

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 27, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THE HOLY TRINITY



E Pluribus Unum – “out of many, one”. We find these words on dollar bills. More importantly, these words are part of the Seal of the United States. Our nation’s founders adopted this motto to emphasize the unity necessary if the colonies were to succeed in their quest for independence. We must ask how/if this statement applies today. Which “many” is allowed to become part of the “one”?

Today we observe the only Sunday named after a doctrine – The Holy Trinity. Not just some theory that is disconnected from daily life, the doctrine of the Trinity is teaching. It represents the earliest Christ-followers trying to explain what happened when the human, named Jesus, lived, died, rose from the dead, ascended, yet was still experienced as powerfully present with them. At the same time, they would not abandon their heritage, that God is One. Today we are invited to move beyond the puzzle of individualism – how can $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$? Instead, we are invited to imagine: How does the Infinite God, revealed in grace (of our Lord Jesus Christ) love (of God) and fellowship/communion (of the Holy Spirit) make each of us whole, healing our relationships and guiding our work for peace in the whole world?

Our nation also observes Memorial Day. Current customs go back to the days after the Civil War, remembering the more than 600,000 who died in that conflict. Today we remember with gratitude all who have gone before us, who have contributed to the good we can enjoy. Our concluding hymn invites us to offer God our gratitude for all that is ours. The words also challenge us to use this for God’s picture of a just nation that includes many, seeking the good of all.

PRELUDE

Jean Johnson, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son, \mp and Holy Spirit, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

G Amen.

P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Eternal God our creator,

G in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God \mp forgives you all your sins.

G Amen.

(Stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

ELW 414

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!

G And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!”*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of heaven and earth,
Q before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God:
Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

Worship in the temple was, for the prophet Isaiah, the foundation of his faith, his message and his life-long work. This particular experience is connected to a specific event in the life of his people. We know that worship in the Temple included stimuli to multiple senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, maybe tasting and feeling. We could ask how that affected his whole neurological system. How did that lead Isaiah to deeper awareness of God's grandeur? What in worship affects me in a similar way, leading me to greater knowledge of God that, then, leads me to deeper commitment to serve God's purpose?


In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt

has departed and your sin is blotted out.”⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”




 The word of the Lord.

 *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 29

In the news we see nature’s power to destroy. At the same time, when we can witness a storm from a place of shelter and security, we get to see an awesome display of power. Perhaps that is the way we get to trust God – who is present in the wilderness (verse 8, see Numbers 13:26) and who playfully makes mountains (verse 6).



- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beau- ty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. 
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- ness of Kadesh. 
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- evermore.
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. 

The Apostle has been writing of the Gospel – God’s power to restore us and all creation. Using the image of social structures from his age, he tells us that, rather than being slaves of past habits and patterns, we can live freely as adopted children. Through the Holy Spirit we share full status as children of the God-whom-Jesus-called-Father.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

L 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.**

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

The most beloved words of scripture are found within this conversation. Nicodemus wanted to know what Jesus was really all about. Yet he could not help but be puzzled. Can old dogs learn new tricks? They can, Jesus said, if they accept true life as a gift from above. His words here may point to a specific experience of dramatic change – being born again. Jesus’ words also remind us of the daily challenge: What is the source of our life? Is it the stuff around us? Or, is the source of our life the Spirit of the Creator God?

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born

of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either 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 Paul Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”
vs 1,2,5

ELW 323

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

The Church has three ecumenical creeds: the Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed and The Athanasian Creed. The Athanasian Creed is a teaching statement focused on the Holy Trinity. It is the first creed in which the equality of the three persons of the Trinity is explicitly stated. Written in the Fifth Century, more than 15 centuries later the church continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has given himself for our salvation.

P Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith. Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:

C **We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity,
neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.**

**For the Father is one person, the Son is another,
and the Spirit is still another.**

**But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty.**

What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.

P Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit.

C **Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit:
And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal;
as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings,
but one who is uncreated and unlimited.**

P Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit:
And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.

C **Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God:**
And yet there are not three gods, but one God.
Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord:
And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord.

P As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord,
so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

C **The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten;**
the Son was neither made nor created,
but was alone begotten of the Father;
the Spirit was neither made nor created,
but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.
Thus there is one Father, not three fathers;
one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.

P And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons
are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one
God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe
that our Lord Jesus became flesh.

C **For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:**
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.
He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father,
and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother--
existing fully as God, and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;
equal to the Father in divinity,
subordinate to the Father in humanity.

P Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.
He is united because God has taken humanity into himself;
he does not transform deity into humanity.
He is completely one in the unity of his person,
without confusing his natures.
For as the rational soul and body are one person,
so the one Christ is God and man.

C **He suffered death for our salvation.**
He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
At his coming all people shall rise bodily

to give an account of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life,

those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith.

One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.

CELEBRATION OF 2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- P** Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their vocation. We ask those graduates who are present, along with their parents and immediate family, to please come forward.
- P** Parents, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. As these young men and women journey further in their God-given calling, we now ask you reaffirm the promises you made at baptism. Will you continue to pray for your children and to nurture their faith? If so answer, “I do and I ask God to help and guide me.”
- P** Graduates, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
- To live among God’s faithful people,
To come to the word of God and the Holy Supper,
To strive to grow in faith and prayer so that you might
Trust God, Proclaim Christ through word and deed,
Care for others and the world God made, and
Work for justice and peace in all the world;
If so, answer, “I do and I ask God to help and guide me.”

(stand)

- P** Congregation, do you promise to support and encourage these parents and their maturing children in keeping the covenant of baptism? If so, answer, “We will with God’s help and guidance.”

PRAYER

- P** God of creation, we ask for your blessing on these women and men as they enter a new season in their lives. By the Holy Spirit, grant them your gifts: confirm their faith, guide their lives; give them strength in serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to eternal life.
- C** **Amen.**

PRAYER

- P** O God, we bless you and thank you for giving our lives meaning and a vocation. Through you, we receive the gifts of love, joy, and forgiveness. May these quilts will be a reminder of the warmth of family, this faith community, and of your never failing love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

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 Haakon Michael Reilly, grandson of Pastor Olaf & Marcia Roynesdal

Sympathy to: The family and friends of Norma Fornoff

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Lavern Larkowski, Marilyn Larkowski, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Charlie Wachholtz

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

"Honor and Glory"

Foster

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

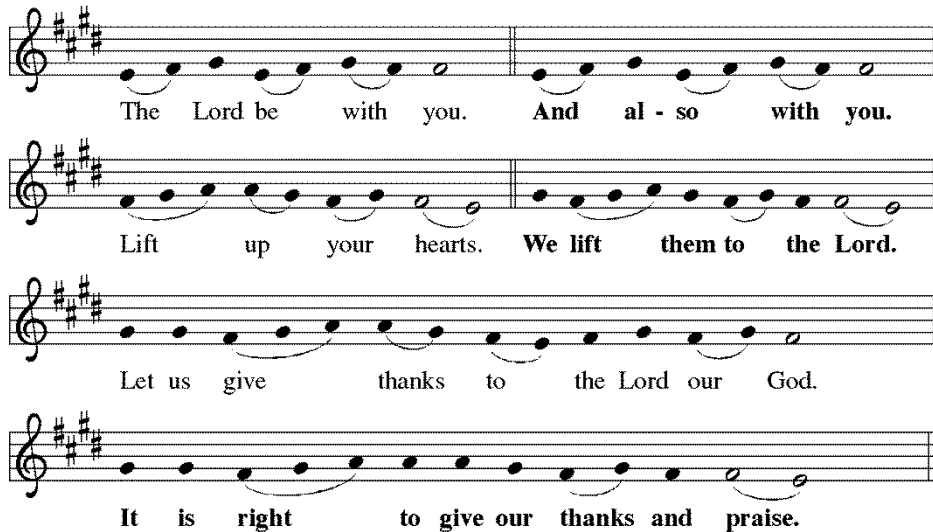
P Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Merciful God,
C 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.

THE PREFACE FOR THE HOLY TRINITY

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ The gifts of God for the people of God.

☞ **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

ELW 490

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”

ELW 402

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Lord God,

☞ **you have called us, your servants, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies”
(In honor of Memorial Day)

ELW 888

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. Let us go remembering our mission:

☞ **We are disciples of Jesus, worshiping our God, growing in faith and serving our community. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE



In a Word, Believe

At the airport the young man's father and mother hugged him, stamped unremovable kisses on his unshaven cheek, draped "*I love you*" eyes upon him, mouthed "*be safe*" and sent him off to volunteer in Argentina, where he later disappeared. Did he perish?

Earth trembles, wind howls, fire refines. Do we perish? Famines devour by day, plagues creep by night, wars shriek. Do we perish?

"For God so loved the world . . .

Shamefaced in prisons, shivering on street corners, lonely in crowds, invaded all alone. Do we perish? At the top, exhausted; at the bottom, despairing; at the edges, ignored; at the center, shrinking. Do we perish?

. . . that he gave his only Son, . . .

Washed out memories, built up distances. Do we perish? Love discarded, hatred hoarded. Do we perish?

. . . so that everyone who believes in him may not perish."

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. This is what he said: "*no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God*" (John 3:2). An unsteady, fitful confidence flickered like a sputtering wick in the dark. "*How can these things be?*" Riddled about the kingdom of God, flesh and Spirit, heaven and earth, he didn't hide inside of **cautious** silence or avoid heavy darkness.

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. There he found God's answer in a word. Believe. Believe not in a world without death or disaster, not in a world without suffering or loss, not in a world without devastation or humiliation, not in a world without defeat or shame. Believe in God who refuses to abandon such a world. Believe in the sign of God, Jesus himself, God's love for this world where joys do agonize, flowers do fade, springs do thirst. Believe in God in the dark night hour.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Steve Jacobson
	Norm Sack

Lector	Liz Pemberton
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	Carley Cameron
Acolytes	Kenyon Martis
	Kaitlyn Munguia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	June Anderson
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
	Julie O'Doherty
	Bryon Line
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Anthony Bonacci
Acolytes	Tyler Johnston
	Hadley Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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Omaha, NE 68131
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May 26 & 27, 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 This morning we'll serve a continental breakfast from 8—11 AM. Join us again next Sunday for our hot breakfast buffet thanks to Jim West and the kitchen crew.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Recognition of Graduating Seniors (Pr. Moessner) **NEXT WEEK:** Global Missions Committee

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Debbie Bogue and family in memory of John Bogue.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL Beginning June 17 through July 15, join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for Summer 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. Our program will focus on Holy Communion and use the curriculum "Fed and Forgiven".

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

May 27 Sunday

Holy Trinity
 No Sunday School (Summer SS begins 6/17)
 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)

May 28 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)
 OFFICE CLOSED

May 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 30 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:30 PM MS/HS Hangout in Youth Center

May 31 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 1 Friday

6:00 PM Parent's Night Out

June 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
 4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
 5:00 PM Worship/Celebration of Life Choir

June 3 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 No Sunday School (Summer SS begins 6/17)
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH Each week, beginning May 30, we'll meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30—9:00 PM and just hang out in the Youth Room. We hope to see you there!

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.

IT'S NOT TO LATE TO INVEST IN KOUNTZE MEMORIAL

YOUTH Twelve high school members and accompanying Adults from Kountze, plus about 30,000 others from ELCA congregations

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY
Spring and Summer 2018

Summer Sunday School
 June 17 – July 15

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

Picnic Potluck & 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

from around the nation, will get together for acts of service and spiritual development, for encouraging conversations and uplifting worship. Please see the insert in today's bulletin to see how you can help. Thanks!

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!

PICNIC POTLUCK & 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.

"SEX AND VIOLENCE IN THE BIBLE" Join us this summer on four Wednesdays at 6:00 PM beginning July 11 for a Bible Study presented by Dulcinea Boesenberg. You can call the church office to sign up so we know how many to plan for.

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—this would be an additional \$1 million). Information regarding the repairs will be presented by Paul Sum.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 43

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 210 11:00: 113

Midweek - Noon: 4

Total: 370

Pantry Guests Served: 356

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 42

Offering:

\$10,263.76 (Regular) \$1,223.00 (Specials)

\$3,251.00 (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

We are children of God and heirs with Christ.

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Galatians 3:29-4:7	Heirs of promise
Thursday	Isaiah 44:1-8	God pours out the Spirit
Friday	Titus 3:1-7	God saved us
Saturday	Psalm 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 2:23-3:6	A question about the sabbath



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It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. **Romans 8:16-17a (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy Trinity, we thank you for giving us new birth and making us your children and heirs of promise forevermore. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord strengthen you and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time you felt powerless in a situation.
- Slaves in the time of Christ had no legal power, no legal identity as a parent, and no hope of inheritance. What would it be like to be a slave?
- We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear but a spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15). What does it mean to you to be adopted by God?

Read: Romans 8:12-17 and John 3:1-17.

The Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God in three persons, is a difficult idea to understand. However, it is best described through relationship and story, our story as people who have been “born from above” (John 3:3). John 3 and Romans 8 both focus on the love of God that adopts us, gives us a new birth and makes us children of promise, children with an inheritance with Christ. Instead of being slaves to sin and death, we are freed for a new life in Christ. However, the glory of this new life still experiences suffering with Christ (Romans 8:17). Reflect on how suffering connects us to God’s love for this present world.

Pray: Holy Trinity, we thank you for giving us new birth and making us your children and heirs of promise forevermore. Amen.

In Isaiah 6:1-8 the prophet Isaiah is terrified by being in God’s holy presence because Isaiah is unclean. That changes when an angel brings a flaming coal from the altar and cleanses Isaiah from his sin. Then, in response to God’s question, “Whom shall I send?”, Isaiah is ready to say, “Here I am, send me”. God continues today to call and send us out into the world with the good news of Christ and his forgiveness. The one qualification Isaiah needed to be sent was to be forgiven. We are all qualified to be sent through that same power of forgiveness. Consider ways to be a servant of God’s love this week by offering an act of love, a caring conversation, and/or a word of prayer that expresses trust and hope in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A longstanding Christian tradition is to recall one’s baptism and being born from above by reciting the words for the Trinity: “In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” This week begin and end your days by making the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your heart and say: **“In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”** Consider making this a daily practice.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23--3:6