

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
www.kmlchurch.org

February 27 & 28, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry Good News! and Volunteers Needed

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;
9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

We received good news! The state has re-funded the Farmers to Families program until June. This program provides a 28 lb. box of vegetables and fruit. They also provide 1 gallon of milk. This program is free for us. The only bad news is we rarely have enough volunteers to unload and prepare the boxes. We still need volunteers to carry out food to the cars of our guests. We have shopping carts to assist the volunteers, so you only have to lift into and out of the cart. You will be paid handsomely with coffee and Barb's cookies! Please consider helping them out by volunteering at the link below:

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

Youth Summer Trip

Summer Trip Planning is continuing to take place. Let us know of your interest so you can be informed about our plans. An email to Pastor Shari (shari@kmlchurch.org) will greatly help in the planning.

Register for Summer Camp!

Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/schedule>

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 29

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 52

Wednesday Attendance: 27

Total: 108

Streaming Attendance: 189

Pantry Guests Served: 964

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$12,194.00 (Regular) \$907.69 (Specials)

\$582.00 (Debt Reduction)

to register. Note: all deposits are fully refundable for the 2021 summer camp season. All summer camp registrations are done on a secure online registration site called UltraCamp. Directions for registration will be on the camp website.

Women's Quilt Group

We are in need of cotton fabric remnants and old sheets to use in quilts. If you have any sitting in your closets that you're not going to use, please let us take them off your hands! They will be put to good use in a quilt and is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Please bring any fabric donations to the church office. Thank you!

Today at Kountze

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Pam & Bob Johnson to welcome Pr. Shari Duminy to Kountze Memorial.

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.

Youth Forum

In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM

All 9th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Fellowship Lounge and on Zoom each week

1st Sunday: Current Events (non-COVID related)

2nd Sunday: Bible Ponderings

3rd Sunday: Serving in the World and Games

4th Sunday: Checking In and Sharing Hopes

5th Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us.)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or

shari@kmlchurch.org if you need the Zoom Link info.

We will continue to be masked and physically distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

The difficulty and joy of discipleship.

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise
Wednesday	2 Timothy 2:1-13	A good soldier of Christ
Thursday	2 Timothy 2:14-26	A worker approved by God
Friday	Proverbs 8:32-36	Listen to what you are taught
Saturday	Psalms 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple



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“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” Mark 8:35 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to remember that it is in giving that we receive and in caring for others that we experience the joy of following Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you satisfy us with this food and for all that blesses us this day, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who gives life to the dead and who calls into existence things that do not exist bless you with faith. (Romans 4:17b)

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

- What is something you didn't want to do because it was too difficult?
- Do you think it is difficult to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- How would you describe a life of faith that lives for others?

Read: Mark 8:31-38.

These are some of the most difficult words to hear as followers of Jesus. To truly live as people of God, we are to live for the needs of others, just as Jesus did. It is hard for Peter—and us—to hear that Christ must suffer and die a criminal's death before rising to glory. It is hard for us to imagine picking up the cross, the tool of torture and death, and courageously walk with it daily for the sake of the good news of Christ and the needs of others. The Gospel of Mark is not a happy text for disciples. The Gospel ends with Jesus' followers running away and Peter denying his Lord in the courtyard of the high priest. Our challenge is not to run away and deny the needs of others. According to Mark, we don't do this well. The good news is that Jesus never gives up on us. To the disciples who ran away from him and denied him, he says in essence, “meet me in Galilee, where your ministry and life will truly begin” (Mark 16:7). By the end of Mark, there are no great stories of bravery and success of the disciples. What exists is a promise that Jesus will go before them and be with them into the future. The disciples will continue to hear Jesus' words, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (v. 34). What have you found to be difficult to do as a follower of Jesus? What have you found to be a joy as a follower?

Pray: Dear God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Making pretzels is a Lenten tradition. Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer and can remind us to pray to God for our needs and the needs of others. Choose some people beyond your household to pray for by name this week. Make or buy pretzels to give to them as a sign that you are praying for them.

Jesus tells us that following him means taking up our cross, that is, saying no to ourselves and sometimes suffering for him. This week make a cross from wood, card stock, or other materials. Hold the cross during your devotional time this week while reading the Daily Bible Readings. Say the Prayer for the Week and add your own prayers. End the time by saying: Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22