

## Special Notice

Beginning Sunday, July 19, you may attend Worship in person by confirmed reservation only (call/e-mail no later than noon on Thursday before the Sunday you want to attend). Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still 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  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 12, 2020

**Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers**  
**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;**  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Fridays, 5:00 - 7:00 PM**

The Kountze Food Pantry will continue to operate out of the garage door at least until July 31<sup>st</sup>. We believe the open air environment is better to protect volunteers and guests from the virus. We will reevaluate at that time. We are seeing an upward trend in numbers of guests at the pantry. Fortunately, the Food Bank for the Heartland received a large influx of donations, and is temporarily providing food to Kountze for free, or mostly free, since April 28th. We also received \$3,175.00 during the Omaha Gives event. As always, the Pantry is in need of toilet tissue. If you can donate a package or two, it will be greatly appreciated! When volunteering, please sign up for available slots at the link below.

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



## Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 173

**9:00 AM Attendance:** (Reservation Only) 45

**Pantry Guests Served:** 358

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 28

**Offering:**

\$16,454.04 (Regular)      \$4,409.48 (Specials)

\$912.00 (Phase 2)



**Saturday, July 25**  
**Carol Joy Holling Camp Quilt Auction**

More info at: [CHJCenter.org/quilt-auction](http://CHJCenter.org/quilt-auction)

**CJH Camp Classic**  
**Friday, August 21—Kearney, NE**  
**Friday, September 25—Carol Joy Holling**  
Register at: [cjhcenter.org/upcoming-retreats](http://cjhcenter.org/upcoming-retreats)

**Rally Day**  
**Sunday, August 23**

## Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Bill & Madaline Christensen's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; in honor of Marvin & Kris Olson's wedding anniversary; in memory of Bill & Marjorie Sears from their children, Ron, Lois, and Claude.

**Television Ministry** our television broadcast this Sunday is sponsored to the glory of God by Mary Olson

## Sunday School

Each Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on the KMLC Parent Group Facebook Page. 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

*God delivers abundant harvests.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-112	Light from the Lord's law
Thursday	Genesis 25:19-34	Esau and Jacob
Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Give with generosity
Saturday	Psalms 65:1-13	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds



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Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. **Psalm 65:5 (NRSV)**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of abundant grace and mercy, help us to receive your word of life that we may be your good soil to grow in faith and share your word with others. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for your eternal care that blesses us with daily food through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

Through the Spirit of Christ, may you go out in joy, and be led back in peace. (Isaiah 55:12)

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

- Do you talk about your faith as part of daily conversations? Why or why not?
- Have you ever planted a garden? If so, what was it like?
- How does God's word get planted into your life like a seed planted into good soil?

*Read:* Isaiah 55:10-13.

Yes, we have an awesome God, as noted in Psalm 65:5. In Isaiah 55 that awesomeness is expressed through God's word that is powerful. It does what God intends. It is productive. Isaiah 55 announces the return from exile for God's people. God's word, God's will shall accomplish it. This text is often used at the ordination of a pastor or a deacon. However, could we not also use it at weddings, baptisms, and any other occasion that celebrates God's people living together in faith, hope, and love? God's word is given for all of us to speak aloud to one another for our encouragement and growth in life and faith. God's word at a meal creates thankful hearts for the abundance of God's love with daily food. God's word at morning, evening, or at bedtime reminds us of the eternal care of God as those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and for whom there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1 and 11). Let's be wasteful as we cast God's word into all the corners of the earth, landing on all kinds of soil that God's word may sprout and produce an abundant harvest (Matthew 13:23). Who has blessed you with God's word recently? How did it impact your life?

*Pray:* **Creative God, may the Spirit of Christ create in me the good soil to receive your word and grow in grace. Amen.**

Plants of the earth not only serve as metaphors for the kingdom of God, but of God's life sustaining work in creation. Join a community garden, plant a garden in your own yard, or find a way to support the vital work of local farmers.

"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields" (Matthew 13:23a). Take a sheet of paper and write "Good Soil" across the bottom. Draw a fruit tree with a trunk, leaves, and fruit. On each drawing of fruit, write different ways you show God's love to others. Read what you have written and think or talk about how your "fruits" help you and others grow in their faith.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43