

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

August 19, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
- C** Amen.
- P** Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Eternal God our creator,
- C** **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.
- P** Since we are justified by faith alone, 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.
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

ELW 673

APOSTOLIC 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Ever-loving God,
- ☑ **your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, ⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 34:9-14 *(read responsively)*

⁹Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the Lord.

¹²**Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

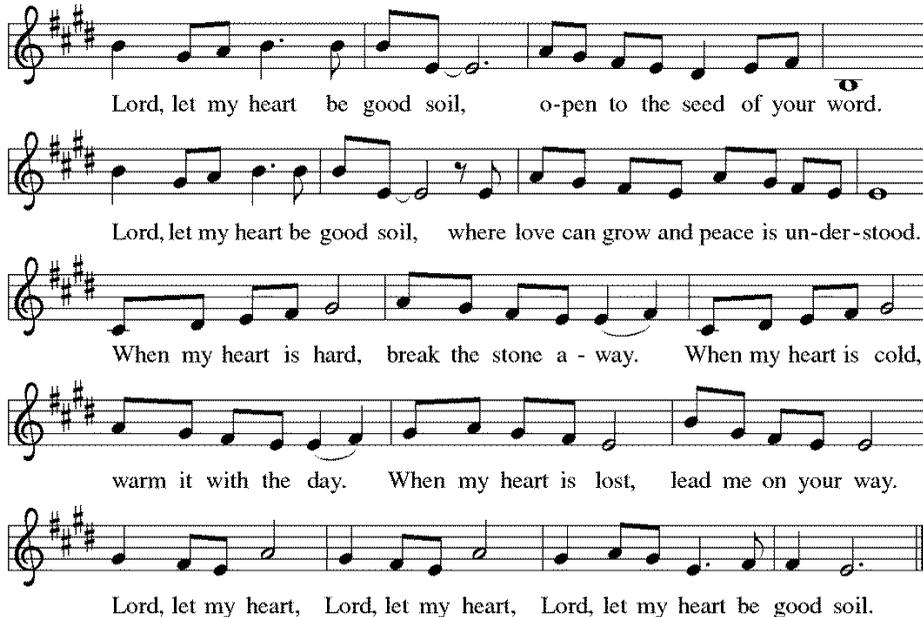
Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.

☐ The Gospel of the 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

“Praise and Thanks and Adoration”

ELW 783

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

☑ **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 INTERCESSION

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: Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Eunice Grunberg, Janice Nelson, Gary Rodene, Grant Searcey, Joanne Worm

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

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“View Me Lord”

arr. Jackson Berkey
Barb Carlson, soloist

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

ELW 691

- ☑ Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.**

**The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.**

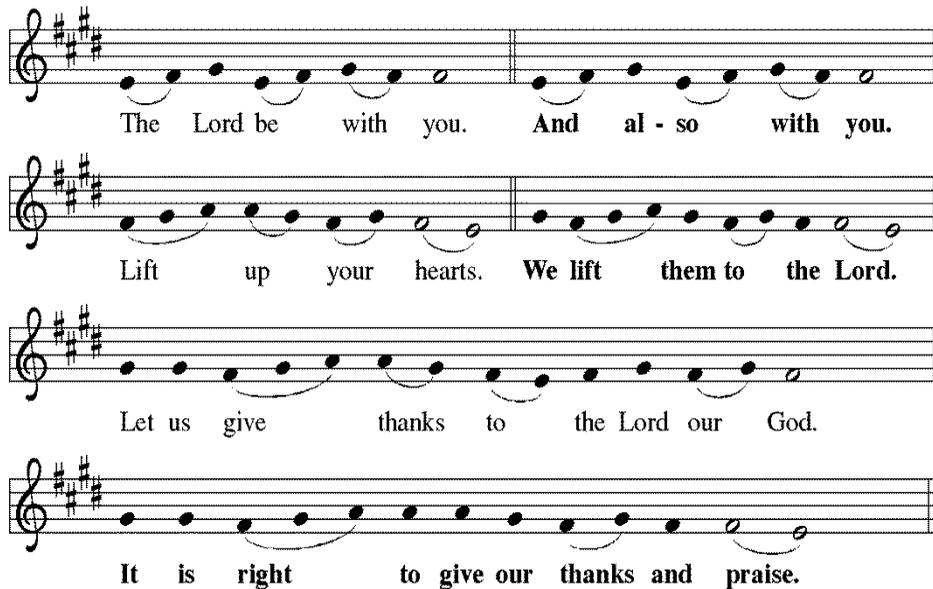
**Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we adore you.**

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Text © 1990 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.

HOLY COMMUNION



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 (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. 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 PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS

☞ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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

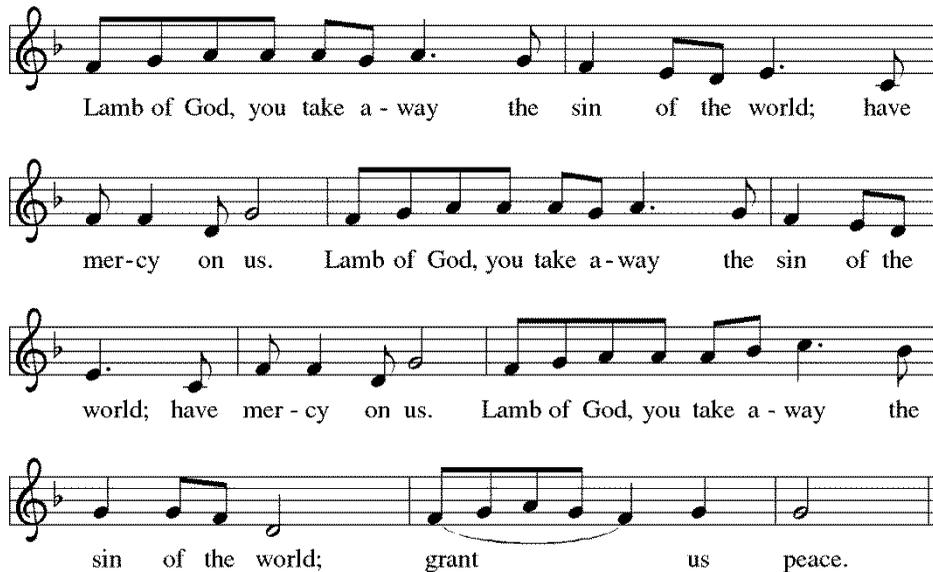
☩ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

THE DISTRIBUTION

*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 who 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.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”
“Thee We Adore, O Savior”

ELW 617

ELW 476

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
- C** 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

- P** 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.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

ELW 669

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve
G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

† † †

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
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. 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.	Susie Henry Pam Johnson Jeff Perkins
Lector	Jon Natvig
Ushers	Rodney Nord Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Brad Madison Dick Nelson Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Bob Johnson
Greeters	Sharon Nelson Lois Sorenson Colleen Lenners
Crucifer Acolytes	Madelyn Hinrichs Brooks Hinrichs Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Lowell Harms
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer Acolytes	Keelan Edwards Charlie Campbell Torin Edwards



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

August 18 & 19, 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 worshipping, 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 Join us Sunday mornings 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:** Cross Generational Event: Worship **NEXT WEEK:** Cross Generational Event: Grow—See inside page for more info.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Susan & Kelly Hinrichs in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of parents, Anne D. Forslund and Charles T. birthday.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Register for the 2018/19 Sunday School year online at <https://form.jotform.com/81997942184170>. You may also find links to the registration form on the church website, in the weekly e-mail letters, and the KMLC Parent Group Facebook page.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 26, 10:10 AM
Fellowship Hall

For the purpose of electing our congregational leaders and a second vote on the Constitution. Please join us.

August 19 Sunday

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School Registration (2yr-8th gr)
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

August 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregational Council

August 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 23 Thursday

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

August 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 26 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 – Congregational Meeting
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
 1:00 PM All Church Picnic (Vennelyst Park)

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM**TOGETHER THIS SUNDAY AND THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS.**

Scavenger Hunt – today, 10:10 AM. Explore how our Kountze Memorial Building helps our worship. During our combined Sunday School – Adult Forum we will experience our mission statement: Worship † Grow † Serve. The focus this Sunday is Worship.

Each Sunday we will also work on a common creative project, making a tryptic (a piece that is divided into three parts) that displays Worship † Grow † Serve. Regardless of how artistic you feel, you will contribute to a great presentation of our common mission.

Note: For Serve, on September 2 (Labor Day weekend) we need your business card. If you don't have one, you can create one showing how you live your faith each day, serving the world through your work.

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.

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 12:00—2:00 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION The 2018/2019 Sunday School year is quickly approaching, and we couldn't be more excited! This year, we have put the registration online with this simple form (go to <https://form.jotform.com/81997942184170>). You may also find links to the registration form on the church website, in the weekly e-mail letters, and the KMLC Parent Group Facebook page. As we have made the registration process paper free and can be done from the comfort of your home, the first day of Sunday School will begin on Rally Day, September 9. All students are invited to join us at the altar before progressing out of the church and to the Upper Rooms. We look forward to beginning a bright, fun, and education Sunday School Year!

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR begins Sunday, September 9, 9-9:30 AM. All children (K— 5th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor. Contact Donna Moessner Director of Children's Music by e-mail or phone if you have questions (Donna@kmlchurch.org 402-341-7761).

CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS are needed for Monday mornings or Thursday mornings from 9 AM— 12:30 PM. If you think you might like spending some time in the church office, please call Debbie for further info.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS (In addition to the usual financial and food items) - Fresh Produce (fruits and vegetables), Water Bottles (cleaned), Bottles of Water, Small Jars Instant Coffee or Bags Ground Coffee, Jellies/Jams, Small bags black beans or pinto beans, Boxed Dinners, Beef Stew or Ravioli or Spaghetti w/Meatballs, Small containers: Dish detergent, Laundry detergent. Perhaps you could try picking up one extra item when you visit the grocery store...One item changes everything. Thanks for your continued support of this vital congregation outreach ministry.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES If you weren't able to bring in school supplies for Jackson School, it's not too late. You may still bring your items and put them in the collection boxes in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. The items needed are: Wide-ruled notebook paper, Notebooks (wide-ruled or graph), Loose paper clips, Scotch tape, Black/blue pens, Post its, Pencils, Dry erase markers (black and blue), Pencil boxes, Markers, and Glue sticks. Thanks.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2018 - 2019
Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, beginning August 29

Weekly Schedule:

6:00 PM Gather for food and fellowship – the whole family is welcome

6:30 PM learning with head and heart – led by Pastors Olaf and Paul. Time for small group discussion

7:40 PM Mid-week worship with Communion, in the Rotunda. The whole family is welcome – and everyone else!

Parents! This stage of life can be very exciting and very challenging. Our purpose is to work with you in partnership for the good of your adolescent, your family, and you. For any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Olaf or Pastor Paul . We look forward to serving your family in this school year.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 57

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 177 11:00: 86

Midweek - Noon: 11

Total: 331

Pantry Guests Served: 365

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 41

Offering:

\$21,054.29 (Regular) \$8,970.86 (Specials)

\$15,955.00 (In the City for Good)

Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 26

10:10 AM

Fellowship Hall

For the purpose of electing our congregational leaders and
a second vote on the Constitution. Please join us.

A relationship with Jesus gives us eternal life.

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

Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink
Monday	Proverbs 9:1-6	Wisdom's feast
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:15-20	Be filled with the Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 26:26-30	The Lord's Supper
Thursday	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Institution of the Lord's Supper
Friday	Acts 2:37-46	Life among believers
Saturday	Psalms 34:9-14	God teaches the fear of the Lord
Sunday	John 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus

taking
faith
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.” **John 6:56 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for being with us, feeding us, and giving us eternal life that has already begun. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

In wisdom you have set your table and invited us to eat. Thank you for this food and for you to meet. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your Lord Jesus Christ, the living bread, feed you, forgive you, and be with you always.

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you develop or help make a close and trusted friendship?
- To believe in Jesus is to experience Jesus and to have Jesus dwell with us. How do you experience Jesus dwelling with you?
- In Holy Communion we receive the living bread through the body and blood of Jesus Christ in bread and wine. How does this meal celebrated in a community of faith give you an experience of Jesus?

Read: John 6:51-58.

Unlike the other three gospels, the Gospel of John does not have a scene that includes the words of institution at Jesus' last supper, the words that become the foundation for the Lord's Supper. However, John is clearly aware of the Christian use of the Lord's Supper. John 6 makes a direct connection to the practice of this meal with the reference to eating and drinking of Jesus' flesh and blood. Jesus promises that those who “eat my flesh and drink my blood” have an intimate and eternal relationship to him; they abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in them (v. 56). The important point for the Gospel is that the Lord's Supper gives Jesus' followers an immediate experience of the risen Christ, one that brings new life now, an eternal life that has already begun. How is it that believing in Jesus is more than an acceptance of who our Lord Jesus Christ is, but also involves a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ?

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for being with us, feeding us, and giving us eternal life that has already begun. Amen.

Share the blessings you have received from God with a needy child or family overseas. Use a trusted organization like your local congregation or national church office to help you learn about the possibilities and enable you to make a contribution.

Ephesians 5:19 urges us to “sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.” Spend time together with family and/or friends and make a list of your favorite Christian hymns or songs. Sing them or pray them together. You can also create your own songbook that you can use each week and take them on your vacations. Encourage children and others to decorate the songbook with artwork.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69