

## 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  
402-341-7761

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

September 13, 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>

## Extra! Extra! Read All About it!

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church to Hold Annual “Modified” Picnic/Tailgate Sunday September 27— Please RSVP by noon on September 18—Wear a Mask 5:30 PM - West Parking Lot**

Mark your calendars, call in your reservation, pack the lawn chairs, card table, blanket, wet wipes, and the cooler. This year we will be having the picnic here at the Church in the West parking lot. When you arrive (Douglas Street “North” Entrance) the parking lot attendants will direct you to a parking spot and show you where you can unload and set up, there will be a

car width between families/attendees in order to give everyone plenty of physical distance. Please wear a mask when not eating.

Once you’re settled in, someone will take your order (white or dark meat) and relay it to our servers. A Chicken dinner with scalloped potatoes and green beans along with a cookie for dessert (BYOD - bring your own drinks) will be delivered to your car. We’ll picnic for an hour or so. Restrooms (in the lower Kountze Commons area) are for emergency use only. We need an accurate count of those attending for food planning and parking as we have a limited number of parking spots available. **Reservations need to be made no later than Noon on Friday September 18**, call the Church office or e-mail [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to make your reservation, please indicate the number of people coming and general preference of white or dark meat chicken.

We could use a few volunteers to help with parking, trash, etc. Please let us know if you can help out when you make your reservations.

## Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Russ Van Horn by the Grassmeyer Family

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored by Mary Olson in honor of all the first responders and all who have worked through the pandemic

## Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 127

**9:00 AM Attendance:** (Reservation Only) 54

**Pantry Guests Served:** 207

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 25

**Offering:**

\$22,819.00 (Regular)      \$1,833.65 (Specials)

\$1,467.00 (Phase 2)



Worshipping Together  
When We're Apart  
From One Another

## *The people of God forgive.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Wednesday	Exodus 14:19-31	Crossing the Red Sea
Thursday	Psalms 114	The Lord works wonders
Friday	John 8:1-11	Jesus intercedes for a woman
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers



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Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases. **Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to forgive; help us to love and forgive as we are loved and forgiven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the forgiveness of God bless you with steadfast love and mercy. (Psalm 103:4)

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

- What does forgiveness mean to you? Give an example.
- Was there ever a time when you could not forgive someone? Explain.
- How is God's forgiveness a gift to you? to the church? to the world?

*Read:* Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work. Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages (a denarius was one day's wage). The differences are extreme to make the point that God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again and again (v. 22). Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life (vv. 34-35). How can you praise God today by forgiving someone who has offended or hurt you? How does this parable help bring joy to your soul?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Pray for that person. Reflect on God's love and mercy shown through people like Joseph and write a note of forgiveness to that person.

Forgiveness is the theme this week in Bible readings, caring conversations, devotions, and service. Breaking a plate, saying something mean, and telling a lie are things we may not mean to do, but they happen. Think of a time when you needed to be forgiven. God forgives us again and again. Think about what this means to you. Pray the Lord's Prayer, pause as you pray, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", then finish the prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16