

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

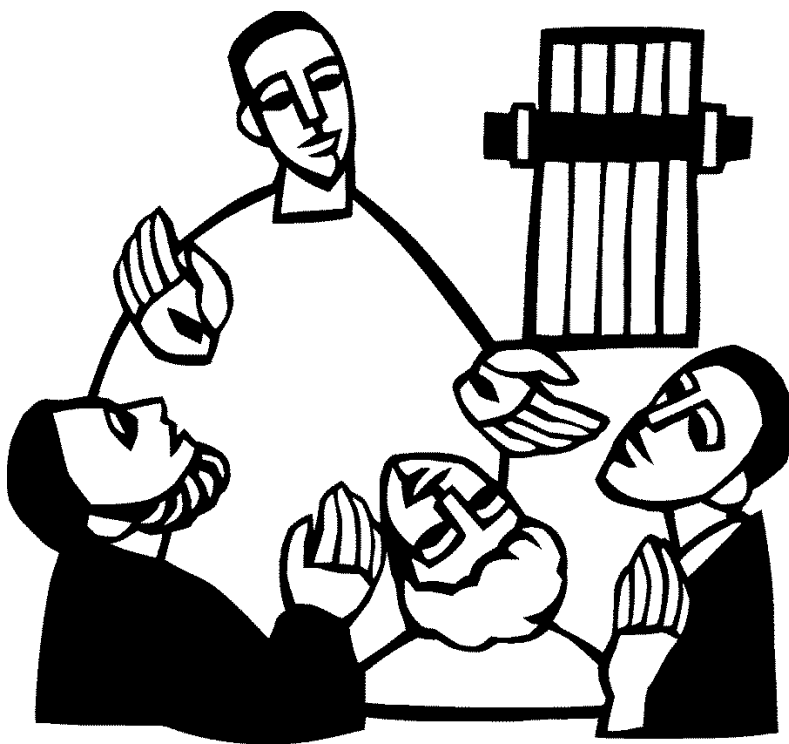
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

April 8, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER



I can't believe it! *Have you ever said that? What was happening? Was it unbelievably good? Or was it unbelievably bad? How do we move from what we know and expect, to what we do not know, especially when this new experience is also very unexpected?*

We may best appreciate the New Testament if we see it as humans trying to figure out what God was doing. Jesus suffered death on the cross, was buried in a sealed tomb, but then made flesh and blood appearances. So what was happening? Seeking answers, these early Christ-followers let the Holy Spirit guide their new understanding of their old scripture. How might that method help, so that people may trust this 2000 year old story to give us life, even today?

This weekend we observe the Rite of Confirmation for eight Middle School and High School members. May we pray with and for them, that each of us will truly trust and follow our Living Lord!

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GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

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

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

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

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EASTER GREETING

- 📖 Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- 📖 **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- 📖 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

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, 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.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

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

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 4:32-35

Generally known as the Acts of the Apostles, this is actually the second volume of St. Luke's writing, offering the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. This second volume might also be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Today's reading happened on Pentecost—a harvest festival, with deep religious meaning, that drew large crowds from all over the Roman Empire and beyond. The Holy Trinity chose this day to empower Christ-followers to be Christ's Body in the world, through the presence of the Holy Spirit. In this portion, we see an attitude toward material possessions and community that some call socialism. This is not a prescription for an economic system. It is, however, a challenge to us, that we see our wealth, personal and national, as a tool for the common good.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133 (read responsively)

Anointing with oil was a sign of hospitality, offering relief to a weary traveler suffering from sun-parched skin. For the priest, this anointing also identified the one who is to proclaim blessing to all the people. How does this image, or that of the fresh morning moisture on a mountain, speak to our strife torn world, needing unity? See Exodus 20:22-33; Luke 7:46; Psalm 42:5.

¹How good and how pleasant it is,

when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,

upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1--2:2

From the perspective of time and many experiences, expected and not expected, the elderly Apostle tries to summarize what it is all about. The light that comes from God shines on the reality of our limitations, our failures, our sin. This same Light is the God who died, who now lives, so our relationships, our world can be restored.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in

him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

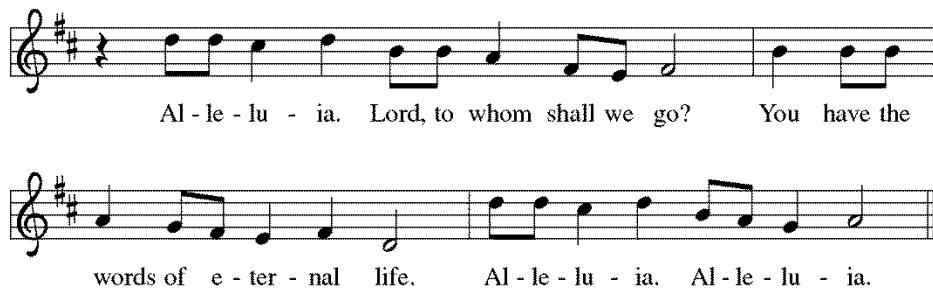
^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

What is doubt? Is doubt the opposite of faith? For some, doubt may be a cynical refusal to accept what does not fit into their assumptions and desires. In the Bible, faith always includes an element of the unknown. Thus doubt and faith are not necessarily contrary for Christ-followers. Rather, we are called to trust that, even as we take each step into the always uncertain future, our Lord is there to lead. Why did Jesus, in order to help Thomas come to faith, show him, not another superhuman feat, rather, his wounds?

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I

see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☞ The Gospel of our Lord

☞ 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 follow 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 Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Loves Me!”

ELW 595

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (9:00 AM)

(see insert)

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

Eleanor Mae Hinrichs

(see page 227)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ Lord, in your mercy,
☞ hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: For the baptism of Foster William Bottolfson, son of Eric & Fawn; for the baptism of Eleanor Mae Hinrichs, daughter of Benjamin & Allison; for the baptism of Reagan Faye Peterson, daughter of Jeffrey & Stacy

Illness: Vicki Freeman, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Mae Johnston (mother of Sharon West), Lavern Larkowski, Jan Nelson, Alice Pickinpaugh, Gary Rodene, Ed White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

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 use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I Often Dance”

Gary Hallquist

(*stand*)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

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OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐** Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
☑ as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we will be your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. Each staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

■ It is indeed right ...
...and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Sanctus'. The notation is more complex than the previous hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

☞ Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ Now let us feast this Easter day
☞ on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord’s Supper. We believe that this is the Lord’s table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

The form of distribution is intinction, You will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

(sit)

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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“This Little Light of Mine”
“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 677

ELW 715

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”*

ELW 392

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."**

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ℟** Life-giving God,
℣ in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we will show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ℟** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
℣ Amen.

HYMN *“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”*

ELW 767

DISMISSAL

- ℟** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
℣ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
℟ You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
℣ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“Allegro Maestoso”*

Handel
Mary Bircher, harp
Craig Bircher, trumpet



KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Director of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
	Theresa Gruber

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Liz Pemberton
	Pam Johnson
	Scott Henneman
Lector	Anna Kidder
Ushers	John Georgeson
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Jinette Cswercko
	Darlene Anderson
	Lennea Davis
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Tyler Johnston
	Kaitlyn Munquia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	June Anderson
	Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Lee Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Ken Johnson
	Norm Sack
	Kathy Preininger
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolytes	Charlie Campbell
	Lily O'Kane



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 7 & 8, 2018

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 nearly 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.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Then join us each Sunday for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Confirmation Reception
NEXT WEEK: No Forum

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Grades K—5th grade. We meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio each Sunday. Preschool (and grades K—5th that are not in choir) will continue with Kristin Boe for the Children's Sermon Lesson.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHOIR rehearsal in the Adult Choir room each Sunday from 11—11:40 AM. Come and sing!

April 8 Sunday

Homebound Communion

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Confirmation

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

12:00 PM Book Group

8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

April 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

5:30 PM Congregational Life Committee

April 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Lutheran Women of Omaha

April 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

9:30 AM LYSO Planning Committee

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

April 12 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board Meeting

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

April 14 Saturday

10:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

5:00 PM Worship

April 15 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

10:30 AM Executive Committee

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

12:00 PM New Member Class

12:30 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

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

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

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

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held April 15 & 22 from 12—2 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY Spring and Summer 2018

Spring Sunday School concludes
May 20

Summer Sunday School
June 17 – July 15

LYSO – Lutheran Youth Serving Omaha
June 11 – 15 (for children/youth who have
finished kindergarten)

Outdoor Movie Night
Friday, June 22

Vacation Bible School "Camp"
Friday evening, July 21,
Saturday morning, July 22
For ALL AGES!

August 12 – Blessing of Backpacks
(as a new school year begins)
and our School Teachers/Workers

us know if you will need childcare when you register.

NURSERY HELP IS NEEDED If you would like to work with the youngest members of our congregation, please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org or by calling the church office at 402-341-7761.

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING AND APPRECIATION LUNCHEON Commissioning will be held at the 11:00 AM Worship Service on April 15 with a luncheon to follow at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for the luncheon. The OSJ Sponsors are hosting an appreciation luncheon for all current OSJ members, alums, and parents. Acolytes will take part in a special commissioning during the 11:00 AM worship service. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 PM for an appreciation luncheon and present the 2018 Outstanding Acolyte Award. A group photo will also be taken. Please plan to attend this event as we honor all those who serve in this very meaningful ministry. Make your reservations by calling or texting Jeff and Robin Perkins at 402-917-2461 by Sunday, April 8.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, April 19, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial – Cost \$10. Our program will be announced at a later date. Watch the bulletin and e-news for more info. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 17 to the church office (402-341-7761) or Pastor Paul , paul@kmlchurch.org).

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP 9:30 AM on the 3rd Saturday of each month (April 21) in the Fellowship Lounge What does it mean to be a woman that God's spirit can guide? Join us at the Women's Prayer Group as we examine the lives of Dorcas, Lydia, Phoebe, and other women in the New Testament with "A Woman God's Spirit Can Guide" by Alice Mathews. Join us as we reflect on what God has called us to do as we dig deep into the lives of these women who committed their gifts and talents to the Lord. If you have questions or are interested in joining the Women's Prayer Group, please contact Karen Bonneau at 402-676-5419.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY LUNCHEON Sunday, April 22, 12:30 PM in the Kountze Meeting Rooms A and B, just north of Fellowship Hall. The Social Ministry Committee is hosting a luncheon followed by holy Communion for all homebound members and friends of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We also invite our Eucharistic Ministers to participate. To let us know you plan to come, and if you need a ride, please contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

WOMEN'S SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON The Spring Salad Luncheon will be April 28 at 11:30 AM. Paul Siebert will entertain with his many instruments and the history behind them. Come and bring a friend or two. No reservations or charge is required.

CPR TRAINING FOR USHERS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS Saturday, April 28 Kountze Commons. We strongly urge Ushers and Sunday School Teachers to be certified in CRP. Participants may choose one of two sessions: 9:00 AM to Noon or 1:30-4:30 PM. Suggested donation is \$20; limited number of 10 participants per session. Participants are eligible to take a First Aid Training free of charge at a later date.

LYSO – LUTHERAN YOUTH SERVE OMAHA Mark your calendars for LYSO the week of June 11 – 15 and then watch for more information in the Good News and bulletin. If you are an adult willing to help, please contact Pastor Paul or Kristin Boe. Thanks.



LIFT UP YOUR VOICE AND WITH US SING!

Please join

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Youth Choir, Instrumentalists, and Readers

In praise of God and His creation

Sunday, April 22, 2018 3:00 PM
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam St., Omaha, NE

Free Admission
Reception following the program

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 63
Sunday Attendance: 7:30 & 9:00: 581
11:00: 246
Midweek - Noon: 7
Total: 897
Pantry/Clinic: (Holy Week & Easter Monday)
Offering:
\$32,165.61 (Regular) \$1,101.00 (Specials)
\$10,382.00 (In the City for Good)

The risen Jesus gives us peace.

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	John 14:23-31	Jesus speaks of peace
Thursday	Romans 5:1-11	We have peace with God
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	The God of peace be with you
Saturday	Psalm 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to his disciples



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Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." **John 20:21 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Risen Christ, replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our unbelief with faith. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, you give us food for the body and peace for the soul. May faith be our way and love be our goal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing that you have life in his name. (John 20:31)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Do most of us awake each day to a sense of peace or worry? Why do you think that is? How do you generally begin each day?
- Martin Luther said that the judgment of the law is the "constant guest" in our lives. How do we overcome that sense of self-doubt and judgment?
- How does the resurrection make a difference in your life?

Read: 1 John 1:1-2:2.

Christianity is often described—and challenged—as primarily a set of beliefs, but in John 20:30-31 the focus is on a way of life, "that you may have life in his name." In 1 John 1 there is a wonderful openness to an honest look at our lives; we all sin. That is not a dark view of the world. It presents a freedom not to be afraid or ashamed of our lives but to see beyond our brokenness to the power of forgiveness that creates us anew each day to start again in peace. How does that sense of Christianity and the power of the resurrection change everything? For those who don't have this faith or hope, what are they missing? After a time for reflection, recite the following: (1 John 1:8-9) **"if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

Pray: **Dear Risen Christ, replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our unbelief with faith. Amen.**

In Acts 4:32-35, life in the community that trusts the power of the resurrection has a changed understanding of property and how we care for each other. Finally, everything is God's more than it is "mine" to use for my own pleasure. This is not an endorsement of an economic system. It is a confession of faith and a commitment to love the neighbor as oneself. Rethink everything you own as a loan from God to love others. How might that influence your actions today?

In what ways can you share the peace with others and in your home or when visiting friends? It can be a handshake, hug, or a high five. There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another in public worship as a physical expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. It connects directly to Jesus greeting his disciples in the resurrection. That public greeting also extends to personal greetings. Share the sign of peace: **"The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you."**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48