

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

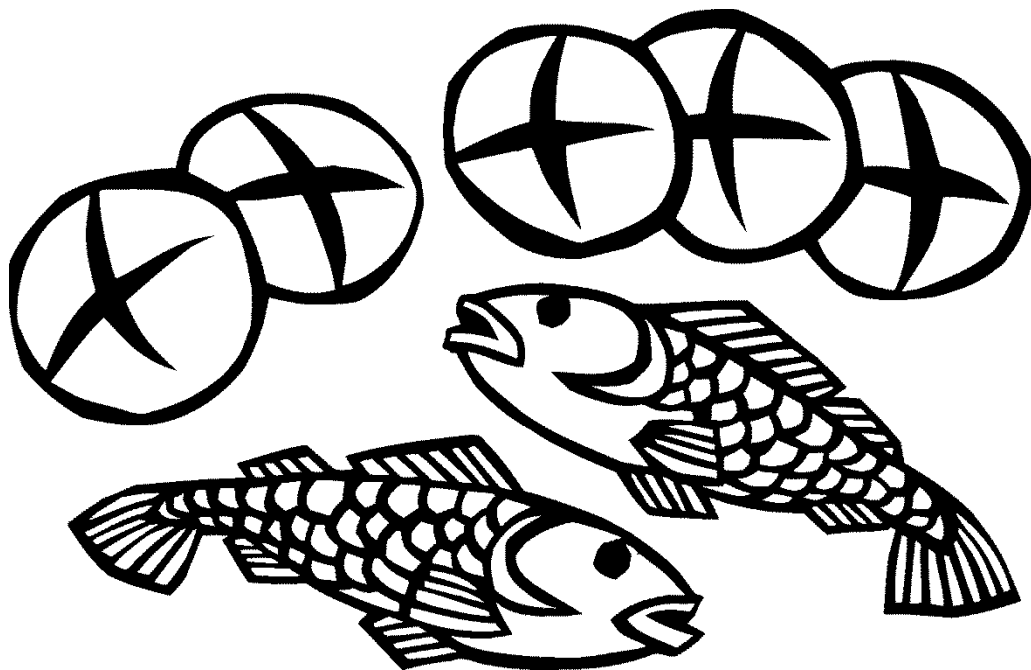
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

July 29, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today, Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

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

"I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW 661

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Gracious God,
- ☑ you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we will know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.”⁴³ But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’”⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:10-18 (*read responsively*)

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

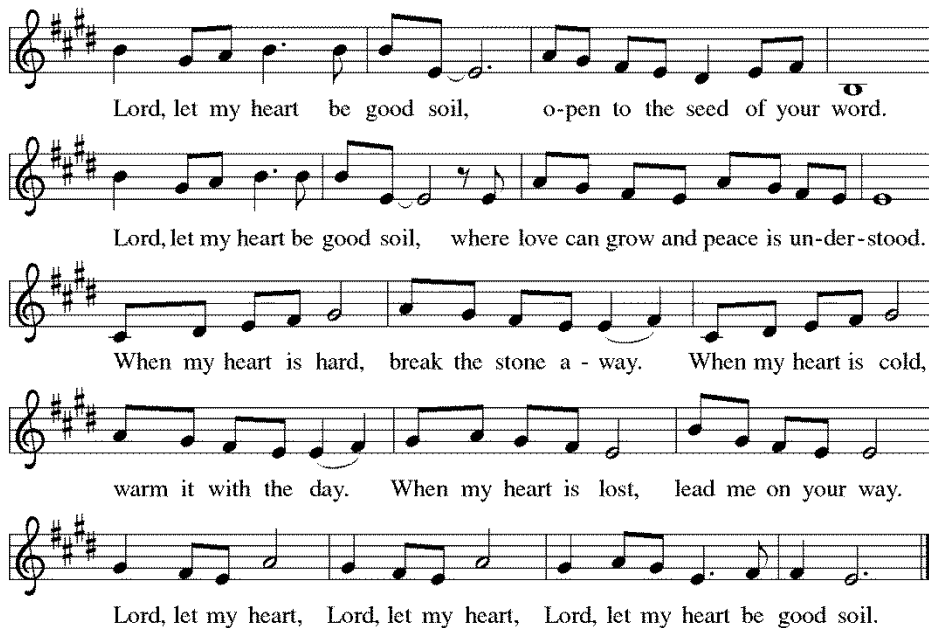
For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

 The word of the Lord.

 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. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "*Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?*" ⁶Jesus said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "*Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.*" ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"*There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?*" ¹⁰Jesus said, "*Make the people sit down.*" Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "*Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.*" ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "*This is indeed the*

prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. ¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, *“It is I; do not be afraid.”* ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

ELW 480

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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

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

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

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)

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Eunice Grunberg, Pr. Inba, Janice Nelson, Gary Rodene, Grant Searcey

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

“Thy Word”

arr. Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith
Janet Diggins
Lowell Harms, duet

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 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

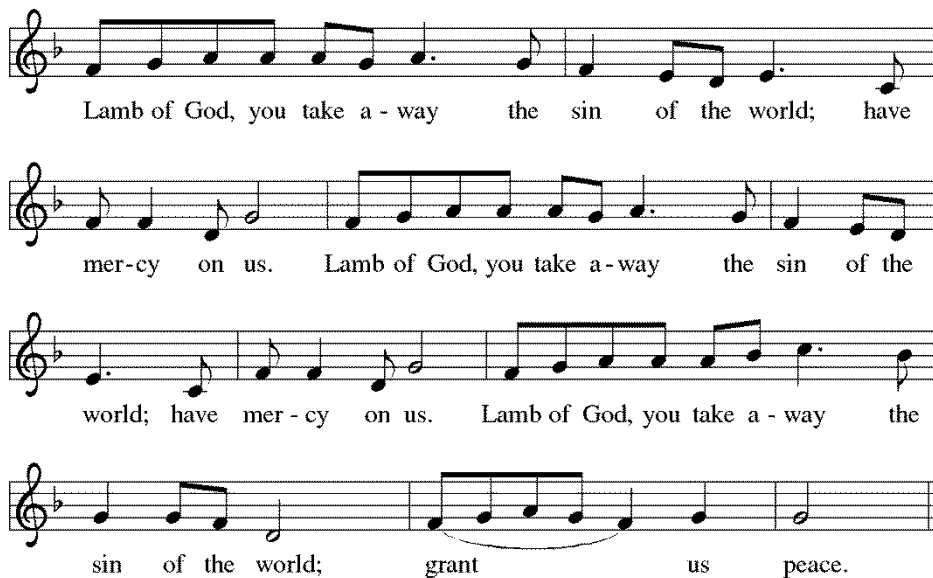
☐ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

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

"Praise and Thanksgiving"
"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW 689

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

“O Zion, Haste”

ELW 668

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	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lorie Groenjes
	Scott Henneman

Lector	Pamela Johnson
Ushers	Jeff Perkins
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	John Gorgeson
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Vickie Wichert
	Darlene Anderson
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Kenyon Martis

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	
Ushers	Julie O'Doherty
	Linida Hoagland
	Adam Klinker
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Anthony Bonacci
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 28 & 29, 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 worshipping, 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 We're serving a continental breakfast this Sunday morning (6/29). 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:** Missionaries from Argentina/Uruguay, Krystle and Ignacio Moraska **NEXT WEEK:** Altar Guild & Eucharistic Ministers (Linda Johnson and Melissa Osentowski)

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Ken & Audrey Cotton given by Connie & Ken Jr. in remembrance of Audrey's 90th birth anniversary (July 28).

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of our mother, Ruth Bonneau by Karen and Shirley

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).

Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 26

10:10 AM

Fellowship Hall

For the purpose of electing our congregational leaders and a second vote on the Constitution. Please join us.

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

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)

July 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 12:00 PM Endowment Board

August 1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Bible Study - Sex & Violence in the Bible
 6:30 PM MS/HS Hangout in Youth Center

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12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Bible Study - Sex & Violence in the Bible
 6:30 PM MS/HS Hangout in Youth Center

August 2 Thursday

The Gospel & the Kingdom: Christian Witness in
 Downtown Omaha @ Trinity Cathedral
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

August 4 Saturday

Homebound Communion
 4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
 5:00 PM Worship

August 5 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 Usher Meeting

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 12:00—2:00 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION The 2018/2019 Sunday School year is quickly approaching, and we couldn't be more excited! This year, we have put the registration online with this simple form (go to <https://form.jotform.com/81997942184170>). You may also find links to the registration form on the church website, in the weekly e-mail letters, and the KMLC Parent Group Facebook page. As we have made the registration process paper free and can be done from the comfort of your home, the first day of Sunday School will begin on Rally Day, September 9. All students are invited to join us at the altar before progressing out of the church and to the Upper Rooms. We look forward to beginning a bright, fun, and education Sunday School Year!

"SEX AND VIOLENCE IN THE BIBLE" is presented by Dulcinea Boesenberg. and concludes on Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM on August 1.

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.

Usher Meeting Sunday August 5 in the fellowship lounge @ 10:10 AM. All Ushers, please join us for a brief discussion on how we can involve more people in this important ministry. If you are interested in helping usher we invite you as well. All input would be greatly appreciated. **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!

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Tuesday, August 7, 12:00 PM. \$4.00 Our speaker this month, is Von Maur survivor, Fred Wilson. Lunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, August 3. All ages are welcome. If you have any questions, call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033.

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, August 12 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 and enter sponsor code: kmlchurch. 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!!**

LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHOIR welcomes new and returning members to the Fall Concert Season! Rehearsals begin with a retreat on Sunday, August 12, 2-5PM at Peace Lutheran Church, 9831 N. 145 t St, Waverly. Brett Epperson, the choir's artistic director and conductor, is preparing a program which will continue our celebration of sharing spiritual music with the Lincoln musical community. Former choir members as well as new members are always welcome! Come sing with us and join our Christian musical journey!

BLESSING THE BACKPACKS All school children! Bring your backpack and come to the communion rail Sunday, August 12, for a special blessing. We will also recognize all school teachers and workers. And – we will gather school-supplies for Jackson Elementary School. The following list is from the Principal of Jackson School. Please bring the items to the Church by August 12. You may place them in the basket in the Narthex or in the box by the Welcome Desk. Any items from the following list will go to Jackson School so teachers have the resources to teach. Wide-ruled notebook paper, Notebooks (wide-ruled or graph), Loose paper clips, Scotch tape, Black/blue pens, Post its, Pencils, Dry erase markers (black and blue), Pencil boxes, Markers, Glue sticks.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 59

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 167 **11:00:** 100

Midweek - Noon: 5

Total: 331

Pantry Guests Served: 443

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 28

Offering:

\$17,741.81 (Regular) \$1,119.00 (Specials)

\$2,097.00 (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

God's abundance emerges from scarcity.

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

Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	2 Kings 4:42-44	Elisha feeds a hundred
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Wednesday	Exodus 24:1-18	The elders eat with God
Thursday	Mark 8:1-10	Jesus feeds the four thousand
Friday	Philippians 4:10-20	Christian generosity
Saturday	Psalms 145:10-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life



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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.

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” **John 6:9 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you do much more than we can ask or imagine. Thank you for surprising us with your generosity day after day. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who is at work within us and who accomplishes far more than all we can ask or imagine, give you peace. (Ephesians 3:20)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- When have you wanted to make sure you got your fair share of something?
- What helps you to be generous instead of storing up for yourself what you have?
- We tend to fear not getting enough in life because we think there is a scarcity of resources. How does the feeding of the five thousand challenge that understanding?

Read: Ephesians 7:58-21.

This text is a prayer for the people of God. It prays “that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love” (vv. 16b-17). Who prays for you that your faith may be strengthened? Who do you pray for that their faith may be strengthened? How do you see your faith strengthened and grounded in love? How does the word of God and Holy Spirit reach out to you? Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. What relationships encourage you and your faith?

Pray: Almighty God, you nourish our faith through the life, faith, and prayers of others. Come Holy Spirit, help me to receive your life-giving word and to support others in their journey of faith. Amen.

Jesus uses a boy's modest source of food to feed a huge crowd—at that time, barley was not the best bread (John 6:1-21). Consider what you have to offer the world's needs. Perhaps you have talents and skills that serve others. Maybe you have possessions that can be shared with others. Identify something that God has given you and make it a gift to the needs of others. For example, give away a toy; donate money to a cause; or bake bread and give it to a friend.

In Ephesians 3:14, the author kneels in prayer. Kneeling is a largely overlooked posture of humility associated with prayer. This week take time to pray Psalm 145:10-18, and, if you are able, kneel as you pray. Add any other prayers you wish and end with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35