

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 40, Issue 5

May, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.
[Romans 8:26-28]

Is the glass half-empty or half-full? Perhaps you've wondered that as you watched/streamed our worship services. It is strange to see our sanctuary on Sundays. Stranger still to be preaching or leading worship when nary a soul is present. The only bright spot for me is that I know everyone who is present by name!

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is far from empty ... we are **deployed**. While we cannot physically gather, we are still the church, still serving, still being the people of God where life during this pandemic finds us. It could be we are simply ministering to each other as a household. Perhaps we do venture out and we wish others well, to be safe, to be careful, etc. Perhaps we have texted, emailed, or called someone and offered them the peace of Christ. Regardless, we are still the Church, the Body of Jesus Christ. The world – however large or small your world is right now – the world needs the good news of Jesus Christ more than ever. Jesus speaks the very same words to us as he did to those first disciples on Easter evening: **peace be with you**. That is the peace which surpasses all our understanding and Christ gives that to each of us. We are in his good hands.

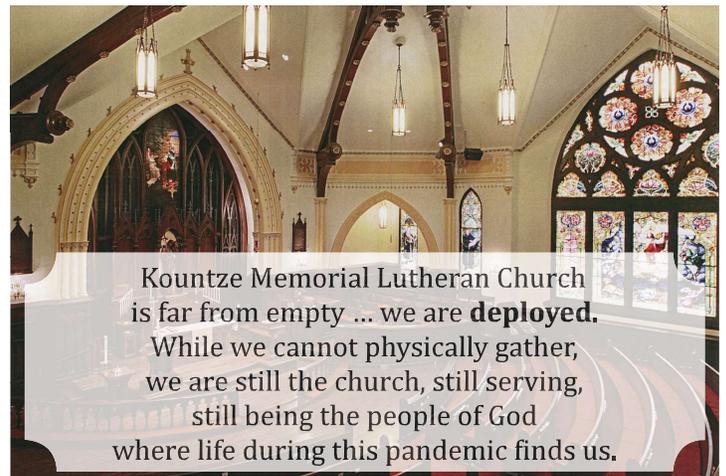
I miss you. So many of you I only see at Saturday night or Sunday morning worship, but like you, my world is much smaller now. Phone calls and emails help a little, but it is not the same as seeing someone and shaking hands, exchanging greetings and some conversation. At this point in time I do not know how long we will have to continue being a “virtual church” but I suspect it will be a while yet. We continue to uplift each other in prayer. Prayers must continue for all people, especially the doctors and

nurses on the front lines, first responders, truck drivers, delivery people, clerks in stores, students learning at home, everyone involved in the food chain.

I am also grateful. Grateful to you for your prayers; for your financial support of our continued ministry. Grateful to the volunteers at our Food Pantry (twice/week now) and the Weber Clinic. I am grateful to our Council and their leadership during this time. I am grateful to our fine staff, which keeps this place humming right along. Our thanks go out to those who volunteered to call our members and touch base with them. I am also very grateful to the crew that comes every Sunday to broadcast our service: Jim Smejkal, Ron Brown, Marv Olson, John Schneiderman, Mark Fredrickson, Amanda Schneiderman, Mike and Julie Bratcher, Melanie Bratcher, and anyone I'm forgetting to mention. Mark Jones and Barbara Carlsen have seen to it that our excellent music tradition continues in spite of everything.

We might be separated ... but we are still together. We thank God for the Holy Spirit, which binds us together as one Body, Christ's church. All things will work together for good.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal



NEWS and Notes...



March 25, 2020

Council Meeting held telephonically due to COVID19 pandemic.

Financial report given by Mr. Rick Kolkman. Church will be able to cash flow through May. Will continue to monitor offerings.

Pastor Olaf requested online streaming services be enhanced during the next three months. Motion and approve \$1,500 to expand streaming services during the next three months. Jane will contact the news media regarding advertising our TV/streaming services.

Discussion was had regarding expanded Kountze's mission during this time of great need. Pantry will be expanding to two times per week, adding Friday evenings. Pantry will seek additional volunteers to staff the increased demand. Clinic will continue to serve those in need during the pandemic. Outreach committee will staff volunteers to begin calling Kountze members to check in on their wellbeing. Other committees will continue to brainstorm as to how we can further meet the needs of the community during the pandemic.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Did You Miss A Worship Service?

Our worship service on April 19 was not aired on Cox Cable Channel 13 due to a glitch with Cox Cable. Live-streaming was available. But you can access past worship services at any time by going to our website: <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> and on the bottom of the page click Archive Videos. Perfect for "binge watching!"



Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Loan Balance, 4/1/2020..... | \$2,988,995.26 |
| Principal Payment 4/4/2020 | \$18,820.05 |
| Interest Payment 4/4/2020 | \$9,832.95 |
| Balance, 5/1/2020 | \$2,970,175.21 |

Finances: March, 2020

| | <i>March</i> | <i>Year-to-Date</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Total General Fund | | |
| Income: | \$ 118,933 | \$ 261,299 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Benevolence | \$ 2,500 | \$ 7,500 |
| Christian Education: | \$ 375 | \$ 789 |
| Facility Costs: | \$ 17,572 | \$ 44,195 |
| Staff Compensation: | \$ 47,083 | \$ 143,005 |
| Worship & Music: | \$ 139 | \$ 2,726 |
| Youth: | \$ 119 | \$ 151 |
| Parish Life: | \$ 1,459 | \$ 5,605 |
| Office & Administration: | \$ 4,915 | \$ 16,539 |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 74,162 | \$ 220,510 |

Food Pantry Report (1/1/20 - 3/31/20)

Balance, 1/1/20 \$ 51,520.26

Income:

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Donations: | \$ 29,483.94 |
| Memorials | \$ 36,987.94 |
| | <u>\$ 66,471.88</u> |

Expenses:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Costco | \$ 198.70 |
| Hidden Valley Ind. | \$ 3,455.66 |
| Family Fare | \$ 5,440.55 |
| Food Bank | \$ 4,932.53 |
| Other | \$ 152.64 |
| | <u>\$ 14,180.08</u> |

Balance, 3/31/20 \$ 103,812.06

The Food Pantry relies on your financial donations! Please be alert to the weekly needs of this important ministry!



Birthday Blessings

1. Edward Bass, Harold Gilliam, Carole Meilahn, Susan Peterson, Mark Phillips, Richard Ray
2. Morgan Crouse, Anita Morse, Shannon Picha, Jeffery Senn, David Tollefson
3. Henrietta Adair, Linda Johnson, Karrie Lyles, Beth Naylor, Teresa Valentine, Allyson White, Bryant Wolf
4. Linda Knutson, Lacey Bodnar, Lindsey Bodnar
6. Aubri Meldrum, Maxwell Szymczak
7. Diane Davis, Schyler Hopkins, Heidi LeClair, Helen Lowderman, Debra Putnam, Lynn Sherlund
8. Shirley Bonneau, Dean Herzberg, Jennifer Kropp, Giselle Loucks, Autumn Loucks, Christopher Miley, Richard Sieling, Jennifer Swinney
9. Charles Bressman, Brecke Plourde, Richard Portrey, Sarah Roane
10. Matthew Geiger, Rahn Johnson, Lucas Pestel
11. Natalie Backora, Diana Carrell, Sandra Kucera, Jennifer McCarthy
12. Dane Kucera, Jane Setterburg, Carol Storer
13. Elaine Adams, Harold Gillaspie, Pamela Johnson, Elizabeth Luczynski, Frederick Wachal, Leon Bockelman
14. Noah Curtis
15. Donald Berney, Shannon Fonda, Scott Fonda, Kay Jones, Lisa Montag
16. Jean Bowman, Jane Lynam, Brooke Reinert, Gretchen Mathiason, Terry Schatzberg, Spencer Link, Alyssa York
17. Tracy Fletcher, Nicholas Kanning, Dirk Petersen
18. Linda Ackerson, Amber Boehm, Frank Ferguson, Kate Jones, Elizabeth Larkowski, Courtney Senn
19. Sarah Clifford, Michael Johnston, Georgia LeClair, Erin Steffen, Melissa Titus
20. Krista Edwards, Donald Johnston
21. Olta Gjoca, Elizabeth Moldenhauer, Peter Smock, Lyn Ziegenbein
22. Rose Bartling, Susan Clark, Melody Diggins,
23. Nicholas Barrett, Samuel Comfort, Kevin Grisso, Norma Pafford, Stephen Pera, Lorna Swingen, Karen Wolf
24. Jackson Barrett, Justin Edwards, Brittany Edwards, Steven Thomas, Stephen Urlaub, Patricia Ranney, Clayton Damme
25. Mary Kersey, David Swift, Susann Henry, Mary Olson
26. Rebecca Brusky, Idonna Meyer, Denise Lewis
27. H. Hyland, Ashley Ingram, Emma Mirch, Jeremy Sarich
28. Laura Hansen, Stephanie Martens, Tracey Sweet, Dean Vancaster
29. Joy Borchman, William Bottolfson, Brandt John, Jackson Martis, Jeffrey Martis
30. Lawrence Battaglia, Melissa Hardersen, Brooks Hinrichs, Greta Rohrberg, Michaela Ruma, Amanda Sneckenberg, Noah Storer
31. Elnora Carlson, Marie Dixon, Dolores Hiatt, Kelly Rudie, Dan Shelby, Morgan Stouffer

Thank you so much to everyone who sent cards and made phone calls to wish me a happy 95th birthday. You all made my day very special.

Laurine Savine



Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fridays, 5:00 - 8:00 PM—note additional day & time
(Friday Pantry hours are 6:00 - 8:00 PM).

The Kountze Food Pantry is still operating at full force during these challenging times. We can only continue to operate if we have volunteers to serve. It has been inspiring to see how many people are willing to serve in the community. Just a reminder to sign-up online so Kountze can limit the number of volunteers in the building at one time, in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. The early shift from 7:30-9:00 AM is for unloading trucks and shelf stocking exclusively. 9:00-11:00 AM is for bag filling and serving guests. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM is for filling bags for Friday night, and serving guests. Please sign up for the time that works best for you. Thank you for your continued support!



<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

A Message from Bishop Maas

March 13, 2020

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'

Greetings in the strong name of Jesus Christ, our refuge and fortress, our encourager and comforter in every distress.

This year's Lenten journey is an unusual one, as rapidly changing news and large-scale actions regarding COVID-19 continue to unfold. The admonition to "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" seems a more potent reminder of reality this year. We in the Nebraska Synod office have received a host of inquiries about how congregations might handle worship practices, visitation, gatherings, and more; and questions about plans for upcoming synod-related events. Like most of you, we have no particular knowledge or wisdom about the underlying realities of pandemics or how populations respond to them. We rely on experts in the fields of medicine and public health to guide our decisions, and encourage you to do the same.

What we do have knowledge of is the Spirit of God, ever present and ever tending each member and every community of the Body of Christ. I'm writing to thank you for your ministry and for the many ways in which you make that same reassuring truth known to one another. I'm also writing to urge you to begin all of your responses to this moment's demands for decisions in this truth: All will be well. God is truly our "very present help in trouble."

That is not to deny or avoid the reality that we must make responsible decisions about our congregations' gatherings, worship practices, events and more. Instead, it is to begin with confidence that God has the last word, as always—and to understand that decisions made in conversation and community, using good judgment and common sense, will be the right decisions. Trust yourselves; trust those with whom you share leadership; above all, trust the God who says, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

In that trust, please be sure not only to strive to find answers regarding congregational activities, but to ask important questions as well—questions you may be the only ones in your community raising. Ask questions like, "how will we remain in touch with the most isolated among us—especially those seniors whose health keeps them home alone?" "How will those in our community who depend on school lunches or food banks have enough to eat while schools, and other public sources are closed?" "How can we be in prayer together even if we're not gathered in worship together?" In short, ask how we can be church together, witnessing to and serving those most impacted by this pandemic, especially those already marginalized and most likely to be overlooked; those to whom Jesus always points.

As our journey through Lent and through new challenges continues, know this: the God of resurrection, the source of all life, is with us in this and every moment—and that this same God has called each of us into ministry for this moment; for the sake of our neighbor and for the sake of the world God loved enough to give a Son. Thank you for responding to that call. Thank you for your faithfulness.

With my prayers and those of the entire Nebraska Synod staff,
Brian D Maas,
Bishop



Kountze History from the



Nursery Department - The Kountze Memorial Cradle Roll

1940's - Cradle Roll Journal - Mrs. Christine Hedelund, Nursery Superintendent

Have you brought your child to our Nursery Class? We strive to teach recognition of Biblical images, songs, counting, finger play with nursery rhymes and an enjoyable playtime with other children. The purpose of the class is to introduce early Christian training, which prepares the child for the Primary Department. It also enables the parents to attend Church Services while your child is properly cared for. We have graduation twice a year: on Children ' s Day in June and at the Children's Christmas program. This is an impressive graduation service for our 4-year olds, each child dressed in a white gown and mortar-board hat, who are presented with a Cradle Roll

Diploma by Pastor Traub. Class colors of white and blue ribbons are tied around each scroll.

Nursery Workers Prayer: *Not what we take, but what we give. Not as we pray, but as we live.*

Count your blessings, name them one by one.

And it will surprise you, What the Lord has done.

September 1947 - Kountze Memorial Newsletter

We are very grateful to Mr. Richard Gudath for our "ultra-modern white hospital type bed unit" and our "all white altar" with a cross and offering plates. These gifts, received from Mr. Gudath, display the hard work, long hours and fine craftsmanship of our nursery grandfather. Mr. Gudath was born in Konigsburg, Germany in 1884 and married Kountze member, Lillie Barth in 1906. They had one daughter, Dorothy Gudath Raddle born in 1911.



Our Nursery now has about 85 students each Sunday, attended by 28 white uniformed women as shown above by the "white hospital type bed unit."



1947 - Christmas Graduation Class in white cap and gown, standing next to the "white altar."

2020 - Current Nursery Superintendent is Norma Pafford. Her helpers are Sheri Tipton, Kyra Peterson, Lori Cameron, and David Pafford. Norma has been Superintendent of the Nursery for over 50 years, taking over after Bernice Boberg retired. Norma's husband, David, was listed in the 1940's Cradle Roll Journal as being a student in April of 1943. This makes David the current Nursery grandfather

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

Worship Times

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings, we are cancelling all worship services and other church activities until further notice.

In the meantime, be sure to tune into Worship on Sundays at 9:00 AM on Cox channel 13 or watch our live streamed service any time at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

A bulletin is available on our website as well at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



From the very beginning Christians have exercised the practice of sharing the peace. **“Peace be with you”** is a greeting Jesus himself used with his disciples (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26). The Apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words **“Grace and peace be with you”** (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2).

We pass the peace prior to celebrating the Lord’s Supper. At that time we leave the comfort of our seat, turn to our fellow believers, grasp their hands, and speak the words, **“The peace of the Lord be with you”** and receive the words in turn, **“And also with you.”**

The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21). What’s more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21). Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God’s call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

During this pandemic, when we are isolated in our homes, we can share the peace with our family members. But we can also contact fellow believers by phone, text, email or letter, not only on Sunday morning but also during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.