biblical Imagery

**October 3 Tuesday**

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

**October 4 Wednesday**

- 10:30 AM Bible Study on Biblical Imagery
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
6:30 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Closing Worship

**October 5 Thursday**

- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**October 7 Saturday**

- 4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
5:00 PM Worship

**October 8 Sunday**

- 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
12:00 PM Book Group
3:00 PM Installation of Pr. Olaf/Dedication of Kountze Commons
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Table with 2 columns: Next Weekend's Lessons, Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

Saturday Attendance: 47
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 233 11:00: 134
Midweek - Noon: 7 Evening: 22
Total: 443
Pantry Guests Served: 410
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 43
Offering: (9/11/17-9/17/17)
\$22,472.26 (Regular) \$1,790.00 (Specials)
\$4,836.50 (In the City for Good)