

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

November 7 & 8, 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." Please keep those receipts coming! We are no longer able to recycle plastic bags due to COVID restrictions. The Pantry is 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>

## A Pantry Contribution and Note from Pr. Carlos & Jan Schneider

*Jan and I have long admired the work of the congregation in "feeding the hungry" and the spirit in which it is done. Please convey to the congregation and especially the Pantry volunteers, our thanks for the work that they so unselfishly and faithfully carry out. Let them know that we continue to thank God for their work and witness so lovingly shared in the name of our Lord Christ.*

## Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Glenn & Sharon Anderson in honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; in memory of my father (Richard Mueller 11/1/2003) given by Barb Nissen

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored by Glenn & Sharon Anderson in honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

## 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 are 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.

## Adult Forum

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 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pr. Hall will post videos for this multi-week study on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is

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

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

## Attendance and Giving

**Saturday Attendance:** 16

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 62

**Total:** 78

**Pantry Guests Served:** 868

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 23

**Offering:**

\$7,858.00 (Regular)

\$3,848.91 (Specials)

\$687.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.*

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

|           |                         |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 25:1-13         | A parable of the ten brides   |
| Monday    | Amos 5:18-24            | What the Lord requires        |
| Tuesday   | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | The coming of the Lord        |
| Wednesday | Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25   | The tribes renew the covenant |
| Thursday  | Psalms 78:1-7           | Tell the children God's word  |
| Friday    | Luke 21:29-37           | Be always on the watch        |
| Saturday  | Psalms 70               | God is wonderful              |
| Sunday    | Matthew 25:14-30        | Parable of the talents        |



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Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" **Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)**

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

Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

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

May the God who promises you the great banquet feast bless you with peace and joy now and always.

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

- Tell or think about something that you do with focused attention.
- How does paying attention help you do your best?
- Jesus wants his followers to stay alert and be ready for his coming. How is this important to you and to others?

*Read:* Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in view. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. However, unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying much attention to Christ's coming again. Jesus is alerting his followers to the importance of watchfulness of the times and readiness to act faithfully at any given moment. That is when the church blesses, serves with justice, and offers salvation in Jesus' name. How might a conscious awareness of Christ's victory and return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed), impact your daily conduct?

*Pray:* **Come Lord Jesus, strengthen our lives of faith that we may anticipate your coming again with joy and serve our neighbor in love. Amen.**

According to Amos, worship without acts of justice for the needy is meaningless to God. During and after a worship service, take time to think about how God's acts of love and mercy for you and all humanity lead you to do acts of kindness and love for others.

The foolish bridesmaids in the parable did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to be ready and let the light of Jesus' love shine. We can do this by being ready to do God's work everyday. One way to be ready is to pray for others, read scripture, and bless others. Use this blessing daily during this week: **May the light of Christ shining through you show your readiness to do God's work.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30