

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 30, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*If God is in control, why is the world such a mess? Perhaps you ask that when you consider the big problems of society. Most likely you also think of personal experiences: interactions with other persons that led to unfair outcomes for you; or accidents with tragic results; or diseases that cut short active living, even caused early death. The Christian scripture addresses this problem of evil. However, if you feel the Bible's "answers" are not really complete, or even fully satisfying, that may be the reaction of honest faith.*

*Today we listen to King Solomon's solemn prayer out of youthful idealism. We hear Jesus describing God's kingdom. And we hear Saint Paul make a claim that seems both impossible to believe yet absolutely necessary for truly living.*

## 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

*This Is My Father's World*

ELW 824

## 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

*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.

*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 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. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



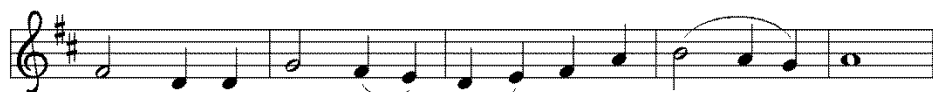
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*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

- ☐ Beloved and sovereign God,
- ☑ ***through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

## 1 Kings 3:5-12

*Our Old Testament shows various ways society can be organized: The tribalism of Abraham (especially Genesis 12-36) and the loose confederacy under leaders like Joshua or Gideon (Joshua 23, Judges 6-8). We also see the increasing power and wealth of a monarchy. What will happen, however, when power and wealth become concentrated in the hands of a few, especially in the hands of a family/dynasty? As we read the story of Solomon, we realize that our common humanity does not always accept God's answer to the petitions we pray (1 Kings 2-11).*

**A**t Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

**A** The word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 119:129-136 (read responsively)

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup>*When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.*

<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup>*Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.*

<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup>*Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.*

<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>*My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.*

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

We continue reading in this letter—"epistle"—from Saint Paul to the early Christ-followers in the imperial city of Rome. While we may read this as an outline of Christian doctrine, we come to better understanding when we hear this as the personal testimony of one who truly experienced the freeing power of God's grace (Romans 1:16-17). How does that grace guide our attitudes and understanding when we go through bad experiences? ...when we face possible troubles in an unknown future?

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** *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. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

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

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*We continue to walk around the countryside with Jesus, watching crowds come and go. We still want to hold onto his bold proclamation, that the Kingdom of God, has come near (4:17). Today, as we hear more of his parables, we may be wishing Jesus would tell it like it is. Jesus continues to resist the temptation to coerce faith (4:5-7). Rather, he invites us to let the Holy Spirit guide the imaginations of our hearts (verse 52), so that God's reign will grow in us and through us. Of the images Jesus offers, which give me comfort? ...which give me better understanding of my own faith experience? ... which challenge me?*

Jesus put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field,<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

**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 Moessner

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*My God, How Wonderful Thou Art*

ELW 863

## 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:    Ⓟ 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)*

**Illness:** Pastor Larry Arganbright, David Carlsen, Dee Hiatt, Bob Jones (father of Allison Albright), Rosemarie Schmidt

**Sympathy:** To the family and friends of Harlen Baker

**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

Ⓟ 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

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

English Folk Tune  
Stephen Pera, Soloist

(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 image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music features simple, flowing lines with some ties and rests.

*(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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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', and 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' The music features a more rhythmic and melodic style with various note values and rests.

# 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.

*Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ  
Jesus Loves Me!*

ELW 402  
ELW 595

(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

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

ELW 537

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

☩   ☩   ☩

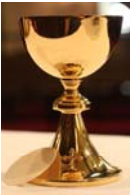
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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving 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 now open on Saturday and Sunday for Worship. During the week 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

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
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
Lector Mattie O'Kane
Ushers Jeff Perkins, Jim Comfort, Joe Councill, David Forrest, John Georgeson, Jeff Senn, Fred Wachal, Janice Falk
Greeters Darlene Anderson, Carol Hyland, Lori Senn, Lennea Davis
Crucifer Angie Arispe
Acolytes Anna Kidder, Clara Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Norm Sack
Lector Bruce Nissen
Ushers Dudley Syre, Linda Hoagland, David Jesberg, Adam Klinker
Greeters Peggy Johnson, Myrna Carter
Crucifer Morgan Stouffer
Acolytes Abby Rigas, Rachel Stouffer

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:** Stephen Center **NEXT WEEK:** Building Update

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God in honor of Laverne and Marilyn Larkowski's anniversary by Kevin and Terrie Larkowski.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

**YESTERDAY'S YOUTH** Please join us on Tuesday, 8/1 at noon. Our speaker will be Judi Gabel, Senior Living Consultant from Immanuel Communities. She will be discussing the many options, that there are for seniors in Omaha and the surrounding areas. Don't miss out on this opportunity, to learn about important information, and ask questions if you choose. A delicious chicken casserole will be served at noon. Cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office as soon as possible, or by 7/28. Any questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Everyone is welcome!

**KMLC DRIVE IN THEATER,** Join us on Friday, 8/4 at 6:30 PM. Kids will craft a cardboard car before the movie "Finding Nemo." Movie treats are provided. All ages welcome! Please RSVP to the church office (402-341-7761) before 8/2. Hope to see you there!

**CONFIRMATION MINISTRY** – Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Meet on Sunday, 8/13, 10:15, in the Joyful Sound room to review purpose, expectations, and schedule of Confirmation Ministry.

**YOUTH-PAC** All 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to conversation, serious and fun, in the Youth-Pastoral-Advisory-Committee. We'll meet at the home of Pastor Paul and Donna Moessner on Sunday, 8/13, 7 - 8 PM . To know more or check in, contact Pastor Paul.

**GIRLS BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY,** 8/13. This month we'll join the Youth-PAC conversation at Pr. Paul & Donna Moessner's home. See the Youth-PAC article.

**HIGH SCHOOL SWIM PARTY** Sunday, 8/20, 2:00 - 4:00 PM. Save the date and then watch the bulletin & weekly e-news for more information.

**CROWNED** Sunday, 8/20, 3:00 PM. This men's singing quartet, partly from here at Kountze, will be hosting a concert on Sunday, 8/20 at 3:00 PM. They sing a capella and with piano accompaniment. Their heartfelt songs will provide for a wonderful worship hour. This is a free concert but a free-will donation would be appreciated.

**SPONSORSHIP DINNER** If you were a sponsor for the Youth Mission Trip this year, please reserve the date Sunday, 9/17 at 5 PM for the sponsorship dinner. More information will follow.

**FINAL SUNDAY OF PASTOR DEAN BARD,** our Interim Senior Pastor, will be 8/20. There will be a reception at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Sunday, 8/27, will be the fall congregational meeting to elect leaders for the Church Council, the Endowment Fund Board and the deFreese Manor Board. Preparations for that meeting will be made before Pastor Bard departs KMLC, by agreement with Pastor Roynesdal, and held as scheduled.

The Bible offers Jesus' disciples both old and new insights.



**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 Topic. Rows include Sunday (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52), Monday (Philippians 3:7-11), Tuesday (Romans 8:26-39), Wednesday (1 Timothy 6:17-19), Thursday (1 Peter 2:4-10), Friday (1 Kings 3:5-12), Saturday (Proverbs 2:1-8), and Sunday (Matthew 14:13-21).

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

So he told them, "Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom." **Matthew 13:52 (CEV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, bless us with your wisdom so that we may understand your word and live with faith, hope, and love each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Our hands we fold, our heads we bow. For food and drink, we thank God now. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God's Spirit and eternal word shine on you, give light to your path, guide your steps, and fill you with hope as you await the presence of the Lord.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Name someone you think is wise. Explain why you think this is so.
How can the ancient Scriptures speak so powerfully to each new generation?
Read Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52. Pick out a favorite parable and talk about what it means to you.

**DEVOTIONS**

Read: Romans 8:26-39.

This text is filled with comfort, hope, and affirmation. God helps us in our weakness. God's Spirit is present in our praying because we don't know how to pray as we should. No matter which direction we go, God will make it work for good. Nothing can separate us from God's love, nothing. Consider difficult times you have experienced or are experiencing now. Then, reread this passage and reflect on how these words give comfort and hope to you during those difficult times. As you pray, be attentive to how the Spirit of God is part of your praying. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

**SERVICE**

In 1 Kings 3:5-12, Solomon prays for wisdom to deal justly with others as the king of Israel. Justice and mercy are hallmarks of God and the ministry of the church. This week pray for wisdom in your relationships with others that you may be a vessel of God's compassion.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Plan a fun household activity reflecting one of Jesus' parables about the kingdom of God:

- Plant seeds in indoor pots or in your garden. (Matthew 12:31-32)
Bake bread from basic ingredients. (Matthew 13:33)
Go on a neighborhood hunt for "treasure" or go geocaching. (Matthew 13:44-46)
Go fishing. (Matthew 13:47-48)

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related to its opening has been set. The dedication of the building will be held Sunday, 10/8 in partnership with Methodist Community Health Clinic and Lutheran Family Services, our two major community partners and tenants of the building. Mark your calendars for this exciting event!

**KOUNTZE PANTRY GARDENING HELP NEEDED** If you can help pick produce from our garden for the pantry, Chuck Campbell, Tootie Rhode, and Gordon Boe would appreciate your help. You can meet them at the garden at 6:30 AM on Sunday mornings and we'll put you to work! Thanks for your help.

**KOUNTZE PANTRY** If you have ever considered helping in the Kountze Food Pantry, now is the time to sign up. With it being summer and school out, 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.

**THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE**

**July 30 Sunday**

- 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)

**July 31 Monday**

- 10:00 AM Pantry

**August 1 Tuesday**

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

**August 2 Wednesday**

- 12:15 PM Worship

**August 3 Thursday**

- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**August 5 Saturday**

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

**August 6 Sunday**

- Homebound Communion
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)
5:00 PM Mission Trip Sponsorship Dinner

Table with 2 columns: Next Weekend's Lessons and Bible References. References include Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5, and Matthew 14:13-21.

Saturday Attendance: 47
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 200 11:00: 81
Midweek - Noon: 6
Total: 334
Pantry Guests Served: 509
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 33
Offering: Not available at time of printing

(continued from page 1)

**ALL CHURCH PICNIC** All KMLC Children, Families, Friends, and Neighbors invited! Sunday, 8/27, 1-4PM at Vennalyst Park Pavilion (9100 N. 31st St). Meet and greet Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, 8/18. Bring a dessert to share.

**PASTOR OLAF ROYNESDAL ACCEPTS SENIOR**

**PASTOR CALL** The Church Council has received word that the Rev. Olaf Roynesdal has accepted the call of Kountze Memorial to be our senior pastor, beginning 9/1. Pastor and Marcia Roynesdal are now making preparations for their move to Omaha. We give thanks to God for this wonderful news!

**CONSTRUCTION OF KOUNTZE COMMONS** is proceeding on schedule and an important date

related to its opening has been set. The dedication of the building will be held Sunday, 10/8 in partnership with Methodist Community Health Clinic and Lutheran Family Services, our two major community partners and tenants of the building. Mark your calendars for this exciting event!

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE**

Announcement of Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 27, 2017
10:10 AM, Fellowship Hall

For the Purpose of Electing Congregational Leaders