

Special Notice

Reservations not required
Vaccinated—Masks optional
Not vaccinated—Masks required
Please maintain a minimum of 3 feet
between non-family members

You may still join us for Worship on Cox
channel 13 or live streamed at [https://
www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/)



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 17 & 18, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed:

Mondays, 7:30 - 9 AM, 9 - 11 AM, 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays, 4 - 7 PM

If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using
the link below:

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

We are in great need of toilet paper! We also need
new or like new reusable tote bags (we cannot reuse
plastic grocery sacks), cereal, and full-sized hygiene
products. Please place your donated items in the
shopping cart as you enter for church, in the donation
box in the Fellowship Hall, or in the church office.
Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

CJH Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 31

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of
beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The
auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Bring
your friends and families! If you have questions,
contact Heather at HAbbott@NLOM.org or 402-944-
2544. Check out CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction to see
the quilts, including the quilts our Kountze sewing
group has donated.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 18

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 113

Wednesday Attendance: 12

Total: 143

Streaming Attendance: 57

Cox Cable Attendance: 213

Pantry Guests Served: 677

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

Not available at time of printing

The 11:00 AM service will return in August!

We will still be broadcasting our 9:00 AM Worship
Service on Cox Cable Channel 13 and live
streaming on our website.

Volunteer at the ELCA Youth Gathering

July 24-28, 2022

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Volunteer opportunities for the ELCA Youth
Gathering are available for individuals age 19 and
older at the time of the Gathering. For more
information, go to elca.org/gathering/volunteer

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Bruce
& Barb Nissen in honor of their wedding anniversary

Coffee Hour

Please feel free to stop for coffee in the Fellowship
Hall following service today. We need volunteers to
help serve coffee and cookies. If you can help, please
see Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or
jim@kmlchurch.org).

Holy Play

Ages 3 yrs - 6th grade

Sundays through August 29

10:15 - 11:00 AM

Children from 3 years to 6th grade are invited to join
Pastor Shari and the Middle and High School Youth in
the Kountze Green Space each Sunday (June 20 –
August 29). We will be playing games, singing songs,
sharing a snack, and getting to know each other
better. Parents are encouraged to share coffee time
with others or join in the fun!

In deepest darkness, God provides safety and comfort.

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

Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	God promises a righteous king
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:11-22	United by Christ
Wednesday	Psalms 139:7-18	The Lord knows us well
Thursday	Romans 13:11-14	The day when Christ returns
Friday	Colossians 1:9-14	The work of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand



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Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of compassion and protection, give us peace and faith in knowing you are our shepherd who pursues us with your goodness through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Shepherding God, we thank you that you have provided this meal for us and promised us green pastures and still waters through Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and comfort all the days of your life.

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

- When have you felt the need for protection or safety?
- When you feel you are in danger, who do you turn to?
- How do you experience God's care during difficult times?

Read: Psalm 23.

It is good to read this beloved psalm, one that many people have known by heart. This intricately woven poem and prayer has only 58 words in the Hebrew language and very few words are repeated. At the very center are the words *"for you are with me"* (v. 4b). In the beginning, middle, and end of this psalm, the Lord's presence and care is beautifully announced as part of our journey through life. This is true even—and especially—in our deepest darkness that can sometimes feel like being at the bottom of a valley. God is our shepherd who provides safety and comfort. In an ancient world that accentuated social honor and shame—experiences still very much with us today—our divine shepherd even leads us to a place of honor at a banquet before those who would shame us. Nothing but safety, comfort, and honor pursue God's people. God is our shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We, as ambassadors of Jesus, shepherd one another each and every day to offer safety, comfort, and honor all the days of our lives. When have you felt the presence of the Lord as your shepherd?

Pray: **Shepherding God, give us peace, safety, and good courage to go out with compassion to shepherd others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Many people looked to Jesus for teaching, healing and guidance. His ministry was very busy and demanding. Those in helping professions (teachers, doctors, counselors, social workers, pastors, nurses, firefighters, police officers, and others) have many demands placed on them. Their work can be very tiring and sometimes stressful. How can you show your appreciation and support to someone in such a profession?

Jesus took his disciples to a quiet place to rest (Mark 6:31-32). Spend some time in a quiet place for your devotional time this week. Light a candle to represent the presence of Jesus with you. Focus on the candle in your silence. Finish your quiet time by saying the Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21**