

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

October 14, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

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

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty and ever-living God,
- C** increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we will follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:12-17

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



¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry?**

Be gracious | to your servants. R

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us
and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your ser- | vants your works,
and your splendor | to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God | be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork. R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. ¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

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

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 685

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 Alan Schjodt, Karl Schjodt's father

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, Malys Thomas, Marilyn Van Bibber

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

“Offertory”

by: John Ness Beck

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

“Blessed Assurance”
“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW 638
ELW 810

(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

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

“God be with You Till We Meet Again”

ELW 536

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. 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	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord
	Ellen Pessevento

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman
	Steve Jacobson
	Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Ruth Henneman
Ushers	John Georgeson
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Darlene Anderson
	Vickie Wichert
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	June Anderson
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Bruce Anderson
Ushers	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
	Kathy Preininger
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer
	Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

October 13 & 14, 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:** 501st Anniversary: Now What? **NEXT WEEK:** Exploring the St. John's Bible (Forum in the Nave)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS continues this Sunday, October 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.

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of brother, Paul, by Karen and Shirley Bonneau.

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.

October 14 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)
 10:30 AM Executive Committee
 12:00 PM Book Group
 12:15 PM 1st Communion Class
 7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

October 15 Monday

Good News Deadline
 10:00 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM Clinic Board

October 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregational Council
 6:30 PM Stewardship Committee

October 17 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
 7:30 PM Worship—All are welcome

October 18 Thursday

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

October 19 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

October 20 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 1:30 PM Featherly & Lavelle Wedding
 5:00 PM Worship

October 21 Sunday

Bible Sunday
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast—Continental
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 12:30 PM Family & Friends Lunch
 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.

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 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 & 6:00 PM (attend one class). Dr. Richard Sieling is leading a six-week study on the Parables of Jesus. We are looking at the setting, meaning, and relevance of selected stories. Bring a Bible (NRSV is recommended).

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, October 18, 11:30 AM (Please 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. If you know someone who might like to come, please let us know. 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. If you'd like to help serve, please contact Melissa Osentowski (402-660-7713) for more information.

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. Please RSVP to the church office by Thursday, October 18, so we know how many to plan for. Hope to see you there!

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/).

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 28th 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: 49

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 207 11:00: 98

Midweek - Noon: 8 **Evening:** 24

Total: 386

Pantry Guests Served: 336

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Offering:

\$22,819.21 (Regular) \$587.00 (Specials)

\$5,688.00 (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

Approach God with boldness and receive mercy.

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

Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad
Monday	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Seek good and not evil
Tuesday	Hebrews 4:12-16	Jesus is the great high priest
Wednesday	Proverbs 31:8-9	Defend the poor
Thursday	Luke 18:18-30	A rich man
Friday	Leviticus 19:2-37	God's commandments
Saturday	Psalms 90:12-17	Teach us wisdom
Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to serve



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:16 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you give and you require both justice and mercy. As we receive your grace, lead us to others with your never-failing love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, help us to share the food we receive and give gladly to any who are in need. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's word be at work in you. May the Lord give you strength in times of weakness and mercy in times of need. (Hebrews 4:12-16)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Mercy is for those who need forgiveness. Tell about a time you showed mercy and kindness to someone.
- Talk about a time someone forgave you.
- The Bible makes it clear how our lives fall short of loving God (seeking the Lord) and loving our neighbor (justice for those in need). How have you experienced God's forgiveness and grace (grace means "undeserved kindness")?

Read: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15.

Amos is critical of the worship life of Israel. Bethel was a primary place to worship God, to "Seek the Lord" (v. 6). However, the worship life there is threatened because of a lack of justice that is described in verses 7 and 10-15. Where do you see around you Amos' (and God's) concern for corruption, mistreatment, and neglect of the poor, and lavish lifestyles? Amos wants the faithful to see that seeking God in worship includes seeking the righteous God in just treatment of others, especially the poor. How does your worship experience lead you to care for the needs of others?

Pray: God of justice and mercy, we thank you for the undeserved kindness you extend to us each day. Forgive us when we do not seek you in worship or in the needs of others. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mark 10:17-31 is a tough passage about salvation and human wealth. Our wealth can clearly get in the way of God's mission (v. 23). God's gift of salvation is something that only God can accomplish for us (v. 27). Wealth and the power that goes with it challenge our ability to understand and care for others. Service requires a compassionate heart that feels the hurts and pains of others. Reflect on how your influence and power can get in the way of caring for others. Reflect on how a compassionate heart leads you to do acts of kindness.

In Mark 10:29-31 Jesus points out that his followers prosper with many family members and family possessions. Being part of the church gives us a large, even global family that presents us with a wealth of relationships to do God's work and will. Practice home hospitality, welcoming fellow neighbors and friends into your dwelling as a way to share your possessions and wealth with them. Offering a simple meal is a way to share the wealth of the kingdom of God. Use the *Mealtime Prayer* as part of your time of breaking bread together.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45