

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

November 14 & 15, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry Need Personal Care Items & 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 only about \$5,000 short of having our \$100,000 in Family Fare receipts! When we reach our goal, the Pantry will receive \$1000! That money goes a long way in fulfilling our mission to "Feed the Poor, in Christ's Name." We are also asking for full-sized, personal care and hygiene products to give out in lieu of the holiday bags we have given to our guests in the past. We would like to include an all-in-one shampoo/conditioner, bar soap or body wash, toothbrush and paste, razor and shave cream. Of course, toilet tissue is always needed. Thank you! If you would like to volunteer please sign up at the following link:

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

Q & A with Pastor Shari Duminy

We will hold a Question and Answer session with Pastor Shari Duminy on Thursday, November 19 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, November 17). Those planning to be in attendance must register by noon on Tuesday, November 17. As has been the custom, you will enter through the Kountze Commons Link (west side) and exit through the Farnam Street doors.

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 22, 2020 at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Please RSVP no later than noon on Thursday, November 19. Attendance at the meeting will also be permitted through Zoom.

Zoom Codes: Meeting ID: 927 5354 1772

Passcode: 697624

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Jean Holcombe given by Tom Holcombe

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in 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.

Adult Forum

Pr. Hall continues to post videos for a multi-week study of Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520), on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChtalSdEjyMBKlZjibGGIyfa/>

The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: www.elca500.org.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 18

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 44

Total: 62

Pantry Guests Served: 826

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering:

\$20,260.04 (Regular) \$10,014.82 (Specials)

\$1,627.00 (Debt Reduction)

The importance of encouraging one another.

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	Judges 4:1-7	Deborah and Barak
Thursday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats



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Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Almighty God strengthen your soul through brothers and sisters in Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

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

- How do you support someone when they are discouraged or are feeling down?
- How has someone supported you when you were in need of encouragement?
- Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly (v. 3). Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the body of Christ. There are important connections between this text and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this, if we ignore or hide our calling, the ministry of the church suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency and speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others—especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us “salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9). How are you encouraged by others to live your faith? How do you encourage others?

Pray: **God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walk alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.**

Jesus' parable of the talents makes a strong case for every Christian to have a calling, to use one's gifts and passions to serve the church and the world. Make a list of how to use your gifts and talents to serve the church and world around you.

A *talent* in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants. One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Drawing, singing, and dancing are a few talents. Think of what talent(s) you have and in what ways you can tell others about Jesus by using that talent. Each day this week choose one talent to use and say this prayer: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others know you.**

Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46