

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

April 22, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER



The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

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

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”

ELW 594

Verses 1-4

EASTER GREETING

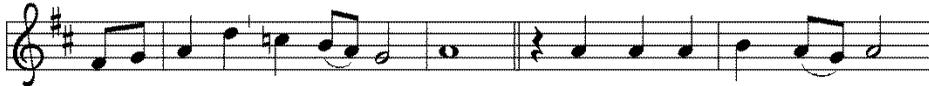
- 📖 Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- 📖 **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- 📖 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- 📖 **And also with you.**

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

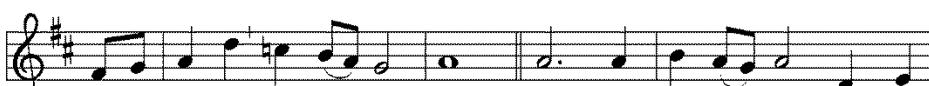


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

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

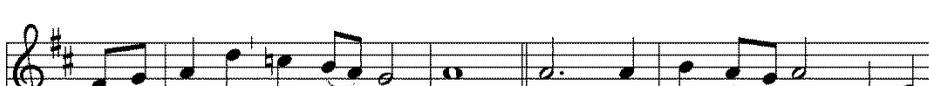


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

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,

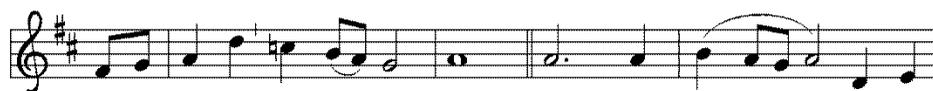


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

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

- P** O Lord Christ,
- C** good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Christ the Lord is Risen”

by Avery and Marsh
Kountze Children’s Choir

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

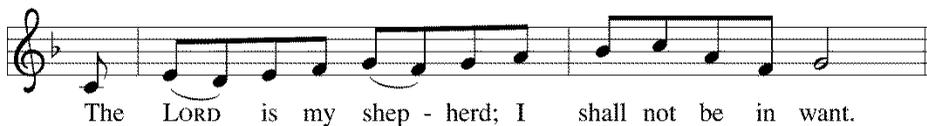
The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23



Psalm 23:1

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

¹The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Ⓜ

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Ⓜ

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

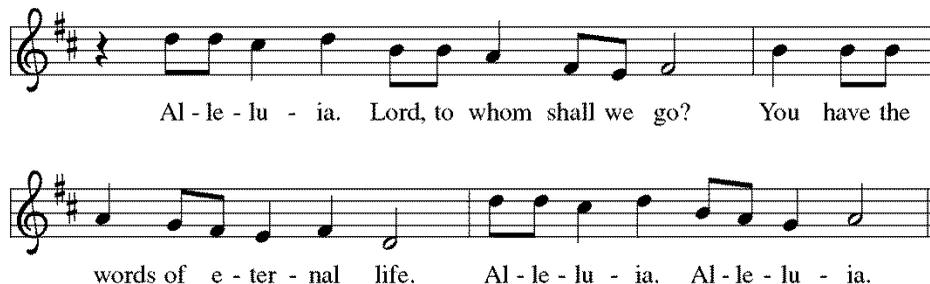
²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

UJesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this

fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

☞ 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

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

ELW 520

THE 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.**

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 Sloan Elizabeth Danenhauer, daughter of Robert & Kayla

Illness: Vicki Freeman, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Jason Klonglan, Lavern Larkowski, Marilyn Larkowski, Mary Olson, 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

“Song of the Shepherd”

Douglas Nolan

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

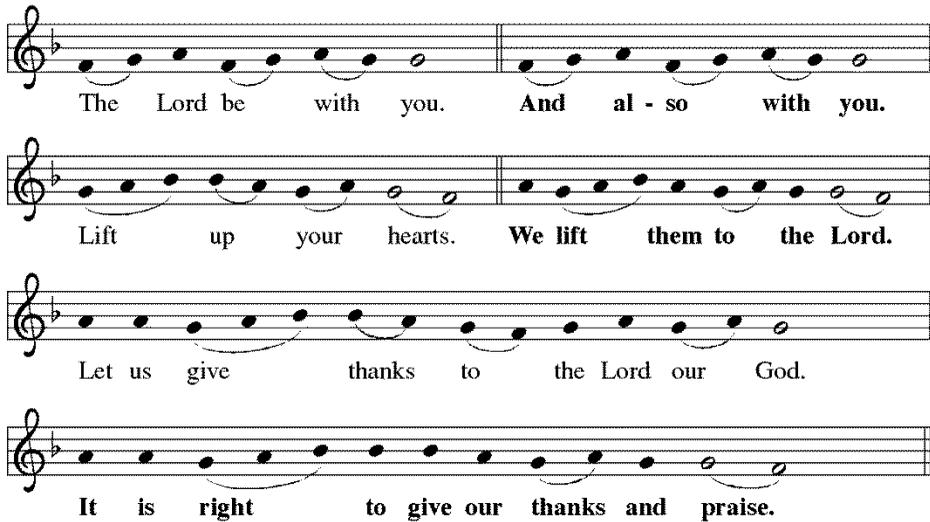
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste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

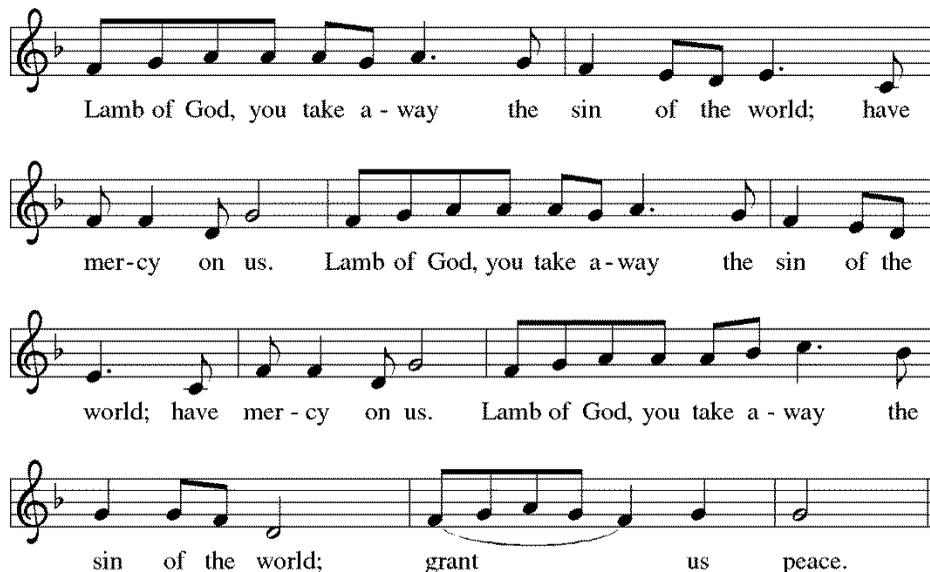
- ☞** Now let us feast this Easter day
☞ on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

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

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 685

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

ELW 517

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

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

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	Ellen Pesavento
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder Darlene Anderson Scott Henneman
Lector	Colleen Lenners
Ushers	John Georgeson Jim Comfort Joe Councill Dave Forrest Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Jan Falk
Greeters	Jinette Cswercko Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Carly Cameron Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Lowell Harms
Lector	Donna Moessner
Ushers	Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson Norm Sack Bryon Line
Greeters	Peggy Johnson Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Anthony Bonacci
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer Abby Rigas



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 21 & 22, 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:** *Staff Transitions Reception* **NEXT WEEK:** *Summer Education Preview*

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

FRIENDS AND FAMILY LUNCHEON this Sunday, April 22, 12:30 PM in the Kountze Meeting Rooms A and B, just north of Fellowship Hall. The Social Ministry Committee is hosting a luncheon followed by holy Communion for all homebound members and friends of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Our Eucharistic Ministers are also invited to participate.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd 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—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Grades K—5th grade. We meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio each Sunday. Preschool (and grades K—5th 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 22 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 Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)
10:10 AM deFreese Manor Board Meeting
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
12:00 PM New Member Class
12:30 PM Family & Friends Lunch
12:30 MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
3:00 PM MS/HS Choir *Lift Up Your Voice and With Us Sing!* Program
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

April 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Endowment Board
5:30 PM KETV Management Board
7:00 PM Circle 3

April 25 Wednesday

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

April 26 Thursday

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

April 28 Saturday

9:00 AM CPR Training
11:30 AM Women's Spring Salad Luncheon
1:30 PM CPR Training
5:00 PM Worship

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)

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

AMANDA ZASADA will be leaving Kountze Memorial on Thursday, April 26. Amanda was a great addition to our staff and she leaves behind some pretty big shoes to fill. Amanda plans to leave Omaha in May for home in Platteville, Wisconsin where she plans to play all summer while making plans to hopefully end up employed in Madison, Wisconsin. As Amanda starts another chapter in her life's story, we join together in wishing her every success and happiness wherever her journey takes her.

WOMEN'S SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON The Spring Salad Luncheon will be April 28 at 11:30 AM. Paul Siebert will entertain with his many instruments and the history behind them. Come and bring a friend or two. No reservations or charge is required.

CPR TRAINING FOR USHERS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS Saturday, April 28 Kountze Commons. We strongly urge Ushers and Sunday School Teachers to be certified in CRP. Participants may choose one of two sessions: 9:00 AM to Noon or 1:30-4:30 PM. Suggested donation is \$20; limited number of 10 participants per session. Participants are eligible to take a First Aid Training free of charge at a later date.

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 Tomorrow, 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 18th 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.

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).



A graphic for a church service. It features a stylized tree with green leaves at the top. Below the tree, the text "LIFT UP YOUR VOICE AND WITH US SING!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath, it says "Please join Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Youth Choir, Instrumentalists, and Readers In praise of God and His creation". At the bottom, there is information about the service: "Sunday, April 22, 2018 3:00 PM Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church 2650 Farnam St., Omaha, NE" and "Free Admission Reception following the program".

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 42
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 101 11:00: 105
Midweek - Noon: 7
Total: 255
Pantry Guests Served: 344
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 38
Offering:
\$11,010.92 (Regular) \$2,486.50 (Specials)
\$392.00 (In the City for Good)

Faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships.

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

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Genesis 48:8-21	God has been my shepherd
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God will look after God's sheep
Friday	Mark 6:30-34	Jesus, the compassionate shepherd
Saturday	Psalms 23	The divine shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

taking
faith
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. **John 10:14-15 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for being with us, especially when we are going through difficult times. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for feeding us, protecting us, and loving us. May we always listen to you and follow you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's kindness and love be with you each day of your life, and may you live forever with the Lord. (Psalm 23:6)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is it about someone that makes you want to trust that person?
- Who do you listen to in a trusting way? Who listens to you and trusts you? Why is this so?
- Jesus says that he lays down his life for his sheep (John 10:14-15). How does Jesus lay down his life for you? How does that help you trust in him and our heavenly Father?

Read: John 10:11-18 or read about Jesus as the Good Shepherd in a storybook Bible.

Talk about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd. Play a game of "Follow the Leader." Blindfold all the followers and have the leader guide them using only his or her voice. Jesus says that other sheep will be added to his flock and they will listen to his voice. Reflect on how you listen to Jesus' voice today.

Pray: **Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for being with us, especially when we are going through difficult times. Amen.**

Psalm 23 points out how difficult times (walking through the "darkest valley") is an important time to experience a trusted relationship with God ("I fear no evil; for you are with me"). Be a servant of God's presence by reaching out to someone going through a difficult time. Visit that person, listen to him or her, and offer a prayer that expresses trust in the Good Shepherd who walks with us through our darkest valleys.

Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar passages in the Bible. It speaks to people in all times and in all places. Memorize or recite Psalm 23 and make it part of your routine of prayer and meditation. Psalm 23:1 is a good verse to go to sleep each night, by breathing in and thinking, "The Lord is my shepherd." As you exhale, then recall the words, "I shall not want."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8