

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

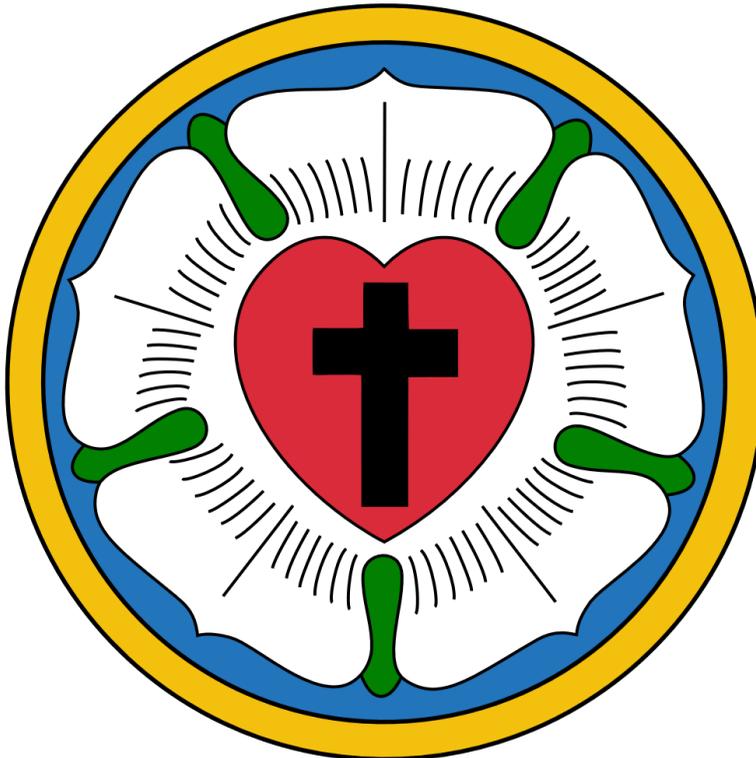
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

October 18, 2020

9:00 AM

TWENTIETH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

- P** Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts—a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts and kits we have made, to you.
- C** **We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material --making each piece we have created an expression of love.**
- P** There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life—how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world.
- C** **May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.**
- P** Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours.
- C** **Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.**

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Faithful God,
C **have mercy on us.**
**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**
**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”

ELW 442

1 All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation; baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation; through Christ's redemption they will stand among the glorious heav'nly band of ev'ry tribe and nation.

2 With one accord, O God, we pray, grant us your Holy Spirit; help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit; grant us to grow in grace each day by holy baptism, that we may eternal life inherit.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703;
tr. George T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

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 God,

C raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him — and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am

the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9 (*read responsively*)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

(stand)

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. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

CONFIRMANDS’ FAITH STATEMENTS

*Jane Kidder
Charlie Wachholtz
Jacob Weiland*

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

ELW 767

**1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me
from day to day.
Without your grace and favor
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior,
and lead the way.**

**2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages,
are always near.
Close by your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding,
in peace I go.**

**3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen
my steps toward home,
then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me
unto the end.**

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825-1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Neely Caitlin Edwards

Daughter of Patrick and Cindy Edwards

Baptized on July 30, 2006 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Jeffery Borchman and Siany Edwards*

Bible Verse: John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Amy Jane Fischer

Daughter of Joel and Esther Fischer

Baptized on May 28, 2006 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Sarah Roane, Todd and Drue Lovgren*

Bible Verse: Proverbs 31:25

*“She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.”*

Jane Margaret Kidder

Daughter of Mark and Tarna Kidder

Baptized on January 8, 2006 at Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Nebraska

Baptismal Sponsors: *Jason and Jessica Domec*

Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

Dannika Olive Rees

Daughter of Eric and Toby Rees

Baptized on November 27, 2004 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Scott and Peggy Hooks*

Bible Verse: Psalm 32:8

*"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you."*

Lawton Charles Rees

Son of Eric and Toby Rees

Baptized on October 21, 2006 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsor: *Courtney Hochhalter*

Bible Verse: Psalm 31:3

*"You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me"*

Charlie Otto Wachholtz

Son of Chad and Rhonda Wachholtz

Baptized on November 30, 2003

at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Russ and Mary Meyer*

Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

*"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Jacob Jeffrey Weiland

Son of Todd Weiland and Elizabeth Stieneke

Baptized on May 30, 2004

at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee, Iowa

Baptismal Sponsors: *Monica Marks and Troy Weiland*

Bible Verse: Galatians 2:20

"And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- P** Merciful God,
- C** **we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

- P** You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
 to live among God's faithful people,
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

- P** People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

P We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

- P** We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

- P** Stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Response from confirmand: Amen.

- P** Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig; to the family and friends of Douglas Lash; to the family and friends of Lloyd Peters; to the family and friends of Teresa Valentine

Illness: Richard Bock, Ron & Pam Brown, Don Burton, Carol Coffey, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer, Tom Jensen, Renee Johnson, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johnson, Rod Kammrad, partner of Ken Johnson & Ron Brown, Harlan Kirkvold, father of Steve Kirkvold, Marcie Lafleur, Rick Lieneman, Shirley McCord, Mary Olson, Patricia Ranney, Gary Rodene, Evelyn Sueper, grandmother of Melissa Osentowski, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, Joanne Worm, Mary Yocum

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woolsley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. 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.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Gilbert M. Martin
Paul Rath, *soloist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of

all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
- C** **You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

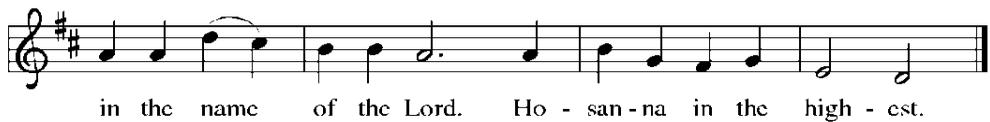
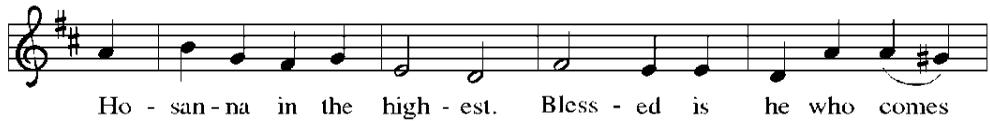
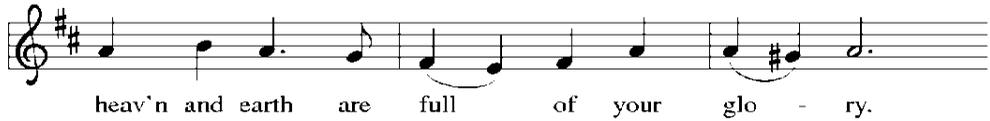
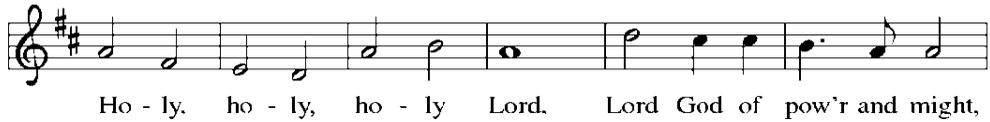
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER PENTECOST

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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

P Come to the banquet table

C where Jesus Christ gives himself as food and drink.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



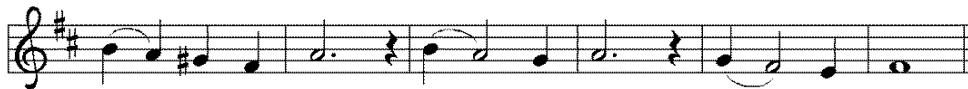
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

ELW 445

- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.
- 2 We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
One with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children heirs.
- 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your way!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** We give you thanks, gracious God,
G that you once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW 810

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.</p> <p>3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.</p> | <p>2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.</p> <p>4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Remember the poor.
G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still 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
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
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October 17 & 18, 2020

Q & A with Pastor Shari Duminy

Thursday, October 22 from 7:00-8:30 PM

We will hold a Question and Answer session with Pastor Shari Duminy on Thursday, October 22 from 7:00-8:30 PM. It will take place in person in the sanctuary (and the Fellowship Hall if necessary) and will also be live-streamed. Tim Backora, Chair of the Call Committee, will lead the session. Those present will have the opportunity to ask Pastor Duminy questions.

- Those live-streaming can email their questions to the Chair of the Call Committee, Tim Backora (tbackora@cox.net) by Tuesday, October 20.
- Those planning to be in attendance must register by Noon on Tuesday, October 20.

As has been the custom, you will enter through the Kountze Commons Link (west side) and exit through the Farnam Street doors.

Special Congregation Meeting

A special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on calling The Reverend Shari Duminy as Associate Pastor will be held Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Attendance at the meeting will also be permitted through Zoom.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of the 2nd wedding anniversary of Joel & Cindy Lavelle given by Cindy Featherly-Lavell; in memory of Bob & Chris Crouse given by Donna Crouse

Confirmation Sunday

Seven of our youth will affirm their baptism this Sunday. Their names are listed in the bulletin. We keep these youth and their families in our prayers.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 23

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 50

Total: 73

Pantry Guests Served: 800

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$17,158.04 (Regular) \$7,612.52 (Specials)

\$1,392.00 (Debt Reduction)

Lutheran World Relief Quilts

The quilts that are to be sent on Lutheran World Relief are displayed and will be blessed this weekend. The women have been working at home since we last met in March and we have about 150 ready to be shipped. We are always in the need of sheets, nice ones for backing and worn ones work for liners. Cotton remnants are also welcome to make the colorful tops. We are able to track our shipment by attaching a special label. Last year our quilts went to Montenegro in S E Europe and school kits went to Mali in West Africa. Our personal care kits from last year have not tracked yet. Hopefully, they were not in the Lebanon explosion, but the last word on that was they may have been salvageable.

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page. In addition, there will be pintables and activity suggestions that complement the lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact Kristin Boe at -kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in the green space on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. The 1st Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share (must be non-COVID related).

ZOOM: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Adult Forum

Starting October 18 (please note date change), members and friends of the congregation will have the opportunity to study Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520). The ELCA is encouraging study of this monumental text on its 500th anniversary. Pr. Hall will post videos for this multi-week study on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChtalSdEjyMBKlZjbGGlyfA/> The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: www.elca500.org.

God does great things through people.

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Isaiah 45:1-7	Cyrus serves the Lord
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The example of faith
Wednesday	Exodus 33:12-23	Moses' intercession
Thursday	Psalms 99	Our Lord is king
Friday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Saturday	Psalms 96:1-13	Sing a new song
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor



We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, use our gifts, our faith, our hope in you, to do labors of love for the sake of Jesus Christ and his reign on earth. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for how you provide for us and for the hands that have brought this food to us today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who has chosen you in love, give you grace and peace. (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 4)

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

- ☑ What is something you have accomplished and are proud of?
- ☑ How can God use your efforts—your deeds—for others?
- ☑ Is it a surprise that God can use your efforts to accomplish God's will on earth? Explain.

Read: Isaiah 45:1-7.

Cyrus is a Persian king. He is not part of God's chosen people through Abraham, Isaac or Jacob. Cyrus doesn't even know the God of Israel, and yet Cyrus does God's will by setting God's people free to return home from exile in Babylon. Isaiah lifts up the supreme power and authority of God's rule throughout the world. Besides the LORD, there is no god (v. 5). All that is, is God's. It is easy for us to forget that God can use others outside of the body of Christ to do God's will on earth. No wonder Psalm 96 commands all the earth to sing to the LORD (v. 1). In the midst of the tragedies that happen all too often around us, it is important to remember that we are a people of hope and trust in the God who holds all things together. The Apostle Paul wrote with thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' faith, love, and hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3). As a chosen people, Paul gladly affirms that they do God's work of love on earth through their "work of faith" and "steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 3). How does God's rule on earth give you hope and encourage you to act with love and faith?

Pray: God of power and might, we thank you for your glory that breathes hope and love into all corners of the earth through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is the ruler of all of creation and we, God's servants, have responsibility to care for all that God has created. One of the greatest concerns for our world today is to care for the earth that is suffering under the weight of carbon emissions, overflowing landfills and polluted air and water. What can you do to reduce the waste that harms the earth?

Psalm 96 is a song of praise to God. It tells of the sea roaring, the creatures and fields rejoicing, and the trees singing. In what ways do you praise God through sounds and music? Sing a favorite Christian hymn. Think about what the words say about God. Then say: **Sing a new song to the Lord! Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord, sing and praise his name.** (vv.1-2a)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46