

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

September 1, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at the banquet table of the Lord. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Elegy"

James Biery
Kai Johnson, violin
Jean Johnson, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.
- C Amen.
- P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P God our helper,
- C we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples.
We have not finished what we began.
We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.
We have been captivated by our possessions.
Lift our burdens, gracious God.
Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.
Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- P There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of \dagger Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

- C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

ELW 807

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 O God,

C you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great;⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112 (*read responsively*)

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

Let mutual love continue.² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."⁶ So we can say with confidence, "*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?*"

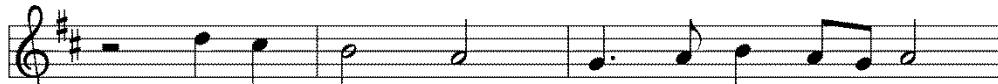
⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¶ 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 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests vying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to mimic God's gracious hospitality to the poor and the broken.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“*When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “*When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

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.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“*Abide, O Dearest Jesus*”

ELW 539

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: ¶ 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)

Thanksgiving: for the birth of Ruby Kathryn Ferry, daughter of Jake & Kelsey (Boe) Ferry

Illness: Richard Bock, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rev. Harry Fink, Junior & Marvel Green, Eunice Grunberg, Dolores Hiatt, 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

¶ The peace of Christ be with you always.

¶ 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

"Cinema Paradiso"

Ennio & Andrea Morricone
Kai Johnson, violin

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN *"Giving God, We Pause and Wonder"*

Giving God, we pause and wonder: What would happen if we tithed —
If we gave our gifts, Creator, Hearts and hands all opened wide?
We might learn, by gladly sharing, Not to trust in things we own
But to risk — it's part of caring — And to trust in you alone.

We could do abundant mission, Sharing Christ who claims and frees.
We could reach out with new vision In creative ministries.
No more bound by limitations Of what churches can't afford,
We could learn with jubilation Whole new ways to serve you, Lord.

Humbly on your strength relying, We could build a thousand schools;
We could feed a million orphans And give countless farmers tools.
As we gladly shared your blessings, Then the world might want to know:
"See! How loving are those Christians! Who's the One who makes them so?"

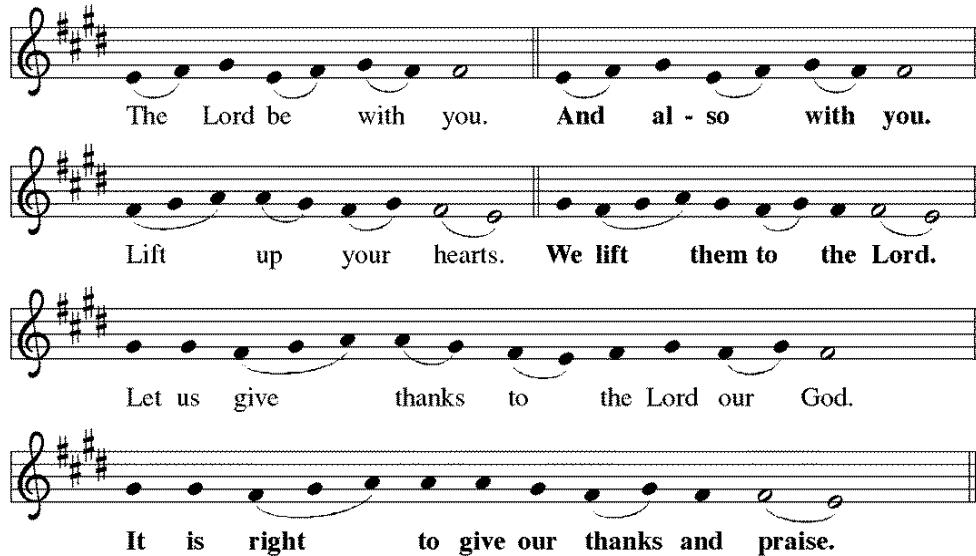
God, we know we cannot pay you For your love in Christ your Son.
Gifts and tithes are just a "thank you" — Ways to pass your blessings on.
We have learned that, in our sharing, We receive more than we give.
By your Spirit, make us daring In this joyful way to live.

Biblical References: Malachi 3:8-10; Romans 15:25-26; 1 John 4:7-8 Tune: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813 ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.Copied from Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009).

OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider,
C we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

C Come, take your place at 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

"Now We Join in Celebration"

ELW 462

"Restore in Us, O God"

ELW 328

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God of blessing,

C at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

¶ Guard the good treasure entrusted in you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in you.
Almighty God, Father † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with grace, mercy, and peace,
now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710

DISMISSAL

¶ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
¶ 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	Debra Kelly
Ushers	Duane Hovendick
Comm. Set-up	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Liz Pemberton
	Jill Gittler

Lector	Liz Pemberton
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Ted Kaasch
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Marcy Madison
Greeters	Karen Wolf
	Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	John Groenjes

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Norm Sack
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Lector	Stephen Urlaub
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

August 31 & September 1, 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 8:00-11:00 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:** No Forum (Labor Day) Meeting **NEXT WEEK:** Recap of ELCA Churchwide Assembly

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Ellen Pesavento, given by Paul Revord

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of Ellen Pesavento, given by Paul Revord

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL No Sunday School this Sunday, but join us again next Sunday on the 2nd 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-8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

Special Congregation Meeting

Sunday, September 15, 2019, 10:10 AM

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal is calling for a special congregation meeting on Sunday, September 15, 2019, 10:10 AM.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to elect/re-elect two people to the congregation council, something Pastor Roynesdal neglected to conduct during the August 25th meeting.

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)
9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6)

September 2 Monday

Labor Day
OFFICE CLOSED

September 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
No Yesterday's Youth

September 4 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

September 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 7 Saturday

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

September 8 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
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)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
12:00 PM Book Group

HOLY COMMUNION All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

ATTENDANCE CARDS All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday of each month (September 7) in the Bride's Room near the Sanctuary from 4:30—5:00 PM. Blood pressure checks are also done on the 3rd Sunday of each month (Sunday, September 15) from 10:00—11:00 AM in the Fellowship Lounge.

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.

KOUNTZE MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR We will sing for: Sunday services (every 5-6 weeks) . Rehearsals will be held on Sunday mornings, 11:00-11:30 AM beginning Sunday, September 8 in the Adult Choir room. We hope you will join us as we sing praises to God, help lead the congregation in worship, and have a great time making music and new friendships! For more information please contact Janet Carlsen Campbell at Janet@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, 67th 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). If you have students attending any colleges or universities in the Omaha metro area, please contact Pastor Jim Holthus at lootrn@hotmail.com or text him at 218-760-2028. Thank you for helping us minister to your young adults!"



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!

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 2nd, 3rd, and 5th 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 kmlchurch.org.

USHERS NEEDED Ushers are ministers of hospitality who embody God's welcome and remind all of us to see God in one another. Matthew's gospel reminds us that God is present especially in the stranger who is welcomed: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for . . . I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt. 25:34-35). Ushers get to be

among the first to welcome God's people to worship every week and they serve an important role in every worship service. By warmly and joyfully greeting and seating those in attendance, passing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and assisting with communion, or simply welcoming others, we are blessed to welcome God's very self. We are in need of Ushers at both Sunday services. If you'd like more information or would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Jim Smejkal at 402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 50

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 208 **11:00:** 124

Midweek - Noon: 10

Total: 392

Pantry Guests Served: 413

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$9,046.50 (Regular) \$1,668.00 (Specials)

\$1,465.00 (Phase 2)

Jesus reverses social standards.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality
Monday	Proverbs 25:6-7	Wise sayings of Solomon
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Service that pleases God
Wednesday	James 2:1-13	Show mercy
Thursday	Exodus 2:16-25	Moses flees to Midian
Friday	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song
Saturday	Psalm 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple

"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." **Luke 14:13-14 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of undeserved kindness, help us to rejoice in a humble life and not to seek the praise of others, through Christ who humbled himself to give glory and honor to you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fill our open mouths with good things, give us hearts to receive this gift of food with thanksgiving. Amen. (Psalm 81:10)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who lifts up the lowly fill your life with grace and mercy.

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

- What does it mean to you to be treated fairly?
- What are some expected social standards of behavior you don't like?
- In Luke 14 Jesus was willing to challenge social standards of behavior. Why do you think he did that?

Read: Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Jesus uses current social norms to make a point on how to "be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you" (v. 10b). Place yourself in a humble location in the seating chart and then be invited to a higher place. Why? Because "all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (v. 11). But then Jesus makes a direct assault on the social standards of his day. In a world where people "know their place" and "stick with their own kind," Jesus says that those who can afford a banquet are not to invite people who can do the same for them, but they are to "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" (v. 13). The standard of the kingdom of God praises kindness that will not be repaid. It is reminiscent of Mary's song that comes at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:52-53). How are the words of Jesus and his mother good news for you and for others?

Pray: Merciful God, give us faith to trust that our worth is found in your care and honor of us and not the rewards given by earthly powers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Hebrews 13:1-8, we are given some practical advice on showing hospitality to strangers. Hospitality is being kind and welcoming especially guests into our homes, even when we do not know them. Think of someone in your congregation or at work or school you do not know very well. Invite them to your home for a meal and get to know them through caring conversations in a relaxed setting where it is not the food and way you dress that matters as much as the genuine welcome.

Jesus uses a parable about a wedding to show how God's protocol for good manners is a different way to look at the world. At God's table everyone is welcome. Gather five paper plates. Write a word to describe four people who you see but do not know on the different plates. Write your name on the extra plate. Place the plates at seats around a table. Take turns sitting in each place and think about how you could make each guest feel welcome at God's table.



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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33