

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

October 24, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST
BIBLE SUNDAY



Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as “Son of David” he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won’t give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus’ question, “What do you want me to do for you?”

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

G we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.</p> <p>2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.</p> | <p>3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.</p> <p>4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Eternal light,
- C** shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-9

This passage speaks not only of the southern kingdom, Judah, and its homecoming from exile in Babylon, but also of the northern kingdom ("Israel" or "Ephraim") and its restoration. The northern tribes of Israel had been lost in exile to Assyria more than a century before Jeremiah prophesied.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "*Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.*"

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126 (read responsively)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again. Recognizing Jesus' identity, Bartimaeus is the first person to call him "Son of David" in the Gospel of Mark.

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "*Son of David, have mercy on me!*" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "*Call him here.*" And they called the blind man, saying to him, "*Take heart; get up, he is calling you.*" ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "*What do you want me to do for you?*" The blind man said to him, "*My teacher, let me see again.*" ⁵²Jesus said to him, "*Go; your faith has made you well.*" Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

ELW 665

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.**
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.**
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.**

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Illness: Anatharaj, father of Pr. Inba Inbarasu, Richard Bock, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Gail Durban, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Mary Hilkemann, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Mark Kidder, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, John Rayno, Toby Rees, Greg Stieneke, brother-in-law of Todd Weiland, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Jack Schrader

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

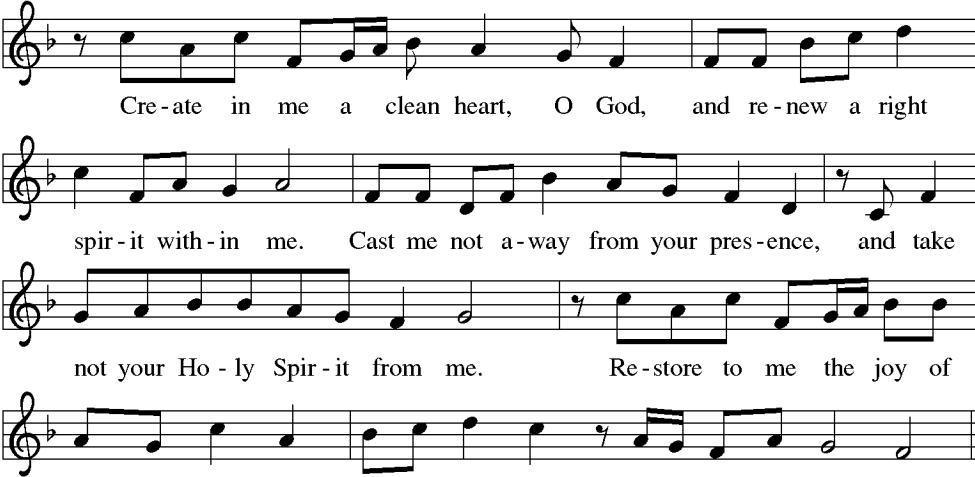
When we've been there, when we've been there; thousand times ten thousand years,
shining bright, shining bright, bright as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise then when we first begun.

Amazing grace! Amazing grace; how sweet the sound, the sound.

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
- ☑ **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of', 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -', 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the', and 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who hunger and thirst, come.

C **The table is ready.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Refrain

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

**1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain***

**2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain***

**3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain***

**4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain***

**5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *Refrain***

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
Text © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

“When We Are Living”

**1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**2 Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**3 Across the wide world, we shall always find
Those who are crying with no peace of mind;
and when we help them or when we feed them,
We belong to God, we belong to God .**

st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942;
st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.**

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐** We give you thanks, almighty God,
- ☑** **that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

ELW 820

**1 O Savior, precious Savior,
whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor,
all other names above:
we worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our holy Lord and King.**

**2 O bringer of salvation,
who wondrously hast wrought,
thyself the revelation
of love beyond our thought:
we worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our gracious Lord and King.**

**3 In thee all fullness dwelleth,
all grace and pow'r divine;
the glory that excelleth,
O Son of God, is thine.
We worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our glorious Lord and King.**

**4 Oh, grant the consummation
of this our song above,
in endless adoration
and everlasting love;
then shall we praise and bless thee
where perfect praises ring,
and evermore confess thee,
our Savior and our King!**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.
☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

☩ ☩ ☩

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Taylor Brown	Exec. Dir. Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

October 23 & 24, 2021

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by John & Lynn Schneiderman in honor of Amanda's 28th birthday: in honor of Bob Johnson's birthday by Mary Ann Johnson

Children's Choir

9:20 AM

Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will attend the first part of the 9:00 service with their families, come forward for the children's blessing, and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

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.

Today at Kountze, continued on next page

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—Youth Gathering Bible Study “God’s Boundless Love for Us”

Youth Event—All 7th - 12th graders invited.

Saturday, October 23

6:00—9:00 PM at Kountze

Dinner will be served.

Coat Drive

Today is the Last Day

St. Peter’s Church has asked us to collaborate with them and to collect new and gently used children’s and adult coats, hats, and gloves during the month of October. Please drop off your coat donations in the box in the Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, October 24. Coats, hats, etc. will be distributed through Saint Vincent De Paul.

Bible Sunday

October 24

9:00 AM

Each year, through generous donations, Kountze is able to provide children ages 2 and 4, and those in 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades with age-appropriate Bibles as part of their faith formation. Children are encouraged to pick up their Bibles in the Bride’s room before the 9:00 AM service and then proceed into the church. Those not receiving Bibles will get a token and are welcome to join us in the procession.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

October 24 Sunday

Pentecost 22

Bible Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:10 AM Children’s Choir (K-6th gr)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

12:15 PM First Communion Class

October 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

7:00 PM Circle 3

October 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

October 28 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 29 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 30 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

October 31 Sunday

Reformation Sunday

Bible Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM First Communion

9:10 AM Children’s Choir (K-6th gr)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2 yr-6thgr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

Ongoing and Coming Soon

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Pantry is participating in the Thrivent's Give Thanks and Give Back Food Shelf Challenge! Our job is to collect at least 500 individual containers of non-perishable foods from November 1-30, 2021. The food drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier Gift, courtesy of the Thrivent Member Network-Nebraska Region. This means the Kountze Food Pantry will not only benefit from the food, we will receive a matching gift of \$500! If you bring your contributions in a reusable canvas shopping bag, we can pass these on to our walking pantry guests. Thank you to all who brought hygiene products for our holiday gift bags. Your generosity, together with a very generous partnership with St. Michael Lutheran Church, will provide enough kits for 400 people!

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

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

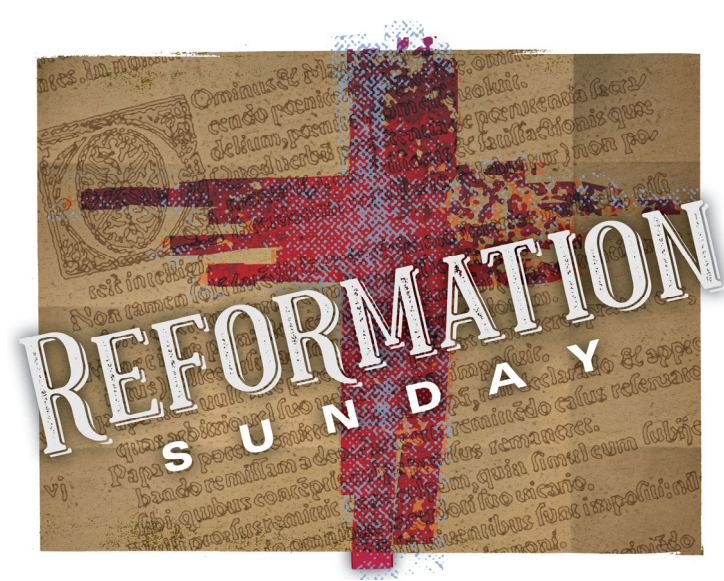
Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you link:

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

Reformation Sunday

Next Sunday, October 31



Be sure to wear red next Sunday in recognition of Reformation.

Stewardship

It's time to think about our giving for 2022. Mailings will be sent out next month.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Thank you to all who donated toward postage for the Lutheran World Relief quilts! We collected \$281 last Sunday and more has come in this week. What a generous response to this important ministry.



We just heard that Lorin Swingen passed away recently. If you would like to send cards to Lorna, her address is:

Mrs Lorna Swingen
4440 37th Ave S Apt 218
Fargo ND 58104

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 143 **11:00:** 73

Wednesday: 12:15: 11 **Confirmation:** 10

Total: 271

Streaming: 68

Cox Cable: 198

Pantry Guests Served: 965 (includes 306 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$9,043.00 (Regular)

\$7,553.47 (Specials)

\$2,099.5 (Debt Reduction)

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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

Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Israel will return to its land
Tuesday	Hebrews 7:23-28	Our Lord is a priest
Wednesday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Thursday	2 Chronicles 30:1-9	Hezekiah prepares for Passover
Friday	Proverbs 28:10-13	The law of God makes sense
Saturday	Psalms 126	Song of joy
Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor



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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Jesus said to [Bartimaeus], "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. Mark 10:52 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen. (Mark 10:48)

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us in body and soul as you bless us with the gift of this food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you a heart to dream and a voice filled with shouts of joy. (Psalm 126:1-2)

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

- What is something you dream might happen in your life?
- Is it easy or hard for you to admit when you need help? Explain.
- At times, faith can feel like pleading to God for help. Give an example from your life.

Read: Mark 10:46-52.

In Mark 8:22-26 Jesus heals another blind man. However, in that instance, it took a couple of tries and the man is sent away back to his home. With Bartimaeus, Jesus heals the blindness instantly, and, this time, the man joins Jesus immediately. Something is happening. Jesus is now closer to Jerusalem and the real testing of his identity as Savior. Bartimaeus utters words that the church will expand and recite throughout its history. Those words are called the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus acknowledges Bartimaeus' faith. It involves the life experience of need, of hope, of a dream, just like people have expressed through Psalm 126. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem and his trial, suffering, and death, he clarifies what it means to be a disciple. It looks like someone much like Bartimaeus, someone in great need with great hopes and dreams, someone seeing hope realized in Jesus, the Son of David, Lord of lords, King of kings. What do you need from Jesus?

Pray: **God of mercy and hope, give us faith to trust in you and joy to follow you all the days of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Savior and God. Amen.**

Statistics from the World Health Organization state that there are at least 2.2 billion people globally who are blind or have a vision impairment. At least one million of them could have been prevented. Used eyeglasses can be donated to a variety of organizations to be recycled and distributed to those in need or uninsured. Do you or someone you know have eyeglasses they no longer use that could be donated to a local organization?

Bartimaeus' plea to Jesus is very close to one of the many historic versions of the Jesus Prayer used for spiritual formation: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Pray this prayer daily before reading Psalm 126, a song of joy. Confessing our need for God is freeing, healing, and meant to be filled with joy, yes, leading us even to laughter.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36