

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

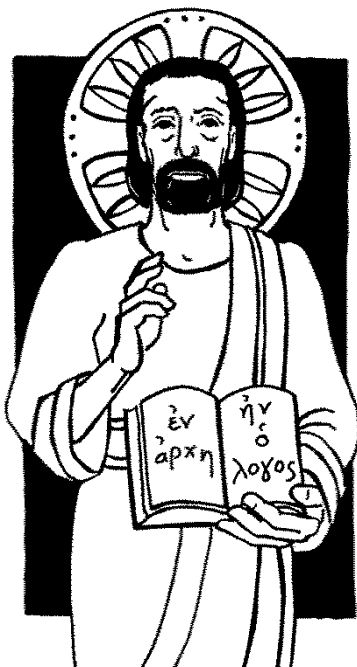
2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

October 21, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE SUNDAY



Today, we celebrate Bible Sunday in three ways. We begin by remembering that Jesus Christ, in incarnate Logos, is the key to Scripture. By and through Jesus, we know God and interpret his words of Law and Gospel. Second, this point will be illustrated in our use of the Heritage Edition of the St. John's Bible, in cooperation with the special collections holdings of the Reinert-Alumni Library of Creighton University, which has brought an edition for our use and the bulletin insert for today's sermon. Third, at the 9 a.m. liturgy, we celebrate by honoring our baptismal promise: to place into a child's hands the holy Scripture and teach them how to read and interpret them. Children in pre-school, first, third, and fifth grades who receive a new Bible (and other children who receive a gift) are invited to join us for the procession. Every one of us is reminded of the fact that God's Word in Our Great Heritage!

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

"Thy Strong Word"

ELW 511

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 turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Crist, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. ¹⁹Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ²⁰Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:9-16

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



⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

¹⁰**no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

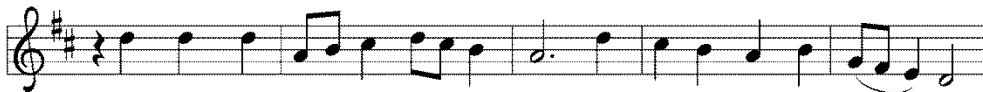
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

ELW 509



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while



time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O God beyond All Praising"

ELW 880

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)

Thanksgiving: for the wedding of Cindy Featherly and Joel Lavelle (October 20, 2018)

Illness: Pauline Brager, Don Burton, Jack Duffield, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Doris Kusch, Tina Larsen, Mary Olson, Ellen Pesavento, Susan Ray, Gary Rodene, Grant Searcey, Vinn Stephens, Marlys 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

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

by: Brian L. Hanson

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

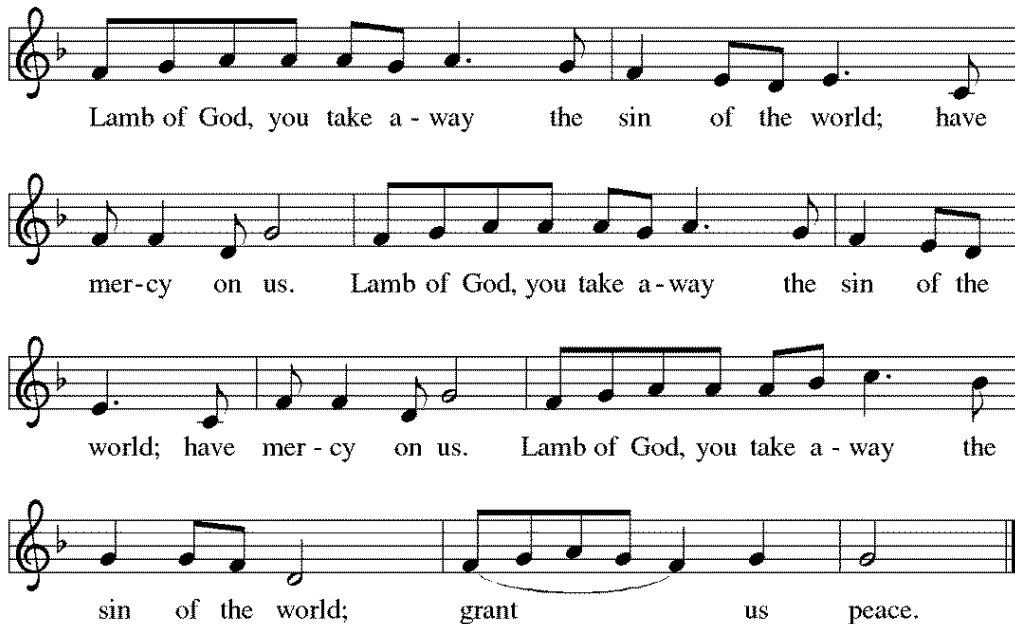
☐ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, and make us one with you.

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 “*Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*”
“*O God of Mercy, God of Light*”

ELW 750
ELW 714

(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

“You Servants of God”

ELW 825

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. We go remembering our mission:
☑ **We are disciples of Jesus, worshipping 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	Ellen Pesavento
Ushers	Jim Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman
	Lorie Groenjes
	Liz Pemberton
Lector	Susie Henry
Ushers	John Georgeson
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Darlene Anderson
	Vickie Wichert
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Madelyn Hinrichs
Acolytes	Brooks Hinrichs
	Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
	Lowell Harms
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Anna Kotula
	Torin Edwards



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

October 20 & 21, 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 Today we will have a Continental Breakfast but join us again next Sunday morning for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8:00—11:00 AM prepared by our 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:** Exploring the St. John's Bible (Forum in the Nave)? **NEXT WEEK:** Reformation Sunday (No Forum)

BIBLE SUNDAY During the 9 AM service this Sunday, we honor the importance of providing children with the Holy Scripture and will present a Bible to those children who are 2 and 4 years old, and those in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades.

FRIENDS & FAMILY LUNCHEON This Sunday, October 21, 12:30 PM, followed by holy Communion for all homebound members and friends of Kountze Memorial. Eucharistic Ministers are also invited to participate.

BELLEVUE BERRY FARM (11001 South 48th Street, Papillion). This Sunday, October 21, 2:00 - 6:00 PM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of the baptism of Brooks Riesenberg and Oscar Micek, given by grandparents, Keith and Gretchen Engelkamp; in celebration of our 21st Wedding Anniversary given by Rick & DiAnn Kolkman

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY but join us next week and 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 NO CHOIR TODAY, but join us next week and 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 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

2:00 PM Bellevue Berry Farm

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

October 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Endowment Board

6:30 PM Stewardship Committee

7:00 PM Circle 3

October 24 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 25 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 26 Friday

6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

October 27 Saturday

Halber & Anderson Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

October 28 Sunday

Reformation 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)

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

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

THE ST. JOHN'S BIBLE COMES TO KOUNTZE This weekend, 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 breath-taking illustrations, please visit (www.saintjohnsbible.org/).

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.

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).

NOTE:

There will not be Confirmation or an evening Bible Study on Halloween—Wednesday, October 31. The 10:30 AM Bible Study will meet on that date.

COMING IN NOVEMBER—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GRIEF SEMINAR Sunday, November 4, 2018, 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Grief is difficult and especially during the holidays. If you have lost a relative or close friend, this would be an opportunity to share that grief with others and share how we can move through that grief. A light lunch will be served. Please call the church office at 402-341-7761 to make a reservation.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Join us on Tuesday, November 6 at 12:00 PM. We will be relaxing and watching a Rick Steves video. You won't want to miss out on the delicious lunch being served at noon! We are having one of our most popular dishes! Hot Chicken Salad casserole. It is definitely a Lutheran favorite!! Also on the menu, is tasty Pumpkin Pie, and homemade, mulled hot apple cider. Just what we need to warm our bodies and souls. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, November 2. Any questions, please call Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033). The cost for lunch is \$4.00. All ages are welcome! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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.



Congratulations Barb Carlsen on being chosen Millard's October Employee of the Month! Her students said "We love 'singing' your praises!"



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 59

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 191 11:00: 78

Midweek - Noon: 7 **Evening:** 24

Total: 359

Pantry Guests Served: 400

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 29

Offering:

\$14,325.62 (Regular) \$61,505.00 (Specials)

\$4,033.00 (In the City for Good)

Important Dates for the Upcoming Sunday School Year

Dec 2 Advent Fair

Dec 16 Christmas Program

To follow Jesus is to be a servant of all.

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

Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to serve
Monday	Isaiah 53:4-12	Suffering servant song
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:1-10	Jesus the great high priest
Wednesday	Numbers 12:1-9	Moses is a servant of the Lord
Thursday	Galatians 5:13-15	Serve on another in love
Friday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Use your gifts to serve others
Saturday	Psalms 91:9-16	God's protection
Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus



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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.

“But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave to all.” **Mark 10:43-44 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and glory, help us to see in Jesus the way of true power and glory, the way of love and service that makes all things new. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord, you fill each cup, you fill each plate. Help us your love to imitate. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Most High God be your dwelling place. May the Lord protect you from evil and guard you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:9-11)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you could do anything you wanted, what would you like to do?
- Many cultures have been based on the power to dominate others instead of serving others. Where do you see power over others happening around you? Where do you see service?
- Jesus uses his power as Savior to serve all. How does that influence how you live?

Read: Mark 54:79-45.

In the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire was an honor and shame culture. Power was used to protect those in authority. Therefore, those in power were able to honor others to keep them loyal as well as use their influence to shame and humiliate people to keep them in line. Using power to dominate others was central to society. How is that still true today? Jesus turns all that on its head. He humiliates domination by being the Son of Man willing to die for others. He takes humiliation and gives it honor. The cross of Christ humbles religious, political, economic, and social powers and honors what appears to be weakness. Human skills, huge bank accounts, and social power are only valued as it is used to serve others, not in their abilities to shine a spotlight on themselves and say, “Look at me.” How does the cross of Christ free your life from the bondage of pursuing personal glory? How does it free you to serve others?

Pray: **Lord, we are humbled by your willingness to die for us and forgive us our weaknesses. Help us to walk in your way. Amen.**

For Jesus and his kingdom, service is a way of life that seeks to honor others and not claim to have power over others. This week think about how your life leads you to honor and value others.

Obviously, James and John were not listening to the words of Jesus that spoke of his suffering and death (Mark 10:33-37). Sometimes we only hear what we want to hear without listening to others, including God. A valuable Christian tradition is to sit in silence and listen for God to speak to us the message of the kingdom of God, the message of Christ, the Son of Man. Take time this week to sit in silence and listen for how God wants to speak to you with the voice of the one who “came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52