

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

September 5, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G 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 Most merciful God,

G we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. 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.

G Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!</p> | <p>3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
your work and defend you;
surely his goodness
and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.</p> |
| <p>2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er
all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of
an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?</p> | <p>4 Praise to the Lord!
Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!</p> |

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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.
- G** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Gracious God,
- G** throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146 (read responsively)

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "*Have a seat here, please,*" while to the one who is poor you say, "*Stand there,*" or, "*Sit at my feet,*" ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" also said, "*You shall not murder.*" Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "*Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,*" and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, *“Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.”* ²⁸But she answered him, *“Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”* ²⁹Then he said to her, *“For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”* ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, *“Ephphatha,”* that is, *“Be opened.”* ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, *“He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

ELW 612

Refrain

**Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

Refrain

**1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

Refrain

**4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.**

Refrain

**2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.**

Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **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: **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 birth of Madeline Leona Kreiser, daughter of Robert & Morgan Kreiser

Illness: Richard Bock, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Ellie Carlson, Gail Durban, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Mark Kidder, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Lorie Groenjes Nielsen, Mary Olson, 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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **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

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
- ☑ **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of text, the second staff the next two lines, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the final line. Each line of music is separated by a double bar line.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score for the Sanctus is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The melody is more complex than the Thanksgiving hymn, featuring some longer notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff covers the first line of text, the second and third staves cover the second line, and the fourth staff covers the third line. Each line of music is separated by a double bar line.

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 All who hunger and thirst, come.

C **The table is ready.**

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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

ELW 617

- 1 We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.
- 2 As once you walked through ancient
streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still
with pow'r to heal again.
- 3 You touch us through physicians' skills,
through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends
who lift our lives in prayer.
- 4 When nights are long with wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
your calming peace to know.
- 5 We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
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- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.**
- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who
weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another's pain
as though it were our own.**
- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great
heart,
become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.**
- 4 O Love that made the distant stars,
yet marks the sparrow's fall,
whose arms stretched wide upon a cross
embrace and bear us all:
come, make your church a servant
church
that walks your servant ways,
whose deeds of love rise up to you,
a sacrifice of praise!**

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- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice. | 3 Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do. |
| 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take. | 4 For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure. |
- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ℙ** We give you thanks, almighty God,
☩ that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

ELW 719

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.</p> <p>2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.</p> <p>3 From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.</p> | <p>4 The cup of water giv'n for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion in your face.</p> <p>5 O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
oh, tread the city's streets again;</p> <p>6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above
shall come the city of our God.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

† † †

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Taylor Brown	Exec. Dir. Kountze Commons

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

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.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of our beloved Mom and Grandma, Lois Carlsen, given by Barbara Carlsen, Douglas Carlsen, Janet, Nicole, and Charlie Campbell

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze Memorial or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week. You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast on the chart on the bulletin board outside the Narthex, by calling the church office and/or by mailing a check to the church and note what it is for, and who it is in honor, in memory, or in thanksgiving of in the memo of your check. Your check can also be put in the offering plate when you attend Worship.



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

September 4 & 5, 2021

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Monday, September 6—Labor Day

Office and Pantry closed for the Labor Day.

Yesterday's Youth

Tuesday, September 7

11:30 AM

**Program: "From the Amazon to Machu Picchu"
presented by Dick Sieling**

The suggested donation is \$5.00. The main entrée will be Peruvian Chicken with Peruvian Green Sauce served on the side (don't worry it's not spicy). Come enjoy the flavors of South America and learn more about this interesting region.

Sewing Group

Wednesday, September 8

9:00 AM - ???

We will meet in person at church. If you're not comfortable getting together yet but would still like to help, please consider making quilt tops for us if you are able. Everything helps. We are always in need of cotton fabric remnants and old sheets to use in the 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. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

Confirmation Program

In-Person beginning Wednesday, September 8

6:00 PM

The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7th and 8th graders and will be taught by Pastor Shari Duminy. We will begin in person on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 PM with a meal. Class time each Wednesday night is from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. During the year we will take a one-week break on November 24 and December 29 and will finish our year of study on April 20.

If your youth isn't registered for Confirmation, the registration form can be found at

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/confirmation/confirmation-ministry-reg-form/>

Adult Choir Resumes

We Need YOU!!!

Wednesday, September 8

7 to 8:30 PM

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. The Adult Choir will have its first meeting Wednesday, September 8 from 7 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 12. If you are interested in being a part of this important

worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is recommended. The director, Barb Carlsen, would like to hear you sing before joining the choir just to make sure that this group will blend with your type of voice. If you want more information about choir or would like to reserve a time to sing for Barb Carlsen, please call the church office at 402-341-7761.

Adult Forum

Sunday, September 12

We look forward to gathering together officially in the Fellowship Hall on September 12. The first few Sundays will be "generally program free" to allow for greater conversation and the change to reconnect. Then, in late September and/or early October, our programs will review the return of fall programs and opportunities. Afterwards, we will return to normal Adult Education programs and themes.

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 12

10:10 AM

Register for Sunday School at:

<https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/Registration>

God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 12

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church will be participating in God's Work, Our Hands on September 12. This is an opportunity to be of service to our church and community. There are 3 areas of volunteering available which are described in the online registration form. Lunch will be served to all volunteers. Please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org, or at 402-630-4578 with any questions. Registration forms can be found at

https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/GodsWork?fbclid=IwAR07CQ9MZyWH1L2P1pN8KZKxS89vZ7cJxBy_3IQMGh9qACdAN2Avjvrea6I

Book Group

Sunday, September 12, 12:15 PM

Fellowship Hall Lounge

The September selection is "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. This is a historical fiction novel about the WPA Pack Horse Library Project started in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to get people to work and promote social and cultural awareness of art, theater, and literature. Cassy Mary Carter is a Pack Horse librarian in Eastern Kentucky, one of the hardest hit areas of the country during the Great Depression.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

Vhshwp ehu#8#xqgd|#
Pentecost 15
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

Vhshwp ehu#9#P rggd|#
Labor Day
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

Vhshwp ehu#:#ixhvgd|#
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

Vhshwp ehu#:# hgqhvkd|#
9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Vhshwp ehu#:#kxugd|#
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Vhshwp ehu#3#ulgd|#
5:00 PM Pantry

Vhshwp ehu#4#7dxugd|#
5:00 PM Worship

Vhshwp ehu#5#xqgd|#
Pentecost 16
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Rally Day/1st Day of Sunday School
12:15 PM Book Group

Cassy rode her mule, Junra, to deliver books and reading material to the residents in the rockiest terrain of the Kentucky mountains. Cassy had to face the hardships of the terrain, weather, and prejudice of the citizens toward her job as well as being the last of her kind with a genetic blood disorder that caused her skin to be a shade of blue. The book is a story of courage, strength, poverty, and the belief that books can carry us anywhere.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 16

11:30 AM

Please call the Church office by Tuesday, September 14 to make your reservation. We will have a short update on the stained-glass windows and time for re-connecting. Suggested donation is \$10.00.

Worship Leader Training

(Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers)

September 19 or 26 at 10:15 AM

(two opportunities, choose one)

Please call the church office to register.

New Member Classes

Sundays, September 19 and 26

12:15 PM

If you are interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church or maybe even considering membership, please sign up to attend the New Member Orientation Classes that we are planning to be held in September (please plan to attend both sessions). Please call the church office to sign up or if you have questions.

Order of Saint John

Acolytes and Crucifers

Kountze members who are 8th grade or older are needed for these special roles in the 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services. Please contact Jeff and Robin Perkins at 402-339-5384 if you would like to be trained to assist in the worship services.

Senior High Youth Activities

Mark your Calendars and plan to attend:

- 9/12 - Rally Sunday and God's Work, Our Hands Service Day
- 9/19 - Youth Forum in Youth Room YG Bible Study
- 9/26 - Youth Forum in Youth Room Community Fun

College Students Contact Information

If you are a college student we would love to have an address and email so we can stay in touch with you. Please pass this information on to the office. Thank You!

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 24

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 101

Wednesday Attendance: 11

Total: 187

Streaming Attendance: 74

Cox Cable Attendance: 203

Pantry Guests Served: 972 (includes 270 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$13,736.00 (Regular)

\$2,109.48 (Specials)

\$1,130.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's love breaks down boundaries.

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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*[I]f you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **James 2:3-4 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.

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

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

Read: Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Syrophenician woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God's arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God's power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God's compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?

Pray: **Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: "The peace of the Lord be with you."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38