

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 22, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Mark's gospel makes clear how great was the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

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.

G 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,

G in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses,

and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.

By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith 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.

G Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ELW 502

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** Almighty God, powerful and compassionate,
- C** you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each one of us, and make us a whole people, that we will embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the “flock” of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David’s line to save Israel and Judah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “*The Lord is our righteousness.*”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23(*read responsively*)

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:11-22

The author of this letter is reminding his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

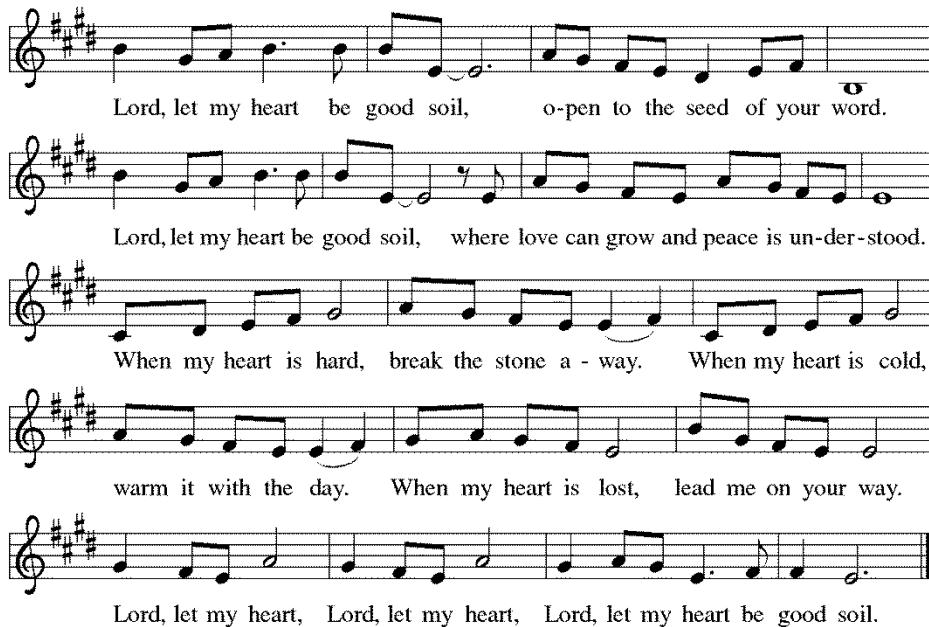
Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "*the uncircumcision*" by those who are called "*the circumcision*"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

When Jesus sent his disciples out to teach and heal, they ministered among large numbers of people. Their work was motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹Jesus said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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 Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

ELW 517

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.**

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

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 Rudy Timmel; to the family and friends of Eleanor Brusky, mother of Mike Brusky

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Eunice Grunberg, Janice Nelson, Esther Riha, 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

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Mark Hayes
Peggy Holloway, soloist

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

- ☐ 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 al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE FOR 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

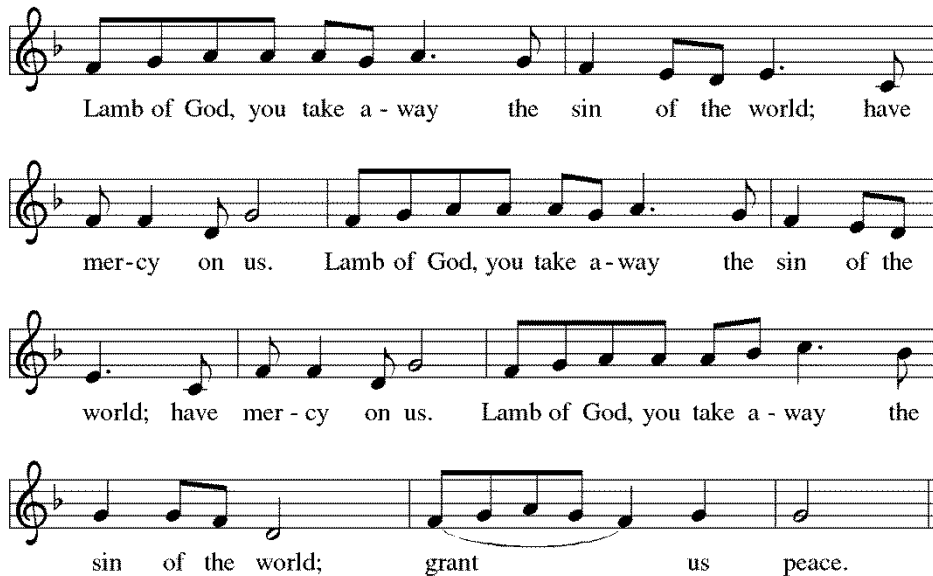
☐ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

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

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

ELW 592

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471

(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

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW 789

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve
G 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	Ellen Pesavento
Ushers	Duane Hovendick
	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Steve Jacobson
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Lector	Susie Henry
Ushers	Jeff Perkins
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	John Gorgeson
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Vickie Wichert
	Darlene Anderson
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Carly Cameron
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia
	Carter Wachholtz

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Steve Pera
Ushers	Julie O'Doherty
	Linida Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
	Bryon Line
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolytes	Charlie Campbell
	Hadley Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 21 & 22, 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:** Highlighting the Work of DeFreese Manor (*Scott Henneman*) **NEXT WEEK:** Missionaries from Argentina/Uruguay, Krystle and Ignacio Moraska

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God In honor of Dayle Johnson and Jean Johnson's birthdays

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in honor of Dayle Johnson's birthday

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL is over for the year. Coming soon: watch for Sunday School Registration for the fall. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

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

July 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 7:00 PM Circle 3

July 25 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 26 Thursday

12:00 PM Circle 4—Offsite
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

July 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

July 29 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)
 6:30 PM MS/HS Hangout in Youth Center

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.

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.

SUMMER SERIES WITH OUR ECUMENICAL NEIGHBORS Please join us for three-sessions entitled "The Gospel and the Kingdom: Christian Witness in Downtown Omaha" at 6:00 PM on Thursdays, August 2, 9, and 16 with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and First Central Congregational (UCC). As three large, historic, and traditional downtown congregations, the three of us share many opportunities and challenges. In the midst of our differences, we are stronger together in our dedication to serving the gospel. The first session will be held at Trinity Cathedral, and will be a panel discussion that explores the way in which the gospel informs our real world engagement and witness. The second session will be held at Kountze, which continues the conversation, but also presents a "case study" of the highly innovative and effective way Kountze has done just that through Kountze Commons. The third session will be held at First Central, and will be a facilitated conversation about what we might be called to do together as a witness to the gospel in downtown Omaha (work around race, economics, etc.). Please join us and invite a friend!



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.



Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Lobby/Classroom North of the Link
Sunday, August 12th
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The need for blood is VERY URGENT. Patients are being turned away from hospitals due to not having the supply of blood to help them. Please help us in our life saving efforts!

To view available times and to schedule your donation appointment:
 visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: kmlchurch or contact the church office
 Rapid Pass: Go to www.redcrossblood.org and click on Rapid Pass.
 Answer the questions, print out or email the pass to yourself, and save time on your donation!

ALL donors will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card for donating!!

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 56
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 200 11:00: 82
Midweek - Noon: 5
Total: 338
Pantry Guests Served: 445
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30
Offering:
 \$14,788.11 (Regular) \$2,170.00 (Specials)
 \$3,782.00 (In the City for Good)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY Spring and Summer 2018

August 12 – Blessing of Backpacks
 and our School Teachers/Workers

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

Drop in
 Wednesday Evenings
 July 10 - August 1
 6:30 to 8:30

People flock to Jesus as their shepherd.

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

Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals the people
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	God promises a righteous king
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:11-22	United by Christ
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Thursday	John 10:1-18	Jesus the Good Shepherd
Friday	2 John	Truth and love
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. **Mark 6:34 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you who care for us as a shepherd, guide us to care for others with your tender and healing touch. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Our Good Shepherd feeds us. Our Good Shepherd leads us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord touch you with love, show you kindness and bring you healing. (Mark 6:34, 55-56)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you saw Jesus standing in front of you, what would you want from him?
- Jesus taught and healed people (Mark 6:30-34, 53-56). What has Jesus taught you? What would you want Jesus to teach you now?
- Jesus sees the people as sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). What does it mean to you to have Jesus as your shepherd?

Read: Ephesians 6:55-22.

In verse 15 it states that Christ has abolished the law. That is not suggesting that we live without laws. It means that the law that defines the Jew through all their religious practices was no longer present to divide Jews from non-Jews. In Jesus one new humanity is being created; there exists one household of God—one people—to be a dwelling place for God (v. 22). What are the divisions you experience that separate followers of Jesus from being one people united by God? Identify the kinds of attitudes and practices that divide the one body of Christ. Offer a prayer that confesses these divisions that are present in you and in the larger church and ask to be healed of the things that divide us one from another in Christ.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

A shepherd in the Old Testament serves as a royal metaphor for the king (Jeremiah 23:1-6). In the New Testament Jesus becomes the Good Shepherd for all (Mark 6:34 and John 10:11-18). The future followers of Jesus also serve the ministry of teaching and healing that offer Jesus' shepherding care. A shepherd of souls is any Christian who offers the compassion of Jesus' love to others who need care. This can be done through listening, praying, speaking, and any other way to care for the physical and spiritual needs of others. Take time to wonder how you can offer Jesus' shepherding to someone in need, someone who needs a listening ear or any other way to be touched by the presence of our Good Shepherd.

Psalms 23 is one of the most familiar passages in the Bible, familiar because it touches our lives so deeply. When have you heard it read? Use the pattern of divine reading (*lectio divina*) to meditate on this powerful prayer. Read it once, then pause. Read it again and then pick out a word or phrase that shimmers, or shines brightly in your heart. Pause again, and focus on that word or phrase. Read Psalms 23 again and wonder how it speaks to you today. Pause and reflect. Read it again one more time and think about how Psalms 23 might influence your life.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalms 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21