

# 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)

September 8, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philomen into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, 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 † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

**C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Lift High the Cross”*

**ELW 660**

## 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** Direct us, O Lord God,

**C** in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

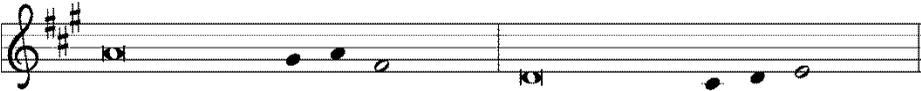
*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other Gods.*

**S**ee, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 1



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING

## Philemon 1-21

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

**P**aul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier,  
and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

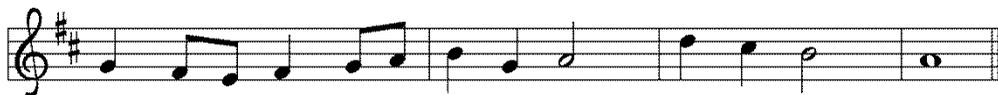
📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 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 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

**N**ow large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

☒ 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

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335

## 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)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Junior Green, brother-in-law of Betty Callies

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rev. Harry Fink, Marvel Green, Eunice Grunberg, Dolores Hiatt, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Gary Rodene, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White

**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

*“Take my Life, That I May Be”*

William Pharos

## 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.**

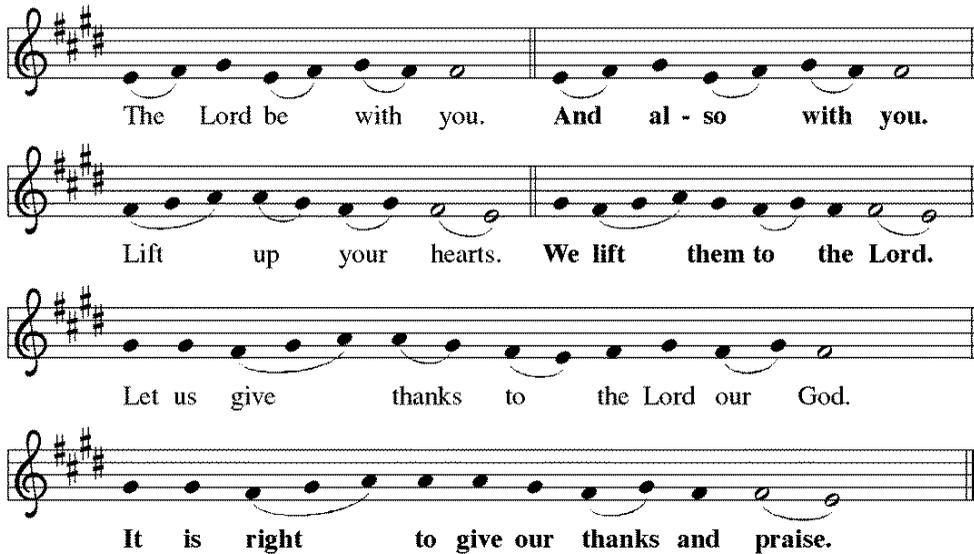
Biblical References: Malachi 3:8-10; Romans 15:25-26; 1 John 4:7-8 Tune: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813 ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing") Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* by Carolyn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

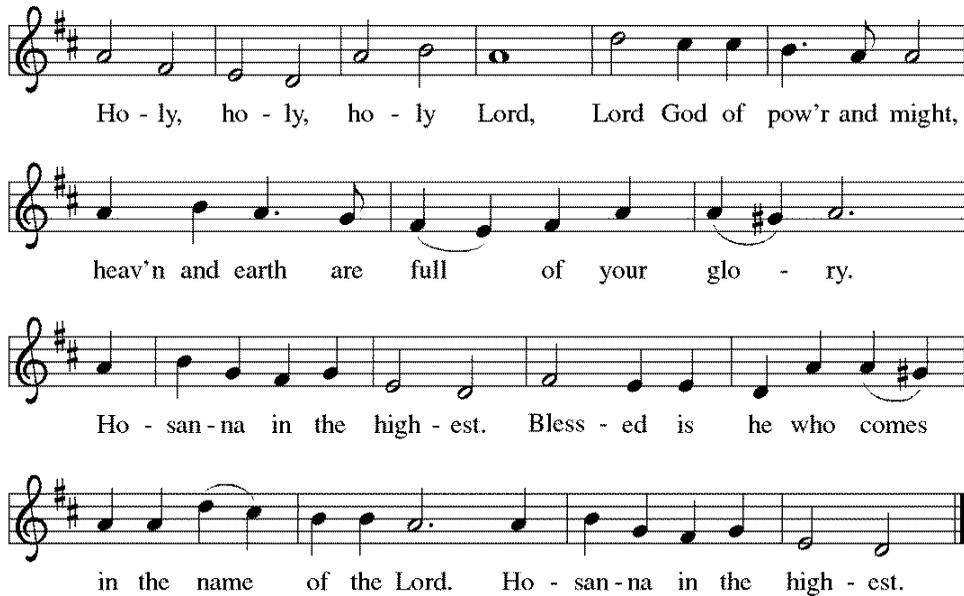
## HOLY COMMUNION



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

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

☑ **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

☐ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

☑ **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.*

(sit)

**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

*“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.

*“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”  
“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”*

**ELW 769**  
**ELW 772**

(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**

**BLESSING**

- P** 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

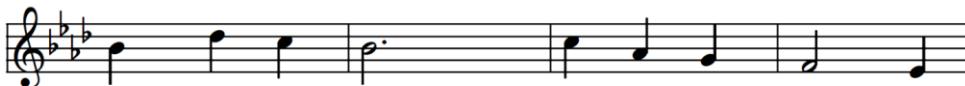
“God’s Work, Our Hands”



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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## 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
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert Theresa Gruber
Comm. Set-up	Donna Reinig

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Jill Gittler Scott Henneman Jerry Clanton Lorie Groenjes
Lector	Robin Perkins
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 Kaitlyn Munguia

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs June Anderson
Lector	Kay Wise
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

September 7 & 8, 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:** Recap of ELCA Churchwide Assembly **NEXT WEEK:** Special Congregation Meeting & Update on Campus Ministry at Creighton

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in memory of my mother, Lois Soll, given by Barb Chrisman

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**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 on Sundays 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.

**HIGH SCHOOL FORUM** Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS** This Sunday, September 8, 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 1:00 PM. Bags, gloves, and trash grabbers are provided. Please join us!

**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)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
 12:00 PM Book Group  
 12:00 PM God's Work. Our Hands. Picnic (Stinson Park, 67<sup>th</sup> and Center)  
 1:00 PM God's Work. Our Hands. Clean-up

**September 9 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**September 10 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**September 11 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
 12:15 PM Worship  
 6:30 PM New Student Confirmation Orientation

**September 12 Thursday**

Council Reports Due  
 9:30 PM WELCA Board  
 11:30 AM Property Committee  
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**September 14 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**September 15 Sunday**

Good News Deadline  
 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-6)  
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks  
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum/Special Congregation Meeting  
 10:30 AM Executive Committee  
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

**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.

**JOIN ADULT CHOIR** Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. We rehearse on the first Wednesday, of each month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. 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

**CONFIRMATION** An orientation for new confirmation students and their parents will be held this Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 PM. 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! Please sign up on the insert found in today's bulletin if you're able to help.



**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 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.

**USHERS NEEDED** 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. This is the "job description" of an Usher here at Kountze Memorial. 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. Please consider being a part of this ministry.

#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 44  
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 168 11:00: 84  
Midweek - Noon: 6  
Total: 302  
Pantry Guests Served: Closed for Labor Day  
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25  
Offering:  
\$8,197.54 (Regular) \$1,306.50 (Specials)  
\$1,405.00 (Phase 2)

#### 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 three people to the congregation council, something Pastor Roynesdal neglected to conduct during the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Christians owe their loyalty to Jesus alone.*

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Isaiah 57:14-21	A promise of health and healing
Thursday	Luke 14:15-24	The great banquet
Friday	Philippians 2:19-23	Timothy and Epaphroditus
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin



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Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. **Psalm 1:1 (NRSV)**

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

Lord God, keep us from all evil that we may delight in your word and follow your ways, through Christ our Lord, amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Like a tree planted by streams of water, Lord, you feed us with this food and with your holy word that gives us delight. Amen. (Psalm 1:2-3)

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

Grace and peace to you from God the Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philemon 1:3)

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

- What does it mean to you to “follow the crowd”?
- When have you needed to step away from the views of those around you?
- How is standing out from the crowd at times an act of faith?

*Read:* Luke 14:25-33.

Large crowds were following Jesus (v. 1) and Jesus saw a problem with following him like a herd. In the 1950s, large crowds of adults with children in tow filled churches. However, those same adults reared the baby boomers that became the least church-going generation in United States history (at least, at that time). Being a Christian because everyone else is, does not provide enough of a motivation, and Jesus knows it. Jesus makes the strongest demands and challenges on his followers: that which you count so dear—family, your own life, all your possessions—cannot compare to the importance of following Jesus. Our identity as a Christian owes its loyalty to Jesus and Jesus alone, not pleasing large crowds. Eventually, the large crowds that followed Jesus turned away. Many of the crowded sanctuaries in the 1950s are no more. There is great delight and comfort (Psalm 1:1 and Luke 12:32-34) in being a follower of Jesus, and it is a joy much deeper than simply being part of a safe and lonely crowd. What makes following Jesus central to who you are?

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus, give me faith and courage to follow you, especially when it feels easier to follow the crowd that does not know your power and grace. Amen.**

Psalm 1:3 uses the example of a tree yielding fruit to describe those who delight in God's law: “but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2). This Psalm is an instructional one teaching us how to live in the world. The Psalm points out that we are to yield fruit fitting to God's law. What act of service to others would describe the fruit that you bear?

Paul wrote to his friend Philemon, “When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus” (Philemon 1:4-5). This love was a gracious gift of God. From whom have you received the gracious gift of God's love? Write a thank you card to that person this week and include this scripture verse from Philemon.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10