

# 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

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Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 18, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*“...Jesus began to proclaim, ‘...the kingdom of heaven has come near.’” [Matthew 4:17] But what does this “kingdom” look like? How does it work?*

*We are now in the season of Pentecost, the second half of the “Church Year.” We are reading through the Gospel of Matthew and asking: What does Jesus’ life and ministry, death and resurrection mean for us 2000 years later? For faithful Jews back then, “kingdom” meant the power to overthrow foreign pagan rulers. Today, many think “kingdom of heaven” is only after we die. The Pentecost Season and the Gospel of Matthew challenge us to imagine, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, something else, something here and now.*

## PRELUDE

# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

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

☞ Eternal God our creator,

☞ ***in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

☞ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

☞ **Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*O Savior, Precious Savior*

ELW 820

## GREETING

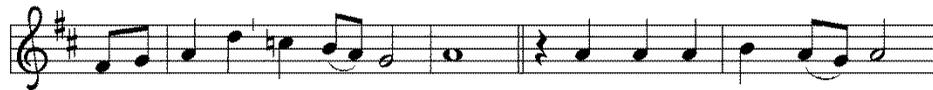
☞ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

☞ ***And also with you.***

# HYMN OF PRAISE



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



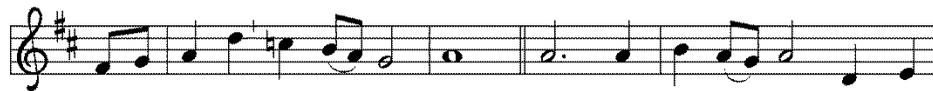
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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



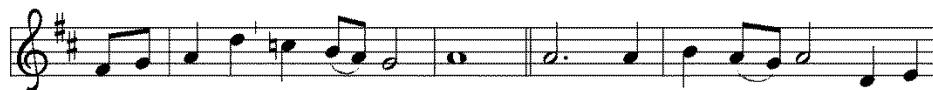
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 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.



*Refrain*

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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Final refrain*

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



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ God of compassion,
- ☑ ***you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Exodus 19:2-8a**

*Escape from slavery in Egypt is a key story, necessary to understand the Bible as a whole and most valuable in receiving the Good News of God's love for us through Jesus Christ. What happens when people no longer live under coercive control? What does freedom really mean? As we read this passage, which leads up to the story of the Ten Commandments, we remember: "Israelite" in the Bible is connected to, but not the exact same as the present nation-state of Israel. And, most importantly, God's commandments are part of a relationship—covenant—that always begins with God's initiative.*

**T**he Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup>You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

<sup>7</sup>So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. <sup>8a</sup>The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** *Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 100 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

<sup>2</sup>Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

<sup>3</sup>*Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;  
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.*

<sup>4</sup>Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

<sup>5</sup>*Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.*

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-8

Most of Saint Paul's writings were highly personal. He knew the people who would read his letters, the circumstances of their lives, and the maturity of their faith (or lack thereof). His letter to the Christ-followers in Rome is different in that he did not know the people directly. He had not been present when the congregation was started. We do know that the dangerous emperor, Claudius, had expelled the Jewish people from Rome, for whatever excuse his perverted mind had concocted. See Acts 18. Most likely, some of those Jews, who had also come to trust Jesus as Messiah, told the Apostle about the Church in Rome. With deep concern for the power of the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17) he offers a faithful and faith-filled presentation of the Good News of God in Christ. While we can read this book as a doctrinal statement about Christianity, we benefit most when we realize this offers Saint Paul's personal witness to the personal transformation and freedom which come only through God's righteousness revealed in Jesus Christ.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

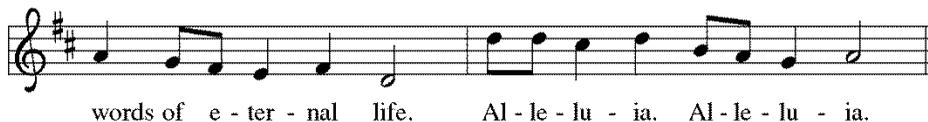
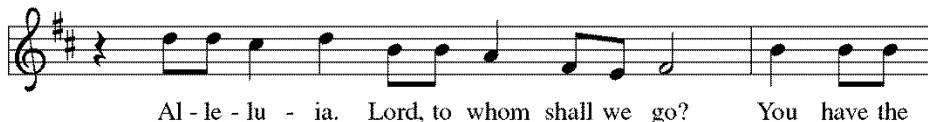
<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Ⓐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Ⓒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Jesus' ministry continues to expand. He teaches with authority, beyond human teachers. He heals the deepest hurts humans experience. Yet he has taken on the finite limitations of being human—that is what Incarnation means. Still, his divine/human heart sees the seemingly infinite needs of humans. Here we see Jesus start to expand "his reach." This story, also in Luke 10, begins the expanding reach of God's grace through the Body of Christ, which continues after Pentecost. (See Acts 1:8, 2:4.) A "disciple" is one who is **taught**. An "apostle" is one who is **sent**. Two questions: As I think about this past week, what do I need to learn? And, in this new week, where (or to whom) am I being sent?

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are

few;<sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup> Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

☐ The Gospel of our Lord

☑ **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 Moessner

*(stand)*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lost in the Night*

ELW 243

### **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.***

## 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)*

**Illness:** David Carlsen, Dee Hiatt, Norman How (father of Suzanne How), Ruth Larsen, Dee Luchsinger, Debbie Hamill Nugara, Grace Penrod, Judy Sealer, Charlie Wachholtz, Vernon Ward, 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

*On Eagle's Wings*

Arr. Raney  
Jean Johnson, flute

(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

- ☐ Merciful God,  
☑ ***you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. 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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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

- ☞ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
☞ *Our Lord's body let us take together.*

(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.

*Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak  
I Love to Tell the Story*

ELW 676  
ELW 661

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
☑ ***you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.***

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- ☐ May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
☑ ***Amen.***

### HYMN

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

ELW 674

### DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.  
☑ ***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**

**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 September 17 & 24 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** Our west parking lot is closed for total renovation. Parking is available in front of deFreese Manor, Douglas & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Barnhart Press' gravel lot across Farnam Street, side streets east of the church, FBG parking lot at 26<sup>th</sup> & 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.

**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.	Pam Johnson Jeff Perkins
Lector	Susie Henry
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Daniel Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson Shirleen Collett Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Kai Johnson
Acolytes	Clara Kidder Anna Kidder

**SUNDAY, 11:00 AM**

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Linda Johnson Ken Johnson Lee Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin Julie King
Crucifer	Lily O'Kane
Acolytes	Kolbey Burns

**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. **NEXT WEEK No breakfast next Sunday, 6/25** as they will be setting up for the Neighborhood Gathering. Join us for lunch instead of breakfast this next week!

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

**THIS WEEK:** Synod Assembly Review **NEXT WEEK:** Congregational Meeting

**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** This Sunday, 6/18, 10—11 AM in the Fellowship Lounge.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God in memory of Barbara Saklar by Tracey Saklar, Kris Placzek & Family; In memory of Kelcey Renae Fike by Randy & Mary Jo Fike and family; In memory of Don Nippert by Marv & Kris Olson

**ETERNAL CANDLE** is given to the Glory of God in honor of Uncle Bill by Karen & Shirley Bonneau

**CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Room 205) for Summer Sunday School Fun (children K—8<sup>th</sup> grade) from 10:10—10:50 AM. KMLC invites all children (K-8) to the Summer Sunday School Session, "Hero Central." We will go on a hero's adventure that includes energetic music, Bible fun, amazing science experiments, delicious snacks, games, crafts and more! Each week we will learn, then explore the Bible verse Psalm 34:14b, "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" in fun and exciting ways that will be sure to stay with your child through the week.

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

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP VIDEOS 2012—2016** If you went on a Youth Mission Trip in the years 2012—2016, we have a trip video for you in the church office. Please come and pick it/them up at your earliest convenience.

**HERITAGE SERIES** Wednesdays, 6/14 - 7/19, 6 PM. We will read a new and well-respected biography of Luther: Martin Luther: Visionary Reformer by Scott H. Hendrix (Emeritus Professor of Church History at Princeton Theological Seminary). While not required, participants are encouraged to buy or otherwise obtain a copy of the book so they can read along with the group. An online source to purchase a copy (or electronic version) of the book can be found at Amazon.com for about \$20. All are welcome.

**SPECIAL VESPERS FOR ALZHEIMER AWARENESS AND ALL CARETAKERS** Wednesday, 6/21, 7:00 PM. A special spoken liturgy will be offered for caregivers of parents and family members enduring long-term, chronic illness. All are welcome. Kountze Memorial will join other congregations around the city to provide a place for prayer and remembrance for those who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other long-term illnesses and their caretakers. As with all our worship opportunities, this is an event for the community as well. Please invite a friend or family member who may find the opportunity to pray and find comfort in one another enriching.

**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING AND JAZZ SERVICE** Sunday, 6/25, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM. Join us for Jazz Music, Carriage Rides, Free Food, Inflatables, Carnival Games, Face Painting, Balloons, and more! Due to construction, we will hold this year's event on 26<sup>th</sup> St. Bring the family and your friends!

Jesus sends his followers out into the world.



**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 Passage, and Summary. Rows include Sunday (Matthew 9:35-10:23), Monday (Luke 6:12-19), Tuesday (Luke 10:1-20), Wednesday (Exodus 19:2-8), Thursday (1 Thessalonians 3:1-5), Friday (2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5), Saturday (Psalm 100), and Sunday (Matthew 10:24-39).

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

He said to his disciples, "A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in." **Matthew 9:37-38 (CEV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING:**

**A Prayer for the Week:** Lord Jesus, give us the faith and good courage to want to speak of your kingdom of grace that does amazing things. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:** Lord of the harvest, thank you for feeding us with the fruits of the earth. Make us ready to serve as workers in your harvest fields. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:** May the Lord carry you on eagle's wings and surround you with God's care. May the Lord bless you as a treasured possession and strengthen you as you care for others.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

- Discuss in your home or small group:
• What is something that you are excited to tell others about?
• What makes it difficult to tell others about Jesus?
• Tell a story about someone who talked about their faith with you.

**DEVOTIONS**

Read: Matthew 10:16-23. Jesus tells his followers to be both gentle and wise in dealing with others as they tell of the kingdom of heaven. He makes it clear that those who speak of his kingdom will experience pain and rejection. Jesus comforts his followers by telling them not to worry what to say about their faith in him because the Spirit will give them the words. Reflect on how the Holy Spirit strengthens you in your witness in the world. Conclude with the following prayer, Dear Jesus, you send us out into the world to tell of the good news of the kingdom of heaven that heals lives and makes all things new. We thank you for the Holy Spirit that helps us to be filled with the joy of your reign and gives us the courage to communicate that joy to others. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus sends out his disciples to do wondrous and amazing things that bless people's lives (Matthew 10:8). An act of kindness that acknowledges someone's presence as well as their needs can be an amazing and loving deed. Think of someone at school, work, or in your community who could benefit from your act of kindness with a simple, "Hello" or a deed that shows your care and concern for them. Keep that person in your prayers this week, giving thanks for them and for the gospel of Jesus Christ that frees us to love others.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

In Matthew 10:12 Jesus tells the disciples to bless others in their own homes. This Sunday is Father's Day. Take time to recognize fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and all men who have helped you grow and develop over the years. At a meal or other occasion with family and/or friends, take turns saying, "Lord God, I am thankful for (name) because . . ." Conclude with the following prayer, Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives, including (names). For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.

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(continued from page 1)

**KOUNTZE PANTRY VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED MONDAYS - 9 - 11 AM OR 11 AM - 1 PM**

If you have ever considered helping in the Kountze Food Pantry, now is the time to sign up. With school out and summer beginning, volunteers are taking time out for vacations and we need your help to fill when you are able. If you have questions or are available to help, please contact JP (joyce@kmlchurch.org) or call the church office (402-341-7761) and we'll be glad to help. As always, the pantry is in need of Pork 'n Beans, Pasta/Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal, Corn, Pancake Syrup, Chicken, Tuna. Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** Are you adjusting to the death of a loved one, serious illness, changed marital status, or loss of a job? Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares? **Maybe a Stephen Minister can help.** Contact our Stephen Ministry leader, Donna Reinig—(402-558-6352) or one of our pastors.

**REMEMBER—NO BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY, 6/25—**Eat breakfast at home and then join us at the Neighborhood Gathering for lunch!

**THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE**

- June 18 Sunday: Father's Day, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship, 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs), 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks, 10:10 AM Adult Forum, 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12), 10:10 AM Sunday School Summer Fun (K-8th gr), 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour", 10:15 AM Congregational Meeting
June 19 Monday: 10:00 AM Pantry
June 20 Tuesday: 9:00 AM Staff Meeting, 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group, 5:00 PM Building Committee, 5:30 PM Executive Committee, 6:30 PM Church Council
June 21 Wednesday: 12:15 PM Worship, 5:00 PM Communion @ deFreese Manor, 5:30 PM KETV Management Board, 6:00 PM Heritage Series, 7:00 PM Vespers: Alzheimer Awareness
June 22 Thursday: 1:30 PM Circle 4, 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
June 24 Saturday: 5:00 PM Worship
June 25 Sunday: No breakfast—join us for lunch at the Neighborhood Gathering! 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 Summer Fun (K-8th gr), 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour", 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Neighborhood Gathering, 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry, 2:00 PM Luther and the Jews - Beth El Synagogue

Table with 2 columns: Next Weekend's Lessons and Bible Verses. Includes Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18, Romans 6:1b-11, and Matthew 10:24-39.

Saturday Attendance: 43
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 187 11:00: 95
Midweek - Noon: 9
Total: 334
Pantry Guests Served: 355
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 24
Offering: \$18,078.54 (Regular) \$2,427.50 (Specials) \$13,027.00 (In the City for Good)

Notice of Congregational Meeting
The Church Council calls a Congregational Meeting of Kountze Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church, Omaha NE to be held on Sunday, June 18, 2017, at 10:15 AM in the church sanctuary for the purpose of considering the Call of a senior pastor.
YOU MUST BE HERE FOR THE MEETING ON SUNDAY, 6/18, IN ORDER TO VOTE. The church constitution does not allow for absentee ballots.