

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

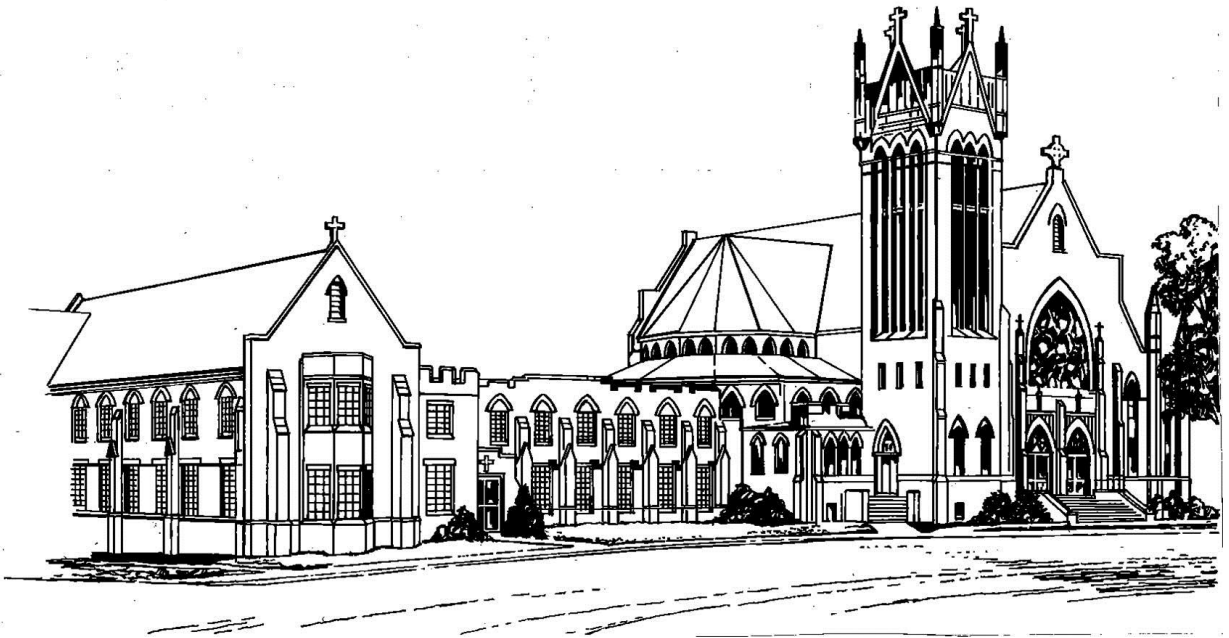
2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

November 11, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

VETERANS' DAY

Here in this Place . . . I Belong



GATHERING

PRELUDE

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 to 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

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

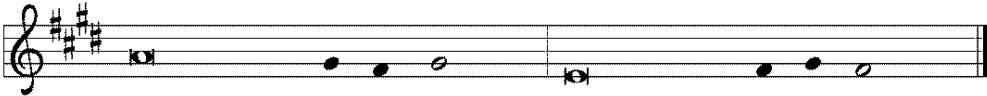
☐ Almighty God, Gracious Lord

☑ **here in this place I come today to worship you. It is here — in this place — that I belong. Continue to work your will upon me through your Word and Sacrament, and make me ever mindful of all you have given to me; through Jesus Christ, your Son, my Lord. Amen.**

WORD

PSALM 84

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



¹How dear to me | is your dwelling,

O | LORD of hosts!

²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest
where she may | lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

⁴**Happy are they who dwell | in your house!**

They will always be | praising you.

⁵Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

⁶**Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

⁷They will climb from | height to height,
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

(continued on next page)

**⁸LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;
give ear, O | God of Jacob.**

**⁹Behold our defend- | er, O God;
and look upon the face of | your anointed.**

**¹⁰For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents | of the wicked.**

**¹¹For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk | with integrity.**

**¹²O | LORD of hosts,
happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

(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

"Gather Us In" (Here In This Place)

ELW 532



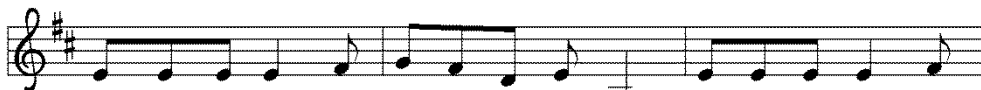
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we 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)

Illness: Don Burton, Francine Comenzind, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Lisa Hanson, daughter of Sharon Miley, Doris Kusch, Tina Larsen, Sharon Miley, Mary Olson, Ellen Pesavento, Susan Ray, Gary Rodene, 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

Here in this Place ... I belong ... our theme for this year's financial campaign. As you place your offering in the offering plate, do you consider it as obligation, a chore ... or is it an act of your trust in God to provide for all your needs? 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.



MUSICAL OFFERING

“From Sea to Shining Sea”

Ward
arr. Maurice Whitney

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.**

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OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious God:

C Here in this very place ... I belong!

P Together we belong to this place we call Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

C In so many ways, I help make it the church it is and the church it will be.

P This will be a friendly place,

C if I am friendly.

P The pews in this place will be filled,

C if I help fill them.

P Through this place we together will do great work,

C if I am willing to work.

P Together we will bring other people into this place of worship and fellowship,

C if I invite and bring them.

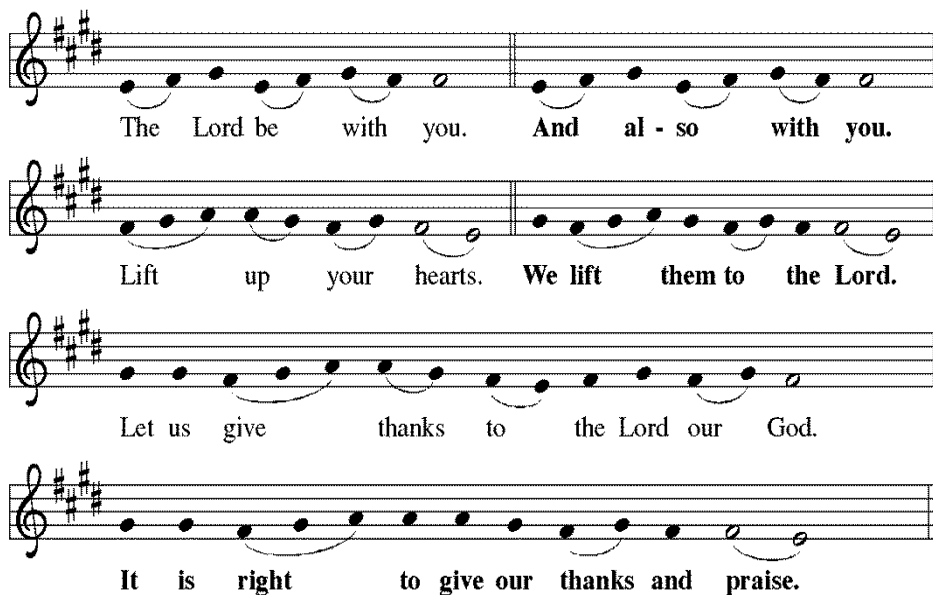
P Kountze Memorial will be a church, a place, where people grow in faith and serve you,

C if I am open to growth and service.

P Therefore, with your help Lord,

C we shall, together, dedicate ourselves to the task of making Kountze Memorial be all the place that is your Church to be, right now at this time, right here in this place.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

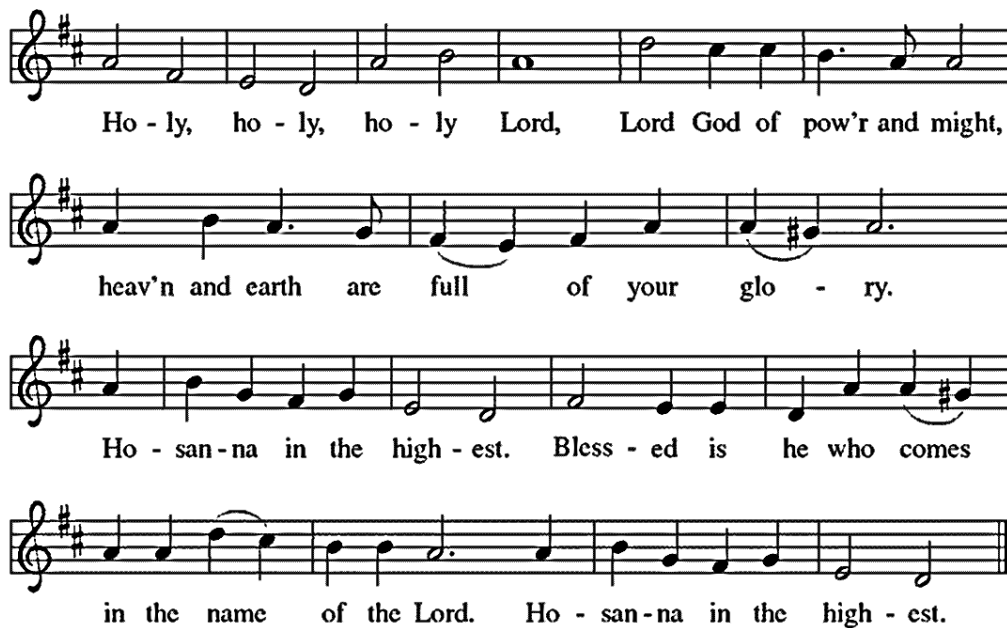
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C 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

P Hunger no more. Thirst no more.

C Come to the banquet of life.

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

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

ELW 742

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine”

ELW 774

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

ELW 772

(stand)

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
G Amen.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Almighty God, we are grateful today — and always — for the gift of the Lord’s Supper, through which you give us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Continue to strengthen us through this great gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
G Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to 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

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”
in honor of Veterans’ Day

ELW 888

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. We go remembering our mission:
C 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	Custodian
Søren Johnson	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Children's Music
Donna Moessner	Custodian
Danny Bos	Organist
Mark Jones	Saturday Accompanist
David Gerard	Night Security Manager
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Nursery Superintendent
Norma Pafford	Urban Ministries Coordinator
Joyce Palmer	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord Ellen Pessevento

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lorie Groenjes Susie Henry Dan Collett
Lector	Colleen Lenners
Ushers	Dick Nelson Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Brad Madison Rodney Nord Dan Troxel Sharon West Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Sharon Nelson Bev Troxel
Crucifer	Madelyn Hinrichs
Acolytes	Brooks Hinrichs Cameron Miller

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Adam Klinker Julie O'Doherty Monica Albers
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 10 & 11, 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:** Stewardship Kick-Off, Pt. 1 **NEXT WEEK:** Stewardship Kick-Off, Pt. 2

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING (esp. Communion Assistants and Lectors). This 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.

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in honor of the Armed Forces Service people by Marge Bock.

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.

November 11 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)
 10:15 AM Endowment Board
 12:00 PM Book Group
 12:15 PM Worship Leader Training
 7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

November 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM Christian Education Committee

November 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 10:00 AM Lutheran Women of Omaha
 6:00 PM Personnel Committee

November 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
 12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:00 PM Heritage Series
 6:30 PM Confirmation
 7:30 PM Worship

November 15 Thursday

Good News Deadline
 Council Reports Due
 11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
 1:30 PM Circle 4
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 7:00 PM Circle 5

November 16 Friday

6:00 PM Young Professionals (join Thanksgiving Potluck)
 6:00 PM Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

November 17 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:00 PM Worship

November 18 Sunday

Stewardship 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)
 10:00 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)
 10:30 AM Executive Committee
 3:30 PM Interfaith Youth Pizza Party
 5:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service & Reception
 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.

OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: 1) Individuals to sign up to serve a shift at the Monday Food Pantry. Shifts are: 9-11 AM and 11 AM -1 PM. The lime green sign-up notebook is on the back counter in A & B Rooms. Not sure if this is for you? Contact "JP" Joyce Palmer, Urban Ministry Coordinator (402-341-7761 x 303), to arrange a time to visit/observe the Pantry in operation. 2) Financial support so 300 holiday meal bags can be prepared. In 2018, each bag will cost \$23.20. Can be your alternative gift idea for a loved one or special friend. 3) Food items: black beans (dry or canned), oatmeal, boxed dinners, Sunny-D juice, tomato juice, pork 'n beans, pasta &

pasta sauce, syrup, jam/jelly, toothpaste & brush, green beans, corn, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail/mixed fruit, pancake mix (made with water), sardines (mustard or hot sauce). Thanks for your continued support of this outreach ministry!

HERITAGE SERIES IN NOVEMBER: THE GOOD LIFE—Continues at 6:00 PM on November 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.

MEN’S LUNCHEON Rick Harris with Optimized Systems will be our presenter at November’s Men’s Luncheon on Thursday, November 15 at 11:30 AM. Optimized systems helps building owners achieve energy savings by analyzing existing systems, helping make sure equipment is operating a peak efficiency and helping to extend equipment longevity. Please call the Church office or email jim@kmlchurch.org to RSVP by Tuesday, November 13. The cost for lunch is \$10.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Join us at Kountze on Friday, November 16 at 6:00 PM for the Thanksgiving Potluck. Turkey is provided. Please bring a side dish to share. RSVP to the church office at 402-341-7761.

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. All 7th—12th grade students are invited to a Pizza Party at 3:30 PM at Kountze Memorial.

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.

CHRISTMAS TEA Saturday, December 1, 12:00 PM. All women are invited. Come for festive food and fellowship! The entertainment will be Paul Siebert. He has a variety of instruments that he plays and also sings. We hope you will join us!

ADVENT FAIR Sunday, December 2, 10:00 AM—1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall . Enjoy crafts, chili, cocoa, and community and more! All KMLC members, families, neighbors, and friends are invited to share in this fun Advent celebration.

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS Our Food Pantry holiday meal bags will be distributed in December; 300 in total. This year’s holiday food items include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| fully cooked ham (3 lb) | cranberries jellied/whole (14 oz) |
| corn (15 oz) | stuffing (13 oz) |
| green beans (15 oz) | mashed potatoes (13 oz) |
| pineapple tidbits/chunks (20 oz) | cream mushroom/cream chicken (10 oz) |
| fruit cocktail/mixed fruit (14 oz) | quart shelf sustainable milk. |

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 39
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 246 11:00: 128
Midweek - Noon: 7 **Evening:** 17
Total: 437
Pantry Guests Served: 309
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 39
Offering:
\$18,198.95 (Regular) \$615.00 (Specials)
\$6,747.00 (In the City for Good)

These items will be placed in a reusable tote with a Christmas card and a prayer square. The approximate cost of the 2018 holiday meal bag is \$23.20 (the 2017 holiday meal bag cost \$22.31); just a small increase. The food items have been changed from previous years to help maintain the cost yet provide additional food items. This project is accomplished by the generous support of Kountze Memorial and Saint Michael Lutheran members and friends.

God brings justice to those in need.

Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering
Monday	1 Kings 17:8-16	Elijah helps a widow
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:24-28	Christ's great sacrifice
Wednesday	1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah revives the widow's son
Thursday	James 1:27-28	Look after orphans and widows
Friday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	God defends the weak
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 13:1-8	The signs of the end of the age



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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.

The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
Psalm 146:9 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for watching over us. We pray for your care and protection for all who are in need. Amen. (Psalm 146:7-10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Happy are those who hope in God. The Lord feeds the hungry and cares for the poor. Praise the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! Amen. (Psalm 146:1, 5, 7-10)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who watches over the hungry, the stranger, the orphan and widow, watch over you with steadfast love and faithfulness. (Psalm 146:7, 9)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you felt you were in need of help from others.
- How have you helped someone else who was in need?
- It has been said that Jesus came to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. Would you agree with this? Why or why not?

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-16.

Elijah goes to a foreign land where there is a foreign god, Baal, a fertility god, who is worshipped for having control over nature. The LORD (*Yahweh* in Hebrew), Elijah's God, sends Elijah to Zarephath in Sidon to be fed by a starving widow and mother. The woman, who has continued to prepare food down to the last morsel, acknowledges Elijah's God and provides hospitality with food and drink, although it will take all she has. She assumes she and her son will soon die, one way or another, for lack of food. The story lifts up the power of the LORD over a foreign god and the justice of the LORD for the needy. Abundance replaces starvation. Our actions reveal the powers we serve and trust. It is good to review our actions and where we place our confidence and hope. Reflect on your activities and commitments. Do they place trust in the power of governing rules (Psalm 146:3), in being respected and honored by others (Mark 12:38-39), in wealth (Mark 12:41), or is it trust in the LORD, the God of the Scriptures (Psalm 146:5)? The good news is that the God revealed in the Bible—and most fully in Jesus—is the one in whom we place our trust, a trust that does not disappoint. Praise the LORD!

Pray: Lord God, thank you for watching over us. We pray for your care and protection for all who are in need. Amen.

Mark 12:38-44 tells us about a widow who gave two small coins, sometimes called *mites*. A mite box is used to save coins for charitable purposes. Set up a jar or box in your home as your household mite box. Throughout the year, place your loose change in it. Decide on where you will donate what is collected during the year.

November 11th is observed as Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day or Armistice Day in other countries. It began as a day to observe the end of World War I and the sacrifice of those who participated in the war. It now represents the contributions of all veterans. It is a tradition to observe a minute of silence in memory and honor of those who lost their lives in military conflicts. Gather in your home and observe a minute of silence. Pray for the relatives of those who have lost loved ones in wars, for all those in military service, and for peace between nations.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8