

# 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)

August 25, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Remember the Sabbath day. Call the Sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's Day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## 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** Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

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

**P** God of mercy,

**C** we confess that we have sinned against you,  
against one another,  
and against the earth entrusted to our care.

We are worried and distracted by many things,  
and we fail to love you above all else.

We store up treasures for ourselves  
and turn away from our neighbors in need.

Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**P** When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us † all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!

**C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Lord of Light”*

ELW 688

## 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

- ☞ Gracious God, mighty and immortal,
- ☞ **you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we will rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

*(sit)*

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 58:9b-14**

*The Lord promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.*

**I**f you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. <sup>13</sup>If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; <sup>14</sup>then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken?

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 103:1-8** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.**

<sup>3</sup>He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

<sup>4</sup>**he redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

<sup>5</sup>he satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 12:18-29**

*Using images of Moses from the Old Testament, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

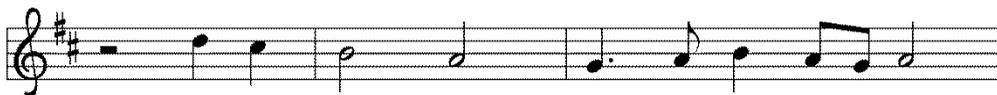
**Y**ou have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>(For they could not endure the order that was given, "*If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.*" <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "*I tremble with fear.*") <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "*Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.*" <sup>27</sup>This phrase, "*Yet once more,*" indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## 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.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 13:10-17**

*Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the Sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “Sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.*

**N**ow Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup>And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “*Woman, you are set free from your ailment.*” <sup>13</sup>When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup>But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “*There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day.*” <sup>15</sup>But the Lord answered him and said, “*You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?*” <sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” <sup>17</sup>When Jesus said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(sit)*

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

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

## **SERMON**

Pastor Roynesdal

*(stand)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Come, Ye Disconcolate"*

**ELW 607**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

- ☐ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we 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.**

(stand)

## 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)*

**Thanksgiving:** for the birth of Reed James Clanton, son of Jared & Tana Clanton, grandson of Jerry Clanton

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Mae Johnston, mother of Sharon West

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rev. Harry Fink, Sandy Fonda, Junior & Marvel Green, Eunice Grunberg, Dolores Hiatt, Mae Johnston, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Gary Rodene, Jerry Warner, family of Shirley Dietrich, Ed & Darlene White, Pr. David Zellmer

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, 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 Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

## 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

*“It is Well With My Soul”*

Bliss/arr. Gary Lanier  
Rahn Johnson, Trombone

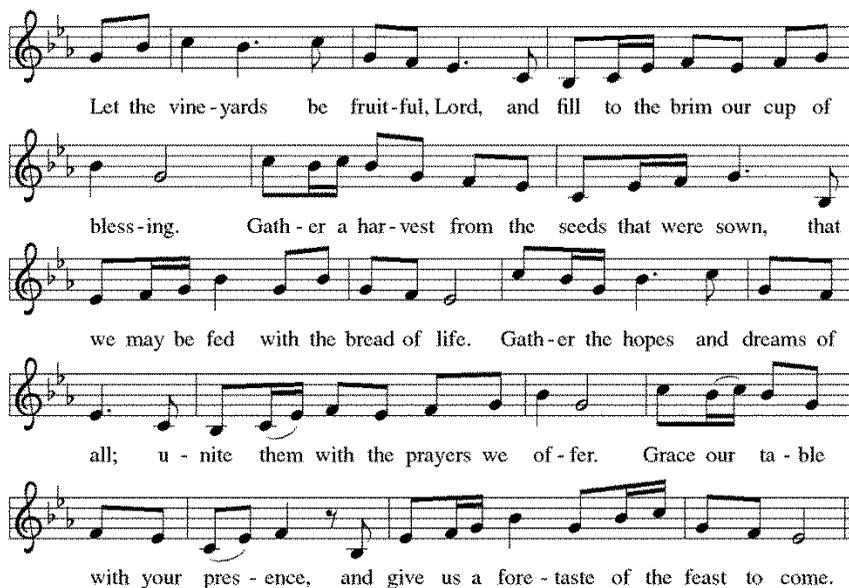
## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

ELW 184

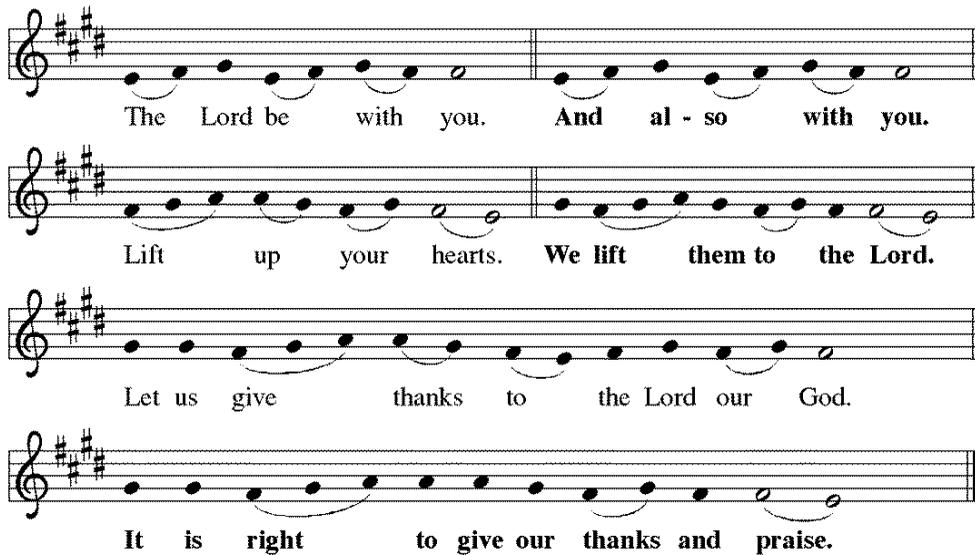


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and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

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, Lord God,
- ☑ for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Jesus Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives will reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

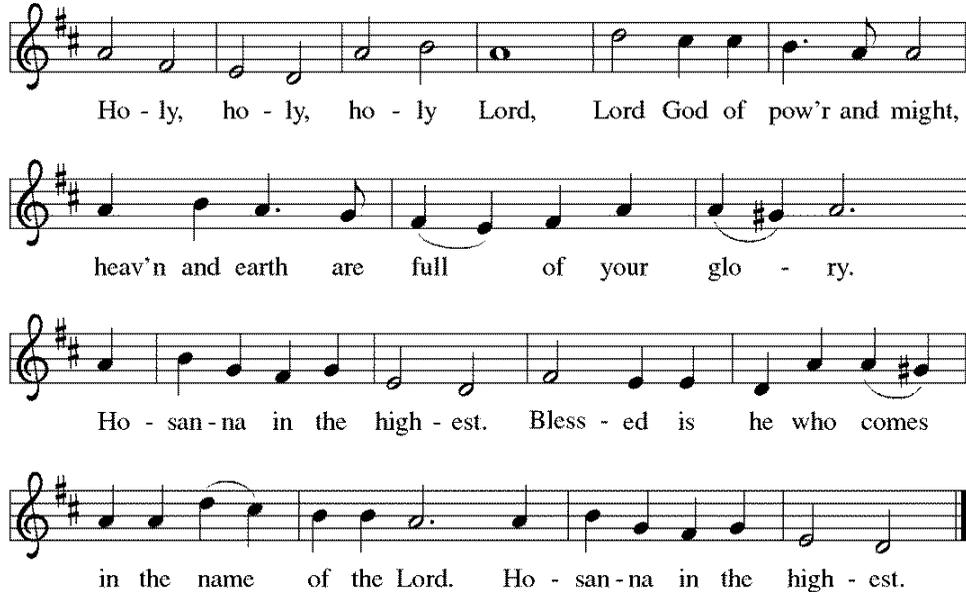
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.

## PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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

**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** God invites you to this table of bounty.

**C** **Come, the banquet is ready.**

### 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

*"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"*

**ELW 623**

*"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

**ELW 614**

*(stand)*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”*

**ELW 534**

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.  
☑ **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
Noni Cambridge	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
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	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	James Smejkal Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Jim Smejkal

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Jill Gittler Darlene Anderson
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Lector	Jon Natvig
Ushers	Rodney Nord Donna Crouse Brad Madison Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Bob Johnson
Greeters	Bev Troxel Lois Sorensen Colleen Lenners
Crucifer Acolytes	Britten Johnson Rahn Johnson Anna Kidder

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Ashley Sum
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer Acolytes	Torin Edwards Communion Assistant Communion Assistant



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

August 24 & 25, 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 worshipping, 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 8:00-11:00 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:** Congregational Meeting **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Labor Day)

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in honor of Clara Kidder's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday given by Mark & Tarna Kidder; in memory of Bob Brown given by Dorothea Brown

**ETERNAL CANDLE** is given to the glory of God in memory of my grandmothers, Minnie Busboom and Ruth Nickeson given by Diane Nickeson-Ray

**JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6<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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us each Sunday 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.

*Join us*  
for your Annual Meeting.  
Don't miss it!

Sunday, August 25 | 10:10 AM | Fellowship Hall

**August 25 Sunday**

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting  
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

**August 26 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**August 27 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**August 28 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship

**August 29 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**August 31 Saturday**

Homebound Communion  
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)  
5:00 PM Worship

**September 1 Sunday**

Homebound Communion  
No Sunday School  
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

**September 2 Monday**

Labor Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

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**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 Sundays, September 29 & October 6 from 12:15—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. New members will be received on October 13. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by September 22 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

**KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY** The Food Pantry is experiencing record numbers; so much so that the faithful volunteers are exhausted. Please consider helping on Monday mornings. We can really use people to set up before the pantry opens at 10:00 AM, and we have great need of door monitors from 11:00 AM—1:00 PM. These volunteers control the flow of traffic and assist guests with carrying their bags to their cars. Please contact Susie Henry at 402-596-9397 if you would like to get involved. We would love to have you!

**JOIN ADULT CHOIR** Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. The Adult Choir will have its first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 4 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship service on Sunday, September 8. Past singing experience in high school or college is recommended. The director, Barb Carlsen, would like to hear you sing before joining the choir just to make sure that this group will blend with your type of voice. If you want more information about choir or would like to reserve a time to sing for Barb Carlsen, please call the church office at 402-341-7761.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** The children of Kountze are in need of your leadership, enthusiasm, and time. We are looking for volunteers in the pre-school room on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of

the month, between 9:00 and 10:50 AM. Sunday School leaders are also needed. We are looking for a commitment of one Sunday each month for the school year. The lessons are scripted and all the materials are provided ahead of time. Sunday School is from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Thank you for considering giving your time to the children of Kountze. No matter what your experience or expertise, we have a spot for you! To join our program, please contact Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS** Sunday, September 8. This is a day to reflect on how we can better serve our community and neighbors. To do so, we will be cleaning a stretch of the Keystone Trail through Keep Omaha Beautiful. Bring a picnic lunch for you and your family to Stinson Park, 67<sup>th</sup> and Center, between 12:00 and 1:00 PM. We will do trail clean up at 2:00 PM. Bags, gloves, and trash grabbers are provided. Please join us!

**CONFIRMATION** An orientation for new confirmation students and their parents will be held on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 PM. A letter will be sent to those students we know should be beginning class. An RSVP is requested. Regular Confirmation Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 18; supper at 6:00 PM, class from 6:30-7:30 PM, and worship at 7:30 PM. Pastor Olaf Roynesdal will be teaching the class. Sunday Confirmation School meets with Marcia Roynesdal from 10:10-10:50 AM.

**BAPTISM SEMINAR** If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, a Baptism Seminar will be held at 10:10 AM, September 22 (please note date change). We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have. Please call the church office to register at 402-341-7761.

**KMLC CHURCH PICNIC** We're having a picnic and we hope you'll be there! Sunday September 22, 12:00 to 3:00 PM in the KMLC green space. A fun time will be had by all!

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY NETWORK** "If you know of someone attending college this fall please go to this link to find out if there is a Lutheran Campus Ministry outreach at their campus. If there is, please refer the student's name to us so we can reach out and invite them into our community ([www.luminelca.org](http://www.luminelca.org)). If you have students attending any colleges or universities in the Omaha metro area, please contact Pastor Jim Holthus at [lootr@hotmai.com](mailto:lootr@hotmai.com) or text him at 218-760-2028. Thank you for helping us minister to your young adults!"



#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 51

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 200 11:00: 105

Midweek - Noon: 5

Total: 361

Pantry Guests Served: 412

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 39

Offering:

\$11,486.54 (Regular) \$1,289.00 (Specials)

\$1,840.04 (Phase 2)

## Honor God by taking delight in the Sabbath.

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

Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath
Monday	Isaiah 58:9b-14	Delight in the Sabbath
Tuesday	Hebrews 12:18-29	A kingdom that can't be shaken
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Remember you were slaves
Thursday	Acts 20:7-12	Breaking bread on Sunday
Friday	Exodus 20:8-11	Remember the Sabbath day
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-8	Praise for God's benefits
Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality



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If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, for pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord. **Isaiah 58:13-14a (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of the Sabbath, give us delight in your presence and heal us of all that separates us from you and from one another. For Christ's sake, amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, who gives us daily bread, our thanks to you we raise. Be present at our table here and fill our hearts with praise. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord forgive you all your sins and heal you of all your ills. (Psalm 103:3)

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

- How do you spend the day when you take a day of rest (sabbath)?
- How does what you do in life honor God and honor your neighbor?
- Why is it hard to focus on God and neighbor instead of pursuing our own interests?

*Read:* Isaiah 58:9b-14.

At the heart of this text is honoring God by taking delight in the Sabbath. The word *sabbath* in Hebrew simply means "to stop." To stop, to rest from work is a way to honor God and your neighbor. The Sabbath protects community as it protects the vulnerable, including children, slaves, and animals. In Luke 13, Jesus understands the Sabbath as protecting the needs of a woman so she may stand upright in her community. When we refrain from "getting ahead" seven days a week, we can care for the hungry, the afflicted, and won't need to speak evil of one another (vv. 9b-10). Then, the people of God will "get ahead" and have real needs satisfied, real bodies strengthened, and real thirst quenched (v. 11). In other words, by giving honor to God and justice to others, we will truly make progress in life by restoring relationships, not bank accounts or egos. At the end of your days, will you regret not working more? How is the Sabbath a delight for you?

*Pray:* **Dear Lord, it is not easy to stop to honor you and care for others. Give me delight in your presence that I may honor the Sabbath as I desire to honor you. For the sake of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, amen.**

The Lord is abounding in steadfast love (Psalm 103:8b). This Psalm is one that gives praise for all God has done for us. God forgives, heals, rescues, and redeems us. Is there someone you know who needs to hear about God's redeeming love? What can you do for them or say to them to show God's love?

Sabbath is a time of rest. A time when you take a break and do not work. Make time each day this week to "take delight in the Lord" by observing a five-minute mini-sabbath. Set all electronic devices to the side, turn off the TV, and sit down in a comfortable position. Take a few deep breaths, close your eyes, and rest. After your mini-sabbath, thank God for this rest that gives health to your body, mind, and soul.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14