

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

October 7, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

# 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

*"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"*

**ELW 871**

## 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** Sovereign God,
- C** you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

*(sit)*

### FIRST READING

**Genesis 2:18-24**

*Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other “one flesh.” The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).*

**T**he Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 8

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



<sup>1</sup>O | Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;  
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,  
human beings that you should | care for them? R**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less | than divine;  
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;  
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all | flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts | of the field,

<sup>8</sup>**the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup>O | Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth! **R**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12**

*Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.*

**L**ong ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? <sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than

the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**G** 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 10:2-16**

*Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

**S**ome Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” <sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” <sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is too such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**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 Hall*

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Our Father, by Whose Name”*

**ELW 640**

## **THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

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

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

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

## PRAYERS OF 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 Rod Welander, brother of Sharon Miley

**Thanksgiving:** for the wedding of Tara Strauss and Brad Capellupo (10/6/18)

**Illness:** Don Burton, Jack Duffield, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Doris Kusch, Tina Larsen, 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

“What Shall I Offer My God”

by: Lloyd Larson

## 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

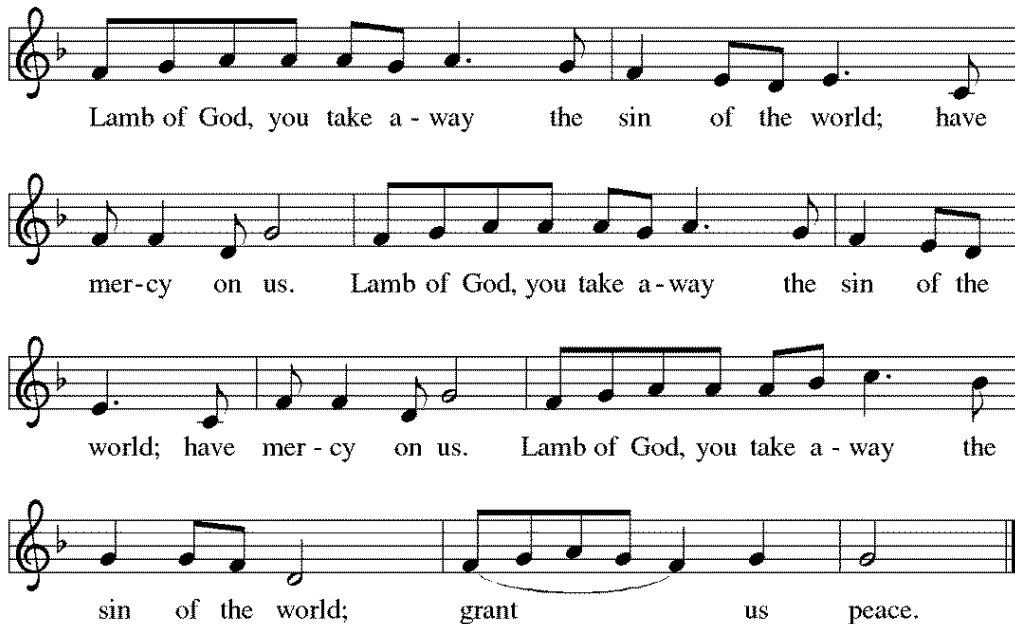
☞ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, and make us one with you.

### 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.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"Around You, O Lord Jesus"*  
*"Where Charity of Love Prevail"*

**ELW 468**  
**ELW 359**

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

# SENDING

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### BLESSING

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

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### HYMN

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

**ELW 879**

### DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Sound the good news.  
☑ Thanks be to God!

### POSTLUDE

✙   ✙   ✙

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
	Theresa Gruber

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder
	Scott Henneman
	Dan Collett
Lector	Karen Fannin
Ushers	John Georgeson
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	Chad Wachholtz
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Darlene Anderson
	Vickie Wichert
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Clara Kidder
Acolytes	Anna Kidder
	Communion Assistant

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Judith Poffenbarger
Ushers	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

October 6 & 7, 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:** We Welcome Children to First Communion **NEXT WEEK:** 501<sup>st</sup> Anniversary: Now What?

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** will be held this Sunday and next, 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, Please attend both sessions.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Myrna Esluer in honor of her 75th birthday.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us each Sunday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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—8<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

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

**October 7 Sunday**

Homebound Communion

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 Adult Forum

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

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8<sup>th</sup> gr)12:15 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class

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

**October 8 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**October 9 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:30 PM Stewardship Committee

**October 10 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Sewing Group

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

**October 11 Thursday**

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**October 13 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**October 14 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)

10:10 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

12:00 PM Book Group

12:15 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class

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

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**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.

**BOOK DRIVE** Our children in 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 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 continues on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM. Dr. Richard Sieling is leading 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. Bring a Bible (NRSV is recommended).

**KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON** Thursday, October 18, 11:30 AM (RSVP by October 16) At Kountze Memorial – Cost \$10. Men's Luncheon: Enjoy conversation and a meal on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 11:30

AM. We have presentations on a variety of topics inviting us to consider how faith connects with the wider community and all of creation. This month, we'll have a presentation on the Kountze Memorial Endowment Fund by Micah Fannin, who chairs the Endowment Fund board

**FRIENDS & FAMILY LUNCHEON** Sunday, October 21, 12:30 PM to be held in Kountze Meeting Rooms A and B (Just north of Fellowship Hall). The Social Ministry Committee is hosting a luncheon followed by holy Communion for all homebound members and friends of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We also invite our Eucharistic Ministers to participate. To let us know you plan to come, and if you need a ride, please contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org).

**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.

**THE ST. JOHN'S BIBLE COMES TO KOUNTZE** in late October, as we celebrate the Reformation, members of Kountze Memorial will have the chance to engage the St. John's Bible in our worship and adult education opportunities. Kountze Memorial is one of a few select local congregations invited to use the Bible in its worship and educational opportunities. To learn more about the St. John's Bible and to see some of its breathtaking illustrations, please visit ([www.saintjohnsbible.org/](http://www.saintjohnsbible.org/)).

**CAMP CAROL JOY HOLLING** Early Bird Savings! Register for CJH Camp before January 31, 2019 and get \$50 off a full-week session and a drawstring bag! You can register online at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>.

### COMING IN NOVEMBER—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING: A TRAINING FOR WORSHIP LEADERS** (esp. Communion Assistants and Lectors). Sunday, November 11, 12:15 PM This training will focus on new volunteers. The liturgy of the Church belongs to all the baptized. While pastors are called to lead worship, preach, and administer the sacraments, the laity are called and encouraged to take part in all aspects of worship, whether that is before and after worship (as led by the Altar Guild) or during the liturgy as Communion Assistants and Lectors. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Hall. To register for the training, please call the church office.

**THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER** Friday, November 16, at 6:00 PM. Save the date! All members of Kountze are invited. Turkey is provided. Please bring a side dish to share. RSVP to the church office at 402-341-7761.

**INTER-FAITH THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE** Sunday, November 18, 5:00 PM For the last several years, Jews, Christians, and Muslims have gathered for an inter-faith service of Thanksgiving in our city. This year, Kountze Memorial will host the annual city-wide event. This year's theme will focus on our common texts from our history of the United States, with each faith reflecting on the texts from their tradition and resources.

**THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH ST. PETER'S** Thanksgiving Day, November 22 (11:00 AM to 1:30 PM) Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28<sup>th</sup> Street) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Volunteers are needed to a) set up the night before; b) donate pies/desserts; and c) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal. This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. Please contact Pr. Hall or the church office to volunteer.

### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 32

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 189 11:00: 96

**Midweek - Noon:** 10 **Evening:** 0 (no confirmation)

**Total:** 327

**Pantry Guests Served:** 381

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 19

**Offering:**

\$14,142.92 (Regular) \$10,560.48 (Specials)

\$1,648.00 (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

Welcome God's kingdom as you welcome a child.

Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children
Monday	Genesis 2:18-24	God creates a partner for man
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	God has spoken by his Son
Wednesday	Matthew 18:1-6	Welcoming a little child
Thursday	Deuteronomy 11:13-21	Teaching the children
Friday	Ephesians 6:1-9	Instructions for the household
Saturday	Psalms 8	God honors humanity
Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad



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But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." **Mark 10:14 (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you have made us responsible for the care of creation. Help us to offer care with the mercy and grace you have shown to us. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

With this food you make us strong. To you our life and love belong. Thank you, God! Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ take you into his arms and bless you; may he protect and care for you, now and always. (Mark 10:16)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do people pay attention to you and make you feel important?
- How do you honor others you know or meet for the first time?
- Genesis 2, Psalm 8, and Mark 10:2-16 all address how God cares for and values human beings, including children. What does this say about God and our Lord Jesus Christ?

*Read:* Mark 54:6-16.

It seems charming that Jesus compares the kingdom of God to the life of a child. However, what Jesus means by that comparison has been a challenge. Is the focus on sentimental reflections on a child? Is it the innocence of a child? Is it their trusting nature and child-like faith? In part, it depends on how the original Greek is translated. Some believe what Jesus meant was that one is to welcome the kingdom as one welcomes a child, someone who is vulnerable and weak (In Jesus' day, a child had little value or legal protection). In other words, to welcome the kingdom of God was like welcoming someone who was not powerful by worldly standards. Like Jesus' message in Mark 9:35-38, to be first in God's eyes is to be last and a servant. The kingdom of God is about care for the little ones, not honor and glory. This fits with the discussion on divorce in Mark 10:2-12. Women were seen as property without social power to protect themselves from the whims of a husband's loyalty or disinterest. Jesus defends women and, thereby, the protection of marriage. The kingdom of God cares for the vulnerable. Reflect on who might be the vulnerable in your setting.

**Pray: Lord, we pray for those who need protection in our community and out in the world. Help us to offer care with the mercy and grace you have shown to us. Amen.**

In Mark 10:2-16 Jesus speaks on behalf of children and married women, people in his society who were vulnerable and not protected by social, religious, and legal norms. Identify people in your community who need help and the church programs and other service organizations that assist them. Find ways to volunteer with a program that helps those in need, make a financial contribution to support such programs, or visit someone you know who needs care and attention.

In Mark 10:2-16 Jesus cares for children, women, and married life. Take time this week in your home or with friends to care for each other by looking at childhood photos and talking about childhood memories together. When children are present, play a game or go on an outing with them. Conclude by blessing each other with: **May the Lord Jesus Christ take you into his arms and bless you; may he protect and care for you, now and always.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31