

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

May 20, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

DAY of PENTECOST



Today's festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John's gospel the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord's table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Day Full of Grace”

ELW 627

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be
with you all!

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

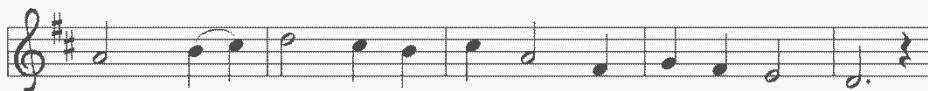
All



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



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

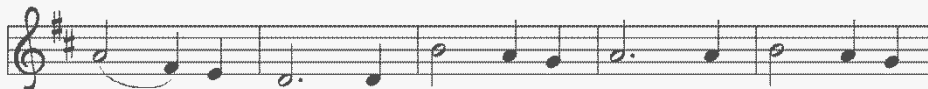


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

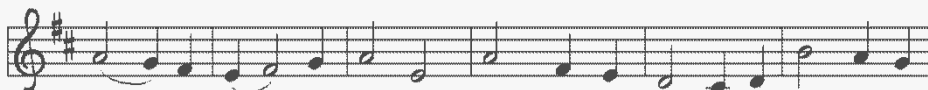
Refrain



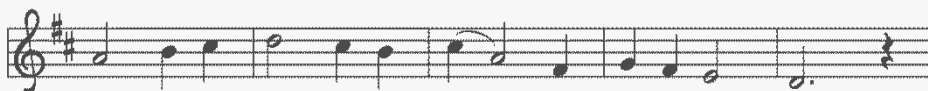
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



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

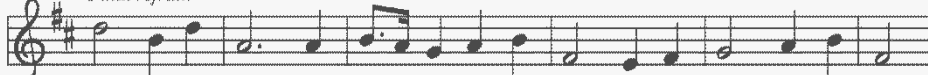


hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

Final refrain



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Almighty God,
☞ you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Bill Ingram
Kountze Handbell Choir

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Hebrew word ruach means spirit, wind, or breath. This reading plays on the different meanings of the word. Just as the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision are given new life, flesh, and breath (or spirit), so God will give the exiles his spirit and will bring them home to the land of Israel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, *“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”* ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, *“What does this mean?”* ¹³But others sneered and said, *“They are filled with new wine.”*

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, *“Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:*

¹⁷In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

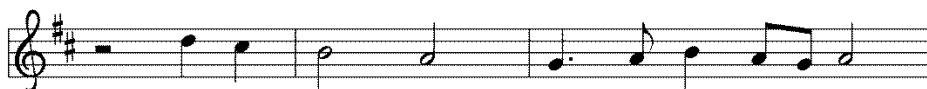
²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

📖 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

When speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and described the difference the Spirit would make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,]²⁶ “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b} “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(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 Olaf Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

ELW 800

NICENE CREED

☩ We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 marriage of Ashley Berggren & Tim Laudenback

Sympathy to: Lin Sheely & John and the family and friends of Lin's mother, Ivadell

Illness: Len Carlson, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Pr. Inba Inbarasu, Lavern Larkowski, Marilyn Larkowski, Alice Pickinpaugh, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, 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.
- G** *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

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
(see back page)

Michael Burkhardt

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

- P** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
- praise him, all creatures here below;**
- praise him above, ye heav'nly host;**
- praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Merciful God,
- G** you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This musical score is for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains two measures, the second and third staves each contain two measures, and the fourth staff contains one measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words spanning across measure boundaries. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests.

THE PREFACE FOR PENTECOST

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.

This musical score is for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains two measures, the second and third staves each contain two measures, and the fourth staff contains one measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words spanning across measure boundaries. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests.

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!

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God



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.

“Spirit of Gentleness”
“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

ELW 396
ELW 786

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Life-giving God,
G 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

BLESSING

- P** 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.
G Amen.

HYMN *“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”* ELW 579

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. Let us go remembering our mission:
G We are disciples of Jesus, worshipping our God, growing in faith and serving our community. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE K. Craig Bircher, Scott Quackenbush, trumpet
Jason Stromquist, Jay Wise, trombone

† † †

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

Michael Burkhardt



Choir: 1. Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing in the

Choir: 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing as the

All: 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing through the



ho - liest realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er
Chur - ch's ver - y life: Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er
chur - ch's min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab -



brood - ing o'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,
striv - ing o'er a world of gloom and strife: Ho - ly Spir - it,
solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,



ev - er rais - ing those of earth to thrones on high; liv - ing,
ev - er form - ing in the Church the mind of Christ: you we
ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to soul In com -



life - im - part - ing Spir - it, you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
praise with end - less wor - ship for your gifts and fruit un - priced.
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt., and written in 1922 (PD).

Tune: GRACE WOODSTOCK, Michael Burkhardt, and copyright © 2014 with this publication.

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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
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. 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	Ellen Pesavento
Ushers	Duane Hovendick
	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Liz Pemberton
	Scott Henneman
	Susie Henry
Lector	Mattie O'Kane
Ushers	Brad Madison
	Donna Crouse
	Ralph Diggins
	Dick Nelson
	Rodney Nord
	Dan Troxel
	Sharon West
	Dean Winther
	Bob Johnson
Greeters	Lois Sorensen
	Colleen Lenners
	Carole Meilahn
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Clara Kidder
	Madelyn Hinrichs

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	June Anderson
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Bruce Anderson
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 19 & 20, 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.

KOUNTZE BRASS Thank you to K. Craig Bircher, Scott Quackenbush, Jason Stromquist, and Jay Wise for playing during worship this morning.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Lutheran Refugee Services with Lacey Studnicka (Nancy Meyers) **NEXT WEEK:** Recognition of Graduating Seniors (*Pr. Moessner*)

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Bruce & Barb Nissen in memory of Barb's father's 89th birthday; given by Marie Barrett in thankful celebration of Nicholas's 19th birthday and Jackson's 18th birthday

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. Watch for more information regarding our Summer Music Program.

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

May 20 Sunday

Pentecost

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

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)

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

May 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Clinic Board

May 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Circle 3

May 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 24 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 25 Friday

6:00 PM HS Dinner, Fellowship & Prayer

May 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 27 Sunday

Holy Trinity

No Sunday School

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Graduate Blessing & Celebration

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

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

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

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.

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.

WELCOME TO SARAH JEWELL We are very happy to announce that Sarah has been hired as our new Administrative Assistant and will be starting this Monday, 5/21. If you're at the church sometime next week, be sure to stop in and welcome her.

SUPPORT CAMPUS MINISTRY THROUGH OMAHA GIVES! What is Omaha Gives? Omaha Gives! is a year-round online giving platform organized by the Omaha Community Foundation to grow philanthropy in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie counties. Each year, there is a 24-hour online giving event in May to celebrate nonprofits. This year's giving day will take place on Wednesday, May 23, 2018. The goal is to inspire the community to come together for 24-hours to give as much as possible to support the work of public 501(c)(3) nonprofits like

**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)

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

NeMO, our Omaha campus ministry, in the metro area. The minimum donation is \$10 and there is no maximum. Prizes and challenge funds amplify charitable donations to make each dollar go further. Last year, the community raised nearly \$9 million for local nonprofits. And guess what!?!? You don't need to wait until May 23! Schedule your gift to support NeMO and NeLCM-Omaha by clicking this link: <http://omahagives.org/NeLCM-Omaha>

BLINDNESS PREVENTION MONTH May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be collecting used eyeglasses. They will be cleaned, checked by professionals, and used at a health fair for the homeless later this summer. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. There will be a collection box at the Welcome Desk in May.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!! Friday, June 1, 6:00—9:00 PM. Games, crafts, and care provided by the KMLC Youth Group. Please RSVP to the church office.

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE CHOIR is a community choir representing many congregations from the Council Bluffs/Omaha area. The choir will be presenting their summer program here at Kountze on Saturday, June 2, at our 5:00 PM worship service. This is a volunteer choir that proclaims the love of God through song with two concerts each year. Though the Celebration of Life Choir has been around for many years, this is their first time at Kountze. Hopefully everyone can come out and enjoy this free concert.

LYSO – LUTHERAN YOUTH SERVE OMAHA Mark your calendars for LYSO the week of June 11 – 15. If you are an adult willing to help, please contact Pastor Paul or Kristin Boe. You can sign your child/children up online at <https://form.jotform.com/80997618224164>. Thanks.

SPECIAL VESPERS FOR ALZHEIMER AWARENESS AND ALL CARETAKERS Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 PM, held at Kountze Memorial. Kountze Memorial will host a spoken Vespers in commemoration of the Longest Day to help raise awareness for those living with Alzheimer's and their care givers. That day, other events will be offered throughout the city: The Lutheran Church of the Master (2617 S. 114th Street) will offer a day-long prayer vigil from 8:15 AM – 8:00 PM; St. Andrew's Methodist Chapel (15050 West Maple Road) will likewise be open from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM for individuals or groups to come in and pray; Parsons House (14425 Eagle Run Drive) will hold a service at 2:30 PM. Denise McCown and Linda Nord have worked to spearhead this effort in honor of their father, Don Vanzago. Please join us!

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

**Sunday, June 10, 2018
10:10 AM**

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2018 for the sole purpose of authorizing the congregation to borrow up to \$1.5 million for repairs to the church (the congregation authorized borrowing \$500,000 at the Annual Meeting). Information regarding the repairs will be presented by Paul Sum.

MOVIE NIGHT On Friday, June 22, at 6:00 PM, all members of Kountze are invited to a picnic potluck and movie. The main dish and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side to share and a blanket to sit upon while we eat on the Kountze Commons green space. After eating, we will go inside to watch a family centered movie in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, June 20.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 49

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 214 11:00: 122

Midweek - Noon: 6

Total: 391

Pantry Guests Served: 365

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$15,744.75 (Regular) \$13,719.00 (Specials)

\$525.00 (In the City for Good)

YOUTH MINISTRY this SUMMER

High School

Friday, May 25, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

at the Picha Home

12458 Osprey Lane

For dinner, fellowship, prayer

We will meet two times a month

Middle School, High School

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Hang out in the Youth Room

starting May 30, every week

The Spirit intercedes for us through prayer.

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

Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Monday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Spirit
Tuesday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	The valley of dry bones
Wednesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Thursday	Ezekiel 36:22-28	God's Spirit is put within you
Friday	Joel 2:21-29	God's Spirit poured out
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit



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Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your Holy Spirit that prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Faithful God, you give us food when we need it. You open your hands and satisfy us with good things. Praise the Lord! Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who helps you in your weakness guide your prayers and your life in Christ's name. (Romans 8:26)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you experienced a disappointment, something that didn't go the way you wanted.
- It is often said that we learn not from our successes but from our failures. What have you learned from something that did not go well for you?
- The Holy Spirit in Romans 8 does not take us away from creation and its pains but connects our lives closely to it. What does it mean to you that our faith is alive with hope for the future yet does not separate us from the pains of life today?

Read: Acts 6:5-21.

The miracle of the story of Pentecost is not only that the disciples spoke in various languages but that all the people heard the disciples speak in their own language. It is a miracle of speaking and hearing. Pentecost has been described as the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. It is the birth of the ministry of the preaching of Peter and all future preachers. It is also the birth of hearing the gospel in our own language. Reflect on a sermon that has been important to you over the years. A good sermon can be missed by one who is not listening in the Spirit. Pray this week for the Holy Spirit to intercede in your life that you may be given ears to hear God's word in faith, hope, and love (Acts 28:26-29).

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for your Holy Spirit that prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen.**

Romans 8:22-27 acknowledges that we and all creation experience pain and suffering. Reach out to someone who is experiencing a particular difficulty, a personal illness, or feeling the disappointments and sorrows of life. Pray for the Spirit to intercede for you in a way that will intercede in the other person's life with hope.

Pentecost is a time to recall how our lives of faith and the entire body of Christ throughout the ages are dependent upon the Holy Spirit for life and faith. It is a humbling thought that we do not know how to pray as we ought. God's Spirit is needed to intercede for us by connecting our own groans with "sighs too deep for words" (the groaning of the Spirit on our behalf). Cut sheets of red paper (the color that represents the Holy Spirit in the church) into the shape of flames. Write down prayer ideas that may be words of praise and thanksgiving to God or words seeking help for others or oneself. Offer prayers using the words you have jotted down knowing that God is interceding through prayer on your behalf.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17