

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 23, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



You think you are so smart!?! Our culture in the United States has mixed emotions about knowledge and about those people who “know more”. So how, in our world of constantly expanding information, of seemingly countless channels of digital communication, of popular personalities willing to tell us to trust them when they tell us who to distrust, how do we gain the Truth that is the Way to Life? With Jeremiah, how will others react to this truth? With James, how will this wisdom affect our behavior?

Our Gospel is selected specifically for this day of farewell. In this passage, Jesus seems to be saying, “Each of you has something to give. Each of you also needs to receive. In that giving and receiving I will be present.”

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

"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"

ELW 657

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, our teacher and guide,
- C** you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Joyful Sounds Choir

“All Night, All Day”
(African American spiritual)

arr. John R. Paradowski

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 11:18-20

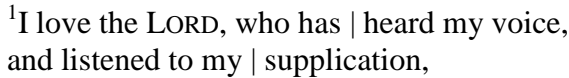
In Jeremiah's lifetime (born 627 B.C.) the powerful Babylonians destroyed the holy city of Jerusalem. Their method of consolidating power was to scatter and relocate the conquered people, so they would not regain strength. Like other Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah proclaimed the Word of the Lord, not with words alone, but also with the very experience of his life. In this passage he laments the treachery of those who should have listened to the message he conveyed – a message of condemnation for ignoring and despising God, and for treating humans unjustly. If they had listened to that harsh message, they could also have heard God's redemptive word.

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!” ²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Choir sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold** print)



³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁵Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;
our God is full | of compassion.

⁷Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.

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

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-9

"Go [to] all nations..." Jesus commanded his followers after the Resurrection. We call that the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20). Here, Jesus is giving more details of how that "go to" works. Question: Believing in the reality and power of the Holy Spirit, where is Jesus in this process of going to and entering places?

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

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

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead me”

ELW 767

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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

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

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

PRAYERS OF 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 Annetta Covany, grandmother of Shannon Picha

Illness: Jack Duffield, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Doris Kusch, Mary Olson, Ellen Pesavento, Susan Ray, 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

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)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

ELW 814

“Blest Are They”

ELW 728

(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

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED FOR PASTOR MOESSNER

A TASK CONCLUDING

Promises of Release

- P** People of God, members of Kountze Memorial congregation, do you release Pastor Paul Moessner from service as your associate pastor?
- C** *We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.*
- P** Pastor Paul Moessner, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Kountze Memorial?
- R** I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

BLESSING

- P** 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

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

ELW 726

Words from the prophet Isaiah inspired this hymn expressing God’s will for light, love, hope, looking for God’s promised time when all people shout of *Shalom* – that is, God’s wholeness and peace. *For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.* –Isaiah 55:12.

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



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	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Duane Hovendick
	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Jeff Perkins
	Susie Henry
	Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Jan Falk
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Ted Kaasch
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Marcy Madison
Greeters	Lois Sorensen
	Karen Wolf
	Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Cameron Miller

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Steve Pera
Ushers	Adam Klinker
	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
	Rosemary Tessin
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer
	Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

September 22 & 23, 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:** Concluding Comments on ELCA Study and Reception for Pr. Moessner " **NEXT WEEK:** Stephen Ministers (with Pr. Inbarasu)

NEW MEMBER CLASS continues this Sunday (September 23) from 12:15—2:00 PM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Ken and Linda Johnson in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of Don Wichert by Vickie

BAPTISM SEMINAR This Sunday, September 23, 12:15 PM (immediately following 11:00 AM service). Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy.

FAREWELL PASTOR PAUL 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.

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.

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

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)

September 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 4:30 PM KETV Management Board
 7:00 PM Circle 3

September 26 Wednesday

10:30 AM Bible Study - The Parables of Jesus
 12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Bible Study - The Parables of Jesus

6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

6:30 PM Confirmation

7:40 PM Worship

September 27 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 28 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Young Professionals Happy Hour

September 29 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)

3:00 PM Sasse & Hardy Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

September 30 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 Receive New Members

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)

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.

BOOK DRIVE Our children in 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.

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.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH It's here! One of our favorite programs of all! The Kountze version of "Antiques Roadshow!!" Our longtime member, Shayne Fili, President & Owner CAI Auction Solutions Inc., will be here, for a very exciting presentation! You may bring an item or two, to find out a bit more about it. If you don't wish to bring anything, please still come and join us for a delicious lunch, and many interesting stories! Be here on Tuesday, October 2. Lunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, September 28. ALL ages are more than welcome!! If you have any questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Looking forward to seeing you there! Let's all come together, and show support, for these wonderful programs at Kountze!!

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.

OMAHA COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS! Omaha metro Lutheran campus ministry has 3 groups that do ministry with young adults in Omaha. God & Grads is for people in their 20's who are working or in grad school. This group loves to play trivia or table games every month. NeMO (Nebraska Ministry Omaha) is our normal group for people 18-24 who are out of high school and/or working on their undergraduate degree. This group meets every Thursday from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on 93rd and Dodge for sharing, snacks, building community, and Bible study. Our newest group is NeMONORTH (Nebraska Ministry Outreach North Omaha) which is a multicultural group for young adults 18-30 who live or work or attend Fort Omaha MCC in north Omaha. This new group will be part of "Halloween on the BOOlevard", sponsored by the MinneLusa neighborhood association. All 3 of these groups can be found on Facebook with more detailed information. You may also contact Pastor Jim Holthus, the metro campus pastor, at lootrn@hotmail.com with questions or referrals which he will follow up on.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 61

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 242 11:00: 119

Midweek - Noon: 11 **Evening:** 25

Total: 458

Pantry Guests Served: 404

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$51,416.98 (Regular) \$485.00 (Specials)

\$1,068.00 (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

Discipleship means a life of service.

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

Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is greatest
Monday	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Plot to kill Jeremiah
Tuesday	James 3:13-4:8a	Wisdom from above
Wednesday	2 Kings 5:1-14	A girl saves her master
Thursday	Luke 14:7-14	Humility and hospitality
Friday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A servant song
Saturday	Psalms 54	A cry to God for help
Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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He [Jesus] sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all”

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for freeing us from being so focused on our own wants and leading us to the joy of serving others in your name. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

You nourish us with food, O God, for body and for soul. May love and kindness be our thanks and service be our goal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you a pure heart; may God make you peaceable, gentle, and willing to care for others with mercy. (James 3:17)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time when you wanted to be first in something.
- What does it mean to you when Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35)?
- In what ways do you serve others in Jesus’ name? How has serving others made a difference in your life?

Read: Mark 9:30-37.

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me” (v. 36). A child in Jesus’ day had no legal status; a child was an example of someone truly vulnerable. To welcome is to care for and value that person. By human standards there is no reward for the care of a child. By the standards of Jesus, it connects us to the divine. Jesus speaks of his betrayal, death, and resurrection. The disciples wanted to speak about who was first. Jesus’ words lead to service of the vulnerable; the disciples’ focus leads to personal glory. In welcoming a child, that is, by serving the needs of the vulnerable, one welcomes Jesus. Tell about a time that you sensed God’s presence as you served another person.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for freeing us from being so focused on our own wants and leading us to the joy of serving others in your name. Amen.

In James 3:13-4:8a the text is concerned about how Christians live in community. The health of our life together is the health of the witness of the church. Think of a situation where you are tempted to “engage in disputes and conflicts” because of selfish desires (James 4:1-2). Pray for the “wisdom from above” to be “peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy” (James 3:17).

Psalms 54 is a psalm of lament, a prayer that tells of one’s fears, frustrations, and anger for one’s sufferings. Sometimes those resentments are expressed not only to God but at God. The lament psalm makes it clear that suffering is not God’s will; it is evil. Christians can use a prayer of lament to faithfully express their distress and need for God’s help. Name the things that grieve you and bring them to God in prayer. At the end of each grievance, pray: **“Save me, O God, by your power. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to my cry.”**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50