

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

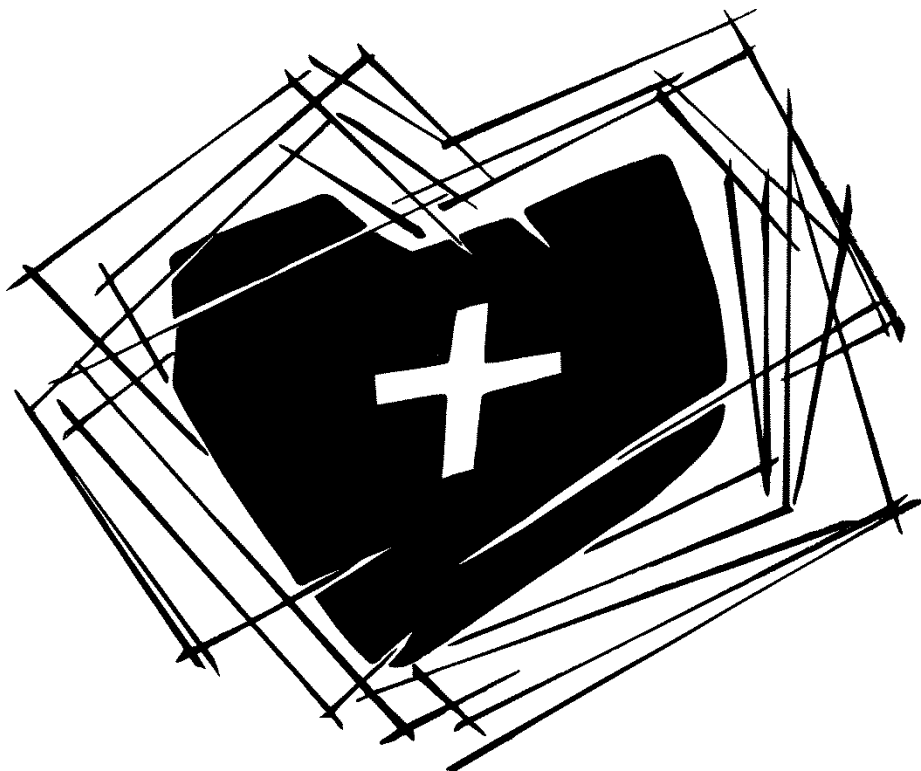
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

September 2, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



What is the connection between our “head” and our “hands”, between our attitude and our actions? What do we do “religiously”? Today’s readings challenge us to consider those questions. And, we seek to answer in light of a third question: Is God...Where is God... in all of this?

On this Labor Day weekend, we are also invited to consider how the God who is everywhere through the unseen Holy Spirit, is at work in our daily lives.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of all life,

C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.

We fear that we are not good enough.

We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it.

We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.

Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love,

willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just,

and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Earth and All Stars!"

ELW 731

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** Oh God our strength,
- C** without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attacks us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The name of this book means a “second” (like the word, duet) “giving of the law” (like our words such as astronomy, economy). The Old Testament is the story of God’s work to restore creation: A chosen people (Genesis 12:3) who are rescued from slavery and given a bountiful land. But how will they use freedom and prosperity? Will they use laws to build up the common good or to divide and exclude? Verse 2 says “... neither add anything ... nor take anything away from it.” How is society handling that? How is the Church handling that? How do I handle that? How does Jesus’s summary of the Law in Mark 12:29-31 help us?

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15:1-5(read responsively)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

James 1:17-21

Tradition attributes this letter to the brother of Jesus. However, we are not sure which, of several early Church leaders by that name, is the author. See Matthew 13:55; Acts 12:1; 15:13. In this letter we do not read much about who Jesus is or what God was doing through Jesus. We do read a lot, however, about what we are to be doing – and not doing – if we claim to be a follower of Jesus.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ 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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

What would Jesus do? That is a good question. Yet finding a helpful answer may not always be easy? What would Jesus do when the traffic light turns yellow? Detailed regulations can be helpful. When, however, we use such “laws” to judge unfairly, then we miss the God-given purpose for rules and regulations. Jesus may be suggesting that somehow the connection between the “head” and the “hands” goes through the “heart.” Our understanding of physical anatomy may not help us here as much as trying to learn what the Creator God meant in saying, “Let us make humankind in our image” [Genesis 1:26].

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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 Moessner

From the Small Catechism of Martin Luther

The Lord's Prayer, 4th Petition

Give us today our daily bread.

What is this?

In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

What then does "daily bread" mean?

Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"This Little Light of Mine"

ELW 677

THE APOSTLES' CREED(9:00 am)

☐ 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.**

HOLY BAPTISM(11:00 AM)

Emory William Anderson

see page 227

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

- P** In the story of creation, we hear God say, *Let us make human kind in our image...and let them have dominion...* [Genesis 1:26]
- C** **God our Creator, we accept our place in your creation, to care for and enjoy this sacred trust you have given to us.**
- P** The ancient philosopher taught his followers, *Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might...* [Ecclesiastes 9:10]
- C** **God, our Provider, we commit ourselves to the energy and effort necessary for your earth to supply the needs of all humanity.**
- P** The Apostle urges all followers of Jesus Christ, *Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* [1 Peter 4:10]
- C** **God, our Sustainer, help us see the value you have for each person. Even those tasks we easily overlook, LORD, may be your way of serving the world.**
- P** The ancient Psalm reminds us, *Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.* [Psalm 127:1]
- P** God of Grace and Glory,
- C** **We praise you for the many gifts you have given to us, for body, for mind for spirit. We thank you for the joy that comes with these gifts. And we thank you for the joy we experience when we are at work so all may benefit from your goodness. We commit ourselves to use our jobs, our professions, all our activities to bring your peace and joy, your hope and love to each person you place in our presence, this day and every day. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Emory William Anderson, son of Laura and Nolan Anderson

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Doris Kusch, Janice Nelson, Melissa Pera, Susan Ray, daughter-in-law of Betty Callies, Gary Rodene, Grant Searcey, Vinn Stephens

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

“Chorale Prelude on ‘Old Hundreth’”

arr. Alan Brandes

Today's offertory was written by the late Dr. Alan Brandes, former music professor at Dana College. Dr. Brandes was Mr. Jones' private piano teacher in junior high, high school, and college. The work is constructed as a chorale prelude, a common form of composition in the Baroque period in which original material is interspersed between and over the phrases of the hymn tune melody. Every hymn in the hymnal has a "hymn tune name" which you can see at the bottom on the page. "Old Hundreth" is the hymn tune most commonly known as the Doxology.

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

ELW 678

- P** God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

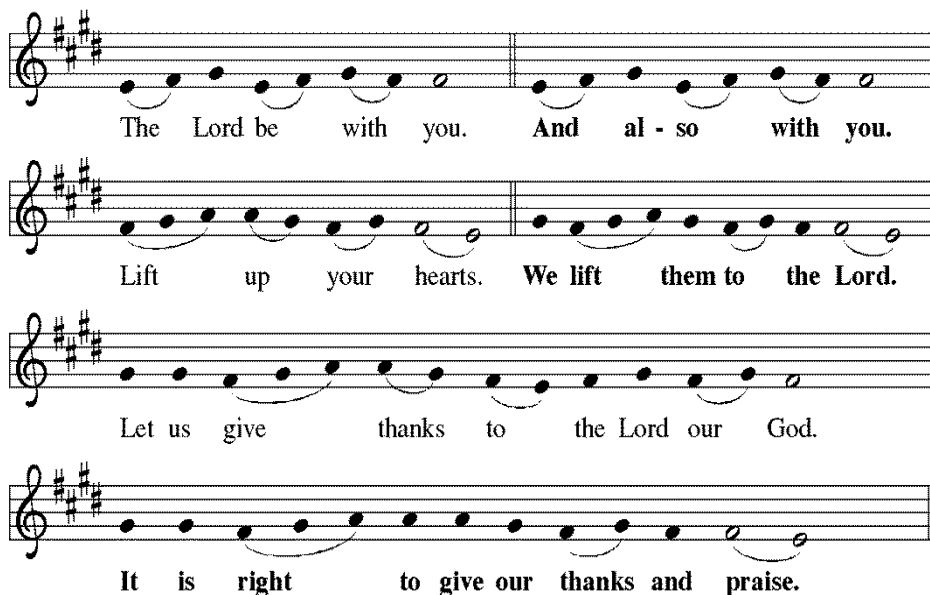
Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of life,
C you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. 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

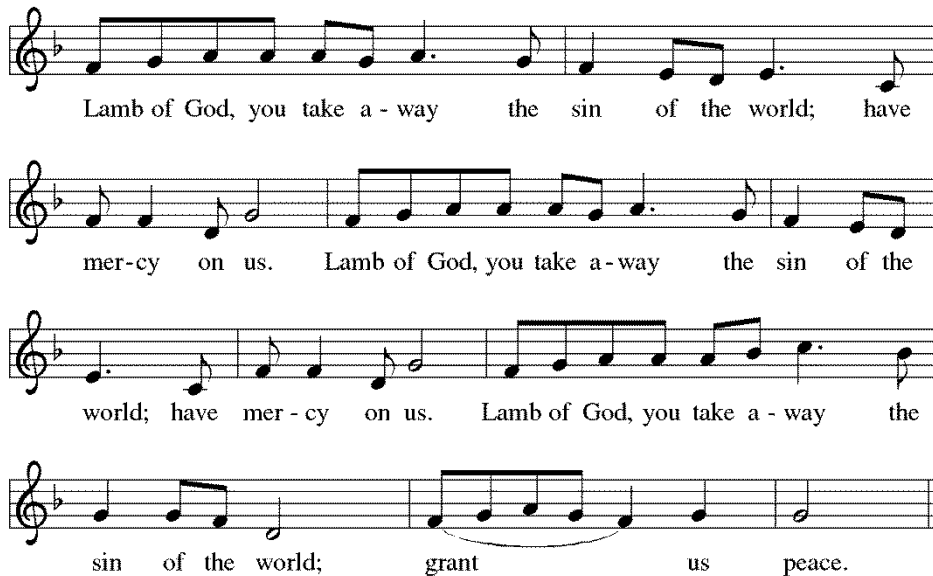
☞ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, and make us one with you.

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 “Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am” **ELW 814(sing 3 times)**
“We Are Called” **ELW 720**

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Holy and compassionate God,
- C** in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ☐ God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being: Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy spirit, living voice calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW 674

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. We go remembering our mission:
- ☑ **We are disciples of Jesus, worshipping our God, growing in faith and serving our community. 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	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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
	Theresa Gruber

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Liz Pemberton
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Lector	Liz Pemberton
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Ted Kaasch
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Marcy Madison
Greeters	Bev Troxel
	Karen Wolf
	Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia
	Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lowell Harms
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Adam Klinker
	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
	Rosemary Tessin
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

September 1 & 2, 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 Sunday mornings 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:** Cross Generational Event: Serve **NEXT WEEK: Rally Day**—Sunday School Commissioning and Blessing of Classrooms

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God given by Bill & Debbie Kee in celebration of their 30th Wedding Anniversary

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Register for the 2018/19 Sunday School year online at <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!

September 3 Monday

Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

September 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

September 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

6:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:40 PM Worship

September 6 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 8 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 9 Sunday

Rally Day

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:10 AM No Forum (Rally Day)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

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

12:00 PM Book Group

7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2018 – 2019**Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 PM****Weekly Schedule:**

6:00 PM Gather for food and fellowship – the whole family is welcome

6:30 PM learning with head and heart – led by Pastors Olaf and Paul. Time for small group discussion

7:40 PM Mid-week worship with Communion, in the Rotunda. The whole family is welcome – and everyone else!

Parents! This stage of life can be very exciting and very challenging. Our purpose is to work with you in partnership for the good of your adolescent, your family, and you. For any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Olaf or Pastor Paul. We look forward to serving your family in this school year.

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 12:15—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.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Tuesday, September 4, 12:00 PM. Our speaker will be Dr. Jim Newland. He will be discussing many interesting topics, such as, the making of our beautiful, wooden Processional Cross. Lunch will be served at noon. The cost for lunch is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office, by Friday, August 31. All ages are welcome. If you have any questions, you may call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Hope to see you there!

ADULT CHOIR Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. The Adult Choir will have its first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 5 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The choir will

return to the worship service on Sunday, September 9. If you are interested in being a part of this important way of worshiping, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is recommended. The director, Barb Carlsen, would like to hear you sing before joining the choir just to make sure that this group will blend with your type of voice. If you want more information about choir or would like to reserve a time to sing for Barb Carlsen, please call the church office at 402-341-7761.

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR begins Sunday, September 9, 9-9:30 AM. All children (K— 5th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor. Contact Donna Moessner Director of Children's Music by e-mail or phone if you have questions (Donna@kmlchurch.org 402-341-7761).

BOOK DRIVE To begin the Sunday School year, children grades Kindergarten through 5th grade are having a Children's Book Drive. Please bring your gently used books, for children ages 0 – 18 years, to church September 9 through October 14. Bins will be provided. The Book Drive is in cooperation with the Junior League of Omaha and their "A Book of My Own" initiative, which provides books for at risk youth in the Omaha area. They distribute about 20,000 books each year! Thank you for helping our children serve others in the community.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES If you weren't able to bring in school supplies for Jackson School, it's not too late. You may still bring your items and put them in the collection boxes in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. The items needed are: 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, and Glue sticks. Thanks.

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF OMAHA will meet on Tuesday, September 11 at noon at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church at 6201 North 60th Street. For more information call Carole Woodworth (402-339-2056) before September 8.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Join us on Thursday, September 20, 11:30 AM (RSVP by September 18) at Kountze Memorial – Cost for lunch is \$10. Enjoy conversation and a meal on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 11:30 AM. Hear presentations on a variety of topics inviting us to consider how faith connects with the wider community and all of creation. The September program is yet to be determined.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, September 23, 12:15 PM (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.

FALL BIBLE STUDY—The Parables of Jesus. Wednesdays beginning September 26, 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM. Dr. Richard Sieling will begin a six-week study on the Parables of Jesus. We will look at the setting, meaning, and relevance of selected stories. The class is offered two times on Wednesdays. Please sign up for one of the sessions by calling the church office (402-341-7761) so that we arrange for adequate materials and an appropriate room to meet. Bring a Bible (NRSV is recommended).

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GET TOGETHER FOR HAPPY HOUR Friday, September 28. Dudley's Pizza & Tavern, 2110 S 67th St (Aksarben Village) at 5:00 PM or when you can get there. All are welcome; post college to the young at heart. Join us for a casual happy hour and fellowship. For more information contact: Ashley Sum – ashleysumrealtor@gmail.com; Melissa Musick – musick.melissa@gmail.com.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be held on Sundays, October 7 & 14, 12:15-1:00 PM. This year, an introduction to Holy Communion for those children and youth receiving their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, will be held in a two-part session, on Sundays, October 7 & 14 from 12:15-1:00 PM. More details to follow. Please register with the church office. For more information, contact Pr Hall or Kristin Boe.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 56

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 175 11:00: 90

Midweek - Noon: 7 **Evening:** 19

Total: 347

Pantry Guests Served: 470

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 34

Offering:

\$13,040.31 (Regular) \$1,471.00 (Specials)

\$3,337.53 (In the City for Good)

BELLEVUE BERRY FARM (11001 South 48th Street, Papillion), October 21, 2:00 - 6:00 PM. All members of Kountze are invited to the Bellevue Berry Farm for a cookout and to explore their pumpkin patch. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and s'mores provided.

God's word leads us to practice justice.

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

Sunday	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Authentic faith
Monday	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	God commands obedience
Tuesday	James 1:17-27	Hearing and doing the word
Wednesday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Thursday	Matthew 15:1-20	Tradition of the elders
Friday	Amos 5:21-24	The importance of justice
Saturday	Psalm 15	Who worships the Lord
Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

Deuteronomy 4:8 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, help us to hear your message of salvation in a way that leads us to act with justice and mercy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Plates of food, gifts from above, signs of our God's gracious love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who gave you birth by the word of truth give you peace and good courage. (James 1:18)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Why is it important to follow rules?
- What do you like about God's rules?
- In Deuteronomy 4:7-8, God's rules show the greatness of God and the justice of God to all the world. What is it about God that you want to tell the world?

Read: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9.

The God of Israel ruled with justice, mercy, and reliability that foreign gods lacked. The challenge of Israel was not to forget the God of Israel and the ways of God. This challenge carried with it the need to tell the children and future generations what the people had experienced and learned through the goodness and justice of God (v. 9). How does following Jesus help you live with God's justice and mercy? How do you make the goodness and mercy of God known to others—to your friends and family and others that you work and play with?

Pray: Dear God, your justice and mercy is filled with care for all. Thank you for caring for us and guiding us in kindness for others. Help us to tell of your goodness to those around us and to generations yet unborn. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In James 1:17-26 being "doers of the word" implies a meekness that is not prideful. Instead, it acts with mercy that includes caring for "orphans and widows in their distress" (v. 27). Orphans and widows represented those who were vulnerable and did not have a social safety net to keep them fed, sheltered, and safe. Think of those locally and around the world who lack security of food and shelter. Make a financial commitment to an organization that helps these people or contribute your time and talents to work on behalf of the hungry and homeless.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 7:1-23, discipline shapes the soul. Ordinances mentioned in Deuteronomy 4:1 promote a way of life that includes rituals and traditions. These ordinances—these rituals and traditions—help remind us of the goodness of God. Rituals and traditions have often lost their appeal because they have become disconnected from the grace of God that helps us live with others in peace and hope. It is important to practice the Christian faith in a way that connects the message of God's love with our daily lives. Giving a blessing, offering a mealtime prayer, reading the Bible, and daily prayers, including the Lord's Prayer, are all valuable ways to discipline our lives in hope and faith. Look at this week's *Taking Faith Home* and identify faith practices you will commit to doing this week. Consider making these practices part of your routine to guide and encourage your life of faith.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7:24-37