

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

May 22, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER



*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### THE EASTER ACCLAMATION!

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.
- P** We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.  
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.  
You call us forth and send us out.  
In lush and barren places, you are with us.  
You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more.  
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.  
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb,  
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

- 1 Creator Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
descend upon us from above;  
with graces manifold restore  
your creatures as they were before.
- 2 To you, the Comforter, we cry;  
to you, the gift of God most high,  
true fount of life, the fire of love,  
the soul's anointing from above.
- 3 In you, with graces sevenfold,  
we God's almighty hand behold;  
while you with tongues of fire proclaim  
to all the world God's holy name.
- 4 Your light to ev'ry sense impart,  
and shed your love in ev'ry heart;  
your own unfailing might supply  
to strengthen our infirmity.

Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. composite

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Bountiful God,
- C** you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 16:9-15

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

**D**uring the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

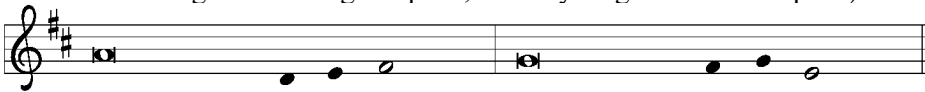
<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 67

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold print**)



<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God’s face | shine upon us.

**<sup>2</sup>Let your way be known | upon earth,  
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.

**<sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples | praise you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.

**<sup>6</sup>The earth has brought | forth its increase;  
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing,  
**and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.**

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

**A**nd in the spirit one of the angels carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 14:23-29**

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

**J**esus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, preschoolers may either follow, with all the other children, the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Hall*

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

**ELW 359 vs. 1, 3, 5**

**1** Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.

**3** Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.

**5** Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.;  
tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd.,  
Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

- P** God has made us God's 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.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **P** God, 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)*

**Illness:** Patty Baker, Richard Bock, Don Burton, Dorothy Cross, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Doris Kuhl, family friend of Dan & Kris Placzek, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Stephanie Stephens, daughter of Vinn Stephens, John Waterman, Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, 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

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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 or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Many Gifts, One Spirit”*

by Allan Pote

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“As the Grains of Wheat”*

ELW 465

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

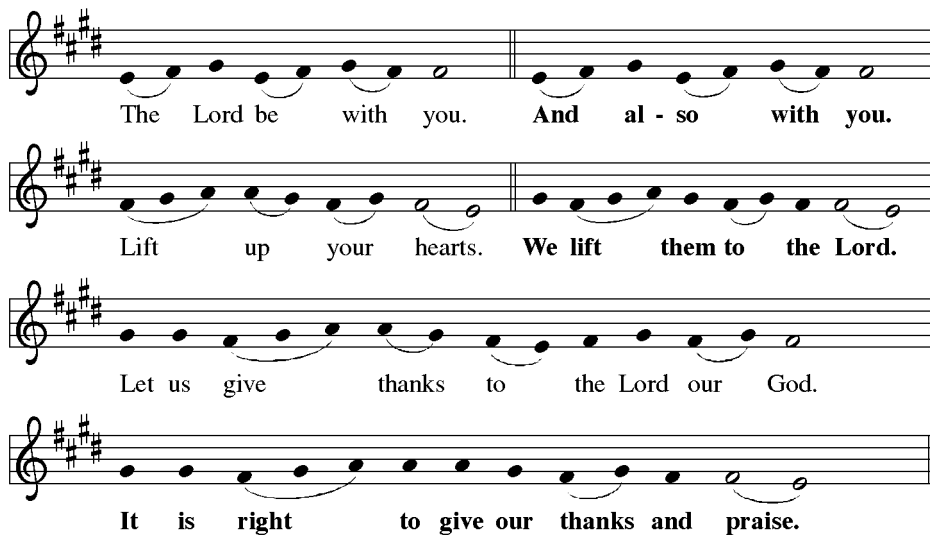
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Living God,

**C** you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## 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 melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to' and 'the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right' and 'to give our thanks and praise.'. The notes are simple, 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ☐ O God of resurrection and new life ...  
Grace our table with your presence.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread ...  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## 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.

## 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

☑ **The risen Christ dwells with us here.**

(sit)

## 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 who 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. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

**ELW 408**

**1** Come, thou almighty King,  
help us thy name to sing;  
help us to praise;  
Father all-glorious,  
o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

**2** Come, thou incarnate Word,  
merciful, mighty Lord;  
our prayer attend.  
Come and thy people bless,  
and give thy word success,  
and let thy righteousness  
on us descend.

**3** Come, holy Comforter,  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour!  
Thou who almighty art,  
rule now in ev'ry heart,  
never from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

**4** To thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be  
hence evermore!  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

- 1 O day full of grace that now we see  
appearing on earth's horizon,  
bring light from our God that we may be  
abundant in joy this season.  
God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
your name on our hearts emblazon.
- 2 O day full of grace, O blessed time,  
our Lord on the earth arriving;  
then came to the world that light sublime,  
great joy for us all retrieving;  
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,  
all shame and despair removing.
- 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,  
when he on the cross was hanging;  
and then he arose and moved the stone,  
that we, unto him belonging,  
might join with angelic hosts to raise  
our voices in endless singing.
- 4 God came to us then at Pentecost,  
the Spirit new life revealing,  
that we might no more in death be lost,  
its pow'r over us dispelling.  
This flame will the mark of sin efface  
and bring to us all true healing.
- 5 When we on that final journey go  
that Christ is for us preparing,  
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,  
all joy of the heavens sharing,  
and there we will join God's endless praise,  
with angels and saints adoring.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn;  
tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin.  
Augsburg Fortress.

(stand)

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We give you thanks, generous God,  
☞ **for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen**

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## SENDING

### BLESSING

☞ God, the author of life, Christ, the living cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

#### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

ELW 545

**1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.**

**2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.**

**3 Savior, when your love shall call us  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.**

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.;  
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

### DISMISSAL

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☞ Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

☞ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

✠      ✠      ✠



## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate 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 Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

May 21 & 22, 2022

*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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

### **Sharing of the Peace**

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

### **Children in Worship**

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a 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.

### **Nursery**

Our nursery is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it

### **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 attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

### **Today at Kountze**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God given by Joshua Schwieger & Katie McShane-Schwieger; given in memory of Cynthia Sacks

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored by Karen Bonneau in honor of Shirley Bonneau's birthday.

### **Children's Choir End of Year Celebration**

**Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**9:20 AM**

Come forward for the Children's Blessing as usual and then go to the upstairs choir room where we'll celebrate a great year of choir! We will return for Communion. We will look for you again this fall for another year of praising God with song! Be sure to invite your friends to join choir with you.

### **Sunday School End of Year Celebration**

**Sunday, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

We are having an "End of the School Year Celebration" with games, crafts, and food in the Green Space, weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have the party in the Sunday School room. Be

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

sure to join us on June 13 - 17 for Vacation Bible School at Morning Star Church (331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> St.).

### Youth Forum

**Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

All 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—Check-in for the last gathering of the School Year

### Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Sunday**—Survey of the Gospel of Luke

### Global Mission

Global Mission is collecting good used or new bath towels and shower curtains with rings for refugees in Omaha. There is a great need for these items according to Nancy Meyer when she visited Restoring Dignity, an organization that helps collect for refugees. A box is in the fellowship hall this weekend, May 21-22. Thank you for thinking of our local refugees.

### May is Blindness Prevention Month

During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 22 Sunday

Easter 6  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir Year End Celebration  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr) Year End Celebration  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### May 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### May 25 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### May 26 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord  
1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:30 PM Ascension Day Liturgy

### May 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### May 29 Sunday

Easter 7  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 30 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)  
OFFICE CLOSED

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## Ascension Day Festive Eucharist with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral held at Kountze Memorial

**Thursday, May 26**

**6:30 PM**

KMLC will host  
the joint  
Eucharist with  
Trinity Episcopal



Cathedral on the Feast of the Ascension  
ELCA Nebraska Synod Bishop Brian Maas will  
preach and preside. All are welcome!

## Omaha Storm Chasers Faith and Family Night Saturday, July 23

**5:05 PM**

**Please RSVP by May 27**

The Omaha Storm Chasers are hosting a Faith and Family Night. There will be a post-game concert by Cory Asbury (American Christian Musician). Gates open at 4:00 PM and the first pitch is at 5:05 P.M. They are offering \$15 tickets for groups of 10 or more. If you're interested in a Kountze group outing, please call the church office or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org). In order to reserve seats together. Watch for more details on the event, possibly a pre-game tailgate with hotdogs and chips.

## **New Member Class**

**June 5**

**12:15 - 2:00 PM**

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or think you would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next New Member class. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please call the church office to register and let us know if you need childcare. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors.

## **Service Project for the Youth of Kountze**

The volunteer activity for June will be assisting in making decorations for the VBS at Morningstar.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**June 13 - 17**

**5:30 - 8:00 PM - Dinner at 5:30 PM**

Save the date! Kountze will be partnering with Morning Star Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School! Dinner will be served at the start, with learning through activities to follow. VBS will be held at Morning Star Church (331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> St.). We will be looking for volunteers to help serve food, teach, and assist. If you are interested, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

## **Ordination of Adam Klinker**

**Held at Kountze Memorial**

**Tuesday, June 14**

**6:00 PM, Reception to Follow**

By the grace of God and the call of the Church, Adam John Klinker is to be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Brian Maas of the Nebraska Synod, presiding The Rev. Dr. H. Ashley Hall, preaching. Color of the day is red. After three years as vicar at Augustana Lutheran in Genoa, Nebraska, Adam has been called to serve at First Lutheran, Avoca, Nebraska.

## **Camp Carol Joy Holling**

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 – 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

## **Congregational Life Volunteers Needed**

If you enjoy cooking and serving meals, the Congregational Life Committee would like to share the good times in the kitchen with you! If you would like to serve in this way, please contact the church office or Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org).

## **Kountze Food Pantry**

The Kountze Food Pantry has moved back inside! It is wonderful to once again welcome our guests into our beautiful facility. This also means there are many volunteer opportunities for every desired level of participation. You can serve for 1 hour, for the whole pantry service which goes from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM, or any combination that best fits your schedule. We also need people at 8:00 AM to unload the delivery trucks. Volunteers can even serve by picking up donated bread and pastries from Rotella and Hy-Vee. You will find a sign up notebook outside the kitchen in Meeting Room A of Fellowship Hall, or you may sign up at the following link:

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

## **Thank you**

Thank you to all who have so willingly made desserts and/or prepared salads for the funeral lunches over the last few months. The families truly appreciate the effort. If you would like to help with funeral lunches, whether baking, making salads, or helping serve/clean-up, we could really use your help. Please call the church office if we can add you to our call list. Also, if you'd like to join the prayer chain, you may also let the church office know.

**Note:** If you haven't picked up your bowls/pans yet, they can be found on the counter in the Fellowship Hall by the back office door.

## **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 35

**Sunday: 9:00:** 135 **11:00:** 89

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 13

**Total:** 272

**Streaming:** 60

**Cox Cable:** 147

**Pantry Guests Served:** 881 (inc. 306 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 11

**Offering:**

\$7,301.12 (Regular)

\$1,675.53 (Specials)

\$732.00 (Debt Reduction)

*God leads, we follow.*

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

Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the counselor
Monday	Acts 16:9-15	Paul travels to Macedonia
Tuesday	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	River of life
Wednesday	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust God
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Numbers 6:22-27	Blessing for the people
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples

taking  
faith  
home

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*“When she [Lydia] and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us. Acts 16:15 (NRSV)*

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

Dear God, help us to understand how you lead us each day to care for others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Thank you, God, for giving us food; for the food that we eat and the friends that we meet. Thank you, God, for all that you do. Amen.

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

May the Lord be gracious to you and bless you and make God’s face to shine upon you. (Psalm 67:1)

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

- Do you make your own decisions or rely on others to help you make decisions? Explain.
- When is a time you felt God was leading you in your life and/or relationships?

*Read:* Acts 16:9-15.

Congregations are urged to establish vision and mission statements and make plans accordingly. In the midst of such important planning, it is important to remember who is in charge, who is doing the actual leading. We may take aim at ministry objectives, but when we arrive at the goal or destination, hopefully, we recognize that God was there awaiting our arrival. In Acts 16, Paul and his fellow missionary friends believe they are led by a vision of a man from Macedonia to go there. When they arrive, it is not a man, but a group of women whose hearts are opened, and it is Lydia who opens her home to them. Whether it is Paul in his day or we in our day, it is good to remember that it is not we ourselves who bring God to people.

*Discuss:* How have you shared your faith with others as Lydia did?

*Pray:* **God, just as you led Paul to Macedonia, lead us each day that we may bring joy and the good news of Christ to waiting hearts. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, where do you sense God is leading you to serve others?

Psalm 67 is a prayer reminding us that God blesses us and continues to bless us. Think or talk about ways you and those you know have been blessed by God. Pray the Psalm by inserting your name or that of another and say: **God, our God, has blessed \_\_\_\_\_. May God continue to bless \_\_\_\_\_; let all the ends of the earth worship our God. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26