

Special Notice

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings we have canceled all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities at least through the end of May. In the meantime, join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 10, 2020

Alleluia!

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 operating as usual during the COVID-19 closings. We have modified our service to protect the volunteers and guests. It is important to limit the number of volunteers we have in the building at one time, so it is important you sign up at the link below, for a specific time if you plan on volunteering. We are in need of volunteers in May. You may sign up for 7:30—9:00 AM, which is specifically for unloading trucks and restocking. 9:00—11:00 AM is for filling sacks and distribution. 11:00 AM—1:00 PM is for distribution to guests. We also have a Friday evening service from 5:00—8:00 PM. We will be closed on Memorial Day. Please consider joining us!

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

Thank you to Pr. Olaf for officiating at our daughter, Pam's, funeral. Thank you also to Kountze members for your prayers, cards, and calls of sympathy. We appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers.

Jerry & Nancy Carlson and family

Today at Kountze

Sunday School

This Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on this page (KMLC Parent Group). In addition, I will be providing some printable activities that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities!

In Peace,
Kristin

Youth Forum This Sunday is Mother's Day, so no Youth Forum. Please put that extra time to good use, (i.e. no sleeping in!).

Sincerely,
Mike Jensen

PS: Remember that I'm going to ask you how you put that extra time to good use!

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Marvin & Kris Olson in loving memory of Kris' mom, Jean Nippert

Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 236

Pantry Guests Served: 226

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Offering:

\$13,114.00 (Regular) \$1,614.44 (Specials)

\$422.00 (Phase 2)



Christian martyrs witness to God's love.

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	A chosen people
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Hebrews 11:29-40	The faith of heroes
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Contentment in suffering
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit



"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." **John 14:12 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you send us out to witness to the work of Jesus; give us confidence and courage to be your faithful witnesses. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen the body and your word strengthen the soul to be your witnesses in the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the face of God shine on you and bless you through the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 31:16)

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

- Where do you see God's presence in the world?
- What does the life of Jesus tell you about God?
- John 14:12 is about a relationship with God. How do you help others have this relationship?

Read: Acts 7:55-60.

Martyrdom is too often spoken of today in terms of suicide bombs that kill. That is not a Christian martyr. Stephen presents the model of Christian martyrdom for all time. He innocently suffers and dies at the hands of others; he does not act violently. Stephen imitates Christ's death by blessing one's enemies (v. 60). He also experiences the holy bliss of being filled with the Holy Spirit and seeing the glory of God and Jesus (v. 55). He has a rapturous experience of the triune God. Few of us will have that same experience, but we are still all martyrs. The word simply means "witness." We are witnesses to God's living presence when we suffer unfairly for the love of God, when we bless others, and when we experience the peace that passes all human understanding. In the midst of a world of hate, violence, and self-promotion, it is not possible to be a faithful witness on our own. It is the work of God that fills us with the Holy Spirit, witnesses to the love of God, and blesses others. Christian martyrdom is all around us. Who has been a witness to the love of God for you recently?

Pray: O, Holy Jesus, give me faith to witness to your love, to suffer with others for the sake of love, and to bless others with hope in your Easter victory. Amen.

Psalm 31 is a prayer of deliverance from enemies. Even though there is suffering and pain, the psalmist writes of trust in the Lord and of God's goodness. Watch or read today's news. Who in the world needs prayer for deliverance from enemies? Pray for their deliverance.

Today is Mother's Day in the United States. It is a time to recognize and be thankful for those women in our lives who have cared for us and for others. Be a witness for God's love and reach out to a woman you know who deserves a special thank you with a phone call or a visit. Take time to talk and then say this prayer for her.

Lord God, thank you for (name). May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Please bless her this day and every day with your love and care. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21