

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
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 21 & 22, 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 \$1,000! 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>

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers

are given to the glory of God in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's birthday

Special Congregation Meeting

Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 10:30

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. Attendance at the meeting will also be permitted through Zoom.

Online Sunday School

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

Zoom Codes: Meeting ID 938 1883 9381

Passcode: 697624

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.

Omaha Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday November 22, 5 PM

All are welcome to join online for this year's Omaha Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. In its 25th year, this worship service brings together faith communities across the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian tradition to pray, sing, and reflect together. This year's theme is Rise in Gratitude as we seek to name all that we lament and that is out of order from this year while also giving thanks for God's goodness in the midst of it and through it all. The service will be broadcast on Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's Facebook page at 5pm and also be available on their website (trinityepiscopal.org/video) and YouTube channel. Please consider participating!

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/UChalSdEjyMBKlzbGGIyfA/>

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

Pledge Cards

None of us bears the financial burden of our ministry or the debt-retirement alone. Together (yes, even while apart!) we can do so much. Thank you if you have already turned in your 2021 pledge cards. If you haven't returned your pledge cards yet we ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Kountze's mission and ministry for the coming year, as well as addressing our debt, and return your pledge cards to Kountze sometime this month either at worship or by mailing them to the church. Thank you!

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 16

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 43

Total: 59

Pantry Guests Served: 966

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$9,141.00 (Regular) \$3,444.93 (Specials)

\$1,367.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's justice cares for the weak and lost.

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and goats
Monday	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God, the true shepherd
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Wednesday	Psalms 100	All lands called to praise God
Thursday	Isaiah 1:16-20	Justice is needed
Friday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalms 95:1-7a	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears



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I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. **Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 95:7a)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of power and might bless you with joy and peace.

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

- If you had all the power you could want, what would you want to do?
- What is wrong with the religious leaders in the Bible using their power for themselves?
- Why is it good news to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

Read: Matthew 25:31-46.

The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34 God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds, specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep. Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, injured, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and the strong sheep—supposedly those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed (v. 16). That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things. How do you live as though Jesus, the Son of Man is with you as you show care and help others in need?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. Amen.**

Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, there are many in need. Donations of time and money are appreciated by those in need and the organizations that help them. Think about how you can help support these individuals or organizations.

Read Psalm 95:1-7a and circle or say the action words like "sing," "make a joyful noise," "bow down," and "kneel." Reread the psalm out loud and act out the parts you highlighted. Afterward, close with this blessing: **May the Lord God rejoice at the sound of your joyful noise and songs of praise.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37