

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

July 15, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the Baptist also spoke the truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in the company with them.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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 is kept 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 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

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

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,
- C** from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Amos 7:7-15

Amos was not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he was an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicted with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encountered at Bethel.

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." ¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" ¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." ¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'" "

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13 (*read responsively*)

⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the Lord
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

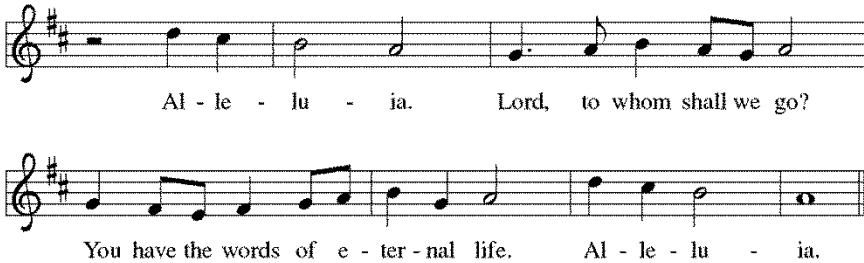
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those oppressed to the gospel of salvation.

King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW 813

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**☑ 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.**

PRAVERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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

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

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Janice Nelson, Gary Rodene, Grant Searcey, Charlie Wachholtz

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"* Text: F. W. Faber (1814-63)
Music: M. Bevan (1921 - 2006)
Janet Campbell, soloist

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

ELW 691

- ☞** Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.

Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

- ☞** The Lord be with you.
☞ And also with you.
☞ Lift up your hearts.
☞ We lift them to the Lord.
☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS

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

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☒ 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

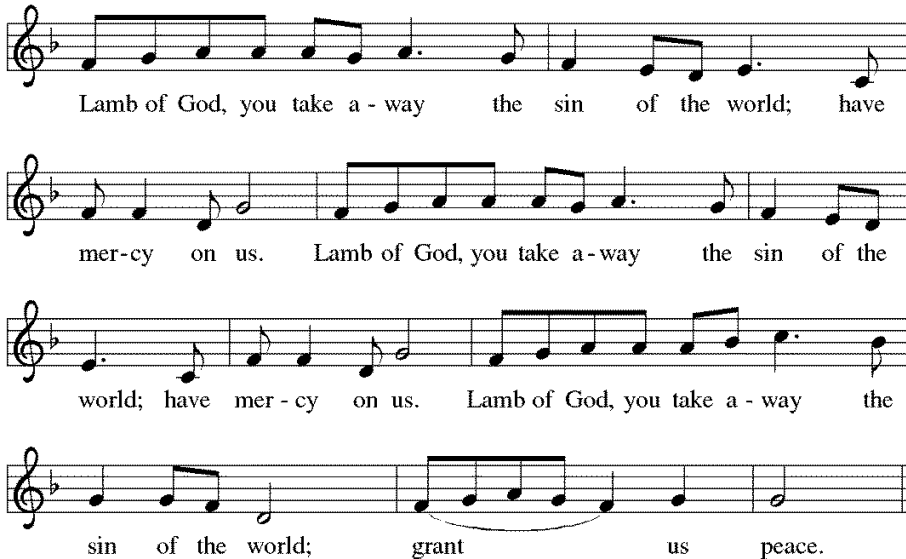
☐ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

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 who 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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

ELW 631

ELW 488

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Jesus Christ, host of this meal,

C you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

DISMISSAL

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

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
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Judi 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 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.	Susie Henry
	Liz Pemberton
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Robin Perkins
Ushers	Jeff Perkins
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	John Gorgeson
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Vickie Wichert
	Darlene Anderson
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Kenyon Martis
	Bailey Gittler

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Norm Sack
Lector	Ruth Pera
Ushers	Julie O'Doherty
	Linida Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Anthony Bonacci
	Charlie Campbell



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 14 & 15, 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 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.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Pr. Hall Shares Information on Time at Cambridge **NEXT WEEK:** Highlighting the Work of DeFreese Manor (*Scott Henneman*)

SPONSOR APPRECIATION DINNER Youth Gathering Sponsors — THANK YOU! Please come to our Thank-you Banquet on Sunday, July 15, 5:30 PM. We want to tell you more of our experience.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Bruce and Barb Nissen in honor of their wedding anniversary; in honor of Paul & Dotty Sum's 50th wedding anniversary given by Ashley Sum; in honor of their 68th wedding anniversary given by Bill & Madaline Christensen

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God by Barbara Smrkovsky

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".

July 15 Sunday

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
 5:30 PM Sponsor Appreciation Dinner

July 16 Monday

Good News Deadline
 10:00 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM Christian Ed Committee

July 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregational Council

July 18 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Bible Study - Sex & Violence in the Bible

6:30 PM MS/HS Hangout in Youth Center

July 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
 11:30 AM Property Committee
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 7:00 PM Circle 5

July 20 Friday

5:30 PM Vacation Bible School (Camp) for All Ages

July 21 Saturday

8:30 AM Vacation Bible School (Camp) for All Ages
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:00 PM Worship

July 22 Sunday

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)
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry



Someone recently received the following email from Dr. Olaf Roynesdal:

"Hello. I'm in a meeting and I will not be able to talk to you on phone. I will need you to run an errand for me at the store, this is really urgent and important.. I need you to get me 5 iTunes gift cards from the store in \$100 denominations. I will reimburse you back from my pocket.. Scratch-off the back code and email clear pictures of all the codes at the back of the physical cards.. I need it ASAP."

Pastor Olaf did not send this email! **No one** from Kountze Memorial will ever email you to buy anything. Should you get such an email delete it and report it to the church office. **Do not respond to it.** Thank you.

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.

"SEX AND VIOLENCE IN THE BIBLE" is presented by Dulcinea Boesenberg. and continues on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM through August 1.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – 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! Please let us know you are coming. Sign up online at.... or call the office – 402 341 7761

CARD SHOWER In celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary on July 26, the children of Reverend Lavern and Marilyn Larkowski would like to honor them with a card shower. Cards of congratulations may be sent to 1705 North 107th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68114. Their children – Kevin Larkowski (Omaha, Nebraska),

Cara Skrypchuk (Crofton, Maryland), Lisa Hahle (Boise, Idaho), and Craig Larkowski (Phoenix, Arizona) along with spouses, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren will celebrate in Omaha in July.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, July 19, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial – Cost \$10. The Men's Luncheon meets the third Thursday of each month, at 11:30. We enjoy conversation and a meal. We hear presentations on a variety of topics. Presenters may be from the community and within the congregation. Topics may be directly theological, always inviting us to consider how faith connects with the wider community and all of creation. On July 19, we will learn of the work of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, featuring Kountze member David Klug, who has served as board chair.

CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS are needed for Monday mornings or Thursday mornings from 9 AM—12:30 PM. If you think you might like spending some time in the church office, please call Debbie for further info.



ATTENDANCE & GIVING June 30, July 1

Saturday Attendance: 47

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 191 11:00: 88

Midweek - Noon: 4th of July

Total: 326

Pantry Guests Served: 302

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Offering:

\$18,874.92 (Regular) \$1,055.00 (Specials)

\$1,397.50 (In the City for Good)

July 7 & 8

Saturday Attendance: 56

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 187 11:00: 88

Midweek - Noon: 13

Total: 344

Pantry Guests Served: 310

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$16,993.76 (Regular) \$525.00 (Specials)

\$3,042.00 (In the City for Good)

Vacation Bible School *Not just for kids – for all ages!* We need **your** perspective to help all ages grow!

Friday, July 20, 5:30 – 7:30

We start with a *spaghetti supper*
Music, Bible Study, Crafts

Saturday, July 21, 8:30 – 12

We start with a continental breakfast
More Music, Bible Study, Science, Crafts

What kind of Dirt?

How does Jesus' parable of the soil describe my experience?

How do different soils help or hinder the way plants can grow?

Bring yourself or
yourself and your family or
yourself and your grandchildren Or
yourself, a friend, and a neighborhood kid!

Please let us know you are coming.

Sign up online at

<https://form.jotform.com/81767752284165>

or call the office – 402 341 7761

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

Indescribable joy of God's generosity.

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

Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist
Monday	Amos 7:7-15	Vision of the plumb line
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Thanksgiving for blessings
Wednesday	Leviticus 26:1-13	Rewards for obedience
Thursday	Romans 3:9-26	God's judgment and mercy
Friday	Proverbs 11:23-30	A generous person
Saturday	Psalm 85:8-13	God speaks peace to the people
Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals the people



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. **Ephesians 1:3-4 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Thank you, O God, for choosing to save us. Continue to give us your Holy Spirit so that the way we live gives praise to you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Receive our thanks for night and day, for food and water, rest and play. Lord, be our guest and with us stay. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of God, may the Lord, who has chosen you, bless you generously through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What words would you use to describe love?
- What picture or image would you use to describe living in the joy of God's presence?
- Ephesians 1:3-14 offers poetic language filled with heavenly grandeur to give a sense of God's generosity and our benefits. What images give you the greatest sense of comfort and joy?

Read: Ephesians 5:7-14.

We are reminded of all the blessings God has given to us through Jesus (v. 3). Take two to three minutes to have a "Blessing Brainstorm." Write down as many blessings—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual—that are part of your life. Offer a prayer of thanks for the blessings you have recorded. During the week add to the original list of blessings as you continue to imagine how God's love in Christ has touched your life.

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for all our blessings and ask that you help us appreciate them and keep them in our hearts. Amen.**

In Psalm 85:8 it reads: "Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts." God's faithful ones hear of God's peace and are faithful to God's desire and work for peace. The intimacy and power of God's love gets poetic emphasis in verse 10: "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other." Reflect on God's desire for love, peace, and faithfulness, in your life. Select some way to offer peace and reconciliation to an individual or in support of a larger effort or organization that pursues peace with justice in the world.

The prophets of the Old Testament are known to use visual examples of God's judgment and grace. In Amos 7:7-15, God allows Amos to see a plumb line, a carpenter's tool that has a weight on the end of a string to establish a straight vertical line to construct a straight wall. The plumb line communicates God's righteous judgment, the law of God that shows how all people have fallen short of the will of God (Romans 3:9-26). The good news is that the condemning law of God is necessary to grasp and receive God's grace, God's undeserved kindness that is the source of salvation. Take a string and put a weight on the end of it and write on the weight, "Amos 7:7-15." Hang the "plumb line" somewhere in your home to remind you of God's righteous law that leads to God's mercy and grace.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56