

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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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 5, 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 31st. 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>



Virtual Vacation Bible School!
July 6 - 10
KMLC Parent's Facebook Page
Rally Day
Sunday, August 23

Other Important Dates:

Saturday, July 25

Carol Joy Holling Camp Quilt Auction

More info at: CHJCenter.org/quilt-auction

CJH Camp Classic

Friday, August 21—Kearney, NE

Friday, September 25—Carol Joy Holling

Register at: cjhcenter.org/upcoming-retreats

Today at Kountze

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



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 181

Pantry Guests Served: 609

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 24

Offering:

\$9,593.10 (Regular) \$780.23 (Specials)

\$582.00 (Phase 2)



Jesus gives rest to the weary.

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Coming ruler of God's people
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Genesis 24:34-67	Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca
Thursday	Psalms 45:10-17	A royal wedding
Friday	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Springtime love rhapsody
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower



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“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for giving us rest when we are weary and the invitation to lean on you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this gift of food that strengthens our bodies and your presence in our lives that gives rest for our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with grace, mercy, and steadfast love. (Psalm 145:8)

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

- When you are weary and tired, where do you find rest?
- What is something that weighs you down and can feel like a burden?
- Think of or tell about a time you felt Jesus lifted burdens off your shoulders.

Read: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

In this text Jesus speaks with two very different emotional tones. Jesus' naming "this generation" is naming us, we as a people bent on rejecting God, preserving alienation from God, and pursuing idols of any sort. We as a people pursuing our own glory will never be satisfied with God. We reject the austerity of John the Baptist and the life of abundant pleasure of Jesus (vv. 18-19). God's message offered music that we refuse to dance to and grief for which we refuse to express sadness (v. 17). But the tone changes dramatically at verse 25. God reveals Jesus to infants, to the weary, and to those carrying heavy burdens (11:28). In the moment of need and awareness of our great need, we are open to Jesus giving us rest, taking our burdens, and giving us an easy yoke to guide us. The Gospel of Matthew is filled with judgment for those who are content in their own judgments and merciful to those wanting and needing something they cannot give themselves: the peace and joy of the reign of God. Jesus speaks with words of judgment and of comfort. Why do you think we need to hear both?

Pray: **Merciful God, cleanse us of our self-assurance that is blind to you, and help us to hear your invitation to find rest for our souls through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Going through hard times alone makes us feel weighed down and exhausted. Jesus cares for our hurts and grief through the hands and voices of others. Take time to reach out to someone with the love of Jesus by praying with them.

Psalm 145 is a song of praise to God. Read verse 8 aloud several times, "**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**" After each time, pause for a moment of silence. Think or tell about a time when God's steadfast love was a comfort to you. Read the verse one more time and close with, "**Amen.**"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23