

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 13, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER



Truth – and Holiness. Holiness – and Truth. With so much information confronting us all the time, with so many claiming to tell us what we need to know, who can we believe? What can we know?

We are between Ascension Day and Pentecost. In the Church year, which annually remembers the life of Jesus and the emergence of the church, this past Thursday marked Jesus' departure, that he was no longer physically present on earth. Next Sunday is Pentecost, remembering the day when the unseen yet powerful Holy Spirit moved a small handful of Christ-followers to begin a movement that continues to change the world.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

G 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.

G 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,

G 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.

G Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“You Servants of God”

ELW 825

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

- P** Gracious and glorious God,
- C** you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“There’s a Quiet Understanding”

Tedd Smith
Joyful Sounds Children’s Choir

(sit)

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

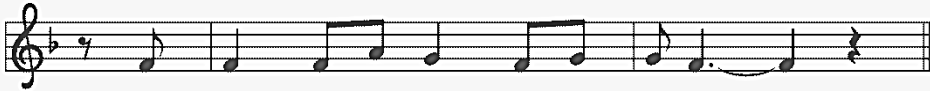
Who does God send? This incident happened during a time of waiting. Jesus had been taken “out of their sight” (vs. 9). The unseen power of the Holy Spirit was yet to come (2:1). Yet the attitude was not passive. The Jesus-followers sensed the need for another Apostle (that is, one who is sent). Peter describes the qualifications. The method of selection combines human awareness plus room for God’s interaction. It all may seem strange. But God seems to like to rely on methods and people who seem strange.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1



The LORD knows the way of the right- teous.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night. **R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. **R**

SECOND READING

1 John 5:9-13

What are we willing to believe? What do we let keep us from believing? The Apostle, now elderly, got to experience the reality of God in the person of Jesus – his life, death, and resurrection. Thus he writes with a loving urgency, so that we also may have the joy (1:4) of life in Jesus' name. See John 17:3.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:6-19

We are listening in as the trusting Son is praying to the eternal Father. It is the night before his death. His prayer sees the big picture of salvation. His prayer also includes each and every one of us, his followers.

We do again encounter Judas, who had been one of *us* (Acts 1:17), yet had betrayed Jesus. How did Judas fit into the eternal plan? Perhaps we have no answer that is completely satisfactory. Jesus uses the word “destined” (vs 12). Perhaps the best way to understand this – indeed the way all human interactions course through history – is to see that “destined” is less about where we have been, rather is more about where we are going, about destiny. God’s grace is always about redirecting and making new.

We also believe Jesus is continuing this prayer for us. See Hebrews 7:25.

[Jesus prayed:] ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given

to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P The Gospel of our 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 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

“O Christ, Our Hope”

ELW 604

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

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.**

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

Theo Olaf Pignatore

(see page 227)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 G 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 Theo Olaf Pignatore, son of Nick & Amy

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

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW 184

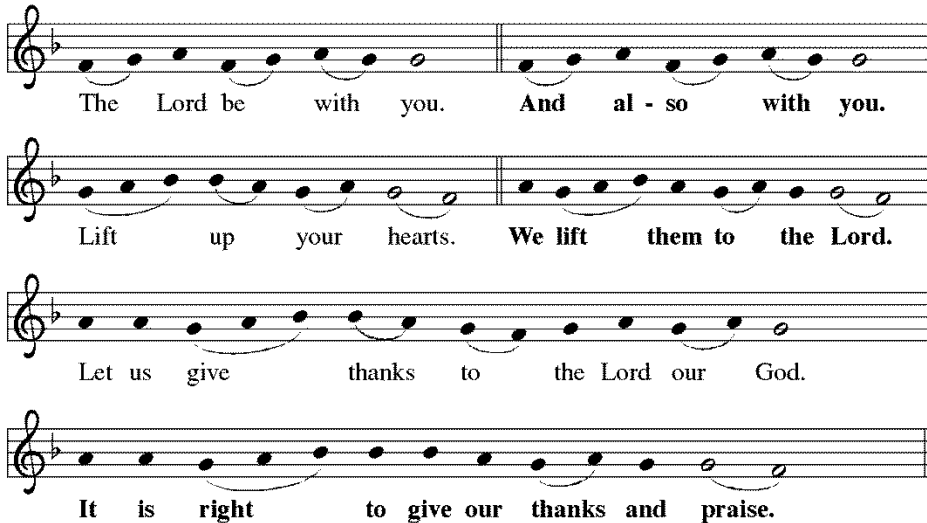
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
 and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
 Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
 that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
 unite them with the prayers we offer.
 Grace our table with your presence,
 and give us a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

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
C 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.

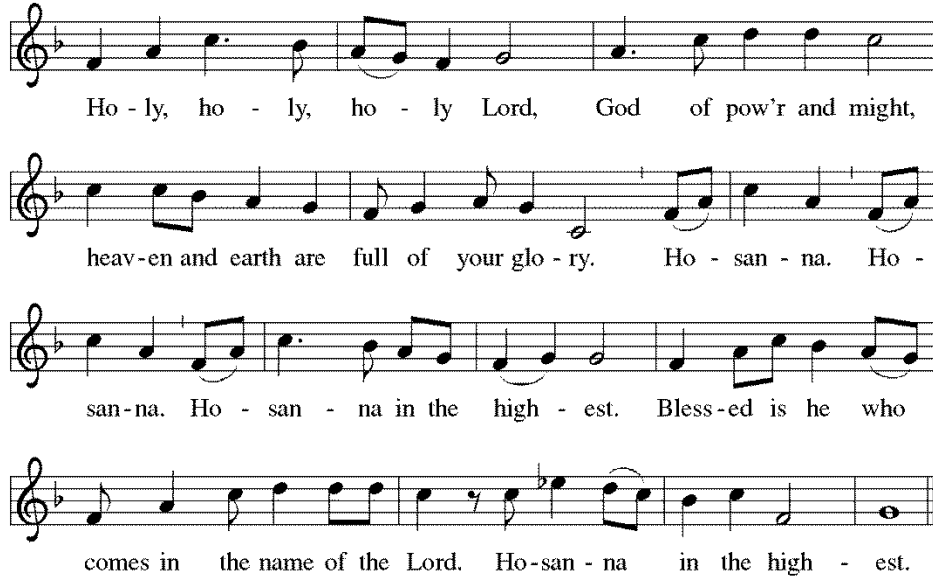
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- P** 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.

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!

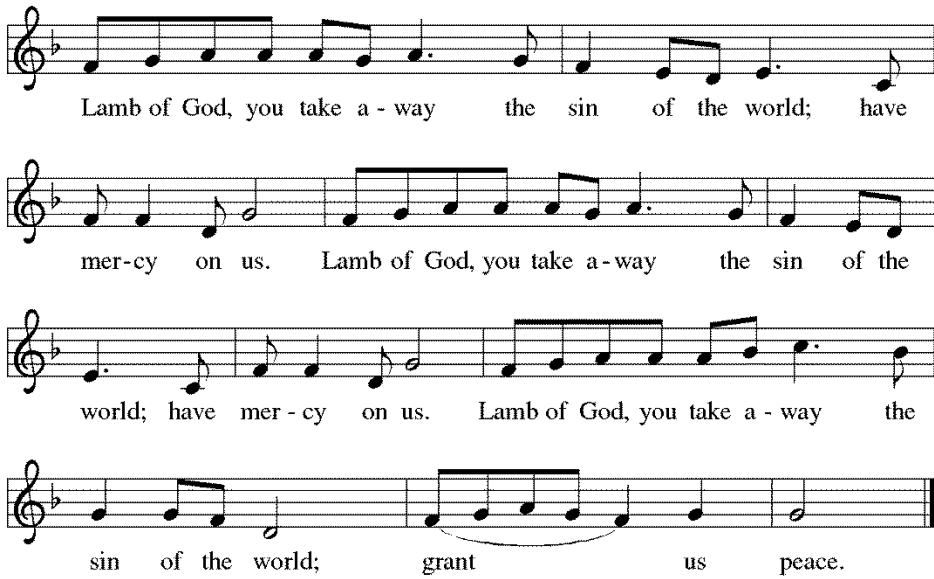
All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come 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

- "Come and Fill Our Hearts" ELW 528
- (sing three times)
- "Beautiful Savior" ELW 838

(stand)

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."

THE BLESSING

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

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

ELW 389

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



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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	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord
	Ellen Pessevento

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Pam Johnson
	Lowell Harms
	Lorie Groenjes
Lector	Jon Natvig
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	Angie Arispe
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia
	Rahn Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
	Norm Sack
Lector	Steve Hinrichs
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
	Julie O'Doherty
	Kathy Preininger
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolytes	Charlie Campbell
	Tyler Johnston



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 12 & 13, 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.

PR. ROYNESDAL is away for a Senior Pastor's Conference this weekend. He'll be back in the office on Tuesday.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** No Forum (Mother's Day) **NEXT WEEK:** Lutheran Refugee Services with Lacey Studnicka (Nancy Meyers)

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Lynn & John Schneiderman in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary; in honor of Shirley Bonneau's birthday by Karen Bonneau

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Grades K—5th grade. This is the last Sunday this Spring that we meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio. 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!

May 13 Sunday

Mother's Day

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)

10:10 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

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

May 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregational Council

May 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

May 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Circle 5

May 19 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group

5:00 PM Worship

May 20 Sunday

Pentecost

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)

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)

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held September 16 & 23 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 us know if you will need childcare when you register.

PR. HALL'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE Pr. Hall is away for a ten-week fellowship as a Visiting Professor of the Divinity Faculty of the University of Cambridge. He will return to Omaha July 1 and will

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

afterwards resume his normal duties. He wishes to express his gratitude to the congregation for its generous support and encouragement.

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.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, May 17, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial – Cost \$10. Ashley Sum will tell of her work with Sunshine Kids, an organization that provides a good environment for kids dealing with cancer. For example, this year Sunshine Kids sponsored a ski trip to Colorado. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 15, to the church office (402-341-7761) or Pastor Paul (paul@kmlchurch.org) so we know how many to plan on for lunch.

CAMP CAROL JOY HOLLING WORK DAY! Saturday, May 19, 2018, 8:00 AM – Lunch. The camp needs your help to get the site ready for the over 1,500 campers that will be arriving during the summer. Bring friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Sign up online on their website (<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>).

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP 9:30 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month (May 19) 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.

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!

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 54

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 192 11:00: 89

Midweek - Noon: 11

Total: 346

Pantry Guests Served: 267

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 33

Offering:

\$19,416.49 (Regular) \$858.10 (Specials)

\$3,401.00 (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

Jesus prays for his disciples.

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

Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:15-26	Matthias replaces Judas
Tuesday	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Be perfectly united
Thursday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for all believers
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-5	Keep the unity of the Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.

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“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” **John 17:11 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Jesus, thank you for praying for us and for all your followers. May we experience the unity of faith that you want for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food, God bless this day, God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God protect you and keep you safe from all evil. May you live in peace.

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Whose name(s) do you value and why?
- God's presence is known through the work of Jesus. Looking at what Jesus did and said, what do you know about who God is?
- John 17 is Jesus' prayer for his followers living in the world. The “world” represents that which is opposed to God (v. 14). How is Jesus' prayer for you, as his follower, important to you as someone living in a world opposed to God?

Read: Acts 5:59-17, 21-26.

The apostles add Matthias to be part of the twelve as a way to replace Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus. It is clear that the selection of Matthias is understood as God's choice, just as God has called and chosen all of Jesus' followers. Interestingly, Matthias is never mentioned again in the New Testament. Matthias represents others who are added to the mission of the church, people like the Ethiopian eunuch, Lydia, the Philippian jailer, and especially Saul who becomes Paul. Reflect on how your own life is part of a long line of followers of Jesus over the centuries. Think about others who have shared God's love with you. How have they influenced your life of faith?

Pray: Dear God, I thank you for the gift and life of faith that enables me to be sent and to make your name known to the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mother's Day is an opportunity to honor all women who have cared for you. In the church, motherhood is more than a family designation. It represents the important role of caring for and nurturing others in the journey of faith. The church in the New Testament is described as the “bride of Christ.” People like Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene represent the love and care extended to Jesus Christ, the same love and care extended throughout the centuries to the body of Christ. Take time to recall, give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. You may wish to send them a note or offer them a personal gift to express your appreciation.

In Psalm 1, people who are faithful to God's law (that is, God's teachings) are “like trees planted by streams of water.” These trees do not wither but yield fruit and prosper. Similarly, the lives of the followers of Jesus do not wither as they are fed by God's word. To remember the importance of God's word in your life, designate or add a “faith plant” in your home. As you water it, recall the importance of the flowing waters of God's word that feed and nourish your life “day and night” (v. 2).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15