

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

April 29, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER



*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

## PRELUDE

# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

**P** Most merciful God,

**G** we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Let All Things Now Living”*

**ELW 881**

## EASTER GREETING

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☐ 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we will bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(sit)

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.*

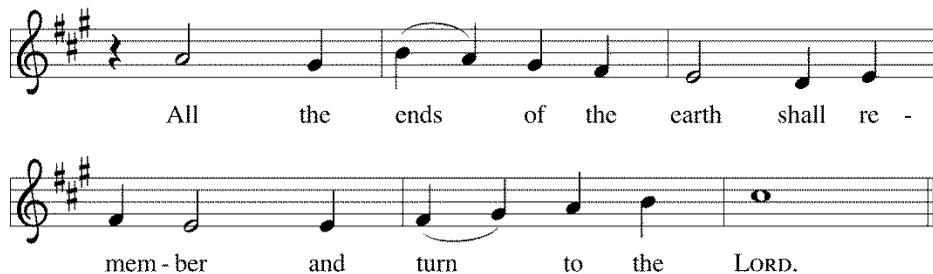
An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “*Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.*” (This is a wilderness road.)<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship<sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “*Go over to this chariot and join it.*”<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “*Do you understand what you are reading?*”<sup>31</sup> He replied, “*How can I, unless someone guides me?*” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.*”<sup>33</sup> *In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.*”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “*About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?*”<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “*Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?*”<sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 22:25-31



Psalm 22:27

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

- <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.  
<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!  
<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
who rules over the nations. 
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.  
<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the Lord,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.  
<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!" 

## SECOND READING

## 1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

**B**eloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the

world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**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. John.

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

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

**John 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.*

**[**Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

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

(sit)

## **CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)**

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

## **SERMON**

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**      *"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"*

**ELW 452**

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

We Welcome: Alex Hardy & Karen Sass, Jacob Rump & Lisa Chinn, Ann Ultsch,  
and Neal & Ardis Von Seggern

## **HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 AM)**

*Caden Merl Schjodt*

*(see page 227)*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 AM)**

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

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

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

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

**Thanksgiving:** For the baptism of Caden Merl Schjodt, son of Kraig & Katharine

**Illness:** Vicki Freeman, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Lavern Larkowski, Marilyn Larkowski, Alice Pickinpaugh, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Ed White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, 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; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; 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

“Come, Proclaim the Victory”

Joseph M. Martin

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

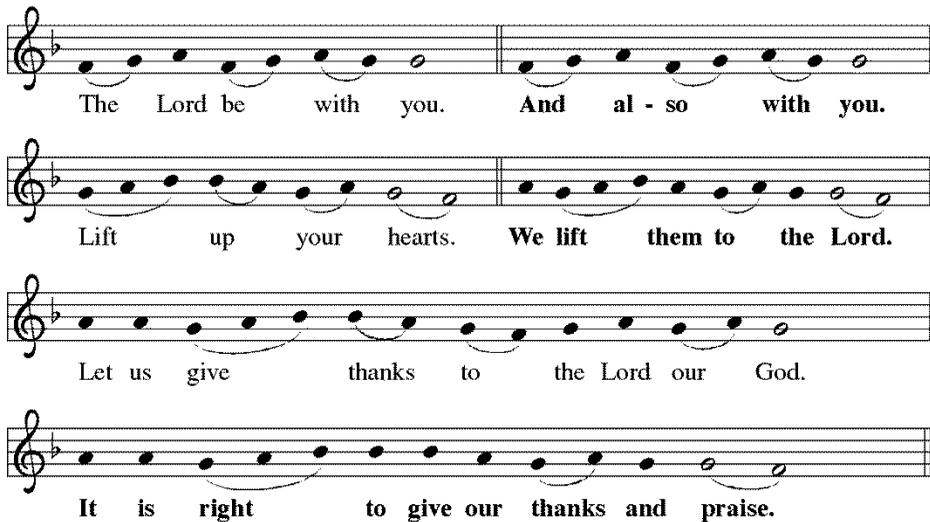
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

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

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

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

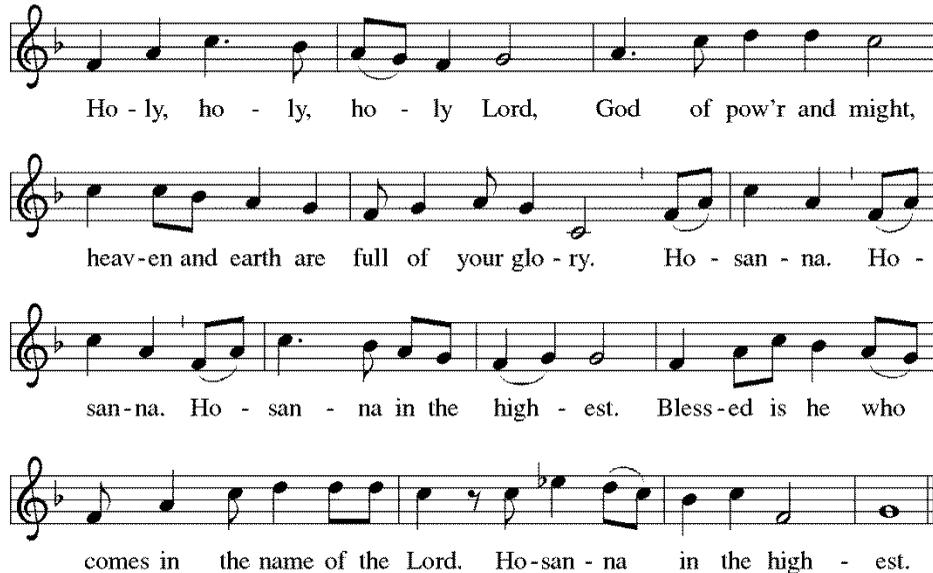
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- ☐ It is indeed right ...
- ...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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

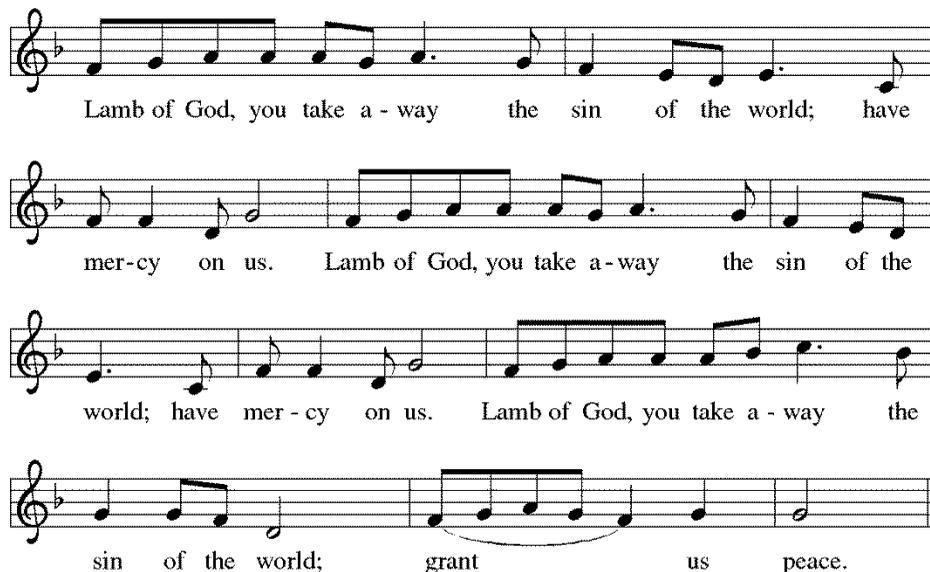
- P** Now let us feast this Easter day  
**☩** on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.*

*The form of distribution is **intinction**, You will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(sit)

## AGNUS DEI



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.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“When in Our Music God Is Glorified”*  
*“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

ELW 851

ELW 379

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”*

ELW 392

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;**

**Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.**

**Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:**

**"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."**

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

## SENDING

### BLESSING

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

### HYMN

*“On Our Way Rejoicing”*

**ELW 537**

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

† † †

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## KOUNTZE STAFF

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Susie Henry
	Kevin Larkowski
	Lorie Groenjes
Lector	Kevin Larkowski
Ushers	John Georgeson
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Jinette Cswercko
	Darlene Anderson
	Vickie Wichert
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Clara Kidder

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Stephen Pera
	Ruth Pera
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Henry Rief
	Charlie Campbell



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

April 28 & 29, 2018

*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.*

## TODAY AT KOUNTZE

**KOUNTZE CAFÉ** Then join us each Sunday for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Summer Education Preview **NEXT WEEK:** TBA

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** continues this Sunday, April 22, from 12—2 PM. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Grades K—5<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio each Sunday. Preschool (and grades K—5<sup>th</sup> that are not in choir) will continue with Kristin Boe for the Children's Sermon Lesson.

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

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

**April 29 Sunday**

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
 9:00 AM Receive New Members  
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**April 30 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**May 1 Tuesday**

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

**May 2 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship  
 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

**May 3 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**May 5 Saturday**

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

**May 6 Sunday**

Homebound Communion  
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**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.

**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.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held September 16 & 23 from 12—2 PM. 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 when you register.

**NURSERY HELP IS NEEDED** If you would like to work with the youngest members of our congregation, please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org or by calling the church office at 402-341-7761.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY Spring and Summer 2018**

Spring Sunday School concludes  
 May 20

Summer Sunday School  
 June 17 – July 15

LYSO – Lutheran Youth Serving Omaha  
 June 11 – 15 (for children/youth who have finished kindergarten)

Outdoor Movie Night  
 Friday, June 22

Vacation Bible School "Camp"  
 Friday evening, July 21,  
 Saturday morning, July 22  
 For ALL AGES!

August 12 – Blessing of Backpacks  
 (as a new school year begins)  
 and our School Teachers/Workers

**YESTERDAY'S YOUTH** Join us on Tuesday, May 1, 12:00 PM. We will be taking in the sights, as we enjoy watching, a Rick Steve's Travel video! A delicious lunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$4.00 for Lunch. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, April 27th. Any questions, call Sheri Tipton at (402)415-6033. ALL ages are welcome to join in! We hope to see you there!

**PR. HALL'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE** At the end of April, Pr. Hall departs for a ten-week fellowship as a Visiting Professor of the Divinity Faculty of the University of Cambridge. He will return to Omaha July 1 and will afterwards resume his normal duties. He wishes to express his gratitude to the congregation for its generous support and encouragement.

**BLINDNESS PREVENTION MONTH** May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be collecting used eyeglasses. They will be cleaned, checked by professionals, and used at a health fair for the homeless later this summer. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. There will be a collection box at the Welcome Desk in May.

**ASCENSION DAY WITH TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL** (held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 113 N 18<sup>th</sup> St), Thursday, May 10, 7:00 PM. Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, Trinity will be hosting the liturgy. Bishop Brian Maas will preach and Bishop Scott Barker will preside, with other clergy from Kountze Memorial and Trinity. Please mark your calendars and invite a friend!



**LYSO - LUTHERAN YOUTH SERVE OMAHA** Mark your calendars for LYSO the week of June 11 - 15 and then watch for more information in the Good News and bulletin. If you are an adult willing to help, please contact Pastor Paul or Kristin Boe. Thanks.

**SPECIAL VESPERS FOR ALZHEIMER AWARENESS AND ALL CARETAKERS** Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 PM, held at Kountze Memorial. Kountze Memorial will host a spoken Vespers in commemoration of the Longest Day to help raise awareness for those living with Alzheimer's and their care givers. That day, other events will be offered throughout the city: The Lutheran Church of the Master (2617 S. 114th Street) will offer a day-long prayer vigil from 8:15 AM - 8:00 PM; St. Andrew's Methodist Chapel (15050 West Maple Road) will likewise be open from 8 AM - 8 PM for individuals or groups to come in and pray. Parsons House (14425 Eagle Run Drive) will hold a service at 2:30 PM. Denise McCown and Linda Nord have worked to spearhead this effort in honor of their father, Don Vanzago. Please join us!

**BED OR MATTRESS NEEDED** for a new resident at deFreese Manor. If you have one you would be willing to donate, please contact Sharon West (402-345-0622).

**Lutheran**  
**YOUTH**  
**Serve Omaha**  
**June 11 - 15**  
Watch the bulletin & Good News for more information.

Online Registration:  
<https://form.jotform.com/80997618224164>

ATTENDANCE & GIVING	
<b>Saturday Attendance:</b>	69
<b>Sunday Attendance:</b>	9:00: 229 11:00: 117
<b>Midweek - Noon:</b>	7
<b>Total:</b>	422
<b>Pantry Guests Served:</b>	340
<b>Medical Clinic Guests Served:</b>	42
<b>Offering:</b>	
	\$10,716.84 (Regular) \$1,050.00 (Specials)
	\$1,335.00 (In the City for Good)

*God's love is the power that enables human love.*

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

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Philip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10:12-19	What the Lord wants
Thursday	Mark 12:28-34	The first commandment
Friday	Galatians 3:23-29	Purpose of the law
Saturday	Psalm 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another



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In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, just as you reached out to the Ethiopian eunuch and claimed him as your own in baptism, help your church to share your love throughout the world. Amen.

### **Mealttime Prayer:**

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; so thank you Lord, for all you give, this food and drink and love. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the love of God bless you, live in you, and be perfected in you. (1 John 4:12)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell a story about how you have been loved by others.
- How is God's love for us shown through Jesus?
- Why is it important to know that God's love for us comes before we can love God?

*Read:* Acts 8:26-40 or the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in a storybook Bible.

The eunuch could not have a child and was a social and religious outcast. When the eunuch asks, "What is to prevent me from being baptized?", there were clear human standards that could prevent this religious act. However, the eunuch's baptism is not about human standards of performance, but God's. The story begins and ends with the role of the Spirit of God (vv. 26, 29, and 39). If baptism is a human act, the eunuch would be prevented from baptism, but in the New Testament, the Christian baptism is God's act, not a human act. That is why entire families—people of all ages—were baptized (Acts 16:15, 33). In baptism God comes and breaks down barriers that separate us from the love of God by claiming us as God's children. God comes to us and loves us before we can ever come to God and love God (John 15:5 and 1 John 4:10, 19). If that were not the case, the danger would be that we will never know for sure if our approach to God was pure enough or faithful enough. Thanks be to God, our relationship to God is not based on our pure heart but God's. Reflect on God's love as the power that enables our love for God and for others.

*Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

The Easter joy began with women at the empty tomb being sent out with a message that Jesus has been raised (Mark 16:6). We, like the women are sent out into the world with the good news of Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death. It was the same for Philip who met the Ethiopian eunuch on a wilderness road (Acts 8:26). As you meet people in your daily activities, find ways through your words and actions to communicate God's love to them. Whose life can you touch today with the freedom of the gospel that has conquered sin and death? Pray for Christian outreach throughout the world.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17