

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

November 17, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST

*With Joy and
Thanksgiving*



GATHERING

PRELUDE

PRE-K CHOIR (11 AM)

*“My God Is So Great”
“This Little Light of Mine”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, healer of our every ill, source of unending mercy.

C Amen.

P Embraced in enduring grace and good hope, let us turn again to God, confessing the truth about ourselves.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C We come before you, beloved but broken.

We have not always treated others
as we would want them to treat us.

We have not always called out injustice and abuse.

We have not always been kind to ourselves.

We have not always taken care of the world
we share with other living creatures.

Remind us of who we are,
beloved children bathed in your love.

Renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people,
bringing healing to the brokenness around us. Amen.

P At every moment you are held in existence by the love of God, renewed by the Spirit within and among you, and made alive again in Christ. Receive this assurance in Jesus' name: you are + forgiven and freed to live for the healing of the world.

C Amen.



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ O Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom,
- ☑ **We know that all we have is received from your hand. You call us to be stewards of your Abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely. Teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in Jesus name. Amen.**

PRE-K CHOIR (9 AM)

"My God Is So Great"
"This Little Light of Mine"

WORD

(sit)

PSALM 104: 24-35 (*read responsively*)

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide,**

with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷**All of them look to you**

to give them their food in due season.

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;**

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;**

O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**

I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

³⁵**Let sinners be consumed from the earth and the wicked be no more.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!

READING

Hebrews 4:12-16

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. Paul warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

ELW 509

God’s word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:22-24

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **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 Roynesdal

5

- P** O merciful Creator,
- C** **your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

6

- P** Generous and faithful God,
- C** **we offer these things with which you have blessed our lives: our skills and talents, our time and possessions – all of them your gracious gifts. Accept these tokens of thanksgiving for the sake of Him who offered Himself completely for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

7

- P** Merciful God,
- C** **in the mystery of the Word made flesh you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

8

- P** Gracious God,
- C** **in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

ELW 678



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

HOLY BAPTISM (11 AM)

Alaina Jane Bailes

see ELW pg 227

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9 AM)

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 baptism of Alaina Jane Bailes, daughter of Corey Bailes & Courtney Ziegler

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Ailie Backora, mother of Tim Backora

Illness: Richard Bock, Joe Bonfante, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Rev. Harry Fink, Samuel Garrett, Susie Henry, Dolores Hiatt, Rosann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, son of Lynn & Nancy Meyer, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Mary Olson, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, 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; 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

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

Today we present our offerings and 2020 estimate of giving cards; these are signs of our commitment to Christ's ministry through Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. They are also a sign of our commitment to the future Christ is leading into as we reaffirm our commitment to make Christ known through all we do and say!

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Thanks Be To Thee"

Handel/LeFebvre

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.**

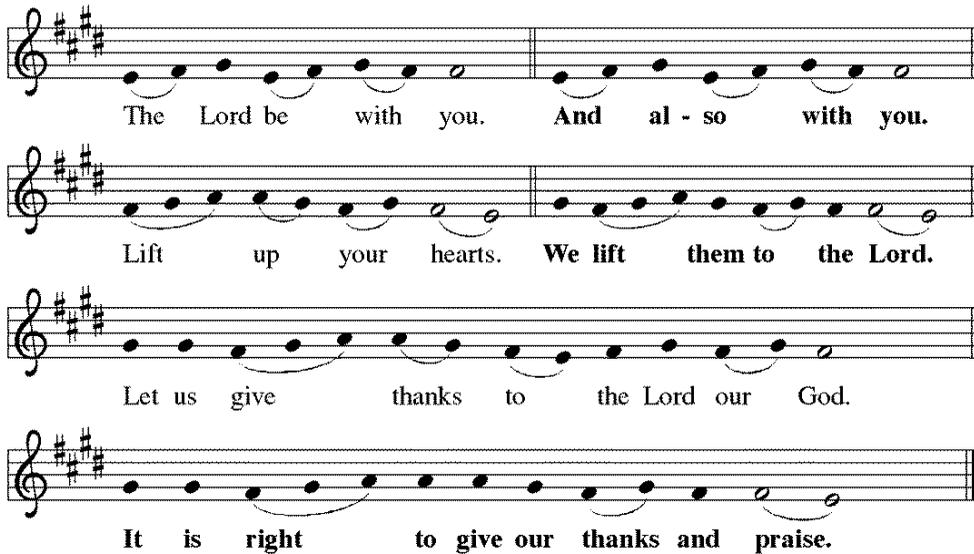
**God, we know we cannot pay you For your love in Christ your Son.
Gifts and tithes are just a "thank you" — Ways to pass your blessings on.
We have learned that, in our sharing, We receive more than we give.
By your Spirit, make us daring In this joyful way to live.**

Biblical References: Malachi 3:8-10; Romans 15:25-26; 1 John 4:7-8 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

- ☩** Merciful Father,
- ☩** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

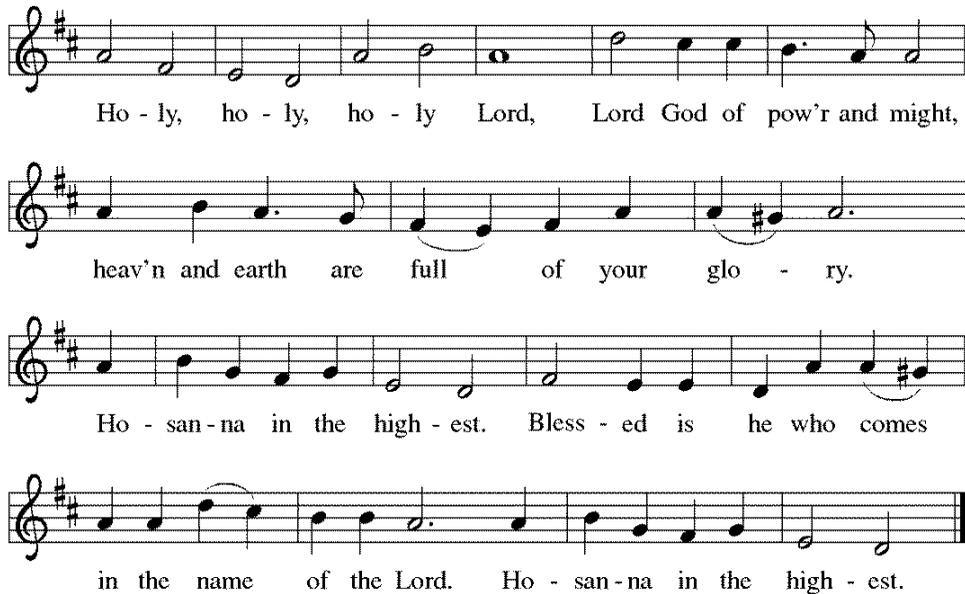
HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ 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

☐ God keeps adding places to the table.

☑ **Come to the banquet that has no end!**

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.*

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 685



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We thank you, Lord God our host,

C for inviting us here to taste the future when you will feed all the hungry at your table. Keep this hope alive in us and in our communities, so that we will bring hope to a suffering world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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SENDING

(sit)

BLESSING

- ☐ Signed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, you are Christ's message of love for this troubled world, written by the same Sender. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ✝ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies"

ELW 683



1 The num - ber - less gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not
2 Like all of the stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can
3 I'll nev - er count all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can



fath - om or tell. Like dew that ap - pears in the morn - ing,
nev - er be told. They shine through the dark - ness of mid - night;
give God my praise for all of that love, my thanks - giv - ing



they come to us shin - ing and full. The num - ber - less
their beau - ties can nev - er grow old. Like all of the
and love to the end of my days. I'll nev - er count



gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not fath - om or tell.
stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can nev - er be told.
all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can give God my praise!

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Set your hope on Jesus Christ.
☑ 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 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	Debra Kelly
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick
Comm. Set-up	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jerry Clanton
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Lector	Amy Kunz
Ushers	Donna Crouse Bob Johnson Rodney Nord Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Brad Madison
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Bev Troxel Lois Sorensen
Crucifer	John Groenjes
Acolytes	Dannika Rees Kaitlyn Munguia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Norm Sack June Anderson
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 16 & 17, 2019

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us each Sunday for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** ELCA: A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment **NEXT WEEK:** ELCA: Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent

BLANKETS FOR REFUGEES Nancy Meyer has been made aware of a great need for blankets for the refugees. If any of you have a good used blanket or buy a new blanket for these local refugees, that would be wonderful! You can bring them to the Welcome Center area of the Fellowship Hall by the end of November. Thank you and God bless!

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's birthday

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. The choir will be singing this Sunday during Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us on Sundays 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.

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

November 17 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 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
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

November 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregation Council
 7:00 PM Circle 3

November 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

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

November 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
 1:30 PM Circle 4
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 7:00 PM Circle 5

November 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 24 Sunday

Christ the King
 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-8th gr)
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

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 Thursday, November 21, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP by October 19). Suggested donation is \$10.00. Our 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.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE We will celebrate a DAY OF THANKSGIVING on Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24. A special offering will be received, to be divided between the Kountze Food Pantry and the Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic. Food (canned and box goods) will be presented during the worship service.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE All are welcome to attend the annual city-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving service at 5:00 PM, November 24, at Countryside Community Church (13130 Faith Plaza, on the Tri-Faith Campus). A special program for youth in grades 7-12 and pizza party begins at 3:30 PM.

THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH ST. PETER'S Will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th St.) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Volunteers are needed to: a) set up the night before; b) donate pies/desserts; and, c) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal. This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. In 2018 we served over 400 guests for Thanksgiving Dinner! You can sign up to help on the bulletin insert.

ADVENT FAIR Save the date for our Advent Fair on Sunday, December 1, between 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM. Make a variety of Christmas crafts. Fun for the entire family!

ALTERNATE GIFTS Watch for the Alternate Gift insert that will be in your bulletins beginning December 1. Find a cause or organization that would be the best gift for your friends and family. We will also offer hand-made and fair trade gift items on two of the Sundays in Advent. The BeadforLife jewelry made from recycled paper will be available for purchase on December 8, and the hand-made Christmas ornaments made by women in Vietnam will be available on December 15. As always, we will have goats, chicks, UN refugee tents as well as support for Kountze Pantry and the Weber Free Healing Clinic, along with other favorite gifts from recent years. Enjoy an easy way to get your gift shopping done and join us in doing God's work at the same time!

ADVENT MEALS AND WORSHIP Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 14. Dinner will be served from 5:00-6:15 PM. Worship is at 6:30 PM.

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!

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS FOR KOUNTZE PANTRY Our Food Pantry holiday meal bags will be distributed in December; 300 in total. This year's holiday food items include:

fully cooked ham (3 lb)

corn (15 oz)

green beans (15 oz)

pineapple tidbits/chunks (20 oz)

fruit cocktail/mixed fruit (14 oz)

cranberries jellied/whole (14 oz)

stuffing (13 oz)

mashed potatoes (13 oz)

cream mushroom/cream chicken (10 oz)

quart shelf sustainable milk.

These items will be placed in a reusable tote with a Christmas card and a prayer square. The approximate cost of the 2019 holiday meal bag is \$25. The food items have been changed from previous years to help maintain the cost yet provide additional food items. This project is accomplished by the generous support of Kountze Memorial and Saint Michael Lutheran members and friends. You are invited to make a financial contribution for this annual holiday give away. Your gift can be given through the offering, please designate to the holiday meal bags or through the on-line giving page (<https://www.kmlchurch.org>). Should you have any questions or want to discuss ways to support the pantry, please contact Susann Henry, director of the Food Pantry. You can contact Susie at 402-341-7761 or susannfrances@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 66

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 187 11:00: 135

Midweek - Noon: Evening:

Total: 388

Pantry Guests Served: 180

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$13,938.54 (Regular) \$1,942.49 (Specials)

\$1,070.00 (Phase 2)

Disney CRUISE NIGHT AKA "PARENT'S NIGHT OUT"



When: Saturday, November 30
6:00—8:30 PM

Who: Children ages potty-trained to 10 yrs

Where: Kountze Youth Room

Host: Kountze Youth Group

Dinner: Pizza, Milk, and Juice

Activities: Puppet making & puppet theater, crafting Christmas ornaments, and a Disney movie

Cost: Free will donation of a small, new, unwrapped toy

RSVP: Church office and/or Mike Jensen via email at mwjensen@yahoo.com

The judgment of God brings joy.

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

Sunday	Luke 21:5-9	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Monday	Malachi 4:1-2a	The day of judgment
Tuesday	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Warning against idleness
Wednesday	Isaiah 26:7-15	The Lord can be trusted
Thursday	Romans 5:1-11	Christ died for the ungodly
Friday	Hosea 2:10-16	God courts Israel in the desert
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king



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Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. **Psalm 98:8-9 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God of justice and mercy, free us from fear that we may speak of you with joy and gladness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, Lord for the food that we eat. Help us to serve others with our hands and our feet. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith in Christ to make a joyful noise to the Lord that you may break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (Psalm 98:4)

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

- Tell or think about a time when someone was judged unfairly. What happened?
- Has anyone ever judged you or misunderstood something you did? How did that make you feel?
- God's judgment leads to grace and mercy. How does that change our understanding of God as judge?

Read: Psalm 98.

Psalm 98 is a psalm of praise, praising God for "coming to judge the earth" (v. 9). God's judgment is an act of vindication, of forgiveness that puts an end to blame (v. 2). It represents an act of "steadfast love and faithfulness" (v. 3). We often fear the idea of God as judge, but without divine judgment, evil knows no end. God's judgment puts limits on evil and destruction. Our lives are cleansed and so is the earth itself as it responds with joy. The psalmist sings, "Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth" (vv. 7-9a). When Jesus tells his followers to be a witness to the faith when they are persecuted (Luke 21:13), shouts of joy and "singing to the LORD a new song" (Psalm 98:1) would be surprising—yet fitting—ways to testify to the goodness and steadfast love of God. In difficult times, have you been able to sing praises for God's goodness? Why or why not?

Pray: **Righteous God, through Christ you judge all things that you may have mercy on all that you have created. For your justice and mercy, we sing your praises. Amen.**

In Luke 21:5-6, Jesus and the disciples were in a beautiful temple. He told them that one day the temple would be destroyed as an analogy of what would happen in their own lives. It was a fearful time for the disciples, but Jesus told them that he would be with them always. Do you know someone who is going through a scary or fearful time? Think of something you can do to reflect the love of Jesus in your actions or words and reassure this person.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises" (Psalm 98:4). Use an instrument you play or make an instrument using basic supplies you have around the house. For instance, fold a paper plate in half, fill it with rice or dried beans and tape it shut. Or take a small, empty box and cut a round hole in the top. Wrap rubber bands around the box and over the hole to make a guitar. Think about God's creation, family, and friends and list what "marvelous things God has done" (v. 1) for you. After reading each item on the list, make a joyful noise with your instrument.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43