

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
H. Ashely Hall, Associate Pastor  
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2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 11, 2021

9:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER



*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, Holy Spirit, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,**

**known and unknown,**

**things we have done**

**and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you,**

**and uphold us by your Spirit,**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- 1** Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2** Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev’ry place and time.
- 3** In ev’ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4** Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5** Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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### EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- 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** with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

**N**ow the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 133 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

**For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.**

## SECOND READING

1 John 1:1—2:2

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

**W**e declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

📖 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. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 20:19-31**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

**W**hen it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, *“Peace be with you.”* <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”* <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, *“Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, *“We have seen the Lord.”* But he said to them, *“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, *“Peace be with you.”* <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, *“Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”* <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, *“My Lord and my God!”* <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, *“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”*

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING

### SERMON

*Pastor Roynesdal*

*(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

## Sydney Ruth Lawrence

Daughter of Brian and Kelly Lawrence  
Baptized on July 31, 2007 at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Baptismal Sponsors: Trent Pearson and Kate Lawrence  
Bible Verse: 1 Timothy 6:12

*“Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life,  
to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

## Madeline Paige Rief

Daughter of Jeff Rief and Erica Freeman  
Baptized on July 27, 2007 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
Baptismal Sponsors: Rob and Sharon Schaefer  
Bible Verse: Matthew 7:12

*“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;  
for this is the law and the prophets.”*

- P** Merciful God,  
**C** we thank you for these sisters, 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 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 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.**

(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 affirmation of baptism of Sydney Lawrence and Madeline Rief

**Illness:** Lois Andresen, Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Mary Cook, great-aunt of Sarah Jewell, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Ron Muchmore, Julie O’Doherty, Mary Olson, Marce Picha, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Al Schewe, Mark Sullivan, Helen Taylor, Donovan Thorell, Sheri Tipton, Nancy Tunzer, Dorothy Vancaster, John Waterman, Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, 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; 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 you 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 visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Mark Hayes  
Nick Pignatore, *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** God of love,
- C** you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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.' The melody is simple and homophonic, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

## PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

### 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 image shows a musical score for the 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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 melody is more complex than the Thanksgiving, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs.

## 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

- ☐ The risen Christ invites us to this table.
- ☑ **Come, eat and be satisfied.**

### 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 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.*

*Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(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.

- 1** Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought forth Israel  
into joy from sadness,  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.
- 2** 'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ has burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun has risen.  
All the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from the Light to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.
- 3** Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strain  
Jesus' resurrection!
- 4** Neither could the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal  
hold you as a mortal:  
but today, among your own,  
you appear, bestowing  
your deep peace, which evermore  
passes human knowing.
- 5** Alleluia! now we cry  
to our Lord immortal,  
who triumphant burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
Alleluia! with the Son  
God the Father praising;  
Alleluia! yet again  
to the Spirit raising.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754;  
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

- 1 **Hallelujah! Jesus lives!**  
He is now the Living One;  
from the gloomy halls of death  
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,  
bright forerunner to the skies  
of his people, yet to rise.
- 2 **Jesus lives! Why do you weep?**  
Why that sad and mournful sigh?  
Christ who died our brother here  
lives our brother still on high,  
lives forever to bestow  
blessings on his church below.
- 3 **Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,**  
life eternal waits for you;  
joined to Christ, your living head,  
where he is, you shall be too;  
with the Lord, at God's right hand,  
as a victor you shall stand.
- 4 **Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.**  
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.  
Praise him in a nobler song,  
cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the victor king, whose sway  
sin and death and hell obey.
- 5 **Hallelujah! Angels, sing!**  
Join with us in hymns of praise.  
Let your chorus swell the strain  
which our feebler voices raise:  
Glory to our God above  
and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841;  
tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

*(stand)*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ℟** Wellspring of joy,  
**☩** through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love will bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Thine Is the Glory”*

ELW 376

1 **Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.**

*Refrain*

**Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!**

2 **Lo, Jesus meets thee,  
risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting!** *Refrain*

3 **No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors,  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above.** *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932;  
tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
☛ **Christ is risen indeed Alleluia!**
- ☞ The worship has ended. The service begins.  
☛ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## 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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April 10 & 11, 2021

## Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers and Clothing Needed Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM

9:00 - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Have you ever bought what you needed at Kohl's or JC Penney, received either Kohl's Cash or a Penney's Reward, and then wondered "What should I use this for?" Use it to buy underwear, socks, hats and gloves! If you wait until the end of a season and buy on clearance, you can get a lot for your money. There is a need for everything in our community! Please put your donations in the Food Pantry Box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you very much! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:  
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

## Explore Day Retreat Saturday, April 17, 2021 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Grades 1-6

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Cost: \$25

If your child is missing camp or has never been to camp, Explore! gives them the perfect opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building out

### Attendance and Giving

**Maundy Thursday:** 53

**Good Friday: Noon:** 55    **7:00:** 43

**Saturday:** 38

**Sunday: 9:00:** 150    **11:00:** 149

**Total Holy Week/Easter:** 488

**Streaming Attendance:** 360

**Cox Cable Attendance 3/28:** 319

**Offering:**

\$36,722.10 (Regular)    \$4,217.77 (Specials)

\$1,497.00 (Debt Reduction)

at CJH Camp. For more info. or to register, go to <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

## Camp Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills Summer positions available

Do you want to make a difference this summer? Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries is inviting you to consider working at Camp Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills. There are a variety of positions for 12 graders - College Age Adults looking for a summer job. Go to [nlom.org/smt](http://nlom.org/smt) to get started.

## Today at Kountze

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God given in gratitude by Pam & Bob Johnson in honor of Pr. Roynesdal for navigating Kountze through the pandemic

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored by Mary Olson in memory of her sister, Donna Baker

## Youth Forum

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

All 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Youth Room and on Zoom each week

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Bible Ponderings

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: High School Hang Out

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Serving in the World

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Host Middle School Hangout

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

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto: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.

*Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.*

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples



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*Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:29 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

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

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression "seeing is believing" mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

*Read:* John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done" (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, "Lord, I believe" (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Today's disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today's disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come "to see," to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

**Pray: Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.**

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is \_\_\_\_\_. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48**