

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

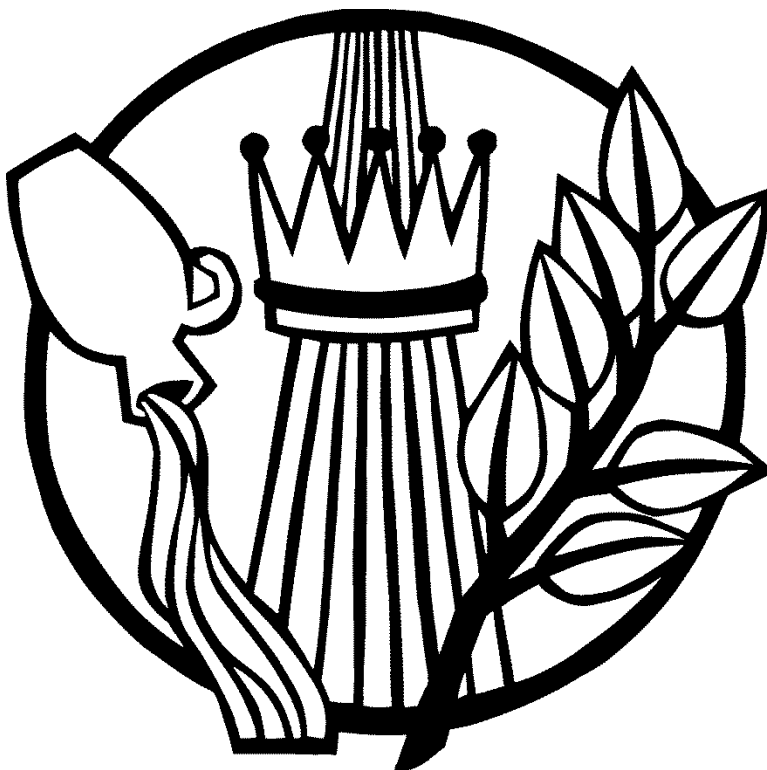
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

September 16, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire”
(sarum plainsong, mode VIII)*

setting: Wilbur Held

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.

G 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,

G 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.

G Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

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,
- C** through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

⁹I will walk in the presence | of the LORD
in the land | of the living.

to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW 338

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.**

ACCEPTANCE OF CATECHUMENS

P The following people desire to be a part of the confirmation ministry of our congregation and as their names are called I would ask that they come forward and gather in front of the altar.

P Dear Friends: In Holy Baptism God made you His own. Do you desire to affirm your faith in Christ Jesus, the faith into which you were baptized, and receive the Rite of Confirmation in the tradition of the Church at the proper time?

Catechumens: I DO.

- P** Will you faithfully attend the worship services of God's House? Will you diligently study the Holy Scriptures and the Catechism? And will you strive to lead a life worthy of your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Catechumens: I will and I ask God to help me.

- P** I ask you, the congregation, will you support these young people with your prayers? Will you be examples to them of faithfulness and righteousness? And will you care for them and help them in every way God gives you opportunity, that they may continue in the covenant of their baptism and in communion with the Church?

Congregation: We will and we ask God to help us.

- P** You are hereby officially accepted as the catechumens of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. May God bless you as you prepare and study. Please accept this Study Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism. These are given to you as aids to your study and as tokens of the affection this congregation bears toward you.

- P** Heavenly Father,

- C** **we give you thanks for these young people that you have called to be your own. Bless them as they prepare to make an affirmation of their faith and as they strive to keep the commitments they have made this day. Bless this parish as we together strive to help all people grown into the full stature of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Dale Plowman, father of Marie Barrett

Illness: Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Doris Kusch, 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.



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Will You Come and Follow Me”
(The Summons)see insert

arr. Tom Trenney

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

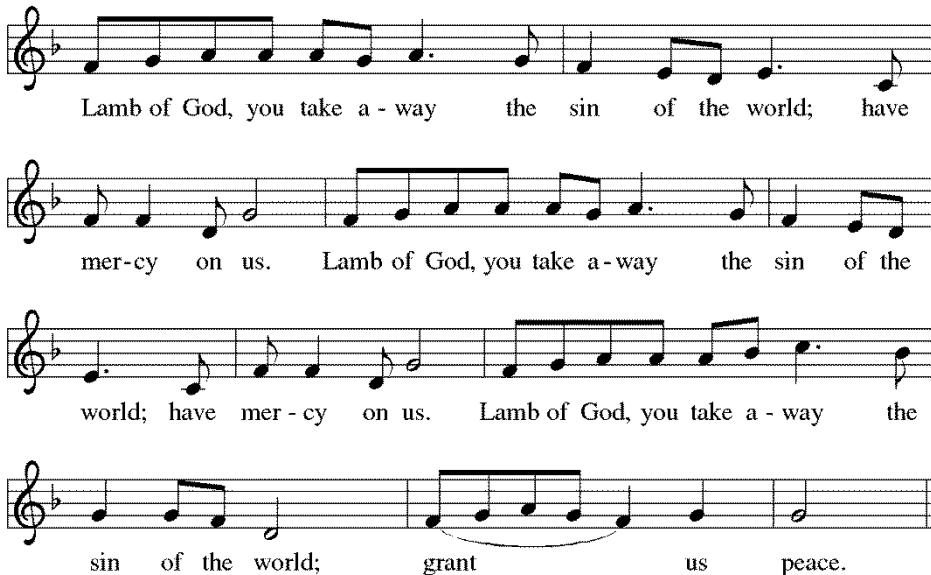
☞ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, and make us one with you.

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

“Praise and Thanks and Adoration”

ELW 783

“Dearest Jesus, At Your Word”

ELW 520

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Holy and compassionate God,

☞ **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

BLESSING

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

ELW 805

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. We go remembering our mission:

☞ **We are disciples of Jesus, worshiping our God, growing in faith and serving our community. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Prelude, Fuge, and Chaconne”

Diderik Buxtehude

✠ ✠ ✠

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	Ellen Pesavento
Ushers	Duane Hovendick
	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Pam Johnson
	Darlene Anderson

Lector	Danny Bos
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Ted Kaasch
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Marcy Madison
Greeters	Lois Sorensen
	Karen Wolf
	Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Clara Kidder
	Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
	Norm Sack
Lector	Ruth Pera
Ushers	Adam Klinker
	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
	Rosemary Tessin
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

September 15 & 16, 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 8:00—11:00 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:** Review and Study of ELCA's "Draft Statement on Women and Justice" **NEXT WEEK:** Concluding Comments on ELCA Study and Reception for Pr. Moessner

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, please join us this Sunday and next (September 16 & 23) from 12:15—2:00 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Kimberly Grassmeyer in honor of her father, Russell Van Horn, on his birthday; in honor of family and friends by Laurine Savine.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 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).

YOUTH FORUM HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

September 16 Sunday

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)
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:10 AM Stewardship Committee
 10:30 AM Executive Committee
 12:15 PM New Member Class
 7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

September 17 Monday

Good News Deadline
 10:00 AM Pantry

September 18 Tuesday

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

September 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Confirmation

7:40 PM Worship

September 20 Thursday

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

September 21 Friday

5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

September 22 Saturday

3:00 PM Holland & Alejandro Wedding
 5:00 PM Worship

September 23 Sunday

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 Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:15 AM Friends & Family Planning Committee
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
 12:15 PM New Member Class
 12:15 PM Baptism Seminar
 7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

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.

ADULT CHOIR Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. The Adult Choir rehearses on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. 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.

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.

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 will be presented by Pastor Damon Laaker, of Grace and St. Luke's Lutheran Churches. He will discuss current issues of immigration, including TPS (Temporary Protected Status). Join us.

FOSTER STORIES Have you thought about becoming a foster parent? Spend an evening with Christian Heritage to learn how you can make a difference in the life of a child. An informational dinner will be held at Brookside Church (11607 M Circle) on Thursday, September 20. Registration and free dinner will be held at 6:15 PM. The Foster Stories Event will be held from 6:30—8:00 PM. RSVP at fosterstories.org or 402-421-5437.

KMLC YOUTH GET-TOGETHER All 7th graders through college are invited to get together for sundaes and conversation at Pastor Paul and Donna Moessner's home (4417 Woolworth Avenue) on Saturday, September 22, 7:00 – 8:30 PM. We hope you'll be there!

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.

FAREWELL PASTOR PAUL In the September Good News, Pr. Paul wrote "The Bishop's office of the Synod is now calling me to serve another congregation as they enter a period of pastoral transition. My last Sunday at Kountze will be September 23." Be sure to join us during Adult Forum next Sunday, September 23, when we wish Pr. Paul farewell and thank him for his Ministry at Kountze Memorial.

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.

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.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 29

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 241 11:00: 78

Midweek - Noon: 9 **Evening:** 27

Total: 384

Pantry Guests Served: 356

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$25,137.1 (Regular) \$13,18.5 (Specials)

\$18,880.17 (In the City for Good)



Important Dates for the Upcoming Sunday School Year

Oct 21 Bible Sunday

Dec 2 Advent Fair

Dec 16 Christmas Program

Take up your cross and follow.

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

Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross
Monday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Tuesday	James 3:1-12	Controlling the tongue
Wednesday	Philippians 3:7-16	Running towards the goal
Thursday	Hebrews 12:1-13	The example of Jesus
Friday	1 Peter 5:6-11	God will restore those suffering
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-9	A prayer of thanksgiving
Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is greatest



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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.

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, give us strength, courage, and faith to take up our cross and follow you. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we chew and as we swallow, make us strong to love and follow. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's goodness give you peace in your heart and in your mind. May the Lord protect you with kindness.
(Psalm 116:5-7)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a tough time in your life.
- How have you been challenged to grow through your tough times?
- In Mark 8:27-38, Peter rejected Jesus' acceptance of his innocent suffering and death. How are we tempted to reject suffering—the way of the cross—as the way of salvation and new life?

Read: Psalm 116:1-9.

This is a psalm of thanksgiving that acknowledges personal suffering (v. 3), a prayer for help (v. 4), God's response (vv. 1-2, 5-8), and the psalmist's response of thanksgiving and faithfulness (vv. 1, 9). A psalm or prayer of thanksgiving is a living testimony to the goodness of God in the midst of difficult times. It is a way to tell good news to others as well as remember God's goodness the next time one goes through tough times. Think of a difficult time you have gone through and how God's grace and mercy got you through it. Write it as a prayer that acknowledges the personal suffering, how God was present to you, and how you declare your response of thanksgiving and trust in God. Conclude this prayer by reciting, "I love the Lord" (v. 1a).

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

In James 3:1-12 it highlights that what we say can offer words of encouragement or words that destroy others. A whole commandment is dedicated to not bearing false witness against another person. This week pause and reflect before saying anything that could be perceived as harmful to another person. When speaking of others, make it a point "to come to their defense, speak well of them and interpret everything they do in the best possible light" (Martin Luther's meaning for the Eighth Commandment).

In Mark 8:27-38 the life of the cross of Christ is not easy and, according to Peter, not even wanted. But according to Jesus it is the way of salvation. Write down on slips of paper how God may be calling you to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Perhaps it is to reach out to others in their distress. Maybe it is to forgive someone you would rather not forgive. Consider including some difficulty you are experiencing and how you may find new life and meaning through it. Stick the slips of paper on a cross you have in your home or on one you make. Look at what you wrote each day this next week and say aloud:

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54
James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37