

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 18, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

Here in this Place . . . I Belong

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son ✝ and Holy Spirit, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.
- C** Amen.
- P** One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P** O God, our merciful redeemer,
- C** we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.
We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.
We turn our ears from voices that cry out.
We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.
In your great mercy, forgive our sin
and strengthen us for service to all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for † his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God..

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ELW 693

LITANY FOR A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

P Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

C God’s love is everlasting.

P Come, let us praise God joyfully.

C Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

P We thank you for the good world; for things great and small,

C beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors;

P For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;

C for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

P For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor;

C for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

P For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;

C for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love;

P For family; for living together and eating together;

C for family amusements and family pleasures;

P For children; for their energy and curiosity;

C for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies;

P For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values;

C for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows;

P For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;

C for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

P For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases;

C for preserving us in temptation and danger;

- P** For the church to which we belong;
- C** **for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord;**
- P** For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
- C** **who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;**
- P** Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;
- C** **for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him; We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God our Father,
- C** **your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHOIR

"We Are the Church"

by: Avery and Marsh

WORD

READING

Philippians 1:1-11

P Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 12:38-44

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

As Jesus taught, he said, *“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”*

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, *“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

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.

HYMN

“What Is This Place”

ELW 524

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Gather Us In”
(Here In This Place)

ELW 532

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, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Carol Herzog, Doris Kusch, Mary Olson, Ellen Pesavento, Susan Ray, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, Marlys Thomas, Marilyn Van Bibber, Del Weber

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)

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS & 2019 FINANCIAL & TIME COMMITMENTS

Today we present our 2019 pledges; they are one sign of our commitment to Christ’s ministry through Kountze Memorial. They are also a sign of our commitment to the future Christ is leading into as we reaffirm our commitment to make Him known through all we do and say!

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Come Build a Church”

by: Ken Medema

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 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.

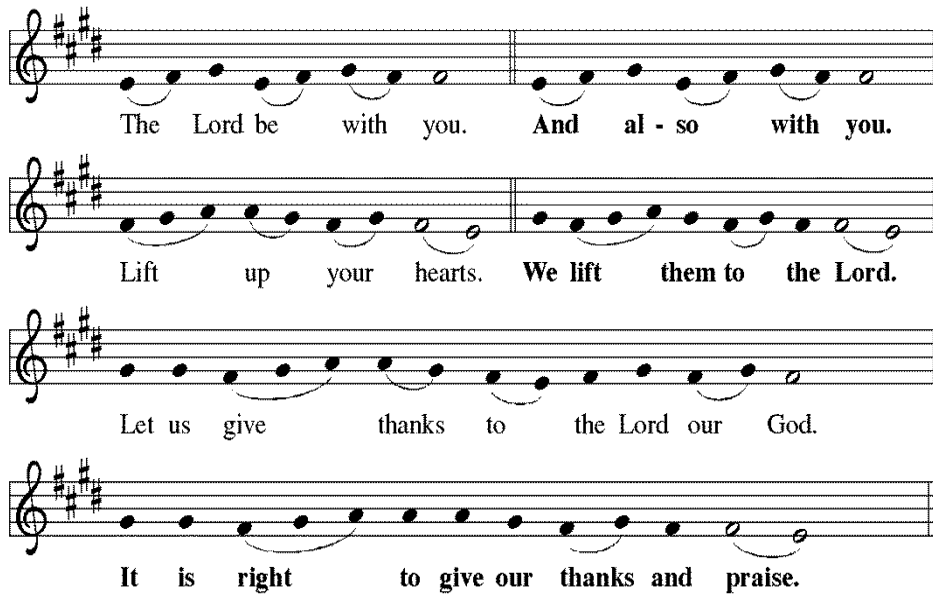
P Kountze Memorial will be a church, a place, where people grow in faith and serve you,

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 the place you want 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.

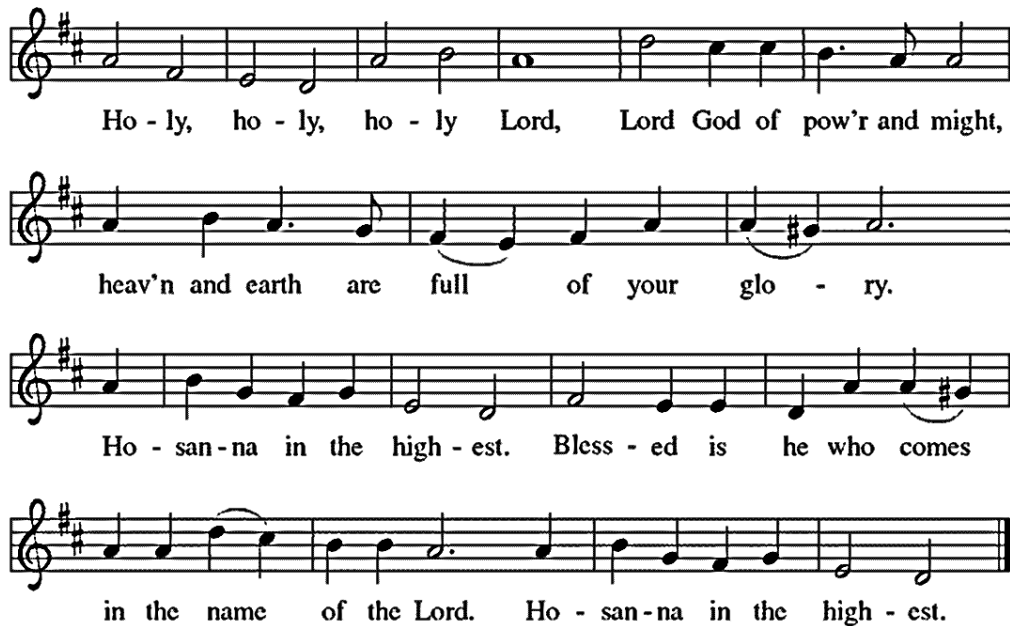
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE 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 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.

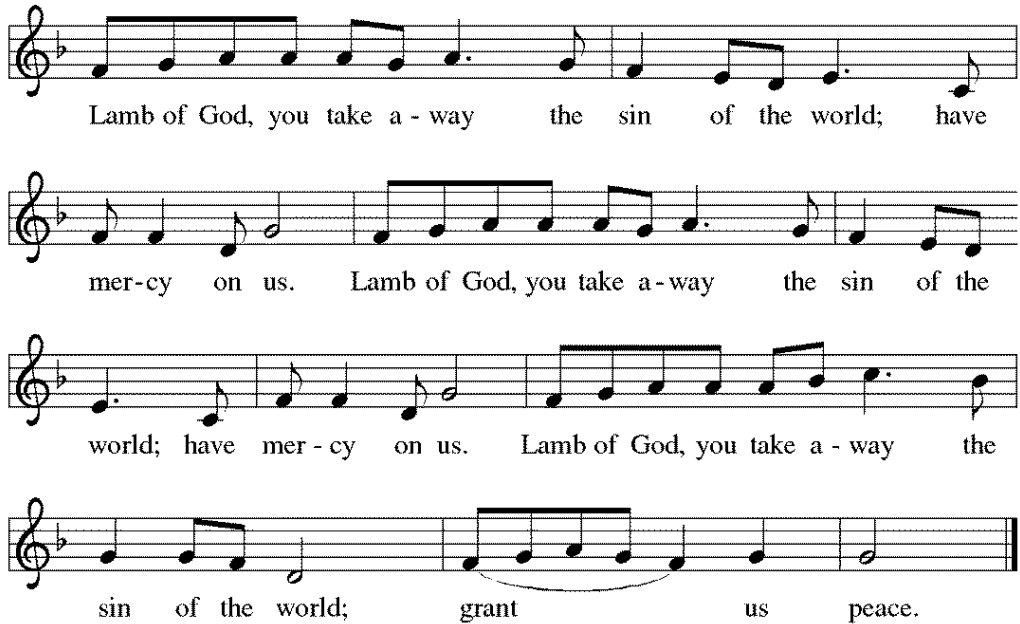
C Come to the banquet of life.

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

*“Praise and Thanksgiving”
“How Great Thou Art”*

**ELW 689
ELW 856**

(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, gracious Lord,
- G** 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. 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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

ELW 840

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. We go remembering our mission:
C **We are disciples of Jesus, worshiping our God, growing in faith and serving our community. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities	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	Ellen Pesavento
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder Scott Henneman Rhonda Wachholtz
Lector	Jon Natvig
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	Clara Kidder
Acolytes	Anna Kidder Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Norm Sack
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Adam Klinker Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Torin Edwards Abby Rigas



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 17 & 18, 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. 2 **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's birthday.

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 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)

10:15 PM deFreese Manor Board (@deFreese Manor)

10:15 AM Endowment Board

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)

November 19 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregational Council

6:30 PM Stewardship Committee

November 21 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 22 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peter's

November 23 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

November 24 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 25 Sunday

Christ the King

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)

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 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.

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.

WOMEN’S 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, community and more! All KMLC members, families, neighbors, and friends are invited to share in this fun Advent celebration.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING Sunday, December 2, 12:15 PM. Please consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is one of God’s gifts to us, His people. Through the Sacrament, we are forgiven, strengthened, and assured of our Lord’s presence now and forever. Because of sickness or other circumstances, if members are unable to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion during regular liturgies, trained volunteers of Kountze Memorial are equipped to visit them in their home and share the Body and Blood of Christ once a month. Eucharistic Ministers serve as representatives of Kountze Memorial and are a vital connection between the liturgy and our home-bound members. Please join us for a brief training seminar on how you can be part of this very rewarding ministry. Please call the Church office to register or email jim@kmlchurch.org

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)
corn (15 oz)
green beans (15 oz)
pineapple tidbits/chunks (20 oz)
fruit cocktail/mixed fruit (14 oz)

cranberries jellied/whole (14 oz)
stuffing (13 oz)
mashed potatoes (13 oz)
cream mushroom/cream chicken (10 oz)
quart shelf sustainable milk.

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.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Saturday, December 15 at 5:00 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM). Reception following. Nursery care will be provided.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 51
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 207 11:00: 89
Midweek - Noon: 8 **Evening:** 27
Total: 382
Pantry Guests Served: 367
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 34
Offering:
\$22,160.00 (Regular) \$1,089.86 (Specials)
\$1,595.00 (In the City for Good)



WE’RE INVITED!

Eunice Grunberg will be 100 years old on December 11 and has invited us to celebrate with her at an open house on Sunday, December 9 from 2—4 PM at Brookestone Village (4330 S 144th

St, Omaha, NE 68137). No gifts please.

Jesus' reign frees us to serve as priests.

Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the King of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Judgment before the Ancient One
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	Mark 15:1-15	Pilate questions Jesus
Thursday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 93	The majesty of God's rule
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man



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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.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who are “the ruler of the kings of the earth,” thank you for making us your servants and priests. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6)

Mealtime Prayer:

Blessed be to God, our King, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything his goodness sends. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ the King bless you with his love and fill you with grace and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come. (Revelation 1:4b-5)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Children like to play “Follow the Leader.” How would you describe Jesus, the leader you want children to follow?
- Who or what seems to be the leader in control of the world around us?
- How is Jesus Christ “ruler of the kings of the earth” (Revelation 1:5) in a way that is different than other rulers? How does Jesus reign impact your daily life?

Read: Revelation 5:8b-8.

Like Daniel in the Old Testament, the book of Revelation, or Apocalypse, is a unique form of literature in the Bible. It is written for a time when the people of God are surrounded by powerful forces opposed to them and to the God of the Bible. This is resistance literature that says to the faithful people, “Hang in there. Your God will win and, in fact, already rules all earthly powers.” It is a subversive message that opposes the apparent power of earthly rulers with their wealth, control, and influence. In the midst of the struggles of the early church opposed by a Roman emperor, Jesus Christ is truly “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (v. 5). Christ—not the emperor—is the one “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (v. 8). Not only that, but the followers of Jesus have an elevated status and are “priests serving his God and Father” (v. 6). How does the message of Revelation strengthen and encourage you as a priest who represents and prays to the Almighty? How do you communicate God’s love and reign to others? How do your prayers serve the reign of Christ now, no matter what the historical events are around you?

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, you who are “the ruler of the kings of the earth,” thank you for making us your servants and priests. Amen.**

As priests who serve Jesus’ God and Father (Revelation 1:6), prayer is a form of service that blesses, strengthens, and encourages others with the presence of the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8). Take time this week to pray Psalm 93, a psalm that celebrates the rule of God. Then pray for all that God has created, including those who have special needs this day. Pray that in the midst of daily challenges people will know and believe in the one “who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood” (Revelations 1:5b).

As priests of the ruler of all things, the Alpha and the Omega, we bless others. This week bless your family and friends with the following: **May Christ the King bless you with his love and fill you with grace and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37