

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 Saturday or 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

October 10 & 11, 2020

Bible Sunday

Saturday, October 17 - Pick up Bibles - 9—11 AM

Sunday, October 25 - Blessing of Bibles

For Ages 2, 4, and 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades

Due to physical distancing restrictions, Bible Sunday will not take place in its traditional format. However, we honor the importance of this day and providing children with the Holy Scripture. We are asking that you pick up your Bibles on October 17, between 9:00 and 11:00 AM, in the west parking lot of Kountze. On October 25, there will be a Blessing of the Bibles during the televised church service. Your children

are encouraged to watch this service and have their Bibles with them at that time. Children ages 2 and 4 years of age, and those in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades receive Bibles. For accuracy, we ask that you have your child registered for Sunday School. If you have not done so yet, registration can be found online at

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

Q & A with Pastor Shari Duminy

We will hold a Question and Answer session with Pastor Shari Duminy on Thursday, October 22 from 7:00-8:30 PM. It will take place in person in the sanctuary (and the Fellowship Hall if necessary) and will also be live-streamed. Tim Backora, Chair of the Call Committee, will lead the session. Those present will have the opportunity to ask Pastor Duminy questions. Those live-streaming can email their questions to info@kmlchurch.org (by Tuesday, October 20). Those planning to be in attendance must register by Noon on Tuesday, October 20. As has been the custom, you will enter through the Kountze Commons Link (west side) and exit through the Farnam Street doors.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 37

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 80

Total: 117

Pantry Guests Served: 757

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$13,603.00 (Regular) \$2,703.05 (Specials)

\$26,567.00 (Debt Reduction)

Special Congregation Meeting

A special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on calling The Reverend Shari Duminy as Associate Pastor will be held Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Attendance at the meeting will also be permitted through Zoom.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Tim Daugherty by Linda Daugherty and Family

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page. 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 Kristin Boe at -kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in the green space on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. The 1st Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share (must be non-COVID related).

ZOOM: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Book Group

October 11 at 10:15 AM

West Parking Lot Near the Commons Entrance

Join us after the 9:00 AM church service (weather permitting).

Adult Forum

Starting October 18 (please note date change), members and friends of the congregation will have the opportunity to study Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520). The ELCA is encouraging study of this monumental text on its 500th anniversary. Pr. Hall will post videos for this multi-week study on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: www.elca500.org.

God's grace makes a difference in our lives.

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his co-workers
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-14	The people make an idol
Thursday	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	A nation asks for forgiveness
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes



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Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, guide our thoughts and actions in ways that reflect your reign of goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who promise us a feast of rich food, help us to take joy in this meal today. Amen. (Isaiah 25:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

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

- Talk or think about a time you went to a party filled with friends, food, and laughter.
- Would you invite someone off the street who you do not know to a party? Why or why not?
- God's love in the Bible is seen sometimes as an invitation to a great party or feast. What does this say about God?

Read: Matthew 22:1-14.

It is said we can have our own opinions, but not our own facts. Similarly, you can have your own message, but not your own Christian gospel. Matthew makes it clear that the good news of Jesus is powerful. God's mercy has the last word; it includes a divine judgment that says that the marginalized, the belittled, the "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3) will be blessed (v. 10). If we take the grace of God for granted, we not only miss the feast, we miss the fact that "many are called, but few are chosen" (v. 14). This text is from Jesus' final week before his crucifixion. The people see him as a prophet, a true messenger of God (Matthew 21:46), but soon he will suffer, be humiliated, and die. There will be false prophets who come along. They are like the guest who is not wearing the proper clothing and their message will be rejected. Our life in Christ will not be associated with messages and actions of hate, racism, prejudice or contempt for the poor. God's grace makes a difference in our lives and in the world in which we live. How does God's grace challenge your thoughts and actions toward people who are different from you?

Pray: God of grace and mercy, cleanse us of our way of life that can become indifferent to the people you love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

There is a theme this week about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think about what it means to show hospitality. Invite someone you may not know very well to your house for a meal.

Psalms 23 is one of the most well-known scriptures in the Bible. This psalm is the shepherd David's song to God. David likens how a shepherd cares for sheep to how God loves each one of us. Write a list of ways a shepherd cares for sheep. Look at your list and think about God caring for

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22