

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
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

August 28, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

Save us from ourselves

and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

P Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”* **ELW 871 vs 1, 3, 4**

1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,
the author of creation!
O God of love, you understood
our need for your salvation.
With healing balm our souls you fill;
all our lament with peace you still.
To God all praise and glory!

3 We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
and came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
who is by one and all adored.
To God all praise and glory!

4 All who confess Christ's holy name,
give God the praise and glory!
Let all God's saving pow'r proclaim;
give God the praise and glory!
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne;
God is the Lord, and God alone.
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640-1690;
tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897, adapt.

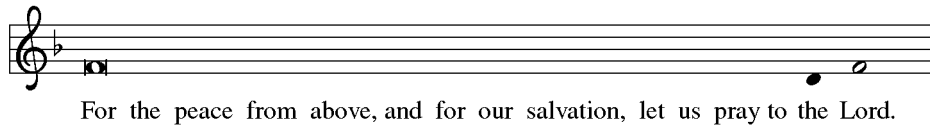
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐** 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.

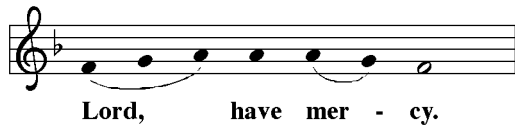
KYRIE



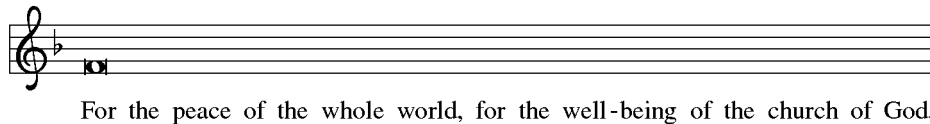
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



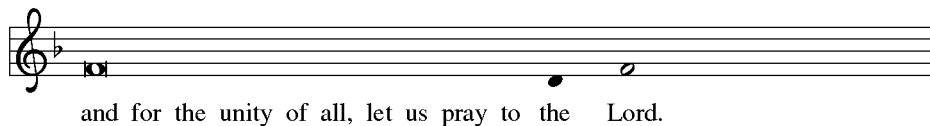
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



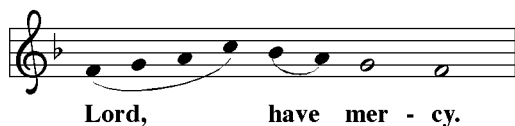
Lord, have mer - cy.



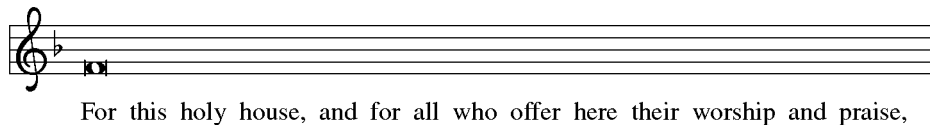
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



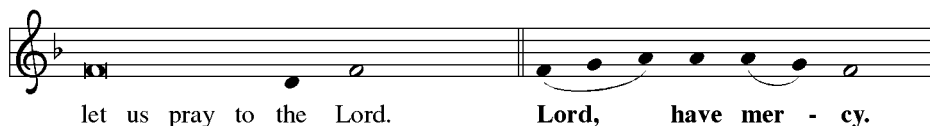
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



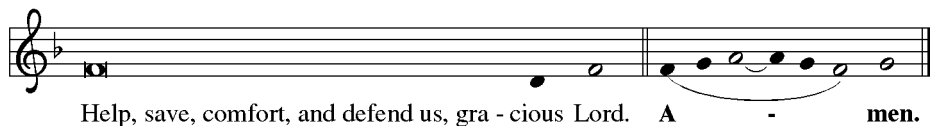
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

C you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112 *(read responsively)*

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

ELW 461

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.</p> | <p>2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.</p> |
| <p>3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.</p> | |

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Merciful God,
 C receive 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, Jan Bowder, Gene Buchholz, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Philip Frye, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville Knapp, Chris Meyer, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Paul Rath, John Ray, Stephanie Stephens, Dorothy Yeshnowski

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; Katie Larson, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*— 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

“Children’s Prayer”
(from Hansel and Gretel)

Engelbert Humperdink
Katie McShane-Schwieger, violin

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679 vs. 1-2



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God’s will is done.



For these gifts to ev - ’ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God’s will is done.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,



fu - ture needs in earth’s safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God’s will is done.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of abundance:
- C** you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

SANCTUS

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Creator: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
.
.
.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is your, almighty God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- 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.**

AGNUS DEI

- ☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☩ Come to the banquet.
☩ In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.**

(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

"Around You O Lord Jesus"

ELW 468

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Around you, O Lord Jesus,
your own you gather still
to share the feast you give us
with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
"Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!"</p> | <p>2 We hear your invitation,
and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation
is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing,
which never will depart.</p> |
| <p>3 We are your own forever;
until our final breath
we will be true and never
in joy, in grief, in death
depart from you, for you are still
among your people dwelling,
as you have said you will.</p> | |

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. composite
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you,
in thanksgiving bow before you.
Here with your body and your blood you nourish
our weak souls that they may flourish.
O Lord, have mercy!
May your body, Lord, born of Mary,
that our sins and sorrows did carry,
and your blood for us plead
in all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!**

**2 Your holy body into death was given,
life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to you could
bind us;
may this feast of that remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, your kindness so much did move
you
that your blood now moves us to love
you.
All our debt you have paid;
peace with God once more is made.
O Lord, have mercy!**

**3 Lord God, bestow on us your grace and favor,
that we follow Christ our Savior
and live together here in love and union,
nor repent this blest communion.
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not your good Spirit forsake us,
by this holy banquet remake us.
Give your church, Lord, to see
days of peace and unity.
O Lord, have mercy!**

Text: German hymn, 15th cent., st. 1;
Martin Luther, 1483-1546, sts. 2-3; tr. composite

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞** Life-giving God,
☞ through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

ELW 551

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.</p> <p>2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.</p> | <p>3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.</p> <p>4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB.

Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo,
Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.

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	Janitorial Staff
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

August 27 & 28, 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.

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 by Tom Holcombe in memory of his wife, Jean

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Tom Jensen in memory of loved ones

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Week:** Fellowship **Next week:** Welcome Vicar Reception

Back to School Celebration

August 28

10:10 AM (following the 9:00 AM service)

The youth of Kountze and their families are invited to a Back-to-School Celebration, hosted by the Christian Education Committee. Join us in the Green Space for games, snacks, fellowship, and fun. We encourage you to bring a friend to this event. The more, the merrier! Let's show others just how great our Kountze Sunday School community is.

Baptism Seminar

Sunday, August 28, 10:10 AM

If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, be sure to join us. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions you might have.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 28 Sunday

Pentecost 12
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Back to School Celebration
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Baptism Seminar
10:10 AM Picnic Planning Meeting

August 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study

August 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Call Committee Meeting

August 31 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship

September 1 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 2 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Welcome Vicar Potluck

September 4 Sunday

Pentecost 13
Homebound Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Welcome Vicar Fellowship

September 5 Monday

Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Bible Studies Continue

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Enter Through the Farnam Office Doors

Join Pastor Shari and others in the Fellowship Lounge. We will gather around the Word and explore how the Bible speaks to our lives today. We will try out a few different ways to approach study of the Bible before deciding as a group how to proceed. Looking forward to a weekly journey with you and your Bibles.

Be a Part of the Breakfast Crew!

Join with others in bringing back this popular ministry for our congregation. We encourage 5 more people who would like to get to know and work with others in the congregation once a month to make and serve breakfast from 6:30 to 11:00 AM. There are just 5 more places for bakers to bring 2 doz. muffins or pastries every other month. And 3 openings for servers from 7:30 to 11:00 AM for Continental Breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of the Month. What a blessing this service will be for you and the congregation!

We Welcome our Part-Time Vicar!

Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp begins on September 1st. You will find her at Kountze Memorial most Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. She will be installed on Sept. 3rd and 4th. To help celebrate her entering in to ministry with us, we ask that you join us for a celebration potluck on Saturday, Sept. 3rd at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share. Or join in during Fellowship hour on Sunday, Sept. 4th and enjoy a piece of cake and express your words of welcome during Fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 4th.

Be A Sunday School Teacher!

Experience the joy of passing along the stories of God's people to our youth once a month. The opportunity to work with Preschool, K—2nd graders, and 3rd—6th graders are available. The lesson is prepared and scripted with all activities ready to go for that day. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. Your leadership would be greatly appreciated!

Register for Sunday School

Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/SundaySchoolRegistration>. The link can be found on the KMLC Parent and Friends Facebook Group. You can also stop into the Sunday School office to register your child there. All children, ages infant through 12th grade, should register for the 2022/23 Sunday School Year.

Confirmation

Wednesdays, beginning September 7

6:00 PM—7:15 PM Class

The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7th and 8th graders. This is a time to begin to affirm their baptismal faith. During the year we will take a one week break on November 23 and December 28 and will finish our year of study on April 12. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Shari.

Children's Choir

Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 11

Second Floor Music Room

9:20 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to work with our Children's Choir again this year. Students in grades 6-8 may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service

Sunday, September 11, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tri-Faith Center (13136 Faith Plaza)

Join us at the Tri-Faith Campus. There will be a time for walking, Food Trucks, live performances, and family-friendly exhibits. Our day of service will focus on learning about our siblings of the Abrahamic Faith. Please register at walk@trifaith.org. If you are able to give a donation, please do so. Get on your walking shoes to learn and connect with our larger faith community!

New Member Class

September 11 & 18, 10:15 - 11:30 AM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next New Member class. Childcare is provided. Please call the church office to register and let us know if you need childcare.

NE Synod Bishop Installation

First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE

(3315 Avenue G, Kearney, NE)

Saturday, September 24, 1:00 PM

The Nebraska Synod invites you to a Service of Holy Communion and the Installation of The Reverend Scott Alan Johnson as Bishop of the Nebraska Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A reception will immediately follow the service. **RSVP** at <https://nebraskasynod.org/event/bishop-installation/> before August 30, 2022

Mark Your Calendars for the Kountze Memorial "Old Fashioned Church Picnic/Potluck"

Sunday September 25, 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Details to follow in the E-news, Good News, and future Announcement Pages.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is asking you to clean your home pantries! Yes, we are collecting any and all odd (not expired) food items. We have an "extras" section of the pantry, where guests get to choose from an assortment. This allows our guests the chance to get a few things they normally wouldn't have access to. Good items to donate are: jelly, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, mayonnaise, seasonings, cooking oil, flour etc. We also continue to collect hygiene products. We are especially in need of bar soap or body wash.

Remember, we can once again reuse dry, clean plastic grocery bags. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Kountze Food Pantry! Please continue to sign up in the Meeting Room A in the Fellowship Hall, or at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 39

Sunday: 9:00: 145 11:00: 75

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 268

Streaming: 47

Cox Cable: 169

Pantry Guests Served: 1327 (inc. 497 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering: Not available at time of printing

Our faith needs community support.

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

Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality
Monday	Proverbs 25:6-7	Wise sayings of Solomon
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Service that pleases God
Wednesday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Love wipes away many sins
Thursday	Acts 2:43-47	Life among believers
Friday	Leviticus 19:32-34	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, help us during difficult times to trust in you and love our neighbor, whoever that neighbor may be, through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food. May we give generously to others as you have given this food to us through Jesus who brings us to your heavenly feast. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with abundant joy as you honor others in love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt insecure and in need of support from others?
- Give an example of how the faith community has cared for you or someone you know.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16.

The church was experiencing internal and external challenges. The faith community itself was facing the challenge of not meeting together (Hebrews 10:25). During unsettling times, we need one another for comfort and guidance. Just as Jesus is an example (Hebrews 12:1-4) to strengthen our faith, so are those around us who have spoken the word of faith to us, including loved ones like family, friends, and other elders. With the consistency of Jesus who is the same *"yesterday and today and forever,"* we show our faith within the community by sharing affection, welcoming strangers, and seeking purity of life for the sake of love and mutual well-being. All of this demonstrates an empathy, an acceptance, and an understanding of others that seeks oneness with those in need. This pleases God and shows our praise to God.

Discuss: How has someone in your faith community shown the love of God and love for others?

Pray: **God of yesterday, today, and forever, give us models of faith through other disciples that we may be encouraged in our faith and faithful in our love through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you help and contribute to the well-being of your faith community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the biblical world, showing hospitality was a matter of life and death. There were not the reliable and safe hotels and highways to travel in the ancient world. The Christians needed to rely on each other in their travels. It is still true today. Welcoming one another is as vital to our spiritual well-being as it is to our physical health. Through it we experience God's holy presence. Reach out and have a meal and caring conversation with someone, especially someone with whom you have not exchanged hospitality before.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33