

Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the 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
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

August 23, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

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

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. We were blessed to have some lovely, enthusiastic and energetic young people join us over the summer. As they have returned to school, we are short staffed. Please consider volunteering on Monday morning from 7:30 AM—9:00 AM, Monday 9:00 AM—11:00 AM, Monday 11:00 AM—1:00 PM, or Friday evening 4:00 PM—7:00 PM. We have a good time, and Barb still makes us cookies! You may sign up for a time slot at the link below:

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



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 122

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 59

Pantry Guests Served: 546

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering:

\$18,395.04 (Regular) \$1,899.68 (Specials)

\$1,932.00 (Phase 2)

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Anne Forslund's birthday (8/20) given by Christine Forslund; in honor of Clara Kidder's 20th birthday



Rally Day & the First Day of Sunday School!

With new social distancing protocols in place, we will begin the 2020/2021 Sunday school year online. Lessons will be videotaped and posted on the Kountze Memorial Facebook page or the KMLC Parents Group Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1634071720198453>. In addition, there will be pintables and activity suggestions that complement the lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact me at kristin@kmlchurch.org. This Sunday School year we will be focusing on the Liturgical Action of the church using the Godly Play curriculum. This includes lessons on Baptism and Holy Eucharist, as well as lessons about the liturgical seasons. Be sure to register your children! Find the online registration at

<https://www.jotform.com/Kristinboe/Registration>

If you are interested in volunteering your time to present a lesson, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. All the lessons are scripted and materials are provided. Thank you!

Disciples do not conform to the world.

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ
Monday	Isaiah 51:1-6	Blessings for God's people
Tuesday	Romans 12:1-8	Christ brings new life
Wednesday	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Israelites are oppressed
Thursday	Psalms 124	Thanksgiving for Israel's deliverance
Friday	1 Peter 1:13-25	A call to holy living
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise God with all your heart
Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow

taking
faith
home

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Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:2 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, in a world that can divide us from one another, we pray for your rule of mercy and grace that binds us together in faith and love through Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have food to eat through your abundant and fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be transformed by the will of God to know and to do what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

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

- What is something you are tempted to do that you know is not helpful or right?
- What influences a person to do something wrong?
- How is the kingdom of Jesus different from other powers that want to shape your life?

Read: Matthew 16:13-20.

To be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2) is to be shaped by the powers of domination in an attempt to influence—or even control—people's thoughts, actions, and loyalties. In Matthew 16 Jesus and his disciples are in Caesarea Philippi, a place where many gods of the ancient world were recognized and worshiped, fickle gods that were seen as ruling human life rather arbitrarily. Jesus as the "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16) will transform lives like the Canaanite woman and her daughter in Matthew 15. Jesus has the power to bind and to loosen lives (16:19) and Jesus intends to loosen lives from death to life, from sickness to health, from despair to hope, from broken relationships to a life of mutual forgiveness, from lives that are judged and condemned to lives that receive mercy. How does Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God free your life to be a servant of mercy to others?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

In Romans 12:6-8, the Apostle Paul lists a number of gifts that God has given people to support the work of the church like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving generously, leading, and being compassionate. Make a list of gifts you have been given and can use to support the church in the world. The entire faith community (body of Christ) is needed to do God's work. Take action by using one or more of the gifts you listed to help people in your community or the larger world.

Psalms 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise: "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart" (v. 1a). Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart write a list of things you are thankful for. Take the heart and put it in a visible place as a reminder to give thanks and praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalms 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28