

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 26, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

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

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

ELW 392

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Holy God,
- C** your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we will indeed live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:15-22 (*read responsively*)

¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSEL 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.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSEL

John 6:56-69

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

Jesus says, ⁵⁶“Those 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.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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.

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

ELW 650

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

C **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.**

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

P Katie and Adam, as you begin your Seminary studies, Katie at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado and Adam at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, we want to wish you farewell and godspeed. Know you begin your studies with the prayers and support of your congregation.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah: Thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

(Isaiah 43:1-3)

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts during your Seminary studies, united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Let us pray.

☞ Gracious God,

☞ **we thank you for the work and witness of your servants Katie and Adam who have enriched our congregation and shared their gifts with us. Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they will travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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

In Celebration: Margaret Grabow's 100th birthday, Sunday August 26

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Donald Barnes; to the family and friends of Majorie Jean Odracek, sister of Bev Troxel

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Eunice Grunberg, Doris Kusch, Janice Nelson, Melissa Pera, daughter-in-law of Steve and Ruth Pera, Susan Ray, daughter-in-law of Betty Callies, Gary Rodene, Grant Searcey

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

“A Gaelic Blessing”

arr. John Rutten
Barb Carlsen, soloist

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

ELW 691

- C** 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.**

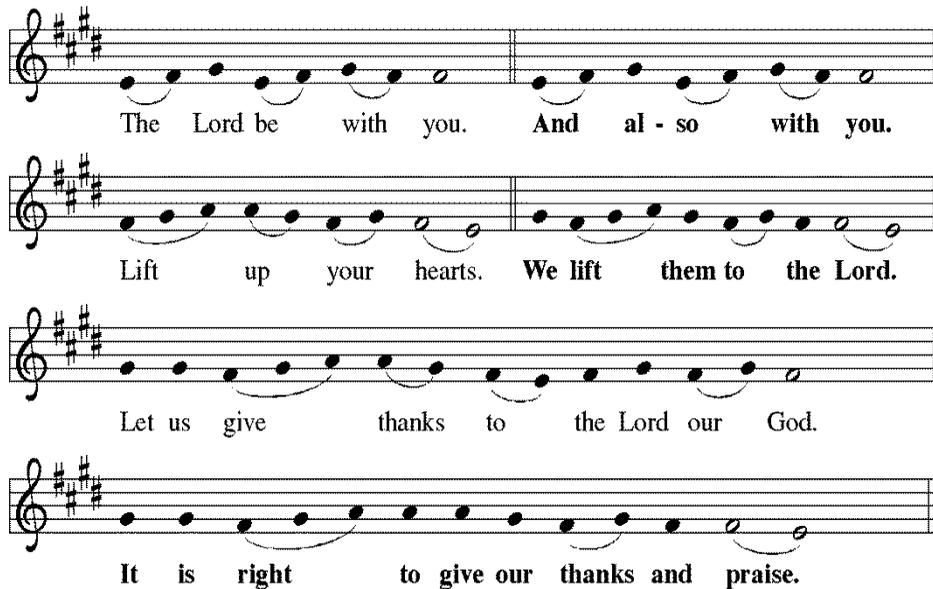
**Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we adore you.**

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

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Merciful God,
- C** 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 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

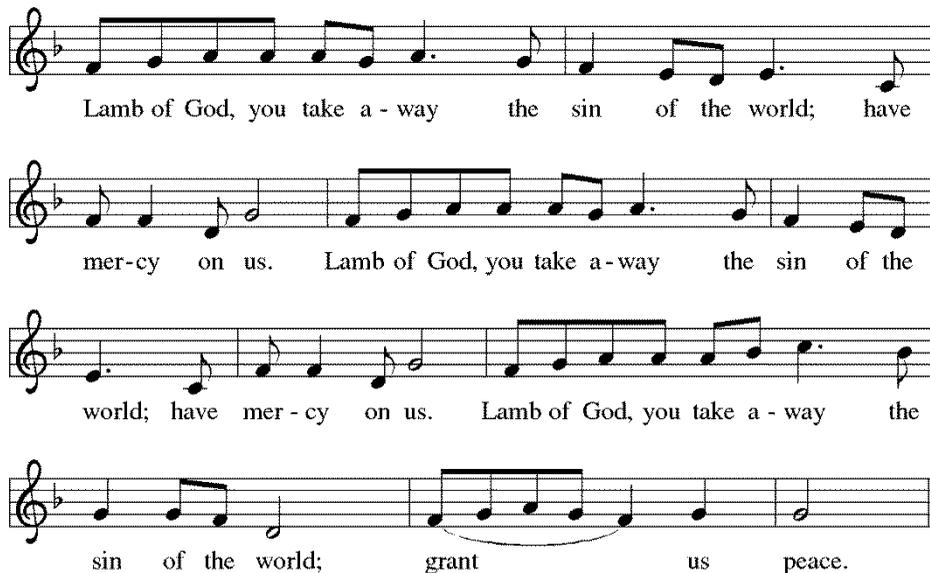
☞ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

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

“Blessed Assurance”
“Praise and Thanksgiving”

ELW 638

ELW 689

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

ELW 820

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve
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
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	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 Jason Klonglan

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Pam Johnson Darlene Anderson
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Lector	Mattie O'Kane
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	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson Kaitlyn Munguia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lowell Harms Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Steve Hinrichs
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson Bryon Line
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Tyler Johnston
Acolytes	Henry Rief Hadley Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

August 25 & 26, 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 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: Grow **NEXT WEEK:** Cross Generational Event: Serve—See inside page for more info.

Annual Meeting

This 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Clara Kidder's 18th birthday.

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL'S "OLD FASHIONED" CHURCH PICNIC POTLUCK

This Sunday, August 26, 1:00 - 4:00 PM at Danish Vennelyst Park (9100 N 31st) All KMLC Members, Friends, and Families are invited to attend this all-church picnic. There will be free food (chicken, ice cream, sides*, dessert*, & drinks), inflatables, a giant slip 'n slide, face painting, balloons, games, entertainment, and more! We hope you can all attend. It'll be a fun day!

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.

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)

August 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

August 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Confirmation
 7:40 PM Worship

August 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 1 Saturday

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

September 2 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

September 3 Monday

Labor Day
 OFFICE CLOSED

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM CONTINUES
 TOGETHER NEXT WEEKEND.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! How do you answer that call/challenge the remaining 167 hours of the week?

For our worship on Labor Day weekend (next Saturday and Sunday) we will consider how our daily work and activities are part of our service. Please bring your business card to place in the offering plate and to be used in our Mission-Statement-Tryptic. In our combined Sunday-School—Adult Forum we are creating a visual display of how we Worship † Grow † Serve.

In the Fellowship Hall you can see what we have already done and give your unique contribution. If you don't have a "business card", please create one that shows how you, in our daily life, Serve the Lord.

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 12:15—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://>

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.

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!

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Tuesday, September 4, 12:00 PM. Our speaker will be Dr. Jim Newland. He will be discussing many interesting topics, such as, the making of our beautiful, wooden Processional Cross. Lunch will be served at noon. The cost for lunch is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office, by Friday, August 31. All ages are welcome. If you have any questions, you may call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Hope to see you there!

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).

BOOK DRIVE To begin the Sunday School year, children grades Kindergarten through 5th grade are having a Children's Book Drive. Please bring your gently used books, for children ages 0 – 18 years, to church September 9 through October 14. Bins will be provided. The Book Drive is in cooperation with the Junior League of Omaha and their "A Book of My Own" initiative, which provides books for at risk youth in the Omaha area. They distribute about 20,000 books each year! Thank you for helping our children serve others in the community.

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.

FALL BIBLE STUDY—The Parables of Jesus. Wednesdays beginning September 26, 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM. Dr. Richard Sieling will begin a six-week study on the Parables of Jesus. We will look at the setting, meaning, and

relevance of selected stories. The class is offered two times on Wednesdays. Please sign up for one of the sessions by calling the church office (402-341-7761) so that we arrange for adequate materials and an appropriate room to meet. Bring a Bible (NRSV is recommended).

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 49

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 199 **11:00:** 93

Midweek - Noon:

Total: 341

Pantry Guests Served: 282

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 37

Offering:

\$11,660.86 (Regular) \$228.00 (Specials)

\$3,357.00 (In the City for Good)

Jesus is the Holy One of God.

Sunday	John 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus
Monday	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	The tribes renew the covenant
Tuesday	Ephesians 6:10-20	The whole armor of God
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-20	The golden calf
Thursday	Matthew 19:16-22	A young man goes away sad
Friday	1 John 2:18-28	The departure of some
Saturday	Psalms 34:15-22	The Lord is with you
Sunday	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Authentic faith



Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” **John 6:68-69 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, the Holy One of God, no one else can give what you give. Help us to listen to your words and trust in you today and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

You give us bread for living, O God. Help us to always give thanks for our food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the eyes of the Lord be on you and God’s ears be attentive to your cry.

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something you struggle to understand or to do?
- In John 6:61 Jesus sees that some who followed him had difficulty accepting what he was saying about his relationship to God. What is something you have a hard time understanding about the Christian faith?
- Ephesians 6:10 states, “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” What helps you to rely on the power of God to follow Jesus?

Read: Joshua 68:5-2a, 14-19.

Joshua speaks for his entire household and says to the people, “but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (v. 15b). Many Christians have that saying showing somewhere in their homes. It is a testimony to faith in God. However, the deeper meaning of the text needs the following verses in Joshua: “But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God,’” (v. 19a). The deeper truth is that the people could not choose God. Sin cannot choose righteousness. Darkness cannot choose light. The beauty and hope of the Christian faith is that God establishes a relationship to us; we don’t establish a relationship to God. All our hope is in Jesus who comes to us as the Holy One of God and speaks of God’s love and mercy as the final word. How would you describe God’s relationship with you?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, the Holy One of God, no one else can give what you give. Help us to listen to your words and trust in you today and always. Amen.**

Ephesians 6:18 states, “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.” One of the most important ways we serve others is by praying for them. When someone shares a personal concern with you, in addition to saying, “I will pray for you,” offer a prayer. When responding via social media to a person’s needs, in addition to stating, “I will pray for you,” write a prayer that addresses the person’s needs and God’s promise of care.

Draw or make a suit of armor out of heavy paper or cardboard and include the following pieces: belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword (With younger children you can use these items to play a game of “dress-up”). Throughout the week, read the description of the “armor of God” in Ephesians 6:13-17. Note that this armor is not promoting violence but the “gospel of peace” (v. 15). Be aware of how the Holy One of God protects you with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Spirit and word of God. Take time to discuss what each part of the armor of God means to you.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23