

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

October 3 & 4, 2020

## Kountze Food Pantry

### Volunteers Needed

**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 short of volunteers and urgently needs your help. If you can, please consider volunteering



for one or more shifts. Volunteers are needed from 7:30 - 9:00 AM, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, and 11:00 AM-1:00 PM on Mondays. We are also open Friday evenings and could use your help from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. If you would like to help with this very important mission, please sign up for a time slot at the link below:

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

## Saturday In-Person Worship

Beginning October 3, we will be resuming our Saturday 5:00 PM worship service. The same procedures will be followed as on Sunday mornings with the exception that everyone will enter through the handicapped entrance on the northeast corner of the church building. Wearing a mask during worship is still required as is physical distancing. You must also pre-register with the church office (by phone or email) by Noon on the Thursday before the service you wish to attend.

## Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 124

**9:00 AM Attendance:** (Reservation Only) 57

**Pantry Guests Served:** 892

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 29

### Offering:

\$7,593.04 (Regular)      \$9,694.27 (Specials)

\$612.00 (Debt Reduction)

## Today at Kountze

### We welcome Pastor Shari Duminy, Associate Candidate for Kountze Memorial

Pr. Duminy is preaching this weekend.

The Call Committee unanimously endorsed and the Congregation Council unanimously voted to recommend to the congregation to call The Reverend Shari Lounsbury Duminy to serve as Associate Pastor.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Linda and Wilfred Higa's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by David & Pat Studts; in loving memory of Arnold Steffen in recognition of our 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary given by LeClare Steffen

## 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

## *We want to know Christ Jesus.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 20:1-20	The Ten Commandments
Thursday	Psalms 19	The wonders of God
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast



I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death. **Philippians 3:10 (NRSV)**

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

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

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

May God bless you to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)

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

- Describe or think about what you feel are the characteristics of a good friend.
- Are you a good friend? How would others describe you?
- How does your faith in Jesus free you to care for—even feel the pain of—others?

*Read:* Philippians 3:4b-14.

We don't get it. According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why "bad things happen to good people." Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This "theology of the cross" sees life in death, sees joy in suffering and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation. How is freedom from judging our own goodness important to our salvation?

*Pray:* **Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Grapevines and vineyards are written about more than any other plant in the Bible. They were important in Biblical times and part of the culture. They were often used as symbols of producing fruit. In this context, fruit means one's actions that come from the heart. Place grapes in a bowl and as you eat them, think about what it means for you to produce good fruits (take positive actions). What positive actions can you take to care for others?

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. Pray: **Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14