

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

June 10, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



What is truth? Pilate asked that of Jesus. We may ask a similar question. The information constantly coming at us is more than anyone can handle, let alone verify and comprehend. So how do we deal with that? In today's readings we are challenged to consider: How does TRUTH and the mishandling of truth fit into the human story? What about the resulting disruption of relations, with other humans, with God, with our own souls. And, then what about Jesus' claim, that he is the way, the truth, and the life? [John 18:38; 14:6]

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”
“Ten Thousand Angels”*

*Rasley
Overbolt
Bruce Nissen, Organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love
- C** **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,
- C** **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 ☩ forgives you all your sins.
- C** **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Built on a Rock”

ELW 652 vs. 1, 3, 4

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

**1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.**

**5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.**

**4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.**

**6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.**

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5-6

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P All-powerful God,

Q in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15

One may not “believe” the Adam and Eve story, but we cannot deny the reality of shame and blame, of distorted truth and misplaced trust. This passage challenges us to ask: How do these dynamics bring destruction to lives and relationships, to our society and the environment. At the same time, we see the promise of One who will be mortally wounded, yet will ultimately destroy the power of evil. Consider John 8:44, 14:6, and 8:36.

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”¹⁰ He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

L The word of the Lord.

Q Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130 (read responsively)

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

²**O Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the Lord shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

We have seen buildings destroyed by storms. We have seen bodies devastated by disease. Is there reason to go forward with hope? We continue our reading in Saint Paul's letter to the Christ-followers in the cosmopolitan seaport of Corinth. He is addressing the (false) assumption, that real faith means we will have no worries, our bodies will be buff and our bank accounts full – similar to our society's so-called Gospel of Health and Wealth. Faith in Jesus Christ means we are part of a much bigger picture, even when we cannot yet see it. Chapter five keeps building. Next week we will read more.

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“A Mighty Fortress is our God”

ELW 504 vs. 1

**☩ A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus has been healing and teaching. He just appointed twelve followers, who would be especially trained (disciples) so they could be sent out (apostles). He gets home but the crowd seeks more. In addition to this popularity, Jesus is also starting to meet opposition. Notice how Jesus responds to the accusations. Rather than denying adamantly, he asks a question. In this passage, we hear the phrase unforgiveable sin. What is Jesus saying cannot be forgiven? We also hear a phrase that was used so powerfully in the politics leading to our nation's Civil War. And, according to Jesus, who is part of the family (household) of faith?

Jesus went home and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” ³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Paul Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

ELW 504 vs. 2, 3, 4

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**☩ 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **📖** Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

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

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Gary Rodene, Charlie Wachholtz, Evelyn Winther

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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ *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

"Surely Goodness and Mercy"

Kevin Larkowski, Soloist

1. A pilgrim was I and a-wandering,
In the cold night of sin I did roam,
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me,
And now I am on my way home. **Chorus (All may join in Chorus)**

Chorus



Sure-ly good-ness and



mer - cy shall fol - low me All the days, all the days of my



life; ————— Sure-ly good-ness and mer - cy shall fol - low



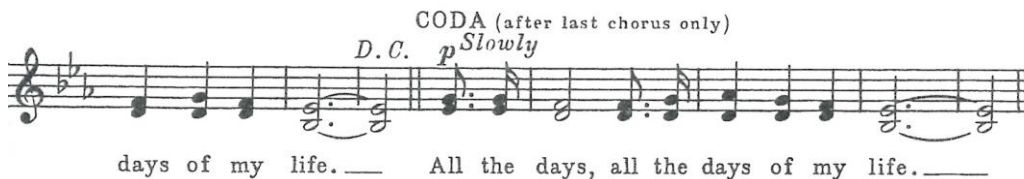
me All the days, all the days of my life. —

2. He restoreth my soul when I'm weary,
He giveth me strength day by day,
He leads me beside the still waters,

He guards me each step of the way. **Chorus** (above)

3. When I walk through the dark lonesome valley,
My Savior will walk with me there;
And safely His great hand will lead me
To the mansions He's gone to prepare. **Chorus** (above)
4. And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord, forever
And I shall feast at the table prepared for me! **Last Chorus**

Last Chorus



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(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

- ☐ 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

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This musical score is for a hymn in G major (one sharp). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests.

THE PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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.

This musical score is for a hymn in F major (one flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has two measures: 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff has two measures: 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' The melody is more complex than the first hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

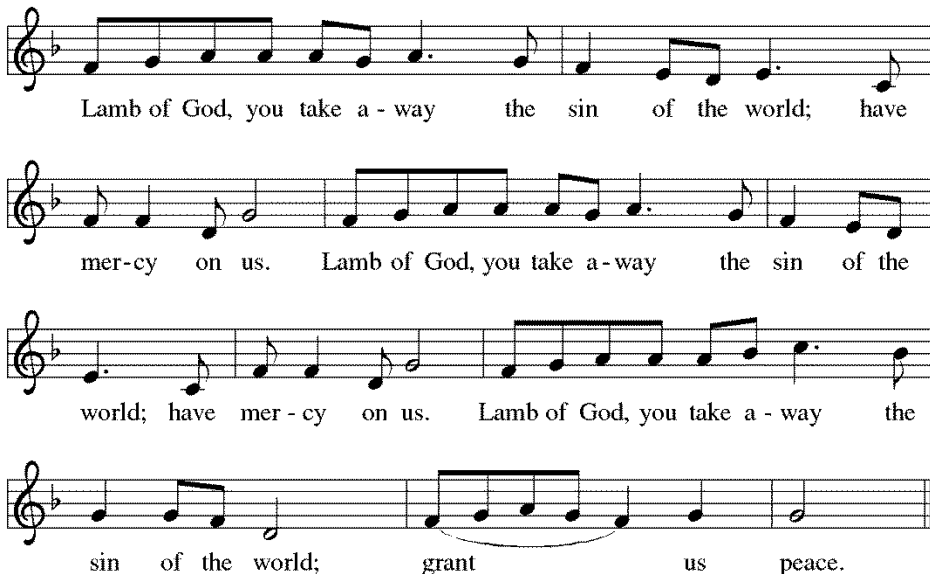
- ☞ The gifts of God for the people of God.
☞ Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE DISTRIBUTION

*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.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“Amazing Grace”
“Just As I Am, without One Please”*

Kevin Larkowski, Soloist
ELW 592

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Lord God,

G 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, on God, now and forever. Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P 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.

G Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

G Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Nothing Is Impossible”

Clark
Bruce Nissen, Organist
Barb Carlsen, Pianist

✠ ✠ ✠

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.	Liz Pemberton
	Lorie Groenjes
Lector	Bailey Gittler
Ushers	Bob Woodworth
	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Marcy Madison
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Karen Wolf
	Sharon Anderson
	Bev Troxel
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Clara Kidder
	Rahn Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum
	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Ken Johnson
	Ken Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
	Kathy Preininger
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin
	Julie King
Crucifer	Tyler Johnston
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68131

June 9 & 10, 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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST This Sunday morning, June 10 from 8—11 AM, our high school, middle school, even out of high school members will serve pancakes in place of our regular breakfast buffet. Come and enjoy some yummy pancakes and your free-will donation will support this summer's mission trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. Come and eat! Join us again next Sunday for our hot breakfast buffet.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK: Special Congregational Meeting** followed by an update on the Pantry and Clinic (Joyce Palmer), and the Art & Landscaping Committee for Kountze Commons (Tim Holland) **NEXT WEEK: Celebrating Our Choirs: Adult, Youth, Children, and Bells** (Barb Carson, Janet Carlson, Donna Moessner, and Danny Bos)

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of our dad and Uncle Bill by Karen and Shirley Bonneau; by Bob & Sandy Fonda in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

TELEVISION BROADCAST is sponsored by Bob & Sandy Fonda in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

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.

June 10 Sunday

8:00 AM Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:10 AM Special Congregational Meeting
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 12:00 PM Book Group

June 11 Monday

Jun 11 - Jun 15 LYSO
 10:00 AM Pantry

June 12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 13 Wednesday

MS/HS in Youth Room
 9:00 AM Sewing Group
 12:15 PM Worship

June 14 Thursday

Council Reports Due
 9:30 AM WELCA Board Meeting
 11:30 AM Property Committee
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 16 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:00 PM Worship

June 17 Sunday

Father's Day
 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 Summer Sunday School (2yr-8th)
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

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 we'll meet each week on Wednesday evenings from 6:30—9:00 PM and just hang out in the Youth Room. We hope to see you there!

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 from around the nation, will get together for acts of service and spiritual development, for encouraging conversations and uplifting worship. If you'd like to help, please write "Youth Trip" in the memo area of your check. Thanks.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY
Spring and Summer 2018

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

Summer Sunday School
 June 17 – July 15

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

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.

CROWNED Sunday, June 17, 9 & 11 AM The Men's singing group known as Crowned will be joining Kountze Memorial for worship on Sunday, June 17 at both services. Crowned would very much like to thank Carolyn Sieling for accompanying them on the piano and to Pastor Olaf for allowing them to use Kountze as practice space. The gentlemen in the group truly feel like their ministry is just starting to spread and they hope their message reaches the people that God calls for them to reach. On that Sunday, if you would like to give an offering to their ministry, there will be offering buckets around the Sanctuary. To follow Crowned on their journey, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/CrownedQuartet/>

SPECIAL VESPERS FOR ALZHEIMER AWARENESS AND ALL CARETAKERS Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 PM, This year the Sanctuary will be open for individual meditation and prayer at 6:30 PM with Vespers beginning at 7:00 PM. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. There are 16.1 million caregivers supporting those living with the disease. In Nebraska alone, there are 34,000 individuals living with dementia and nearly 37,000 individuals living with brain injuries. In 2 Timothy 4:17 we read, "But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength". Coming together in prayer is our opportunity to show our love and concern for those living with Alzheimer's and their Caregivers.

MEN'S LUNCHEON The Men's Luncheon meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 11:30 AM. The cost is \$10. We enjoy conversation and a meal and hear presentations on a variety of topics. Presenters may be from the community or within the congregation. Topics may be directly theological, always inviting us to consider how faith connects with the wider community and all of creation. Join us on Thursday, June 21, and hear from Katie Larson, about the community work she has been doing.

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.

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.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, July 8, Noon (immediately following 11:00 AM service). Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptism liturgy with you. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761.

"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.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 85

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 193 11:00: 93

Midweek - Noon: 8

Total: 379

Pantry Guests Served: 346

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 33

Offering:

\$10,768.07 (Regular) \$970.00 (Specials)

\$1,442.50 (In the City for Good)

Youth Ministry this Summer

High School

Two Fridays a month, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

(Date TBA in the bulletin)

at the Picha Home

12458 Osprey Lane

For dinner, fellowship, prayer

Middle School, High School

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Hang out every week in the Youth Room

The will of God is for us to be a follower of Jesus.

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

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	Hosea 14:1-9	Plea for repentance
Thursday	Hebrews 10:19-25	Care for the community of faith
Friday	Matthew 8:1-4	Jesus cleanses a leper
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	The use of parables



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. **Mark 3:35 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Beloved God, thank you for making us family with people near and far. Help us to care for your church throughout the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, thank you for all you give so we are fed. May we love you back from toe to head. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with hope and the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 130:7)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What activities bring family and friends together?
- How does faith in God affect our relationships with others?
- Being part of the community that follows Jesus—that is, being his family—is doing the will of God (Mark 3:34-35). How do you follow Jesus? How do others you know follow Jesus?

Read: Genesis 3:8-15

It is the story that describes the origin of sin in the world. The western church has generally described sin as disobedience. The eastern church has more often seen sin as being deceived or being tricked (Genesis 3:13). As rational creatures, we can justify so many of our actions and deceive ourselves or let ourselves be deceived by others. In Mark 3:20-35 scribes who had just witnessed Jesus' healing work described him as doing the work of Satan (Mark 3:22-29). The scribes deceived themselves by not acknowledging that Jesus was doing the work that was opposed to Satan. Think of how we deceive ourselves today and commit sin by denying the work of Jesus in our lives and the world.

Pray: Dear merciful God, cleanse us from our sins. Help us to see you and your healing and forgiving work in our lives and in our world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All who follow Jesus are made part of his family (Mark 3:34-35). As those who are made family members to one another through Jesus Christ, commit to some form of care for the church locally or around the world. Consider offering prayers for your brothers and sisters in Christ living in places where it is difficult to be Christian. Pray for the courage of faith for those near and far. Contact a fellow Christian to listen to them and offer your care, support, and prayers.

Recognizing our sin and need for God's mercy and forgiveness is a wonderful gift of faith (Psalm 130). The Jesus Prayer acknowledges our sin and also shows that God has mercy on us, as sinners. It comes to us through the Eastern Orthodox tradition. There are three stages: pray out loud, pray silently, and pray descending from the mind to the heart. Use one of the following versions for the Jesus Prayer: **"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."** or **"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us."** Pray this during the week and consider praying the Jesus Prayer in the future as well.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 4:26-34