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 24, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

19th Annual Neighborhood Gathering and Jazz Worship Services



Bob Zagozda, clarinet & vocals; Bob Olsen, cornet; Jim Schanilec, trombone; Ken Molacek, tuba; Tom Hazuka, drums; Mark Nelson, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son ⊕, and Holy Spirit, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
- Amen.
- P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- **P** Eternal God our creator,
- 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.
- Since we are justified by faith alone,
 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

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P O God of creation, eternal majesty,
- **Q** you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

(sit)

THE FIRST READING:

Job 38:1-11

Why do people suffer? "No pain, no gain" or "God is testing you" or "What did you do wrong to cause God's punishment" ...

These may not always be helpful or true. The book of Job struggles with the question of suffering. After long dialogue, finally God answers. This is an imaginative depiction of God's creative process. However, does this answer the question of suffering?

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴ Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? ⁸ Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?"

L The word of the Lord.

9 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 23-32 (*read responsively*)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

²³Some went down to the sea in ships, plying their trade in deep waters.

²⁴They beheld the works of the LORD,

God's wonderful works in the deep.

²⁵Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose, which tossed high the waves of the sea.

²⁶They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths; their souls melted away in their peril.

²⁷They staggered and reeled like drunkards, and all their skill was of no avail.

²⁸Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD, and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁹You stilled the storm to a whisper and silenced the waves of the sea.

³⁰Then were they glad when it grew calm, when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

³¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

³²Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people; in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING:

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

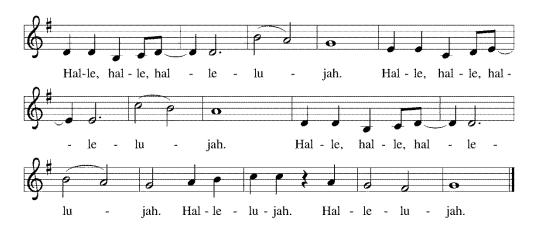
We continue our reading in Saint Paul's letter to First Church, Corinth. They have been rejecting the gift of God's grace, turning to something that seemed fancier. The Apostle has been pouring out his heart, anguished for what they are doing. Almost like a frustrated parent, he asks his children to take hold of what is truly best.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

L The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Caribbean traditional

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
- **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 4:35-41

After a day of teaching, Jesus has more to do, but elsewhere, tomorrow. In ancient cultures, the sea represents chaos. While the disciples were accomplished seafarers, they knew danger. They were willing to set out, knowing it might not be just a leisurely cruise. So where between "Let us go" ... and "Peace! Be still!" am I now?

When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

P The Gospel of our Lord

© Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

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

SERMON Pastor Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bearall because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged-take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

BLESSING OUR PARTICIPANTS AND ACCOMPANYING ADULTS (9:00 A.M.)

The ELCA Youth Gathering~ June 26-July 2, Houston Texas Nick Barret, Anthony Bonacci, Charlie Campbell, Nicole Campbell, Keelan Edwards, Torin Edwards, Bailey Gittler, Britten Johnson, Soren Johnson, Ben Lampman, Ryan Lampman, Kenyon Martis, Cameron Miller, Shannon Pica, Pastor Paul Moessner

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: P Lord, in your mercy P 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: Krista Boyd, daughter of Pastor Paul and Donna Moessner, Bill Christensen, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Gary Rodene, Charlie Wachholtz, John Waterman

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.

MFAI.

(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

"At a Georgia Camp Meeting"

Street Railway Company Jazz Band

OFFERING PRAYER

- P Merciful God.
- **9** 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

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- **P** Lift up your hearts
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **Q** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... ...and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

❷ Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- **P** The gifts of God for the people of God.
- **2** 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)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Street Railway Company Jazz Band

(stand)

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P Lord God.
- **9** 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

BENEDICTION

- 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.
- Amen.

HYMN

"When the Saints Go Marching Out"

1 Oh, when the saints go marching out, oh, when the saints go marching out, O Lord, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching out.

2 Oh, when the Lord in glory comes, oh when the Lord in glory comes, O Lord, I want to be in that number when the Lord in glory comes.

3 Oh, when the new world is revealed, oh, when the new world is revealed, O Lord, I want to be in that number when the new world is revealed.

4 Oh, when they gather 'round the throne,

oh, when they gather 'round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that number when they gather 'round the throne.

5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings, oh, when they crown him King of kings,

O Lord, I want to be in that number when they crown him King of kings.

6 And on that hallelujah day, and on that hallelujah day, O Lord, I want to be in that number on that hallelujah day.

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. Let us go remembering our mission:
- **W**e are disciples of Jesus, <u>worshiping</u> our God, <u>growing</u> in faith and <u>serving</u> our community. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Street Railway Company Jazz Band

Please join us outside from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM for our 19th Annual Neighborhood Gathering. All are welcome!

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal Senior Pastor Pr. Paul Moessner Associate Pastor Pr. Ashlev Hall **Associate Pastor** Pr. Inba Inbarasu Visitation Pastor Kristin Boe Christian Ed Coordinator Debbie Bogue Office Manager Sarah Jewel Administrative Assistant Lauri Askew Staff Treasurer Iudi Boe **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 Iones Organist David Gerard Saturday Accompanist Sheri Lynn Tipton Night Security Manager Norma Pafford Nursery Superintendent Joyce Palmer Urban Ministries Coordinator



2650 Farnam Street 402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131 www.kmlchurch.org

June 23 & 24, 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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector Charlie Bressman Ushers Jim Smejkal Jason Klonglan

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst. Lorie Groenjes

Jeff Perkins

Lector Jan Falk

Ushers Bob Woodworth

Glenn Anderson Dan Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman

Ted Kaasch Karen Wolf

Sharon Anderson

Bev Troxel

Crucifer Britten Johnson Acolytes Kenyon Martis

Kaitlyn Munguia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Greeters

Comm. Asst. Deb Hinrichs

Scott Henneman

Lector Steve Hinrichs
Ushers Ken Johnson

Linda Johnson Melissa Osentowski

Norm Sack Bryon Line

Greeters Rosemary Tessin

Julie King

Crucifer Anthony Bonacci Acolytes Tyler Johnston

Henry Rief

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ This Sunday, June 24, is our Neighborhood Gathering, so we won't be serving breakfast. But join us again next 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.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** No Forum (Neighborhood Gathering) **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Fourth of July)

20th **Annual Neighborhood Gathering and Jazz Service** is this Sunday! Join us from 11:30 AM—1:30 PM for Jazz Music, Carriage Rides, Free Food, Inflatables, Carnival Games, Face Painting, Balloons, and more!

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Tracey Saklar; in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary given by Sharon & Emilio Arispe; in loving memory of Bill & Marje Sears given by their family; in honor of LeClare Steffen's 95th birthday by her family.

TELEVISION BROADCAST Today's television broadcast is sponsored by Pastor Paul and Donna Moessner in praise to God for the ministry of Father Jay Finno, retiring after 46 years. He is the founding pastor of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Parish, Tinley Park, Illinois. Father Jay is the cousin of Steve Walentik, son-in-law of the Moessners.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL will continue through Sunday, 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. 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 24 Sunday

Neighborhood Gathering - No 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)

10:10 AM Sunday School Summer (2yr-8th)

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Neighborhood Gathering

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

June 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 26 Tuesday

Jun 26 - Jul 1 ELCA Youth Gathering

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

5:30 PM KETV Management Board

7:00 PM Circle 3

June 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

June 28 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)

5:00 PM Worship

July 1 Sunday

Homebound Communion

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)

10:10 AM Sunday School Summer (2yr-8th)

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.

<u>CHILDREN IN WORSHIP</u> 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.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH It's BINGO time! Please join us on Tuesday, July 3, for lunch and then stay for one of our most popular events—BINGO! There will be prizes galore! Lunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office. All ages are welcome! If you have any questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Hope to see you there!

<u>BAPTISM SEMINAR</u> 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.

<u>"SEX AND VIOLENCE IN THE BIBLE"</u> Join us this summer on four Wednesdays at 6:00 PM beginning July 11 for a Bible Study presented by Dulcinea Boesenberg. More details on the insert beginning next weekend. Please call the church office to sign up so we know how many to plan for.

<u>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</u> – Not Just for Children! or – for Children of All Ages! Reserve Friday evening, July 20 and Saturday Morning, July 21, for a different Bible School Experience. We begin with supper at 5:30 PM and conclude the evening by 7:45 PM. We resume Saturday with continental breakfast at 8:30 AM. We will focus on a Bible story that helps us know who we are as the people of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church! We will create an art project together. We will have a chance to talk with people of different ages. And we intend to have fun!

THANK YOU to all those who donated eyeglasses in May. We collected almost 200 pair! You have made a big difference in the life of homeless people.

<u>THANK YOU</u> Sheri Rose has been our Financial Secretary since October, 2016. She is resigning from the position due to current time restraints. We welcome Judi Boe as our new Financial Secretary beginning the middle of June.



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 41

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 183 **11:00:** 94

Midweek - Noon: 5

Total: 323

Pantry Guests Served: 392 Medical Clinic Guests Served: 39

Offering:

\$10,014.05 (Regular) \$681.00 (Specials)

\$4.366.46 (In the City for Good)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY Spring and Summer 2018

Summer Sunday School June 17 – July 15

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

Jesus has the power to help in time of trouble.

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

Sunday Mark 4:35-41 Jesus calms the sea
Monday Job 38:1-11 God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 How Paul served God
Wednesday Acts 27:13-38 Paul and the storm at sea
Thursday Exodus 14:5-25 Parting of the Red Sea

Friday Joshua 3:7-17 The Jordan River stops flowing Saturday Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 God saves those in distress Sunday Mark 5:21-43 Jesus heals and raises to life



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And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" **Mark 4:41 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please replace our fears with faith; give us courage and keep us calm in times of trouble. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For all we eat and all we wear; for daily bread and nightly care; for your good gifts to use and share; we thank you, Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God calm you when you are afraid. May you have faith to trust in God's love and care.

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Draw a picture or talk about a time you were afraid?
- The disciples were in a boat and afraid of a dangerous storm. They thought they might drown. Jesus was with them. How would you feel?
- How do you reach out to Jesus when you experience storms in life?

Read: Mark 8:79-41 and Psalm 107:28-31.

Find a container to represent a boat. Talk about or reflect on any worries or fears you may have today. Write these down and place them in your "boat." Pray that Jesus will calm your fears and help you to see and trust that he is with you in every storm, especially the worries and fears named in your "boat" today.

Pray: God of creation and salvation, help us to see the storms before us, weather the storms within us, and seek shelter in the harbor of your safety and care. We pray to you through Jesus Christ who knows us, cares for us, and saves us. Amen.

Even for Paul in the early church, there were tensions with the very people he cared for and ministered to with the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 6:1-13). Being a community of faith involves relationships that need to be grounded in prayer for one another, mutual love, and forgiveness. Pray for those in your faith community with whom you experience tensions or differences. Reach out to leaders in your community with words of appreciation, support, and prayer as together the community seeks to worship God and serve the needs of the world.

It is easy while standing on land to forget how dangerous the open seas can be. Navy and merchant sailors, commercial fishermen, and even those sailing or motoring on the open water for pleasure can quickly be reminded of the power and danger of stormy weather. The waters of the sea and of baptism are life giving and life taking (Romans 6:3-4). This week place a bowl of water in front of you to remember not only your baptism but the raw power of water, especially for those at sea. Dip your finger into the water, make the sign of the cross on your forehead, giving thanks to God for the life-giving waters of baptism, and then pray verse one of *Eternal Father*, *Strong to Save*: **Eternal Father**, **strong to save**, **whose arm has bound the restless wave**, **who bade the mighty oceans deep its own appointed limits keep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.**