

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 28, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION SUNDAY



In celebration of Reformation Sunday, we will be using certain elements of Martin Luther's reformed Eucharistic liturgy; viz., the entire Eucharistic liturgy (from "Lift up your hearts" through the Lord's Prayer) will be sung/chanted. On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Kountze Brass

K. Craig Bircher, Scott Quackenbush, trumpet
Jason Stromquist, Jay Wise, trombone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

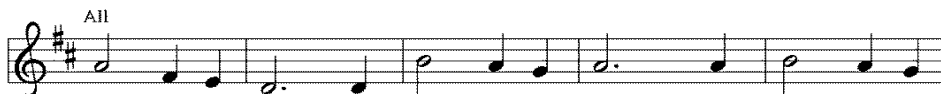
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



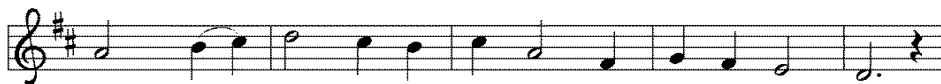
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



All
I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

(continued on the next page)

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, gracious Lord,

C we that you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

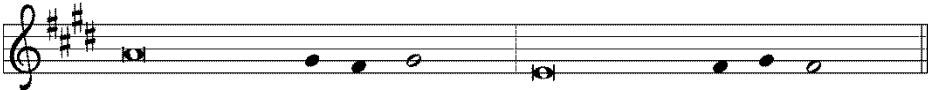
The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

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



¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;

³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.

(continued on next page)

⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**
¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. .

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

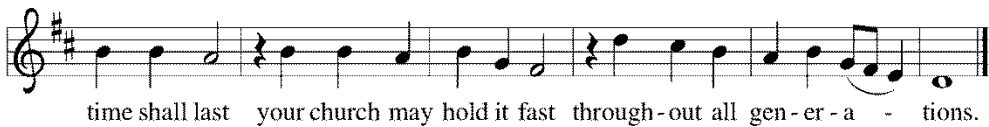
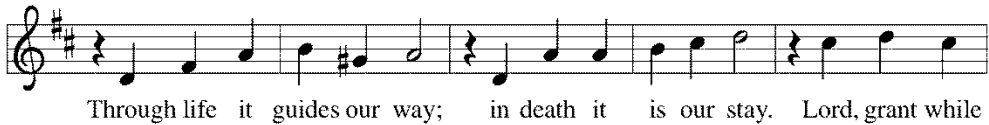
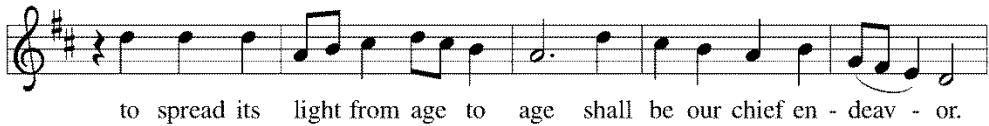
Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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 *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

ELW 517

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 Pauline Brager

Thanksgiving: for those receiving their First Communion: Brett Bailey, Jack Bailey, William Klinker, and Barrett Milks; for the wedding of Jess Anderson & Rebecca Halbu (October 27, 2018)

Illness: Don Burton, Francine Comenzind, Jack Duffield, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Lisa Hanson, daughter of Sharon Miley, Doris Kusch, Tina Larsen, Sharon Miley, 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

“One Faith, One Hope, One Lord”

Craig Courtney
with Kountze Brass

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.**

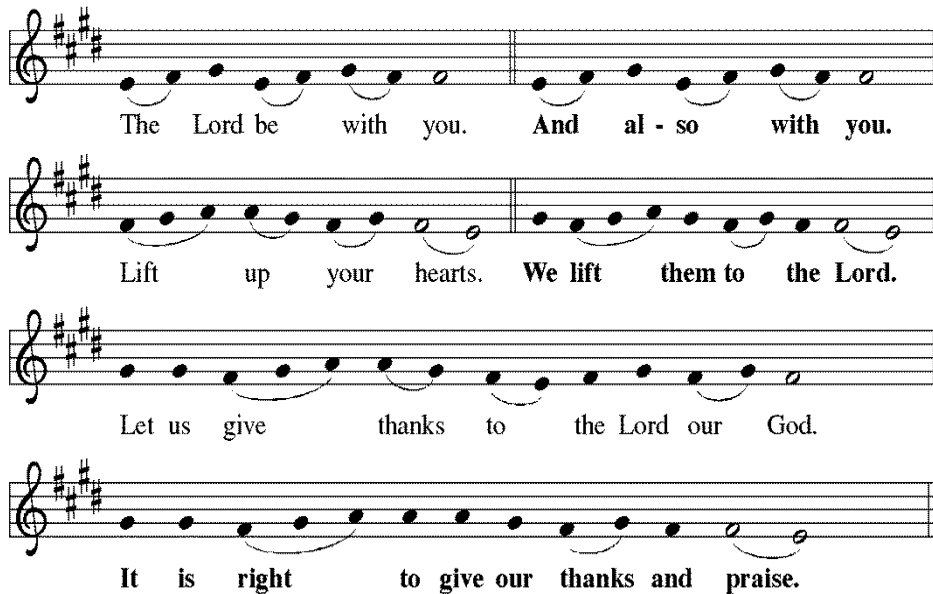
**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.**

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.

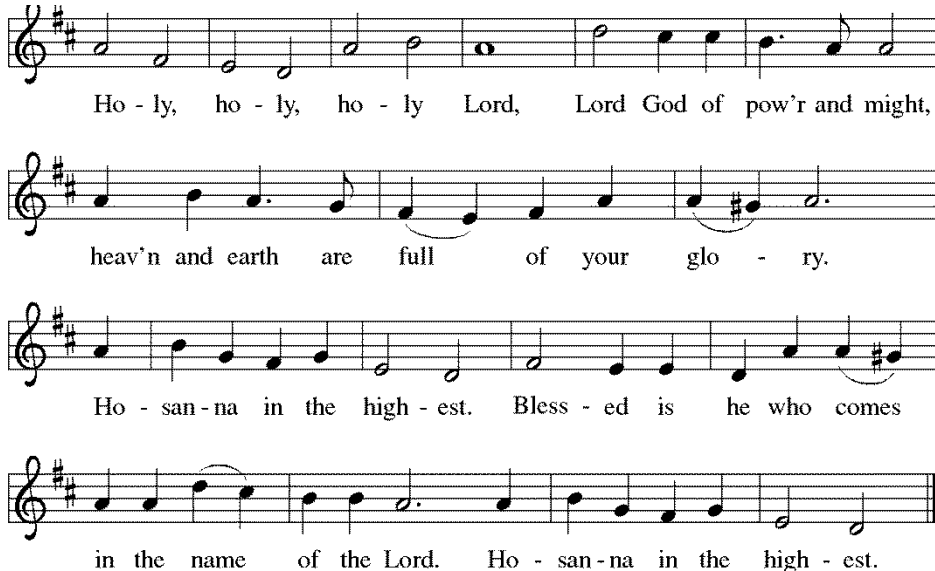
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has the lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff concludes with 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The notation includes various note values and rests, with lyrics placed below the notes.

THE PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

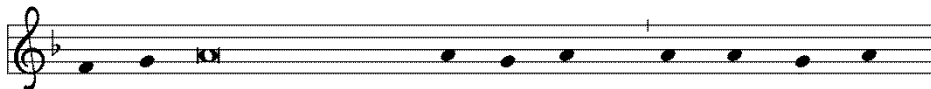
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

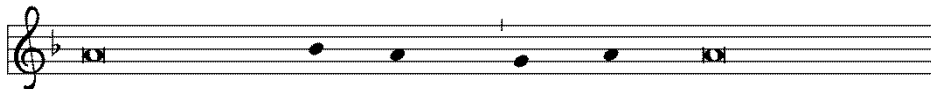
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff has the lyrics 'Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff concludes with 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.' The notation includes various note values and rests, with lyrics placed below the notes.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION



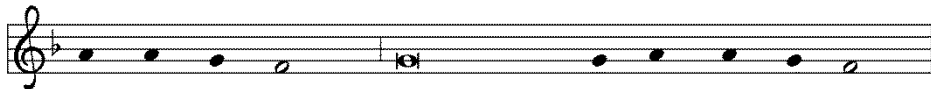
In the night in which he was be-trayed, our Lord Je - sus



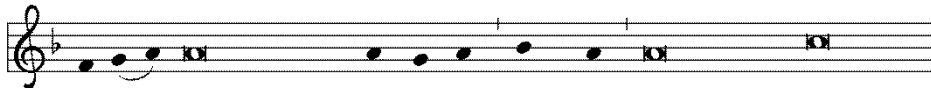
took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to



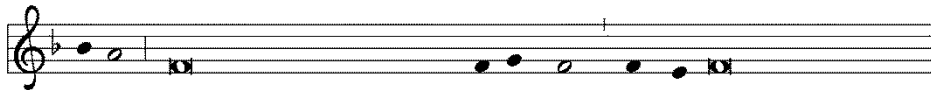
his dis - ci - ples, say - ing: Take and eat; this is my bod - y,



giv - en for you. Do this for the re - mem-brance of me.



A - gain, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,



say-ing: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people



for the for - give - ness of sin. Do this for the re - mem-brance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P 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.*

FIRST COMMUNION RECIPIENTS

(These children will receive Communion with their families first; the choir and the rest of the congregation will follow.)

Brett Bailey, Jack Bailey, William Klinker, and Barrett Milks

(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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

ELW 490

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

ELW 488

(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

- ☐ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, ☩ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“My Hope is Built On Nothing Less”

ELW 597

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

☩ ☩ ☩

THE LUTHER ROSE

In a July 8, 1530 letter to his friend Lazarus Spengler, Luther interprets his seal:

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend! Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which [now] come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology.

There is first to be a cross, black [and placed] in a heart, which should be of its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For if one believes from the heart he will be justified [Romans 10:10]. Even though it is a black cross, [which] mortifies and [which] also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its [natural] color [and] does not ruin nature; that is, [the cross] does not kill but keeps [man] alive. For the just man lives by faith [Romans 1:17], but by faith in the Crucified One. Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace; in a word it places the believer into a white joyful rose; for [this faith] does not give peace and joy as the world gives and, therefore, the rose is to be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all the angels.²⁰ Such a rose is to be in a sky-blue field, [symbolizing] that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy; it is already a part [of faith], and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest. And around this field is a golden ring, [symbolizing] that in heaven such blessedness lasts forever and has no end, and in addition is precious beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come. Amen.

Martin Luther

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	Duane Hovendick
	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Susie Henry
	Adam Klinker
	Rhonda Wachholtz
Lector	Pamela Johnson
Ushers	John Georgeson
	Jim Comfort
	Joe Councill
	Dave Forrest
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	Jan Falk
Greeters	Darlene Anderson
	Vickie Wichert
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia
	Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Peggy Johnson
	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

October 27 & 28, 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 each 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:** Reformation Sunday (No Forum) **NEXT WEEK:** Experience of the Church in Africa: Jonna Holland and Carol Stoltenberg

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Amanda Schneiderman's 25th birthday given by John & Lynn Schneiderman; in honor of the marriage of Jess & Rebecca Anderson

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.

NOTE:

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

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)

October 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

1:00 PM Celebrate Creativity Set-up

October 30 Tuesday

9:30 AM Celebrate Creativity

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:30 Stewardship Committee

October 31 Wednesday

9:30 AM Celebrate Creativity

10:30 AM Bible Study - The Parables of Jesus

12:15 PM Worship

November 1 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion

4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks

5:00 PM Worship

November 4 Sunday

All Saints Sunday

Homebound Communion

Daylight Savings--fall back 1 hour

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 Grief Seminar

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 January 13 & 20 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.

FALL BIBLE STUDY—continues. The last 10:30 AM class is October 31. The 6:00 PM class concludes on October 24 (no evening class on Halloween).

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!

HERITAGE SERIES IN NOVEMBER: THE GOOD LIFE—Wednesdays in November, 6:00 PM (November 7, 14, and 28 —skipping November 21). Nebraskans claim to live the “good life.” Let's explore more of what constitutes a good life from one Christian perspective. Pr. Hall will lead a discussion of Herbert McCabe's, *The Good Life: Ethics and the Pursuit of Happiness*. All are welcome. The book is available for purchase through Amazon or AbeBooks. Copies of chapters will be available (starting the last week of October) for those who request them. Please register at the church office so that we have enough copies. There are six chapters in the book, so after discussing the first three chapters (“The Study of Ethics,” “The Good Life,” and “Politics and Virtue”) we will pause for Advent dinners and Vespers and then resume the final three chapters in the new year.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING We will meet on Thursday, November 8 at 6:00 PM.

KMLC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP—Post college to the young at heart! Join us the 3rd Friday of the month (Friday, November 16). Please contact one of the members below to find out details of this month's meeting time and location. Ashley Sum, AshleySumRealtor@gmail.com, 402-880-7629 or Melissa Musick, Musick.melissa@gmail.com, 913-209-4485.

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: 33

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 212 11:00: 107

Midweek - Noon: 7 **Evening:** 19

Total: 378

Pantry Guests Served: 445

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 28

Offering:

\$17,490.50 (Regular) \$410.00 (Specials)

\$2,094.00 (In the City for Good)

\$324,562.83 (Special Grant)



Important Dates for the Upcoming Sunday School Year

Dec 2 Advent Fair

Dec 16 Christmas Program

God establishes a new relationship with us.

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	Righteousness through faith
Wednesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Saved by grace through faith
Thursday	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	But now my eye sees you
Friday	Hosea 2:10-15	God draws Israel close
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our protection
Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus



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But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my Law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” **Jeremiah 31:33 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who forgive sinners and bring life to the dead, thank you for reaching out to us and claiming us as your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, we praise your name for you are rich in grace. Bless this food and all who gather in this place. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God’s word be written on your heart; may the Lord forgive you and remember your sin no more.

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you picture God?
- What kind of image of God do you see presented in the world around you?
- Humans have struggled throughout history to get a clear picture of God and how to please God. If God only saves sinners (Romans 3:20-24), how does that impact a desire to please God?

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) struggled with how to please an angry, judgmental God, but when Luther saw the righteousness of God as filled with mercy for sinners, it changed everything for him and the subsequent history of the Reformation. If salvation is up to our efforts, even for one percent of goodness on our own, we are doomed. We can never be sure of our own acceptability before the God of heaven and earth. If salvation is a free gift of God’s love and mercy, we live with faith and hope in the goodness of God. That is the message of Jesus and the New Testament. Through Jesus a new relationship to God was established. It is the new covenant—or testament—promised from the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Being saved is being made right with God (justified) through the power and grace of God received in faith. We cannot even boast of our faith, because it is all a gift from God (Romans 3:27). Reflect on what it means to be freed from the worry of our own goodness so that we can live for God and for our neighbor.

Pray: Gracious God, you who forgive sinners and bring life to the dead, thank you for reaching out to us and claiming us as your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Reformation emphasizes the priesthood of all believers. Not only do pastors have a calling from God, but all Christians have an important calling (vocation) in the world. Look at what you do with your gifts and passions to serve others and to give praise to God. Whether at work or at school or at home, give thanks to God that you have a calling that pleases God and serves others.

Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help people study and practice their Christian faith everyday in the home. Faith, like learning a language, needs to be practiced regularly. Luther wrote a morning and evening prayer for individuals and families to begin and end the day in faith. This week use his morning and evening prayers (Find them in Luther’s Small Catechism or simply do a search for them on the Internet). Add the Lord’s Prayer and other prayers to your day and consider making these prayers part of your daily routine.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34