

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

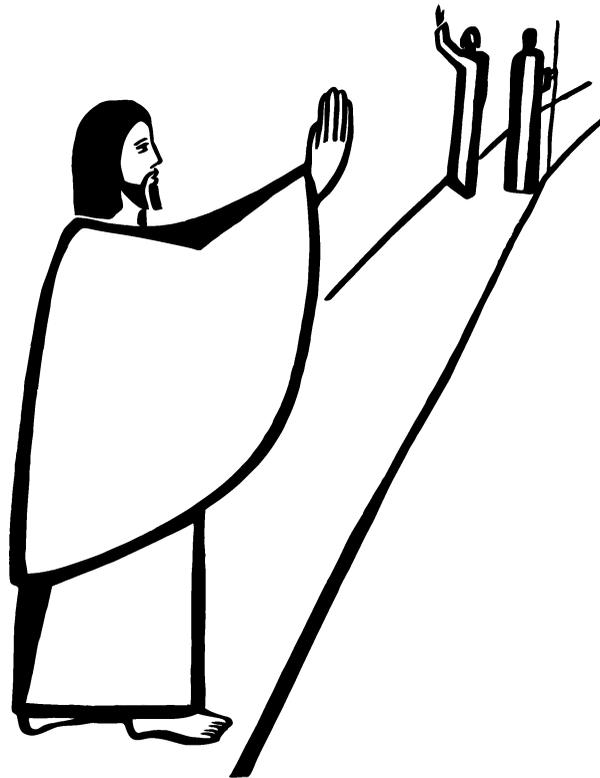
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 4, 2021

9:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** God our provider,

**C** help us we pray.

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from our ways.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life**

**and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

**P** Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C** Amen.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> My country, 'tis of thee,<br/>sweet land of liberty,<br/>of thee I sing:<br/>land where my fathers died,<br/>land of the pilgrims' pride,<br/>from ev'ry mountainside<br/>let freedom ring.</p> <p><b>2</b> My native country, thee,<br/>land of the noble free,<br/>thy name I love;<br/>I love thy rocks and rills,<br/>thy woods and templed hills;<br/>my heart with rapture thrills<br/>like that above.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Let music swell the breeze,<br/>and ring from all the trees<br/>sweet freedom's song;<br/>let mortal tongues awake;<br/>let all that breathe partake;<br/>let rocks their silence break,<br/>the sound prolong.</p> <p><b>4</b> Our fathers' God, to thee,<br/>author of liberty,<br/>to thee we sing:<br/>long may our land be bright<br/>with freedom's holy light.<br/>Protect us by thy might,<br/>great God, our king.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1808-1895

### 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.
- G** And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** God of the covenant,
- G** in our baptism, you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 2:1-5**

*In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.<sup>2</sup> And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me.<sup>3</sup> He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day.<sup>4</sup> The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “*Thus says the Lord God.*”<sup>5</sup> Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 123 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>To you I lift up my eyes,  
to you enthroned in the heavens.

**<sup>2</sup>As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.**

<sup>3</sup>Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,  
**<sup>4</sup>too much of the scorn of the in-dolent rich,  
and of the derision of the proud.**

## SECOND READING

**2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

*Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.*

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows.<sup>3</sup> And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—<sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.<sup>5</sup> On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.<sup>6</sup> But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me,<sup>7</sup> even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too

elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 6:1-13**

*At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.*

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.<sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “*Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!*”<sup>3</sup>*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?*” And they took offense at him.<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “*Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.*”<sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.<sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching.<sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.<sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;<sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.<sup>10</sup>He said to them, “*Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.*”<sup>11</sup>*If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.*”<sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.<sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING

## SERMON

*Pastor Duminy*

(stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”*

**ELW 579**

**1 Lord, you give the great commission:  
"Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission,  
and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose  
with renewed integrity:**

*Refrain*

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us  
for the work of ministry.**

**2 Lord, you call us to your service:  
"In my name baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust your promise,  
life abundant meant for each,  
give us all new fervor, draw us  
closer in community: *Refrain***

**3 Lord, you make the common holy:  
"This my body, this my blood."  
Let us all, for earth's true glory,  
daily lift life heavenward,  
asking that the world around us  
share your children's liberty: *Refrain***

**4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:  
"Father, what they do, forgive."  
Yet we hoard as private treasure  
all that you so freely give.  
May your care and mercy lead us  
to a just society: *Refrain***

**5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
"I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring,  
may we serve as you intend  
and, amid the cares that claim us,  
hold in mind eternity: *Refrain***

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934  
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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Response:** ☐ Lord, in your mercy,  
☑ **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 baptism of Watson Kurtis Featherly-Lavelle, son of Joel Lavelle & Cindy Featherly-Lavelle

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Sandie Chavalier, family of Betty Callies, Sydney Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Rik Hooper, Renee Johnson, Mark Kidder, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, 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.**

## **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!*



### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*“As Long As I Have Breath”*

by Sue Farrar  
Barbara Carlsen, *soloist*

### **THE TABLE IS PREPARED**

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(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** Jesus, Bread of life,
- C** you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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 four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. 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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

## PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

### 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 four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. 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', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.'

## 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** Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

**C** **Come!**

## THE 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.*

## 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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Now the silence<br/>         Now the peace<br/>         Now the empty hands uplifted<br/>         Now the kneeling<br/>         Now the plea<br/>         Now the Father's arms in welcome</p>  | <p><b>2</b> Now the hearing<br/>         Now the pow'r<br/>         Now the vessel brimmed for pouring<br/>         Now the body<br/>         Now the blood<br/>         Now the joyful celebration</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> Now the wedding<br/>         Now the songs<br/>         Now the heart forgiven leaping<br/>         Now the Spirit's visitation<br/>         Now the Son's epiphany<br/>         Now the Father's blessing<br/>         Now<br/>         Now<br/>         Now</p> |   |

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
 Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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*"How Firm a Foundation"*

- 1** How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
 is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
 What more can he say than to you he has said  
 who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2** "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3** "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
 my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
 your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4** "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
 my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
 like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

*Refrain*

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain***
- 2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain***
- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain***
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain***

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Text © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*(stand)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ☐ Jesus, Bread of life,**
- ☑ we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ The blessing of the Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“We Are All One in Mission”*

ELW 576

- 1 We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.**
- 2 We all are called for service,  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are diff'rent;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.**
- 3 Now let us be united,  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
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## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
☑ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

† † †

## Special Notice

Reservations not required  
Vaccinated—Masks optional  
Not vaccinated—Masks required  
Please maintain a minimum of 3 feet  
between non-family members

You may still join us for Worship on Cox  
channel 13 or live streamed at [https://  
www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/)



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 3 & 4, 2021

## Kountze Food Pantry

### Volunteers Needed:

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9 AM, 9 - 11 AM, 11 AM - 1 PM**

**Fridays, 4 - 7 PM**

The Kountze Food Pantry is pleased to announce that our fresh produce boxes from the Farmers to Families program has been re-upped. This program provides a 25 lb. box for each person, filled with fresh vegetables and fruit. This will go through the rest of the year. The program is free for the congregation.

We are in great need of toilet paper! We only provide it on request, but apparently there is a great need for it. Please leave your donations in the box in fellowship hall, or in the office. We also need new or like new reusable tote bags (we cannot reuse plastic grocery sacks), cereal, and full-sized hygiene products. Please place your donated items in the shopping cart as you enter for church, in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall, or in the church office. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:

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

## Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Dr Gary & Judy Westerman in honor of their daughter, Lt Col/ Dr. Amy Dyer, on her retirement of 20 years of service with the United States Air Force Dental Corps .

## Attendance and Giving

**Saturday Attendance:** 35

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 125

**Wednesday Attendance:** 8

**Total:** 168

**Streaming Attendance:** 69

**Cox Cable Attendance:** 210

**Pantry Guests Served:** 881

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 25

### Offering:

\$13,565.00 (Regular)      \$1,144.79 (Specials)

\$857.00 (Debt Reduction)

## Coffee Hour

Please feel free to stop for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following service today. We need volunteers to help serve coffee and cookies. If you can help, please see Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)).

## Holy Play

**Ages 3 yrs - 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Sundays through August 29**

**10:15 - 11:00 AM**

Children from 3 years to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join Pastor Shari and the Middle and High School Youth in the Kountze Green Space each Sunday. (June 20 – August 29) We will be playing games, singing songs, sharing a snack, and getting to know each other better. Parents are encouraged to share coffee time with others or join in the fun!

## Congregation Meeting for Elections

**Our regular Election Meeting will be held on  
Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall**

This year's nominating committee consists of outgoing Council members  
Scott Henneman,  
Kathe Andersen,  
Donald Johnson, Jim Marcum, Bruce Nissen, and  
Liz Pemberton.



The term of Scott Henneman ends and a replacement is needed. The terms of Mike Jensen, Ann Miller, and Steve Hinrichs are complete but all are eligible for re-election. Sarah Penn's term is up on the Endowment Board and she is eligible for another term.

Persons interested in any of these positions for themselves or to nominate someone else should forward name(s) to Pastor Olaf ([olaf@kmlchurch.org](mailto:olaf@kmlchurch.org)).

## *Disciples trust in the power of Jesus.*

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

Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve
Monday	Ezekiel 2:1-5	The Lord chooses Ezekiel
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Paul's vision
Wednesday	2 Peter 1:3-11	The Christian's call to love
Thursday	Luke 9:1-6	The disciples' mission
Friday	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist



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*But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)*

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

Almighty God, help us to trust that through weakness you show power and through our human frailty you do great acts of love and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Dear God, just as you feed us through the work of many hands, help us to be mindful of the kindness of others that blesses us daily. Amen.

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

May the power and strength of God bless you with mercy and grace.

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

- Tell or think of a time that you needed the help of someone.
- What is it like to depend on the kindness of others when you need help?
- Jesus sends his disciples out into the world needing the kindness and hospitality of others. How is showing hospitality to others and receiving it ourselves the work of the church?

*Read:* Mark 6:1-13.

Jesus goes to his hometown and is astonished at the people's lack of trust and belief in him. Because of that, he was only able to use his power to heal a few sick people. The townspeople rejected his authority. Ironically, that same authority is given to his disciples and they are able to go out and do many great deeds of casting out demons and curing the sick. This passage makes at least three important points about discipleship: 1) followers of Jesus will experience the same rejection Jesus did, 2) Jesus' authority is enough to do great things in the reign of God, and 3) disciples go out defenseless, without needing extra provisions and depend on the hospitality and kindness of strangers. The third point is a difficult one for us today. We would rather be the host. However, Jesus calls us to receive the help and kindness of others, especially the stranger who welcomes us in and takes care of us. In our weakness, God's power is revealed. When have you been blessed by being the recipient of the hospitality of others, especially someone you don't know well?

**Pray: Dear God, in human frailty and need your power is made known. Bless us in our relationships with others that your love may be made known through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

It is a valuable gift to host others in your home. However, it is also an important gift to the outreach of the church to accept the hospitality of others. When have you been a guest of another person's hospitality? Did you feel you were the recipient of God's love as you received the hospitality of others? Explain.

Psalm 123 is a psalm for people making a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem. Identify sacred places in your own pilgrimage or faith journey on earth as a follower of Jesus. Maybe it is a place in your own home, congregation, or the home of a loved one. Talk or think about what you like to do in that sacred space, and give thanks for God's presence in your life. Conclude by praying: **God of glory and might, thank you for revealing yourself to us and for special places that make us feel especially close to you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13**