

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 6, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER



All you need is love! A (wildly) popular band sang that over fifty years ago. If you can remember back then, it seems nothing has changed, unless it has gotten worse. So, is the word love merely an illusion about which some still sing?

Today we hear Jesus' commandment about love. We hear an elderly apostle repeat the command. The difference between these words and those of a popular song is what Jesus did to show that God's love for the whole world is so much more than an illusion. Are we willing to let God's love in Christ transform us so we can be part of God's loving work for 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** “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*”

**ELW 385**

# 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 crea - 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** O God,
- C** you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we will obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(sit)

## WORD

### FIRST READING

**Acts 10:44-48**

They are not like us! *We seem to have this sense that some things are “ok” and other things are not. It is easiest to make that distinction by looking at other people. We then determine (judge?) which of them is good – like me. And, which are not! We continue our reading in the book of Acts, which tells how the earliest Christ-followers acted on his command to go out to all the world. Chapter 10 describes a pivotal encounter. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they – and we – start to see the real implications of for God so loved the world...*

**W**hile Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 95 *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**<sup>8</sup>"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**<sup>10</sup>Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger,  
**'They shall never come to my rest.'**

## SECOND READING

**1 John 5:1-6**

*Now an old man, the apostle is reflecting on the profound and difficult assertion, that God came in human flesh – and died. He also realizes God was acting in resurrection power. So now, then, how is this to affect us? Will we let this love God is giving us lead to love for others – all others? Water and blood, verse 6, refers to John 19:33-34, where the soldier pierces Jesus' side to see if he really is dead. Some suggest this verse points to the Sacraments – water for Baptism and the blood of Holy Communion. Above all, this emphasizes the reality of God's work to save the world.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

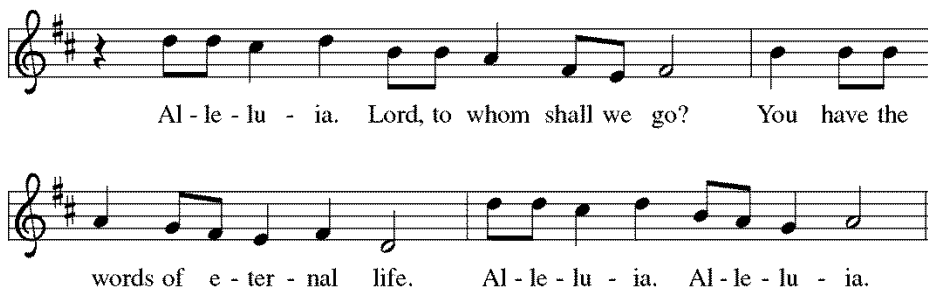
<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**John 15:9-17**

*We are listening in as Jesus speaks to his disciples the evening before his death. They did not understand what was about to unfold. We cannot fully grasp all that the God-whom-Jesus-called-Father was doing to show love. Yet we are called to let our hearts be transformed by this love so we can live out the Great Commandment – Mark 12:28-31 – and show God's love for the whole world.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do

what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

### **CHILDREN’S BLESSING** (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Roynesdal

(stand)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

**ELW 502**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

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

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Suri Rajan, brother-in-law of Pr. Paul & Donna Moessner

**Illness:** Len Carlson, Vicki Freeman, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, 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.  
**C** And also with you.

## MEAL

*(sit)*

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments”*

Thomas Tallis

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

ELW 184

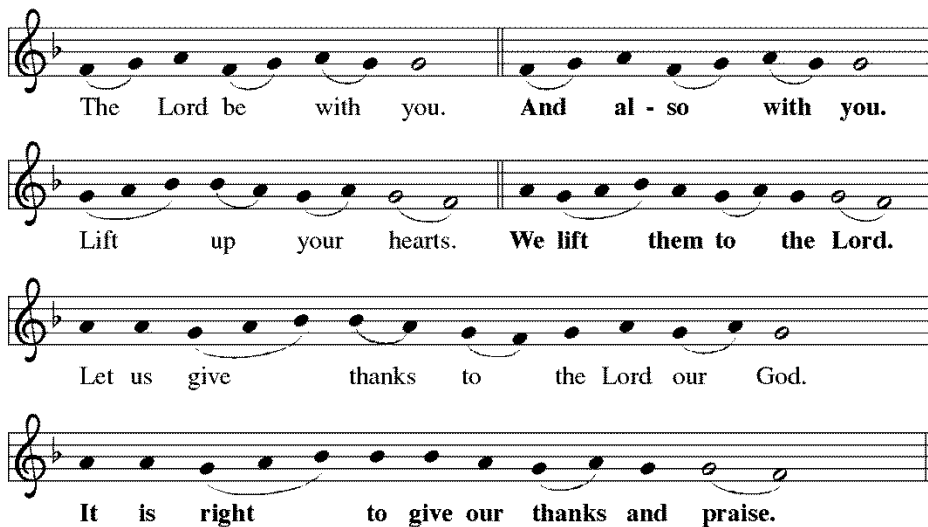
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give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

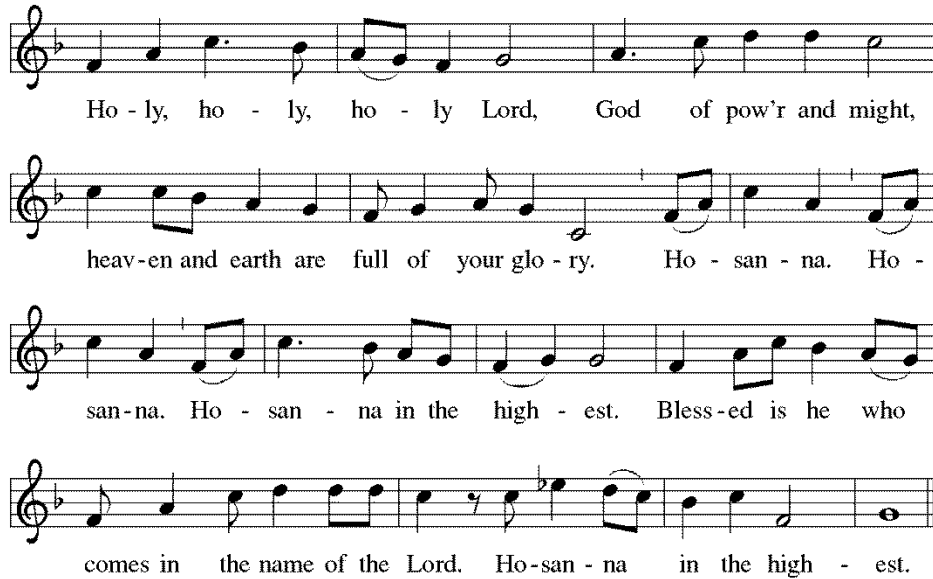
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

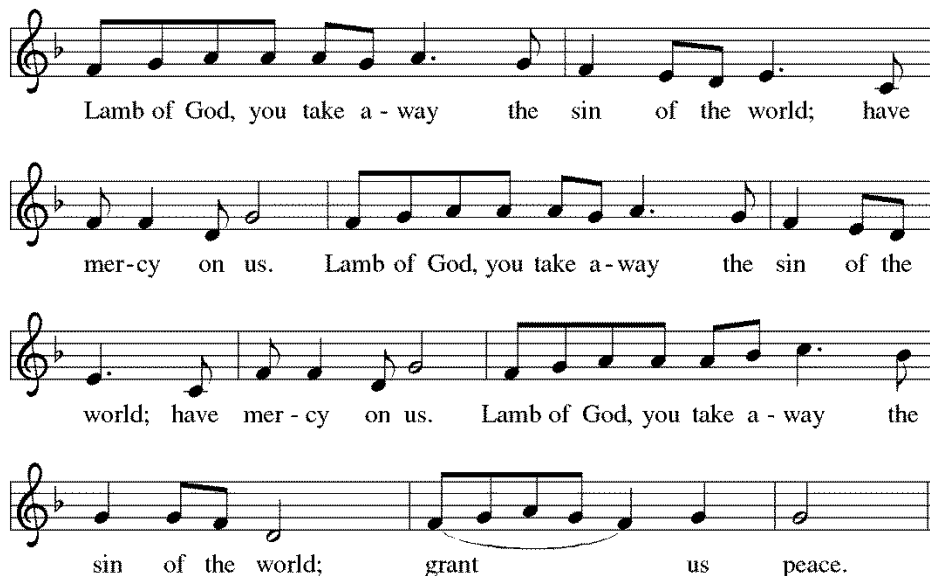
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☞ 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

*"Just As I Am, without One Plea"*

ELW 592

*"Blessed Assurance"*

ELW 638

## THE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

ELW 392

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;**

**Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.**

**Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:**

**"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."**

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Life-giving God,

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

## SENDING

### DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

#### BLESSING

- 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.
- C** Amen.

#### HYMN

*“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

**ELW 543**

#### DISMISSAL

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

#### POSTLUDE



## 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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
	Theresa Gruber

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder
	Susann Henry
	Liz Pemberton
Lector	Pamela Johnson
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	Bailey Gittler
Acolytes	Clara Kidder
	Anna Kidder

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer
	Nicole Campbell



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 5 & 6, 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.

**PASTOR OLAF'S SERMON TODAY** The article referred to in Pastor Olaf's Sermon today is "A Gravestone Made of Wheat" by Will Weaver. It was first published in the **Minneapolis Star Tribune** and later published in a collection of stories by the same name. It was made into a movie entitled **Sweetland**, which is available on DVD.

**PR. MOESSNER** is away this weekend as he is presiding over his brother-in-law's funeral in Carbondale, Illinois.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Yesterday's Youth, WELCA, and Men's Luncheon **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Mother's Day)

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** continues this Sunday, April 22, from 12—2 PM. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us each Sunday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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—8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Grades K—5<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio each Sunday. Preschool (and grades K—5<sup>th</sup> 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 6 Sunday**

Homebound Communion

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

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 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)

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

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

**May 7 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Congregational Life Committee

**May 8 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**May 9 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

**May 10 Thursday**

Ascension of Our Lord

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board Meeting

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Ascension Liturgy @ Trinity Episcopal

**May 12 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**May 13 Sunday**

Mother's Day

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

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 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)

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

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

**NURSERY** is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

**ATTENDANCE CARDS** All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES** Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

**E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA** If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held 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.

**NURSERY HELP IS NEEDED** If you would like to work with the youngest members of our congregation, please contact Kristin

## **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

at kristin@kmlchurch.org or by calling the church office at 402-341-7761.

**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 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.

**JOINT ASCENSION DAY WITH TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL** (held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 113 N 18<sup>th</sup> St), Thursday, May 10, 7:00 PM. Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, Trinity will be hosting the liturgy. Bishop Brian Maas will preach and Bishop Scott Barker will preside, with other clergy from Kountze Memorial and Trinity. Please mark your calendars and invite a friend!

**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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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. 114<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Lutheran**  
**YOUTH**  
**Serve Omaha**

**June 11 – 15**

Watch the bulletin & Good News for more information.

Online Registration:  
<https://form.jotform.com/80997618224164>

#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 47

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 228    11:00: 96

**Midweek - Noon:** 5

**Total:** 376

**Pantry Guests Served:** 403

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 43

**Offering:**

\$12,732.09 (Regular)    \$6,775.00 (Specials)

\$12,317.50 (In the City for Good)

## *The Holy Spirit expands the vision of Jesus' followers.*

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

Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
Wednesday	Isaiah 61:1-11	Good news of deliverance
Thursday	Romans 12:9-21	Love with sincerity
Friday	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	The church's faith and example
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples



© 2017 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Written by Pr. Greg Priebsnow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Acts 10:47-48a (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, just as the Holy Spirit surprised Peter and his friends by including Gentiles in the church, open our hearts and minds to new ways to accept and love others. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God at our table, giver of bread, bless us to love, just as you've said. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who has done marvelous things, bless you with joy and God's steadfast love and faithfulness. (Psalm 98)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell of a story when you were greatly surprised by something.
- Talk about an event that changed or influenced your life.
- The church's identity changed to include Gentiles for the first time (Acts 10:44-48). How has your understanding of the church grown over the years to be more inclusive?

*Read:* John 15:9-17.

Jesus' command to love one another describes the life of his followers, people who were chosen by Jesus to be his disciples and enabled to bear fruit (v. 16). That opens up the lives of Jesus' followers to love and befriend others. Similarly, in Acts 10:44-48 the Holy Spirit amazed Peter and his fellow disciples and expanded their vision to include the uncircumcised to be accepted as part of the church. God's ways surprise and empower us through the word of God and the Spirit of God. Reflect on how God's word (Jesus' commandment to love) and the Holy Spirit have opened your life to love others and see the call to discipleship in ways that connect you to a larger world of care. Conclude by praying:

**Pray: Dear God, thank you for choosing me and all whom you call friends. Grant me and all believers your power to bear fruit and to love and accept others for Jesus' sake and in his name. Amen.**

Cornelius welcomed Peter and others into his home. It was in the home that Cornelius received Peter's message and where his household was baptized. Peter and his friends were asked to stay in Cornelius' home for several days, obviously giving the new converts more time and experience with the message of Jesus. In the New Testament the home is church, too. Invite others to your home and use portions of this *Taking Faith Home* bulletin to share God's word and empower lives in the Christian faith.

Throughout the Bible and the history of the church, singing has been a faithful way of worshipping God and expressing one's faith in God (Psalm 98). Sing and/or pray the words of *Spirit of the Living God* and add other songs as well. Begin your singing and praying by saying the words of Psalm 98:4: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19