

Special Notice

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings we have canceled all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities until further notice. In the meantime, join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
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www.kmlchurch.org

May 31, 2020

PENTECOST

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Fridays, 5:00 - 8:00 PM—note additional day & time (Friday Pantry hours are 6:00 - 8:00 PM). The Kountze Food Pantry is operating as usual during the COVID-19 closings. We have modified our service to protect the volunteers and guests. It is important to limit the number of volunteers we have in the building at one time, so it is important you sign up at the link below, for a specific time if you plan on volunteering. We are in need of volunteers in May. You may sign up for 7:30—9:00 AM, which is specifically for unloading trucks and restocking. 9:00—11:00 AM is for filling sacks and distribution. 11:00 AM—1:00 PM is for distribution to guests. We also have a Friday evening service from 5:00—8:00 PM. We will be closed on Memorial Day. Please consider joining us!

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 158

Pantry Guests Served: 124

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$13,865.08 (Regular) \$1,977.63 (Specials)

\$632 (Phase 2)

Today at Kountze

Sunday School

This Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on this page (KMLC Parent Group). In addition, I will be providing some printable activities that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities!

In Peace,
Kristin

Youth Forum will be at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Mike Jensen at mwjensen@yahoo.com for details.

Reflection (taken from the ELCA website)

After hearing today's readings, think of this:

There are certainly spirits abroad in the world and even in our own lives that do not work for the common good. There are certainly people — and perhaps we have been among them — who think that only their own language and culture can speak the truth and that people unlike them cannot have visions of hope that matter: “they are just drunk.” But this attitude does not mark the Spirit of God, the Spirit given us when we are drawn into the word of God and into faithful prayer. God's Spirit comes from and bears witness to the risen Christ. It enables forgiveness — God's forgiveness of us, our forgiveness of each other, and our ministry of forgiveness to all the world. That Spirit gives us all differing abilities to use for building each other up. It gives vision and wisdom for all. In our baptism into Christ, God's Spirit has formed us into one body, and that body is quite alive even in our present distance from each other. Now we, in turn — even in this time — are to bear witness to our neighbors and greet the world with peace.

Jesus sends out his disciples with the Holy Spirit.

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

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing helpful deeds
Thursday	Genesis 2:4b-9	God creates a living being
Friday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples



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Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” **John 20:21-22 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, through the Holy Spirit you create a new people chosen to speak, forgive, and give peace in the name of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit, help us to bless the world with your love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for giving food to all you have created; open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that worries you and gets in the way of enjoying life?
- What would help you get over your worries?
- How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you to overcome your fears and doubts so you can be a servant of God’s love to others?

Read: John 20:19-23.

The disciples were fearful and huddled in a locked room. We all have our reasons to be fearful and want to hide away. Jesus knows this. He is about to send his followers out to change the world with the power to forgive sins so that people will believe in Jesus and “have life in his name” (20:31). It will take a God moment for this to happen by Jesus giving them peace and breathing on them so that his disciples will receive the Holy Spirit (v. 22). This moment is reminiscent of the creation story in Genesis 2 when God breathed into the dust to create a human being. Jesus breathing on his disciples is an act of God to create not just a new human being but a new people, those who will believe in Jesus and have life in his name. Life can be scary. We can be afraid to act. On the Day of Pentecost we remember the giving of the Holy Spirit and are reminded that we have been created into a new people who can act with mercy, peace, love, and faith. How has the Holy Spirit moved you to act?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, breathe on us your holy breath that we may go forth into the world to share your peace and the power of forgiveness. Amen.**

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5). God blesses us with the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, and healing through the Spirit. Through our God-given gifts, we are called to serve others. What are your gifts? How do you use them to serve others?

When we recite the Apostle’s Creed, we say, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church...”. With the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the holy catholic church with a small “c”—meaning the whole Christian church on earth—we are reminded of the gifts of faith we are given through the Spirit. We celebrate this day as the day the church received the Holy Spirit. Read or recite the Apostle’s Creed and talk about what it means to you.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Genesis 1:1--2:4a; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20