

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

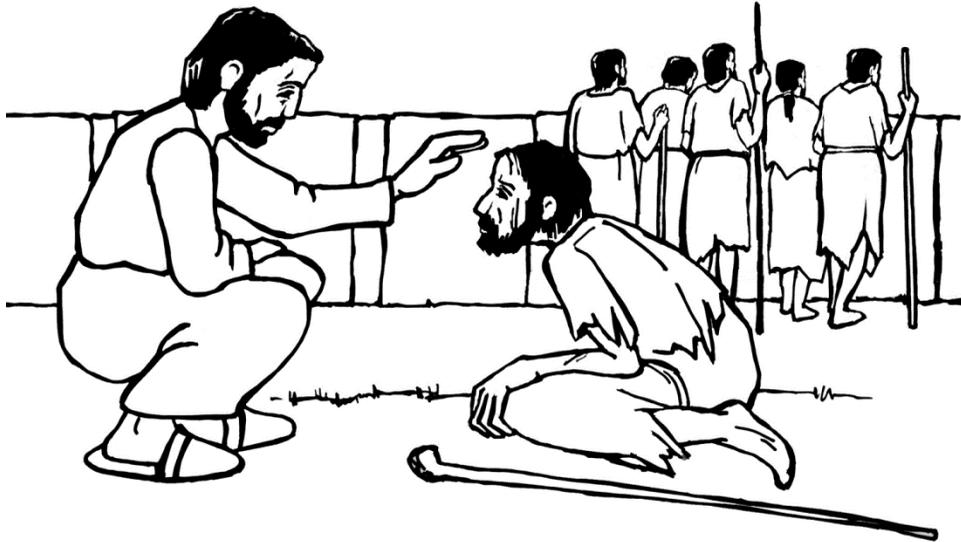
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

October 13, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.*

# 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

*“We Praise You, O God!”*

**ELW 870**

## 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** Almighty and most merciful God,

**C** your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that will hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we will with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

## FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

*Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.*

**N**aaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. <sup>2</sup>Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, “*If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.*” <sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “*Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.*”

<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “*Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.*” <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. <sup>10</sup>Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “*Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.*” <sup>11</sup>But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “*I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!*” <sup>12</sup>*Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?*” He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and said to him, “*Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?*” <sup>14</sup>So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

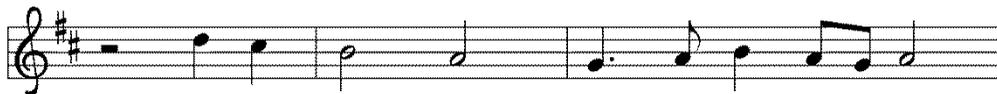
<sup>15a-c</sup>Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “*Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.*”

☐ 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 17:11-19**

*Jesus' mission includes making the unclean clean again. Unexpectedly, a cleansed Samaritan leper becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.*

**O**n the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

☐ 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

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

**ELW 810**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(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 Romy Valare Damme, daughter of Ana & Clayton Damme; for the Baptism of William Russell Klug, son of David Klug & Melissa Musick

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Debbie Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Rev. Harry Fink, Michael Gonser, Eunice Grunberg, Dolores Hiatt, Lois Johnson, mother of Lee Johnson and Dayle Johnson, Rosann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Gary Rodene, Pr. Carlos Schneider, Stacy Tompkins, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Anthony Bonacci, 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; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, 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

*“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

arr. Mark Patterson

### 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.**

**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.**

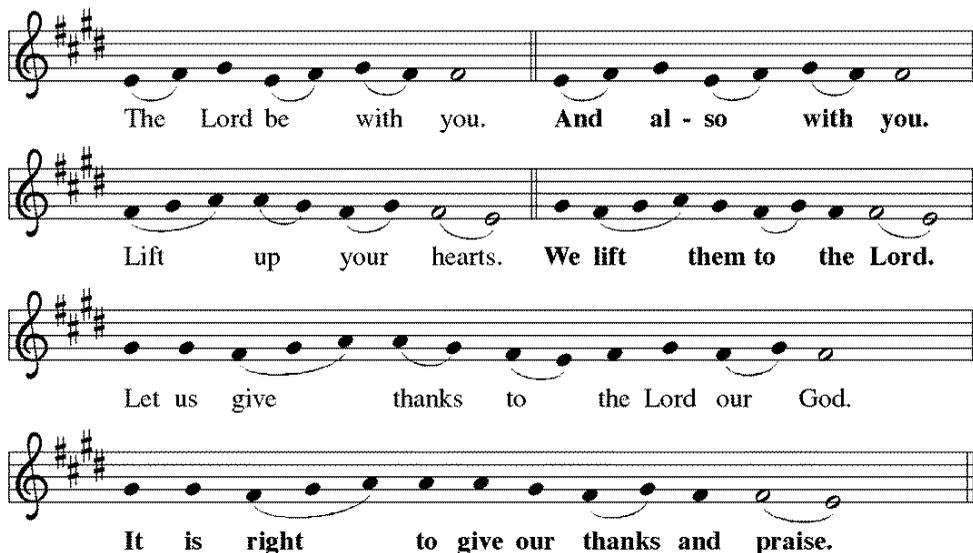
Biblical References: Malachi 3:8-10; Romans 15:25-26; 1 John 4:7-8 Tune: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813 ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing") Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* by Carolyn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

### OFFERING PRAYER

☞ God our provider,

☛ **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.**

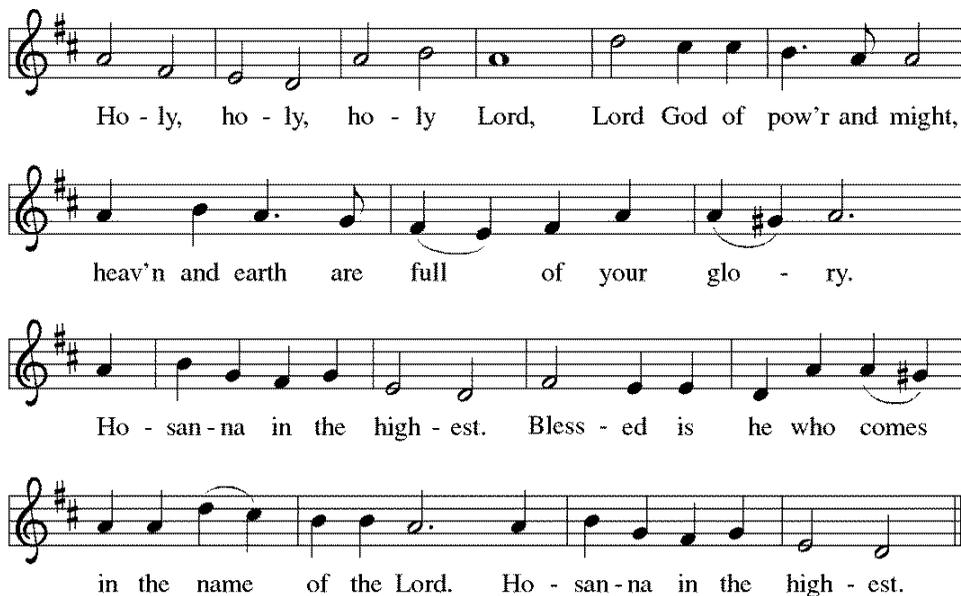
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.

*“Thy Holy Wings”*

**ELW 613**

*“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”*

**ELW 488**

(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

- ☐ 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

*“Give to Our God Immortal Praise”*

**ELW 848**

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



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## 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 Slight	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	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord Mary Jo Fike
Comm. Set-up	Mary Jo Fike

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jill Gittler Lowell Harms Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Kimberly Grassmeyer
Ushers	John Georgeson Jim Comfort Joe Councill Dave Forrest Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Janice Falk
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson John Groenjes

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum June Anderson
Lector	Steve Hinrichs
Ushers	Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Bob Woodworth Norm Sack
Greeters	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Communion Assistant Henry Rief



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

**October 12 & 13, 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 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** New Member Welcome Reception **NEXT WEEK:** Bible Sunday

**NEW MEMBERS** New members will be received this Sunday, October 13. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them. Not sure if that person is a new member? Introduce yourself to them anyway.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** Kristin Boe and Pr. Hall will continue the First Communion Class from 12:15-2:00 PM in the Nave.

**LWR QUILTS** The quilts are on display this weekend, October 12 & 13, before they are packed up to be sent on to Lutheran World Relief. The cost to ship each quilt is approximately \$2.50. There are envelopes on each of the quilts. If you would like to pay the cost of shipping for that quilt, or several quilts, please use that envelope to make a donation and place it in the offering plate. Extra envelopes are available in the pews. If you would like to join the Sewing Group, they meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. You don't have to know how to sew to be a part of this Ministry.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS** In anticipation of your graduation from High School, you are invited to pick the quilt you will be presented in the Spring of 2020 from the quilts that are on display. Please pin a label with your name onto the quilt you would like for yourself.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**October 13 Sunday**

Receive New Members  
 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)  
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8<sup>th</sup> gr)  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 10:30 AM Executive Committee  
 10:10 AM deFreese Manor Board  
 12:00 PM Book Group  
 12:15 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Communion

**October 14 Monday**

Columbus Day (Observed)  
 No Pantry

**October 15 Tuesday**

Good News Deadline  
 9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
 5:00 PM Stewardship Committee  
 6:00 PM Congregation Council

**October 16 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship  
 6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class  
 7:30 PM Confirmation Worship

**October 17 Thursday**

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon  
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
 7:00 PM Circle 5

**October 18 Friday**

Wedding Rehearsal

**October 19 Saturday**

9:00 AM CPR  
 12:45 PM First Aid  
 3:00 PM Pugh/Kendal Wedding  
 5:00 PM Worship

**October 20 Sunday**

Bible Sunday  
 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-8<sup>th</sup> gr)  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 2:00 PM Bellevue Berry Farm

*(Continued from page 1)*

**THE DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!** If you had your photo taken by the photographers for the church directory, your free directory is available at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall. If you didn't have your photo taken but would like a directory, the cost is \$10.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The choir will be singing this Sunday during Worship

**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-8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

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

**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, January 19 & 26, 2020, 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 February 2. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by January 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

**MEN'S LUNCHEON** The Kountze men's luncheon is held the third Thursday of every month. Join us on Thursday, October 17, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP by October 15) Suggested donation is \$10.00. Our October speaker is our very own Brent Rasmussen who will be sharing with us some of the special sporting activities he is involved with. Our November speaker will be Steve McCoy who is director of the Omaha Airport Authority. You never know what is going to be on the menu but you can bet it will be good. Please RSVP to the church office or jim@kmlchurch.org the Tuesday prior to the lunch.

**PLANNING FOR YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE** Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is hosting a Will Planning Workshop on Friday, October 18 from 3—6 PM at Habitat Omaha (1701 N 24th St). Legal professionals from Omaha will be available to prepare and execute a will for you and your family. Transferring your wealth is one of the best ways to protect your investment and your family's future. Don't miss this opportunity! RSVP is required. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call Jenny Lemmer at 402-884-7793. Bring photo ID.

**FIRST AID & CPR CLASS** Saturday, October 19. All Ushers and Sunday School teachers are encouraged to attend the training and the Church will take care of the registration fee which covers the training materials and certificates. CPR, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Light lunch "Food by Jim" in the link, 12:00 – 12:45 PM. First Aid Training 12:45 – 4:15 PM. All other members of the congregation are invited to take part in the class as well for a small fee of \$20.00. If you attended the CPR training last year, you can attend the first aid training free of charge. Training will take place lower level of the Kountze Commons. Please RSVP to the Church office or you can email jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your spot.

**BIBLE SUNDAY** October 20, 9:00 AM Worship Service. Bibles will be presented to children who are 2 and 4 years old, and to children in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7.

**BELLEVUE BERRY FARM** Join us on Sunday, October 20, from 2:00 - 6:00 PM for a cookout of hot dogs, chips, drinks, and s'mores! There will also be time to explore the pumpkin patch (11001 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Papillion). We hope to see you there!

**USHERS STILL NEEDED** 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: 34  
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 177 11:00: 111  
Midweek - Noon: 11 Evening: 23  
Total: 356  
Pantry Guests Served: 343  
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22  
Offering:  
\$16,225.50 (Regular) \$1,253.71 (Specials)  
\$1,980.00 (Phase 2)

**KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY** The Kountze Food Pantry could really use donations of toilet paper. We would love to have this vital item available for our guests, but the expense is significant and we have not had the funds available. Any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated. The Family Fare receipts have been pouring in. Let's keep up the good work! The Food Pantry will qualify for \$1,000 before we know it!

## Jesus shows mercy on a foreigner.

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

Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Elisha heals Naaman
Tuesday	2 Timothy 2:8-15	A good soldier of Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Leviticus 14:33-57	Purification of lepers
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:13-18	Encouragement to be faithful
Friday	Luke 4:23-30	God cares for foreigners
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise God for wonderful works
Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow

taking  
faith  
home

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“Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” **Luke 17:18 (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who care for the unacceptable, thank you for caring for me, through Christ our Lord, amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

God of grace, for food make us thankful, for family and friends make us joyful, and for our salvation, make us grateful. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious and merciful and give you a thankful heart. (Psalm 111:1, 4)

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

- Tell or think about a time you were left out of a group. What was it like?
- Are you comfortable or afraid when you meet someone who is different than you are? Why?
- How does God’s mercy give you courage to care for those who are different from you?

*Read:* Luke 17:11-19.

Paul Tillich, a famous theologian once pointed out that faith is accepting that the unacceptable has been accepted. According to the law of Israel, a leper was unclean and needed to be kept away from the community. Lepers were unacceptable—or at least those who are to be avoided. A Samaritan was despised by first century Jews. Not only does Jesus accept and heal the Samaritan leper—along with nine other lepers—but this leper is the one who responds with a thankful heart at the feet of Jesus. Just like Naaman, the enemy general from Aram (Syria), those who seem far from God’s presence and God’s people are included in God’s work of mercy and salvation. As Jesus says to the Samaritan leper, “your faith has made you well” (v. 19). God’s work of salvation often comes as a work of great surprise to us. How does God’s mercy give you courage to trust that God cares for you?

*Pray:* **Merciful Savior, thank you for reaching out to those who seem far from you; thank you for reaching out to me. Amen.**

This week’s scripture readings tell of healings. Improved public health care is needed in many parts of the world. Some of it is provided by missionaries who show God’s love by giving much needed food, clean water, mosquito nets, medical treatment, and other care around the world. How can you contribute to or support these faithful missionaries?

God is holy and awesome. (Psalm 111:9) Take a walk around your neighborhood and make a list of things you see that are awesome. Trees, buildings, the sky, and clouds are a few of the things you might see. Then sit down in your home and look at the list. God is bigger and greater than anything we see. Take time to say a prayer of praise to God and be thankful for “his wonderful deeds”, “the power of his works”, and “the work of his hands” (Psalm 111:4, 6, 7).

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121  
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8