

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Dean W. Bard, Interim Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Interim Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

April 23, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER



When you experience an event totally unexpected, totally different from anything you, or anybody you know, has ever experienced, what do you do? And, what if this unexpected is the complete reversal of a horrible event? Protect yourself by retreating to the familiar? Build a wall—physical or spiritual—to exclude what you cannot comprehend? Or...?

We may best appreciate the New Testament as humans trying to figure out what God was doing. Jesus suffered death on the cross, was buried in a sealed tomb, but then made flesh and blood appearances. So what was happening? Seeking answers, they let the Holy Spirit guide their new understanding of their old scripture. How might that method help, so that people may trust, that 2000 year old story still gives life today?

This weekend we observe the Rite of Confirmation for eleven Middle School and High School members. May we pray with and for them, that each of us will truly trust and follow our Living Lord!

PRELUDE

Gifts

Arr. Anita Jaynes
Craig Bircher, trumpet
Mary Bircher, harp

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the \mp Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C ***Amen.***

P God of all mercy and consolation,

C ***come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C ***we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \mp Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C ***Amen.***

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

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

Assisting minister

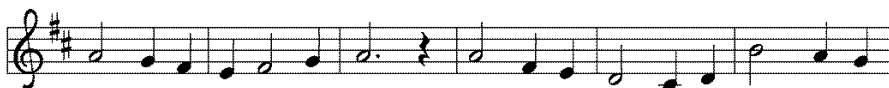


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



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



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



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

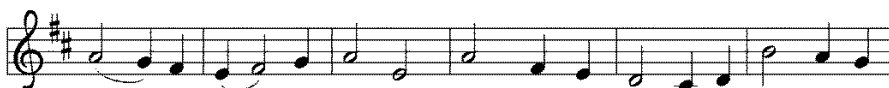
Refrain



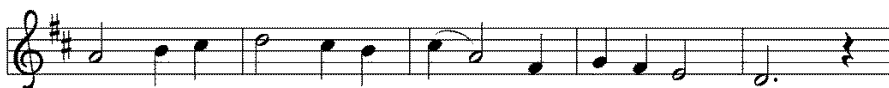
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



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



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty and eternal God,
G *the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Generally known as the Acts of the Apostles, this is actually the second volume of St. Luke's writing, offering the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. This second volume might also be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Today's reading happened on Pentecost—a great harvest festival that drew large crowds from all over the Roman Empire and beyond.

When we see the terms, Israel or Israelites, we remember this puts the Jesus story firmly in the history of the descendants of Abraham (see Genesis 12:3). It is connected to, but not the same as the political entity of Israel today. Here, the Apostle Peter connects the unexpected phenomenon of Jesus' resurrection with the very important story of the great king, David (see 2 Samuel 7:13). Our Old Testament is somewhat vague about existence after death. Earlier, it was assumed that death ended things, or maybe there was some shadowy existence. At the time of Jesus, faithful Jews believed in resurrection. That would only come, however, at the end of human history. So how is the flesh and blood Jesus they had been seeing not some shadowy apparition? The earliest Christians realized that the promises of a Temple and of a "dynasty" that does not end are fulfilled in the Crucified Jesus.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 16 (*read responsively*)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.

⁵O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

This letter ("epistle") was written to early Christ-followers who did not have the background of the Jewish scripture and faith. Somehow, as they turned to the God-who-raised Jesus from the dead, the God who, Jesus said, we can call Father, they realized they did not fit in with their culture the same way. Yet they are called into a group that transcends human limitations of nationality or race. Even religious hierarchy is different. A priest is one who stands between, or connects humans with the Divine. Martin Luther emphasize the priesthood of all believers. This does not mean each can have his/her own opinion. Rather, each of us can help the other connect to the God-whom-Jesus-called-Father. And, I need the other to help me trust this gracious God.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A The word of the Lord.

B Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

What is doubt? Is doubt the opposite of faith? For some, doubt may be a cynical refusal to accept what does not fit into their assumptions and desires. In the Bible, faith always includes an element of the unknown. Thus doubt and faith are not contrary for Christ-followers. Rather, we are called to trust that, even as we take each step into the always uncertain future, our Lord is there to lead. Why did Jesus, in order to help Thomas come to faith, show him, not another superhuman feat, rather, his wounds?

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☐ The Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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 Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Be Glorified

ELW 744

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (9:00 AM)

(see page 234)

Lydia Meta Meyer Baum

Kolbey Ray Burns

Charles David "Charlie" Campbell

Morgan Paige Gardner

Bryce Charles Griger

Brooks Jansen Hinrichs

Rahn Wu-Ming Johnson

Jackson Barry "Jack" Lawrence

Kenyon Lee Martis

Cameron Joseph Miller

Abigail Justine "Abby" Rigas

APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 AM)

**☩ 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.***

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
C *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 Finn Joseph Sneckenberg, son of Ryan & Amanda; for the youth affirming their baptism today: Lydia Meta Meyer Baum, Kolbey Ray Burns, Charles David “Charlie” Campbell, Morgan Paige Gardner, Bryce Charles Griger, Brooks Jansen Hinrichs, Rahn Wu-Ming Johnson, Jackson Barry “Jack” Lawrence, Kenyon Lee Martis, Cameron Joseph Miller, Abigail Justine “Abby” Rigas

Illness: Arlene Andersen, David Carlsen, Audrey Cotton, Dee Hiatt, Norman How (father of Suzanne How), Dee Luchsinger, Joanne Worm

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; Justin Perkins (Young Adults in Global Mission), Argentina/Uruguay; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C *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

Rejoice, He Is Alive!

Jean Anne Shafferman
arr. Patti Drennan

(stand)

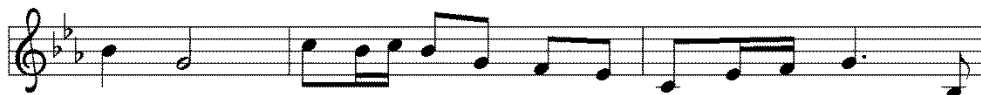
OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

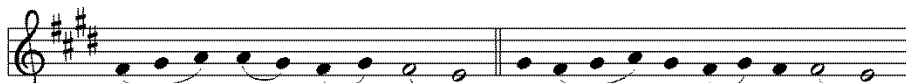
OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Be known to us, O Lord,
- ☑ ***in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.***

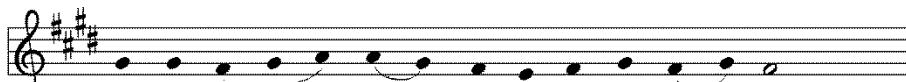
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



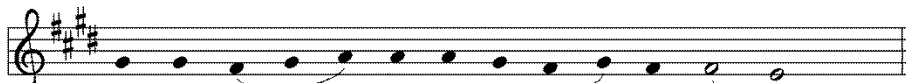
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

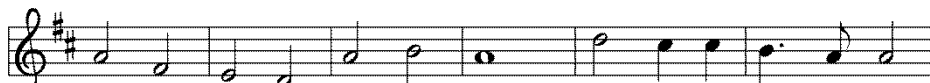


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

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

SANCTUS



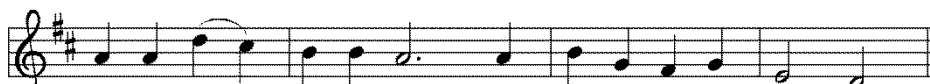
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

- ☞ Now let us feast this Easter day
☞ *on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!*

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God



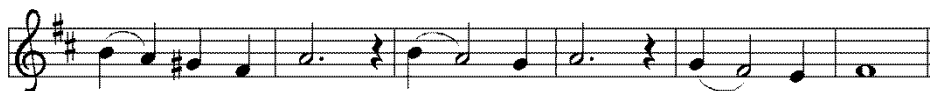
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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, grant us peace.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Menuet

Salzedo
Mary Bircher, harp

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ Life-giving God,
☞ ***in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.***

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
☞ ***Amen.***

HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
☞ ***Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!***
☞ You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
☞ ***Thanks be to God.***

POSTLUDE

On Wings of Song

Mendelssohn
Craig Bircher, trumpet
Mary Bircher, harp

☩ ☩ ☩

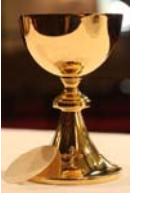
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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a “City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry” and have been worshiping, growing, and serving 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

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 4/30 & 5/7 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.

PARKING As of Monday, 4/17, our west parking lot will be closed for total renovation. Parking is available in front of deFreese Manor, Douglas & 26th Avenue, Barnhart Press' gravel lot across Farnam Street, side streets east of the church, FBG parking lot at 26th & Harney.

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. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

KOUNTZE STAFF

- Pr. Dean W. Bard Interim Senior Pastor
- Pr. Ashley Hall Associate Pastor
- Pr. Paul Moessner Interim Associate Pastor
- Pr. Inba Inbarasu Visitation Pastor
- Kristin Boe Interim Christian Education Coordinator
- Dave Forrest Interim Congregational Life Coordinator
- Debbie Bogue Office Manager
- Amanda Zasada Administrative Assistant
- Lauri Askew Staff Treasurer
- Sheri Rose Financial Secretary
- John Bogue Building Superintendent
- Tim Walker Chef
- Søren Johnson Assist. Bldg. Superintendent
- Barbara Carlsen Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
- 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. Keith Jansen
Scott Henneman
Lorie Groenjes
- Lector Bailey Gittler
- Ushers John Georgeson
Jim Comfort
Joe Councill
David Forrest
Jeff Perkins
Jeff Senn
Fred Wachal
Janice Falk
- Greeters Darlene Anderson
Lennea Davis
Lori Senn
Carol Hyland
- Crucifer Courtney Cameron
- Acolytes Carly Cameron
Nicole Campbell

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. June Anderson
- Lector Bruce Nissen
- Ushers Ken Johnson
Linda Johnson
Lee Johnson
Julie O'Doherty
Norm Sack
- Greeters Peggy Johnson
Myrna Carter
- Crucifer Keelan Edwards
- Acolytes Lydia Baum
Torin Edwards

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

THANK YOU to Jean Johnson for Worship this Sunday morning while Mark Jones is away.

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: Reception for Confirmands **NEXT WEEK:** Luther on Public Support for Schools

YOUNG MOTHERS Join us on Sunday morning for some fresh brewed fun in the Fellowship Lounge between worship services for “Frappy Hour.” Come meet other young mothers in the congregation for coffee, conversation, fellowship and fun.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Trained volunteers will provide blood pressure checks free of charge to parishioners this Sunday (4/23) from 10 - 11 AM in the Fellowship Lounge.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Brooks Jansen Hinrichs' Confirmation from Grandpa Keith Jansen.

EASTER LILIES were given in honor of David Gerard, Pr. Dean Bard, Pr. Ashley Hall, Pr. Paul Moessner, and Pr. Inba Inbarasu by William & Madeline Christensen and in honor of Cecilia Moller & Marilyn Baker by Kyle, Kara, Krista, and Kaun.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Today we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall for a reception for Confirmands. Join us again next Sunday in the Youth Center for Forum at 10 AM.

JOINT SERVICE OF COMMON PRAYER The Nebraska Synod and the Archdiocese of Omaha will participate in the joint commemoration at two events: the first will be held Monday, 5/1 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral (Bishop Maas will preach) and on Monday, 9/11 at Kountze Memorial (Archbishop Lucas will preach). Times for the evening events will be finalized soon. In anticipation of commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation together, the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (of the Vatican) created a service of Common Prayer to be

used in diocese/synods around the world and it will be basis of our liturgy together. We encourage you to plan to attend one or both of these historical events.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Please join us on Tuesday, May 2. We have a wonderful program this month! Our speaker will be Kountze member, Judy Boelts. Judy is a docent at Omaha's Jocelyn Art Museum. Lunch is served at noon. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this fascinating museum! Cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, April 28. Contact Sheri Tipton with questions (402-415-6033). All ages are welcome! See you there!

MAY IS BLINDNESS PREVENTION MONTH Kountze will once again be collecting used eyeglasses. The glasses will be cleaned, checked and used at a health fair for the homeless later this year. There is a collection box at the Welcome Desk. Thank you for your help with this

Belief in the crucified and risen Lord leads to joy.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Table with 3 columns: Day, Bible Reference, and Summary. Rows include Sunday (John 20:19-31), Monday (Genesis 32:22-32), Tuesday (Judges 6:36-40), Wednesday (2 Corinthians 5:1-10), Thursday (Hebrews 10:35-11:2), Friday (1 Peter 1:1-9), Saturday (Psalm 16), and Sunday (Luke 24:13-35).

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy you are to be saved. 1 Peter 1:8-9a (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, bless us with faith in you. Help us to move from doubts to joy in the power of your death and resurrection. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as our bodies are fed with good gifts from you, please bless us with Easter peace, joy, hope, and faith. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Risen Lord Jesus replace your doubts with faith, your worries with peace, and your sadness with joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you experienced great joy.
• What do you think it was like for Thomas to wait a week longer than the other disciples to see Jesus?
• John 20:31 states that the gospel was written so that "you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." How would you describe that life?

DEVOTIONS

The disciples did not rejoice at seeing Jesus until they saw his wounds. Thomas insisted on seeing and touching Jesus' wounds. Jesus' suffering and his resurrection belong together. The resurrected Christ still bears the scars of his crucifixion. Resurrection is not the undoing of Jesus' crucifixion. It points out that the suffering and death of Jesus is the defining moment not only of history, but for our own lives of faith.

SERVICE

When Jesus first appeared to his disciples, Thomas was not with them. He must have felt like an "outsider," not having the same experience as his friends. Is there a person who is a newcomer to your school, community, or congregation who may feel like an "outsider" at times? Invite them to your home to share a meal, at school to eat lunch with them, or to a congregational function with you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

While his disciples were hiding in a locked room on the first Easter Sunday, the risen Lord Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." When you gather as a family this week, "pass the peace" to one another with handshakes, kisses, or hugs.

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THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

April 23 Sunday

- 7:45 & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Confirmation
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM deFreese Manor Board
10:10 AM Outreach Committee
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - Confirmation Reception
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
10:30 AM Confirmation Photos
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
9:00 PM LCM Worship (Halley Chapel)

April 24 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry

April 25 Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Congregational Activities Committee
6:30 PM Church Council
7:00 PM Circle 3 (off site)

April 26 Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

April 27 Thursday

- 1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 28 Friday

- Wedding Rehearsal

April 29 Saturday

- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
Breakfast (offsite)
3:00 PM Fullner/Eckels Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

April 30 Sunday

- 7:45 & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 - 11:00 AM Breakfast
8:00 AM MS/HS Choir Warm-up
9:00 & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Outreach Committee
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
12:00 PM Family & Friends Luncheon
12:00 PM New Member Class
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
9:00 PM LCM Worship (Halley Chapel)

Next Weekend's Lessons

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Saturday Attendance: 36

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 592 11:00: 302

Midweek - Noon: 7 Evening: 17

Total: 954

Pantry Guests Served: No Pantry—Easter Monday

Medical Clinic Guests Served: No Clinic—Maundy Thursday

Offering:

\$23,653.40 (Regular) \$1,316.00 (Specials)
\$2,886.75 (In the City for Good)



PARKING LOT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

As promised, lot work has begun and should be completed by July 4. In the meantime, alternate

parking is available in front of deFreese Manor, Douglas & 26th Avenue, Barnhart Press' gravel lot across Farnam Street, side streets east of the church, FBG parking lot at 26th & Harney. Just a reminder about the meters in front of the church; the cost is 25 cents per hour until 9 PM Monday through Saturday. There is no charge after 9 PM Monday—Saturday or on Sundays.

outreach program.

KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS

This week we need: Pork 'n Beans, Pasta/Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal, Corn, Pancake Syrup, Chicken, Tuna. Your time and monetary offerings are

always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions. Thanks.

STEPHEN MINISTRY What does Stephen Ministry provide? Someone who cares, supports, listens, shares. Who can benefit? Anyone going through difficult times who needs someone to care, listen, and share God's love with them on a one-to-one confidential basis. Want to know more? Contact Donna Reinig (402-558-6352) or one of our pastors.