

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 9, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

# 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.

**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

*"Jesus Loves Me!"*

**ELW 595**

## 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** Gracious God,
- C** throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

*(sit)*

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

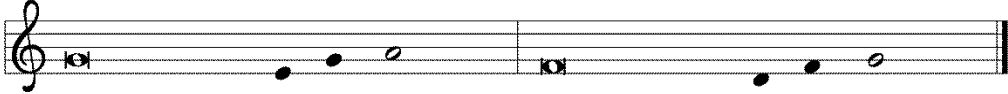
*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

**S**ay to those who are of a fearful heart, “*Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.*” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 146



<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

**<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

**<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

**and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**

**who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the cap- | tive free.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;**

**the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**

**the LORD | loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall | reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

**James 2:1-17**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

**M**y brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “*Have a seat here, please,*” while to the one who is poor you say, “*Stand there,*” or, “*Sit at my feet,*” <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it

not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, *“You shall not commit adultery,”* also said, *“You shall not murder.”* Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, *“Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,”* and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)  
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 7:24-37**

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

**J**esus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, *"Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."* <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, *"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."* <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, *"For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."* <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, *"Ephphatha,"* that is, *"Be opened."* <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, *"He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING *(9:00 AM)*

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Roynesdal*

*(stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"*

**ELW 712**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**G** 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:    **℟** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **℣** 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 birth of Mason Alexander Burton, son of Don and Beth Burton

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Janice Nelson; to the family and friends of Renee Kovar

**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**

**℟** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**℣** 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

*“You Are Holy”*

arr. Text: Per Harling, b. 1948

Music: Per Harling

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

ELW 678

**☞ 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

**☞ God of life,  
☞ 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

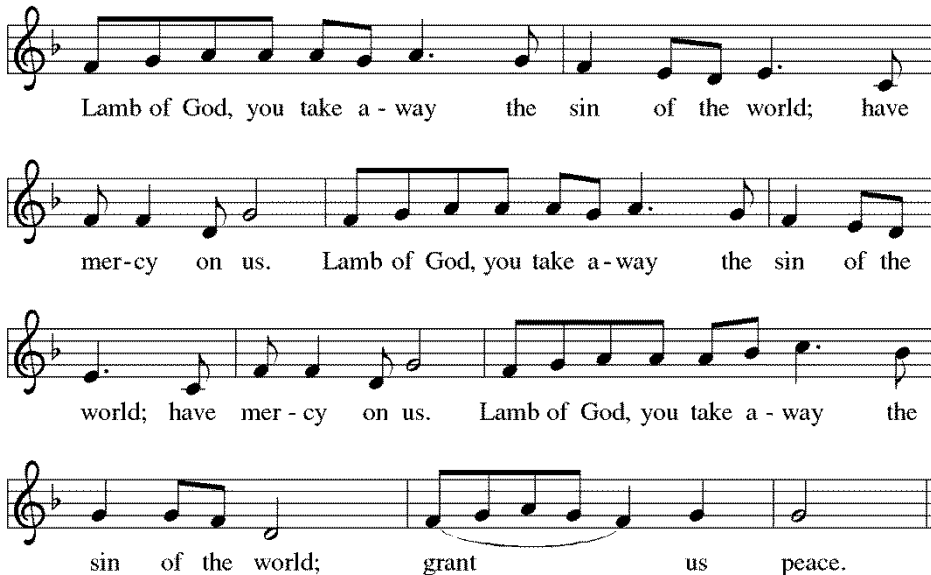
☐ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, and make us one with you.

## 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

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”  
“Dearest Jesus, At Your Word”

ELW 468

ELW 520

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Holy and compassionate God,

**G** 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.

## CELEBRATION AND AFFIRMATION OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (9:00 AM)

Pastor: By the waters of Holy Baptism we are claimed as God’s own and brought into a new community. Today we gather to celebrate the nurturing and teaching of our faith community.

Parents, In the words of the Great Commission Jesus called us to go and to teach.  
Grandparents, Do you hear the word of God and do you accept the responsibility to use  
and Sunday your talents and gifts to nurture the faith of all God’s people? Do you  
School intend to model a faithful lifestyle and to continue in the promises you  
Leaders: made at baptism?

***Response: I do and I ask God to guide me.***

Children: Will you bring ears to listen, eyes to see, voices to praise, minds to learn and hearts to love, as you come to be with your teachers and friends and learn more about God’s Love?

***Response: Yes***

Congregation: It is God’s intent that we are drawn into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and that we support each other as disciples in the world. Will you remember our educational leaders and all those involved in our education ministry in your prayers and support and encourage them in their spiritual well-being?

***Response: We will and we ask God to help us.***

# 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

*"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"*

**ELW 729**

## 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 | Paul Revord      |
| Ushers | Paul Revord      |
|        | Ellen Pessevento |

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Comm. Asst. | Lorie Groenjes      |
|             | Kevin Larkowski     |
| Lector      | Kevin Larkowski     |
| 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        |
|             | Communion Assistant |

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Comm. Asst. | Ashley Sum          |
|             | Lowell Harms        |
| Lector      | Donna Moessner      |
| Ushers      | Adam Klinker        |
|             | Linda Hoagland      |
|             | Julie O'Doherty     |
|             | Kathy Preininger    |
| Greeters    | Julie King          |
|             | Rosemary Tessin     |
| Crucifer    | Charlie Campbell    |
| Acolytes    | Henry Rief          |
|             | Communion Assistant |



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**September 8 & 9, 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: Rally Day**—Sunday School Commissioning and Blessing of Classrooms **NEXT WEEK:** Review and Study of ELCA's "Draft Statement on Women and Justice"

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Barb Chrisman in memory of my mom, Lois Soll, on her birthday

**ETERNAL CANDLE** is given to the glory of God in memory of his wife, Renee Kovar, by Marvin Kovar.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**RALLY DAY** The children will gather at the front of the church during the 9:00 AM service for a blessing, before parading outside and to the Upper Rooms. Since most of the children are registered already, we will start our educational year then with a parade into the Joyful Sounds Studio where Donna Moessner, Director of Children's Choir, will lead us in song and prayer. Following this time of praise, the students will go to their classrooms to begin their lessons on "Jesus and the Children".

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

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

**September 9 Sunday**

Rally Day

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

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 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-8<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:10 AM Finance Committee

12:00 PM Book Group

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

**September 10 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**September 11 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:00 AM Pantry Task Force

5:30 PM Stewardship

**September 12 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

5:30 PM Art Committee

6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

6:30 PM Confirmation

7:40 PM Worship

**September 13 Thursday**

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**September 15 Saturday**

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group

5:00 PM Worship

**September 16 Sunday**

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

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 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-8<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:30 AM Executive Committee

12:15 PM New Member Class

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**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 67<sup>th</sup> 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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:** 43

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 206 11:00: 77

**Midweek - Noon:** 7 **Evening:** 22

**Total:** 355

**Pantry Guests Served:** Closed for Labor Day

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 29

**Offering:**

\$12,937.13 (Regular) \$172.00 (Specials)

\$1,676.00 (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



*The kingdom of God breaks into our daily lives.*

|           |                |                                |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Mark 7:24-37   | Jesus heals the Gentiles       |
| Monday    | Isaiah 35:4-7a | The return of the exiled       |
| Tuesday   | James 2:1-17   | Faith without works is dead    |
| Wednesday | Luke 18:1-8    | The widow and the unjust judge |
| Thursday  | Hosea 12:2-6   | Return to your God             |
| Friday    | Mark 9:14-29   | Jesus gives a boy speech       |
| Saturday  | Psalms 146     | Praise for God's help          |
| Sunday    | Mark 8:27-38   | Taking up the cross            |



© 2017 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to bring your reign of mercy and healing for our daily lives. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord, as we thank you for much, bless those who have little. Give us hearts that care and hands that share. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord lift you up, watch over you, and uphold you now and always. (Psalm 146:8-9)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something that you experience as a challenge or limitation in life?
- How do you help others who experience challenges or limitations?
- In Isaiah 35:4-7a God promises to save us and to bring healing and hope to our daily lives. How do you see God bringing healing and hope to your life and to others around you?

*Read:* James 6:5-17.

This text shows the character of the people of God. God's reign in our lives makes a difference on how we treat others and how we are to be treated. As God treats us with mercy, so we are to treat others in ways that show mercy instead of dishonor, or mutual care instead of a standard that shows privilege to some over others. As verse 13 makes clear, there is judgment for not showing mercy. God's justice is to be taken seriously. And at the same time the great message of the Bible holds true: mercy triumphs over judgment. Instead of letting mercy lead us to indifference, it leads us to acts of love. This shows the power of a living faith that does works of compassion. Talk about how God has shown you mercy through others. How have you shown mercy to others?

*Pray:* **Lord, help us to open our hearts and minds to show mercy and acts of kindness to others. Amen.**

Psalm 146:7 says that God gives food to hungry people. Caring for the hungry is an important way to show God's compassion for those in need. Help your congregation's outreach to those who are food insecure. It can be surprising how many people that includes within your own community. Make a financial contribution to an organization that helps to feed the hungry.

Mark 7:24-30 is a shocking text that shows a rougher side of Jesus' dialogue with someone in need. The woman's persistence in response to Jesus' words was itself an example of faith. Christian rituals and traditions provide disciplines that sustain us through the rocky times of life and faith. What are some rituals and traditions that have encouraged you as a follower of Jesus? Recommit yourself to these Christian practices that present God's word and Holy Spirit to keep you going day after day.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38