

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
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

November 13, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who redeems us in Christ Jesus, 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 Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.**

We have ignored voices that call for your justice.

We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness.

We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community.

We truly repent of things we have done and left undone.

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

Restore our troubled spirits,

so that we may live in newness,

follow the way of the Spirit,

and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

P Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,
and restores us to life through the death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,

and of the † Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- 1** Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.
- 2** One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.
- 3** One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.
- 4** Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
onward, with the cross our aid.
Bear its shame, and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862;
tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ **the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that “the day is coming.” On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who honor God.

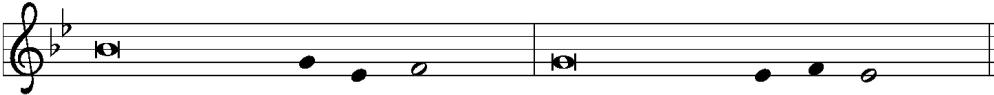
See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

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



¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

L The word of the Lord.

C 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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, and Ms. Carlsen for Children's Choir.

SERMON

Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Don't Be Afraid"

ACS 1027

sung 3 times; 1. high voices only, 2. low voices only, 3. all

Don't be a - fraid. My love is stron - ger, my love is stron - ger than your
fear. Don't be a - fraid. My love is stron - ger and
I have prom - ised, prom - ised to be al - ways near.

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** Lord, in your mercy,
 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)

On-going Care: Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Chris Meyer, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Debra Woosley

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

“Beautiful Savior”

arr. Fettke

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"We Are an Offering"

ELW 692

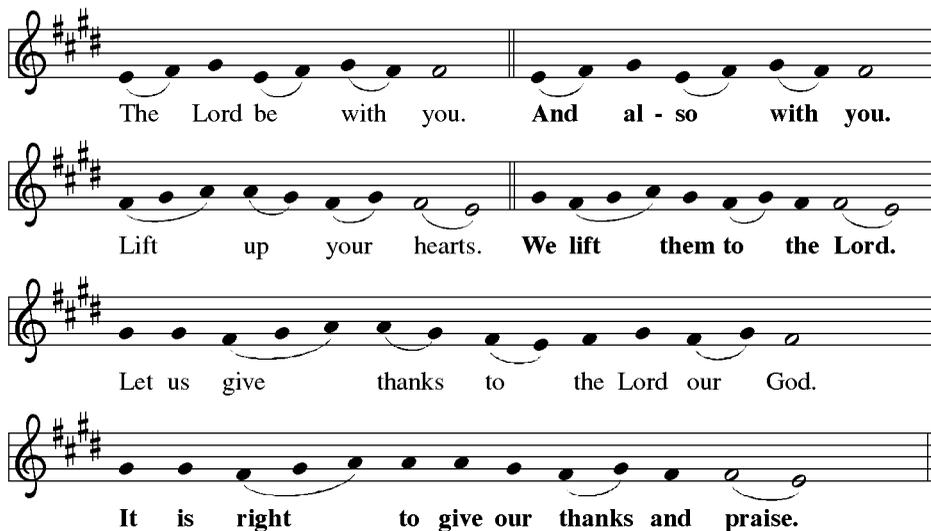
The musical score is written on six staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an". The second staff continues: "of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our". The third staff continues: "lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,". The fourth staff continues: "all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.". The fifth staff continues: "We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:". The sixth and final staff concludes with: "we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing." There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the first, third, and sixth staves.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, Maker of all things,
- ☑ **As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

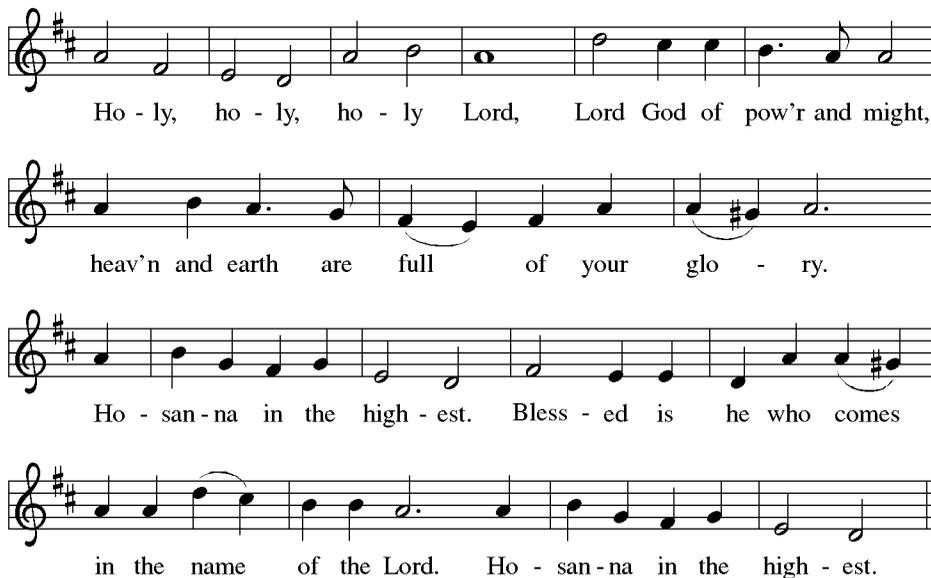
HOLY COMMUNION



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.

PREFACE

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

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C 
Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- P** Remembering, therefore, his salutary command ...

To you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C 
A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.**

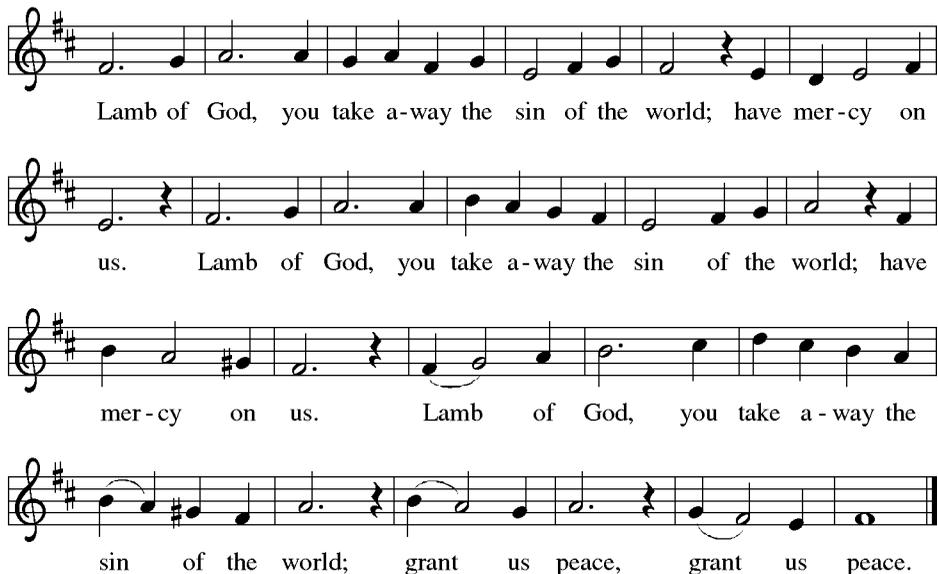
Give us this day our daily bread;

**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 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

P Christ spreads a table before you.

C Gather here with all the saints.

(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.

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
 You alone, O Lord, are holy.
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
 Alleluia!**

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community
 Text © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc., agent.
 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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“In the Singing”

ELW 466

**1 In the singing, in the silence,
 in the hands expectant, open,
 in the blessing, in the breaking,
 in your presence at this table,**

**2 In the question, in the answer,
 in the moment of acceptance,
 in the heart's cry, in the healing,
 in the circle of your people, *Refrain***

Refrain

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
 be the wine of grace;
 Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
 be the bread of peace.**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
 Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We give you thanks, most gracious God,
 ☞ that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise.
 Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, ✠ bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

ACS 1084



- 1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
- 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
- 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
- 4 Walk - ing be - hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



- move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



- O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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 Slight	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

November 12 & 13, 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 worshipping, 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.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God given by Eric & Toby Rees in honor of daughter, Dannika's 18th birthday

Kountze Café

Sundays from 9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast (this Sunday) and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

9:15 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Sunday School Focus This Week

The Ten Best Ways—God was present to Moses at Sinai three times. First, God was present in the burning bush when God revealed to Moses the name of God. Second, God was present when giving the Ten Commandments to the people through Moses. Finally, after breaking the tablets in anger, Moses climbed up Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments a second time. On the last occasion, Moses bargained with God three times to see God's face. But God did not allow this. No one could see God's face and live, so God put Moses in an opening in the rock and covered him until the dazzling light of God's presence had passed by.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM in Youth Center

7th – 12th graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** Sunday School Assistance—Join Pastor Shari and Ashley Sum in serving during Sunday School **Next week:** Bible Study: Learn about the Early Church as we study the Book of Acts this year

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:** Updates—Call Process, Stewardship, etc

Worship Assistant Training

Sunday, November 13

10:15 AM

Join us for training of Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers. All current servers are welcome to attend for a refresher course. If you are interested in learning more about Worship Assistants, please contact the church office to register or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for considering serving in this way.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 13 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:15 AM Worship Assistant Training
12:15 PM Book Group

November 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study

November 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council
7:00 PM Theology Matters - @ St. Pius X (6905 Blondo)

November 16 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
6:00 PM Call Committee

November 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

November 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

November 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 20 Sunday

Christ the King
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

We are exploring Gratitude. Enter through the Farnam Office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

Theology Matters

Ecumenism: Explorations of 'We are the Body of Christ'

Presenter: Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D.,

Associate Professor, Historical Theology

at Creighton University

Tuesday, November 15

7:00 PM

St. Pius X Parish Center

6905 Blondo St.

Our very own Pastor Ashley Hall is the presenter at this event. Invite your family members and friends of all

denominations! He will speak about biblical foundations for the modern ecumenical movement, important documents and moments in ecumenism among Christian denominations, and concrete practical & local opportunities for ecumenical discussion & common witness. Sponsored by Creighton University's Amelia and Emil Graff Chair of Catholic Theology and St. Pius X Catholic Church.



**Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's
Thanksgiving Day, November 24
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th Street) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Volunteers are needed to:

- a) cook &/or carve turkeys on Tuesday,
- b) set up the night before,
- c) donate pies/desserts, and
- d) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal.

This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. Contact Pr. Hall, Jacob Rump, Anne Dey, the church office to volunteer. You can also sign up on SignUp Genius - use the QR code on this page.



Note: when signing up for pies, please put your name by the number of pies you intend to bring. Thanks.

**Celebrating God's Generosity
Stewardship Intent Day
Saturday, November 19
Sunday, November 20**

As we continue to ponder the ways that we can respond to God's generosity, we prepare our hearts and minds for Stewardship Intent day.

Intent cards were mailed to you on Friday, November 11. Thank you for the many ways you respond to what God is doing in our midst.



**Advent Fair
Sunday, November 27
10:00 AM—Noon**

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. **Please bring** diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

**Advent Meals
Lunch 11:00 AM – Noon
Supper from 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

We are once again making preparations to provide lunch and dinner meals again this year. This is where you come in, we will need some volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up. We can always use volunteers to help put out placemats, pour drinks, run the dishwasher etc. so no culinary experience is necessary. If you love to cook or just want to join in the fun we would be most happy to have you help us with one or all four meals. Please consider taking an hour or two this Advent season to volunteer before, during or after one of the meals. Please call the Church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org with any questions or to volunteer.

Kountze Food Pantry & WOWT Stuff the Bus Food Drive

We are honored to have been chosen as one of two pantries to be recipients of the WOWT Stuff the Bus Food Drive! While this is very exciting news, and we are grateful, it will require a good deal of work and many hands. The receiving event will take place on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. We need volunteers to sort and store canned goods at Kountze beginning at 9:00 AM in two-hour shifts. We also need two kind souls at a time to man the drop-off site at the NP Dodge building at 87th and Dodge St. beginning at 7:00 AM. We also need competent forklift drivers. If you are willing to help us fulfill our mission to "Feed the Poor, in Christ's Name," please sign up at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 29
Sunday: 9:00: 152 11:00: 76
Wednesday: 12:15: 11 **Confirmation:**
Total: 268
Streaming: 44
Cox Cable: 181
Pantry Guests Served: 1088 (inc. 402 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15
Offering:
 \$16,685.49 (Regular) \$3,139.23 (Specials)
 \$2,653.56 (Debt Reduction)

We are witnesses of God's faithfulness.

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

Sunday	Luke 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Monday	Malachi 4:1-2a	The great day of the Lord
Tuesday	2 Thess. 3:6-13	Warning against idleness
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Thursday	Psalms 33:1-9	The greatness of God
Friday	Hebrews 3:1-6	Jesus is greater than Moses
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king



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O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. Psalm 98:1 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Lord Jesus; come Holy Spirit, give us courage to bear witness to your love and faithfulness with songs of joy during the good times and the bad times. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a sign of your faithfulness that gives us strength to endure all things through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you peace during the good times and the bad times.

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

- What are some scary or troubled times you have experienced?
- When bad things happen, who do you turn to? What do you do?

Read: Luke 21:5-19.

Luke's Gospel is written after Roman soldiers demolished the Jerusalem temple in 70 A.D. Jesus' followers were not to pin their hopes on the glory of the temple or on anything in life that seems to promise security and stability. Jesus warns that there will not be an end to daily struggles. There will continue to be wars, earthquakes, plagues and famines. Jesus could have added hurricanes, floods, droughts, and more examples of instability. Truth itself has always been under assault, making life even more unstable. In the meantime, what do we do? We announce the truth of Jesus and God's promises that will not be conquered. We live as witnesses to the truth of God's final conquest in Christ and faithfully endure life-threatening occasions. Troubled times—whether in the first or twenty-first century—are an opportunity to speak the truth of God's love and faithfulness in Christ.

Discuss: In what ways have you experienced God's love and faithfulness in difficult times?

Pray: **Almighty God, as we experience scary times, give us faith to trust in your promise of victory over sin and death and the confidence to speak the truth in love through Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage those who experience difficulties in daily life?

Psalm 98 calls on all the earth to *make a joyful noise*. This week take a walk outside and look at God's creation around you. When you return home, draw a picture or write a list of things you saw. Then make up your own tune to use as you sing these words: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things (v. 1a).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43