

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

**May 12, 2019**

**9:00 & 11:00 AM**

**FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**



*The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

11:00 am

“Kids of the Kingdom”  
“This Little Light of Mine”

Preschool Choir

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

**C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

## EASTER GREETING

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

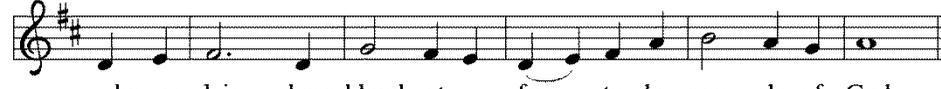
*Refrain*



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

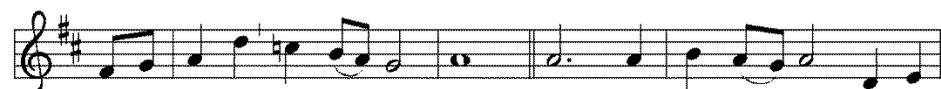


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



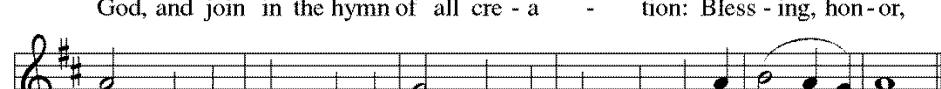
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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

- ☐ O God of peace,
- ☑ you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## PRESCHOOL CHOIR

9:00 am

*“ Kids of the Kingdom ”*  
*“ This Little Light of Mine ”*

## JOYFUL SOUNDS CHOIR

*“ Welcome ”*

Avery and Marsh



## SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.*

**A**fter this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “*Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!*”

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing, “*Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.*”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “*Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?*” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “*Sir, you are the one that knows.*” Then he said to me, “*These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*” <sup>15</sup>*For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.* <sup>16</sup>*They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;* <sup>17</sup>*for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL RESPONSE FOR EASTER

*“Be Not Afraid”*

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the Easter Gospel response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 10:22-30**

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

**A**t that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.”

**P** The Gospel of the 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 Inbarasu

*(stand)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

**ELW 789**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**G** We believe in one god, the Father, the Almighty  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*(continued on next page)*

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance to scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and he Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response:   **L** 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:** Don Burton, Janis Dagerman, sister of Richard Bock, Ralph Diggins, Rev. Harry Fink, Jr. & Marvel Green, Dolores Hiatt, Bob Houck, Mae Johnston, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Bob Ringo, Gary Rodene, Merlyn Ulrich, Ed & Darlene 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

## **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 congregation 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.*



## MUSICAL OFFERING

*“He Shall Feed His Flock”*

Joseph M. Martin

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

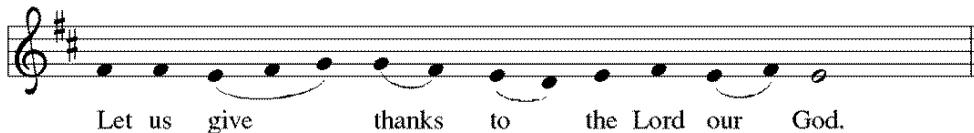
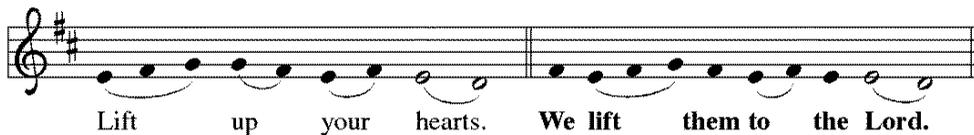
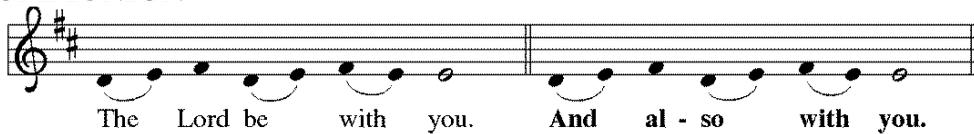
ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

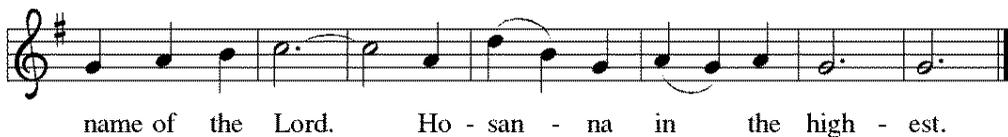
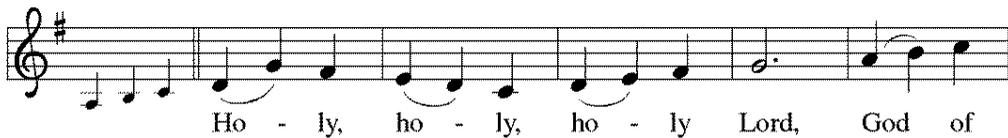
- P** Risen One,
- C** as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and for all your love’s sake. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION



## PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

### SANCTUS



## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

**C** **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** Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table.

**C** **Alleluia! Come to the feast.**

### 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.*

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"Let us Break Bread Together"*

**ELW 471**

*"Day by Day"*

**ELW 790**

*"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"*

**ELW 608**

*(stand)*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** O God of peace,

**C** you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ The blessing of the living God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Go, My children, with My Blessing”*

**ELW 543**

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE



## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Steve Jacobson	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	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord Mary Jo Fike
Comm. Set-up	Mary Jo Fike

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Adam Klinker Lowell Harms
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Lector	Colleen Lenner
Ushers	Brad Madison Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Rodney Nord Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Bob Johnson
Greeters	Bev Troxel Colleen Lenner Carole Meilahn
Crucifer	Clara Kidder
Acolytes	Anna Kidder

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Norm Sack Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Judith Poffenbarger
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Adam Klinker Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

May 11 & 12, 2019

*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 over 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 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:** Fellowship Forum **NEXT WEEK:** Introducing the Call Committee & New Council Members

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in memory of Barb's dad's "heavenly" 90<sup>th</sup> birthday given by Barb & Bruce Nissen; in honor of our 31<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary (5/14) given by John & Lynn Schneiderman; given by Don & Gwen Berney on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

**CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY** Be sure to sign up for your professional photography session. You may schedule your appointment online on our website ([www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)) or look for a sign-up table on weekends located in the Fellowship Hall or church office. Our directory won't be complete without you. Photos will be taken May 14-18, 21-25, and 28-June 1.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Please join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 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.

**JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Join us each Sunday from 9:00—9:30 AM. All children (K—5<sup>th</sup> grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**HIGH SCHOOL FORUM** Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM. Our Youth Forums this winter and spring will focus on vocations. Kountze Members will speak to you about their profession, the education necessary to attain the profession, and the work involved. They will also speak about

(Continued on page 2)

**May 12 Sunday**

Mother's Day



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-8<sup>th</sup> gr)

**May 13 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**May 14 Tuesday**

May 14 - May 17 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM Directory  
 Photos

**May 15 Wednesday**

Good News Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

**May 16 Thursday**

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship &amp; Music Committee

7:00 PM Circle 5

**May 17 Friday**

Wedding Rehearsal

**May 18 Saturday**

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Directory Photos

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group

3:00 PM Brashear/Neitzel Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

**May 19 Sunday**

7:45 AM &amp; 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 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 (2yr-8<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:30 AM Executive Committee

11:30 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir Picnic

**TODAY AT KOUNTZE** *(continued from page 1)*

how their faith in God impacts their vocation. Most important, there will be time for you to ask questions about the work they do.

May 12	Marketing & Advertising
May 19	Last Forum of the Year
May 26	No Forum (Memorial Day)
June 2	Graduate Recognition Sunday

**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.

**MAY IS PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS MONTH** Kountze will again be collecting used eyeglasses. They will be cleaned and used at a health fair for the homeless later this summer. Thank you for supporting this community outreach. There will be a basket at the Welcome Desk for collecting the glasses.

**MEN'S GROUP** Please join us for the Men's Luncheon on Thursday, May 16. This month we will have Maren Larsen from Youth Emergency Services (YES) join us to share the various important programs they offer Omaha's Youth. Suggested donation for lunch is \$10.00. Please RSVP to the Church office by Tuesday, May 14, or you can send an email to jim@kmlchurch.org.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING** We will meet Thursday, May 16, at 6:00 PM

**CAROL JOY HOLLING WORKDAY** Saturday, May 18, 2019, 8:00 AM - Lunch. Carol Joy Holling needs our help to get their site ready for the over 1,500 campers that will be arriving during the summer. Bring friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Individuals and groups are welcome, and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes and gloves. Kids are welcome with parent supervision. Check out <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day> for more information or to register to work.

**YESTERDAY'S YOUTH** Please join us on Tuesday, June 4. We will be exploring the Arts at the beautiful Joslyn Museum. Admission is free. We will be enjoying lunch in their cafe. Please plan accordingly, the cost of your lunch will vary depending on the menu. It is MANDATORY to RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, May 21st, (per Joslyn guidelines). Do not miss out on this rare opportunity! Our very own Kountze member, Judy Boelts, respected Joslyn docent, will be guiding us through the museum. Please meet in Fellowship Hall, no later than 11am on June 4th, so we can carpool to Joslyn. All ages are welcomed and encouraged. Questions? Call Sheri Tipton 402-415-6033 or the church office 402-341-7761.

**CROWNED WORSHIP** will be presenting their music ministry here at Kountze during services June 22 & 23. This Vocal Duo brings a passionate message. In their library of songs are piano accompanied familiar worship songs, and acapella songs. Please join in praising the Lord Jesus through song with Crowned Worship. Donations will be accepted.

**DISCOVERY TRIP | July 16-27, 2019 | Moshi, Tanzania** In November Jonna Holland and Carol Stoltenberg shared their Tanzania experiences with us at a Sunday morning Forum. Even though both of them had traveled quite a bit before, this was a special kind of trip, different and more meaningful than anything they had so far experienced. The people they met were so poor and yet so joyful and generous. If you would like to participate in the 2019 Discovery Trip to Tanzania, check out the details at <https://files.constantcontact.com/8c919081201/da73c243-3f82-4e78-8696-03d37afe9824.pdf>. But BEWARE! This is a life changing adventure! Consider joining Carol on this trip of a lifetime and get the chance to see the "big 5" African animals on a Serengeti safari as well.

**SOUND BOARD & TV MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Volunteers are needed to assist with sound at the 11:00 AM worship service as well as special services throughout the year. Training is provided and experience is not necessary. If you are interested, please contact Mike or Julie Bratcher in the TV studio (on the north side of the Youth Center) or call the church office at 402-341-7761.

### Mark your calendar for these exciting summer ministry opportunities!

#### Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha (LYSO)

June 10 - 14, 2019

8:30 AM - Noon

Grades K - 12<sup>th</sup>

At Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church



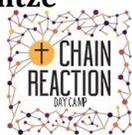
#### Chain Reaction Day Camp at Kountze

June 17 - 21

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday - Thursday

9:00AM to 1:00PM on Friday

\*After care is available from 3:00 to 5:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.



### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 40

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 228 11:00: 97

**Midweek - Noon:** 10

**Total:** 375

**Pantry Guests Served:** 338

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 33

**Offering:**

\$16,137.50 (Regular) \$4,857.11 (Specials)

\$2,085.00 (Phase 2)

## *The Lord is my shepherd.*

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

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Thursday	Luke 12:22-34	Do not worry
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another



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The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. **Psalm 23:1 (NRSV)**

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

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

God of goodness and mercy, thank you for your shepherding love that pursues us all the days of our lives. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Shepherd God, we thank you that our cup overflows with your never-failing love that pursues us with goodness, mercy, and this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 23:5-6)

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

May the Good Shepherd make you lie down by green pastures, lead you beside still waters, and restore your soul. (Psalm 23:2-3)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What gives you a sense of calm?
- How have you experienced comfort during difficult times?
- God is your Good Shepherd who restores your soul. What does this mean to you?

### **DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Psalm 23.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is the Good Shepherd Sunday. Some part of John 10 and Psalm 23 are always part of these lectionary texts. The passages connect the resurrection life celebrated throughout the Easter season with God's providential care that provides security in the midst of tough times and a promised future of peace. Psalm 23 is a psalm of trust in the midst of crisis. However, the crisis here is not clearly identified. There are allusions to the forty years of exodus wanderings. The theme of needing nothing in verse one is paralleled in Nehemiah 9:21 where for forty years the people "lacked nothing," the same Hebrew word translated as "shall not want" in Psalm 23:1. While difficult times—the darkest valley—beset all people, including all of God's people, faith in Christ still allows one to see and experience beauty and peace. The term "follow" in verse six also means "pursue." Here it is contrasted with its usual Old Testament association of being pursued by an enemy. Even more, in this psalm we are pursued by the love and protection of our Good Shepherd. When you read Psalm 23, what words stood out for you? How do those words relate to what you are now experiencing in your life?

*Pray:* **Good Shepherd, give me eyes to see and a heart to believe that you have set green pastures and still waters before me and that your goodness and mercy pursue me always. Amen.**

### **SERVICE**

In the story of Peter bringing Dorcas back to life, we are told: "Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity" (Acts 9:36). Dorcas was well loved by her neighbors as a result of her generosity and acts of kindness for others. Cooking a meal for someone, babysitting for free, walking for a good cause, sending a care package, or some other act of kindness all show God's love to others. What random acts of kindness can you do this week to surprise a friend or neighbor?

### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Jesus is often referred to as "The Good Shepherd." Some of the earliest Christian art and the most represented art found in catacombs shows this. It has been a tradition for artists around the world to paint Jesus as a shepherd. Do you have a picture like this in your home? If not, find several different pieces or artwork showing Jesus as a shepherd. What is different about the pictures? What is the same? Describe how Jesus is caring for his sheep in each piece of artwork. Describe how Jesus cares for you. Make a list of ways you show care for others. How does your list compare to how Jesus cares for us?

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35