

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

July 23, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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 Holy Spirit, Enter In

ELW 786

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.

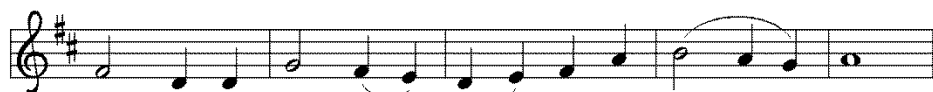


Refrain

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

- ☐ Faithful God, most merciful judge,
- ☑ ***you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel's redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86:11-17 (read responsively)

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²*I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.*

¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴*The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.*

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶*Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.*

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

B *Glory to you, O Lord.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

Jesus put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather

them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"
³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

☐ 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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694

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: Pastor Larry Arganbright, David Carlsen, Dee Hiatt, Ruth Larsen, Dee Luchsinger, Grace Penrod, Dan Troxel, Joanne Worm

Sympathy: To the family and friends of JoAnn Robins

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

*Love Bade Me Welcome
from Five Mystical Songs*

Herbert & Vaughan Williams
Janet Campbell, Mezzo-soprano

*Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back.
Guiltie of dust and sinne.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.*

*A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkinde, ungrateful? Ah, my deare,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?*

*Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame?
My deare, then I will serve.
You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.*

(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



bles-sing. 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 consists of simple eighth and quarter notes with some ties.

(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 variety of note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some rests and ties.

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.

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 733
ELW 359

(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

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word

ELW 663

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

☩ ☩ ☩

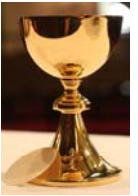
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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving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

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. Dan Collett
- Scott Henneman
- Liz Pemberton
- Lector Colleen Lenners
- 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 Rob Comfort
- Acolytes Ryan Lawrence
- Jack Lawrence

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Lowell Harms
- Norm Sack
- Lector Bruce Nissen
- Ushers Dudley Syre
- Linda Hoagland
- David Jesberg
- Adam Klinker
- Bryon Line
- Greeters Peggy Johnson
- Myrna Carter
- Crucifer Lydia Baum

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 Ministry with Pr. Inbarasu **NEXT WEEK:** TBA

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in honor of Dayle Johnson's birthday; in honor of Bruce and Barb Nissen's 25th wedding anniversary.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY! Member Velma Wolf will be turning 100 on 7/24. Her granddaughter is coordinating a card shower. You can mail cards to her granddaughter's Address: Heidi Reichart, 1115 NW 27th St, Ankeny, IA 50023.

SPIRITUALITY AND WELL-BEING IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE With featured speaker Dr. G. Scott Morris on Thursday, 7/27, 8 AM TO 2:30 PM. The conference will be held at Augustana University Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Ave.) Tickets: \$35. Whether you are an older adult, you work or care for an older adult, or you are simply interested in the topic, we invite you to take part in this day of reflection and discussion featuring Dr. G. Scott Morris, CEO of Church Health. For tickets, email bkubat@sio.midco.net or call Bill Kubat at 605-553-4836.

CAROL JOY HOLLING QUILT AUCTION Saturday, 7/29 at Carol Joy Holling Camp, Conference & Retreat Center in Ashland, NE. Join in this exciting day at Camp for their 29th Annual Quilt Auction! The day promises good food, great fun and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of Carol Joy Holling Camp. The auction and barbecue lunch will be held rain or shine. (They will use the Town Hall in case of rain.) Bring your friends and families! Quilts will be on display by 9 AM. **The auction begins at 9:30 AM.** The auction will continue until all quilts are sold, which is usually around 5 PM.

You won't want to miss the barbecued lunch with dessert and beverage served from 11:30 AM until 1 PM. Camp tours will be available throughout the day and the swimming pool will be open at 12:30 PM with a certified lifeguard on duty. If you are unable to attend the auction and would still like to bid on a quilt, please email Heather Abbott at habbott@nlom.org with the quilt number, quilt name and your bid. Quilts may be seen online by going to <http://cjh2017.piecd.com/>.

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!

SPONSORSHIP DINNER If you were a sponsor for the Youth Mission Trip this year, please reserve the date Sunday, 8/6 at 5 PM for the sponsorship dinner. More information will follow.

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

God's Spirit makes us confident we are God's children.



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 Topic. Rows include Sunday (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Parable of the weeds), Monday (Matthew 7:15-20, A tree and its fruit), Tuesday (Romans 8:12-25, Life in the Spirit), Wednesday (Revelation 14:14-16, The harvest of the earth), Thursday (Colossians 1:9-14, Growing in knowledge), Friday (Galatians 5:16-26, Fruit of the Spirit), Saturday (Psalm 86, Save me Lord), and Sunday (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, Parables of the kingdom).

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father. God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children.

Romans 8:15-16 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, make us confident children of your love and mercy and faithful servants in your world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

O God, thank you for putting food on our table, love in our hearts, and hope in our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you live and grow as a child of God's kingdom. May you belong to God, now and always.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- In Romans 8:15 and 23, Paul speaks of us as being adopted as children of God. Reflect on what it means to be adopted by God?
• In Romans 8:25, Paul talks about being people of hope who wait patiently. What do you wait for patiently with hope in Christ?
• In Romans 8:12-25, humanity and all creation suffer together. What does it mean to you that you are not being saved from creation but with creation?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:24-30.

Jesus tells the parable of the weeds and wheat. Since the first century church, one of the internal struggles has been the presence of false prophets or teachers of the faith. Instead of trying to separate the true from the false church, this parable argues that both will and should co-exist because to destroy the weeds would also destroy the wheat, the good fruitful community of faith. Reflect on how trying to judge and condemn others may have backfired in your own life or congregation. While this parable does not seek to promote indifference to sin and a false representation of the church, it does gladly acknowledge that God is in control and the fruits of the Christian faith will prevail. Offer the following prayer:

Dear God, help me to be faithful to your word and to resist the temptation to condemn others who differ from me, trusting in your grace, power, and truth.

Amen.

SERVICE

Romans 8:19-22 tells us that all of creation suffers and waits for the revealing of the children of God. As humans we have been wasteful in our use of the environment and that has contributed to a "groaning" creation that affects us all. Learn about and select ways to minimize your use of water and energy, especially fossil fuels, as a way to help heal our fragile earth. Find new ways to protect our earth by reusing, reducing, recycling, and composting.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 86:15 is a foundational verse to describe God's care for us. Write or read this verse in two or more Bible translations, reflect on this verse and recite it at the beginning and/or end of each day this week.

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THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

July 23 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 deFreese Manor Board
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

July 24 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry

July 25 Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3

July 26 Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Worship

July 27 Thursday

- 12:00 PM Circle 4—Keystone Café
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
5:30 PM KETV Management board

July 29 Saturday

- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)
5:00 PM Worship

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)
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"

Next Weekend's Lessons

- 1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Saturday Attendance: 54
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 205 11:00: 103
Midweek - Noon: 5
Total: 367
Pantry Guests Served: 411
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 31
Offering:
\$13,665.91 (Regular) \$30,808.00 (Specials)
\$2,579.50 (In the City for Good)

(continued from page 1)

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.

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