

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

April 23, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in EASTER



Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.
- C** Amen.

- P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of
the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that
wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the
life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

- C** Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your
resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
- P** Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring
refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask
this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
- C** Amen.

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Refrain

4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Refrain

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
 Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

G your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19 (read responsively)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

**²for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

**¹³I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

**¹⁵Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,
¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room, and Ms. Carlsen for Children's Choir.

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As We Gather at Your Table”

ELW 522 vs 1-2

**1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
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HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**
- ☑ 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Kambry Rae-Marie & Ayce Michael Svacina, children of Kelsey Svacina and Alec Cowan (4-23-2023)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Patricia Johnson, mother of Wesley (Lorie) Nielson

Prayers This Week: Dean Anderson, Gene Buchholz, Mary Ann Johnson, Barb Guyer & Stan Werner, friends of Leigh and Vicki Freeman

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Joel Brown, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Kathy Preninger, Darlene White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, 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; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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 or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Hearts and Voices Raised”

by Young

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”

ELW 373 vs. 1, 4, 5



- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” | All on earth with an - gels say; |
| 2 | Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, | fought the fight, the bat - tle won. |
| 3 | Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; | Christ has burst the gates of hell. |
| 4 | Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! | Where, O death, is now your sting? |



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav’ns; and earth, re - ply.
Lo! The sun’s e - clipse is o’er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!
Praise to thee by both be giv’n.
Thee we greet triumphant now:
hail, the resurrection, thou! | 6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love! |
|--|--|

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Generous God,

☑ in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

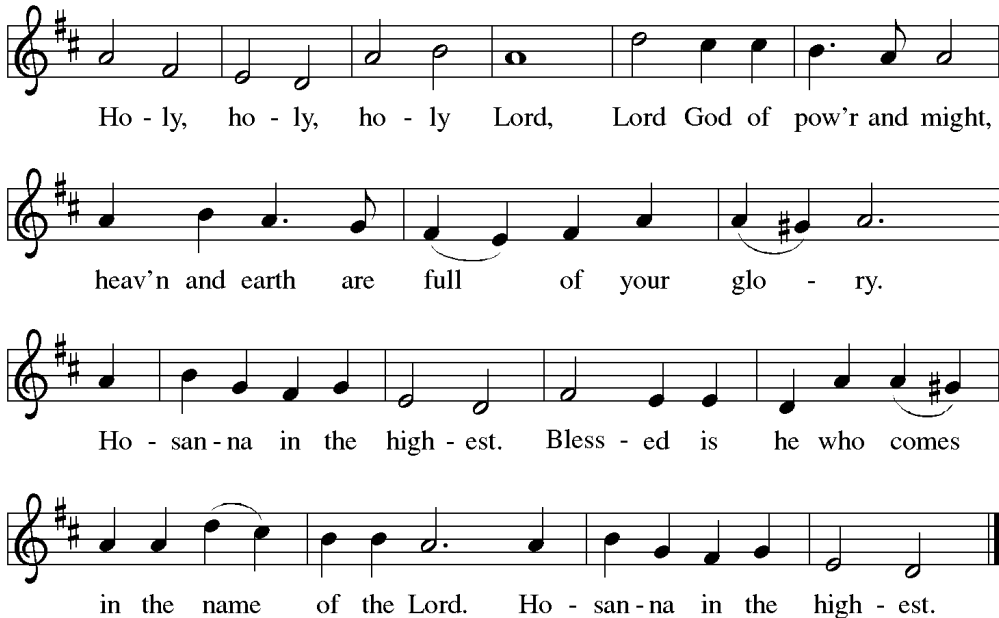
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, ...
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come and know Christ,
C broken and poured out for us.

(sit)

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 who 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. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"

ELW 464

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Bread of life, our host and meal,
Jesus, feed us.
Christ, by faith, to see and feel,
feed us with your love. | 3 Grant forgiveness in the feast
Jesus, feed us
for the greatest and the least;
feed us with your love. |
| 2 Bread now break and wine now pour,
Jesus, feed us.
Make us one, our hope restore;
feed us with your love. | 4 Thank you for this gift we share.
Jesus, feed us.
Save God's children everywhere;
feed us with your love. |

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
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1 Look who gath - ers at Christ’s ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f’rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they’re in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they’ve done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ’ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Gracious God,

C in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of all, who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live as a new creation.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"I Come with Joy"

ELW 482

**1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 22 & 23, 2023

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.

Today at Kountze

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

Sundays, 9:15 AM—(after the 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 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).

Sunday School Focus

The Sunday School curriculum after Easter has been focusing on The Road to Emmaus. To end the Sunday School year, the children have been and will continue to study this lesson through a Rotation curriculum. This way of presenting a lesson involves teaching the same lesson through several different classes that include the mission of the scripture, cooking, art, and science. The Sunday School year will conclude on May 21 with a lesson taught through games.

Youth Forum

Vxqgd|v#urp #343#DP #

Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Check in with Vicar Gretchen **Next week:** Fun & Games

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** J. S. Bach and the Liturgical Life in Leipzig **Next week:** Fellowship

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. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a 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 8:45 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 attendance card in your bulletin.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Today at Kountze, *continued*

New Member Class

April 23 & 30

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend. Please plan to attend both classes.

Invitation to Sponsor our Summer Youth Trip:

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Five youth have said yes to this journey. We are asking you during the month of April if you would give a gift to sponsor our youth on this trip. Any gift is appreciated and for your generosity you will receive thank you notes from participants and recognition at our Summer Youth Trip Sharing Event. We appreciate your consideration of how you might be a part of this ministry.

Summer Confirmation Program

Did Confirmation pass you by, or do you want to continue learning? We'll have a program of 5 meetings this summer for those in 9th grade and above. This program is offered to those who have missed our Confirmation program or who might want a refresher. Class time and days will be established by those wanting to attend and will be posted in the May Good News. Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

A Day Without Shoes

Now through May 7

WELCA will begin collecting new or used shoes for the Stephen Center (even unusable shoes can be collected for recycling) as their April/May service project. A box is in the narthex for your shoe donations.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 23 Sunday

Easter 3

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

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

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:15 PM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group @ Bookworm (note date change)

April 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

12:30 PM Circle 3

April 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

April 27 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 30 Sunday

Easter 4

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

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

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:00 PM Order of Saint John Appreciation Lunch

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Omaha Young Adults Trivia

April 25

7:00 PM

LOCAL Patio and Kitchen at Village Pointe

Young Adults are welcome to join the Omaha Lutheran Young Adults for trivia night! Talk to Greta for more info:

OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 27 (please note date change)

11:30 AM

(Rescheduled from our February snowstorm) Our speaker is from the Douglas County Historical Society, "Omaha's AUTO-Biography" is a look at our love affair with the motor car. From automobile production, to racing, to drive-in dining and movie theaters... we will hit all the stops." Also please note it will be the 4th Thursday just for the month of April.

Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, May 4

2:00 PM

Meet in the fellowship hall for a time together playing cards. We'll plan to meet on the first Thursday afternoon of the month. The group is free to decide how often you'll meet. Please let the church office know so we can get it on the calendar. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

God. Tacos. Legos.

A Lego Faith Formation Experience

Friday, May 5

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Grades 4 - 6

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St, Omaha.)

Cost: \$5 per Youth

Youth from across Omaha's Lutheran congregations will gather for fellowship, LEGOs and dinner! Friends are welcome! Register with Pastor Shari by Sunday, April 30, either in person, on sign-up sheet, or email at shari@kmlchurch.org Parents are welcome to stay for fellowship, a devotion, and tacos!

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

If you are a graduate in this past year, please let us know by Wednesday, May 3. We need to know your name, who your parents are, where you are graduating from, major if applicable, and what will be next for you. On May 14 we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email shari@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be listed in the Sunday Bulletin on May 7 and the e-news on Friday, May 12.

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, May 14

9:00 or 11:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation no later than April 30. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day for the graduates.

Ascension Day Liturgy

Thursday, May 18

6:30 PM

Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (113 N 18th St.)

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, Trinity will be hosting the liturgy. Bishop Scott Johnson will preach and Bishop Scott Barker will preside, with other clergy from Kountze Memorial and Trinity. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

What is Discernment?

Sunday, May 21

6:00 PM

What is discernment? How do I make decisions about what I want to do with my life? Gather with area youth at Kountze Memorial Lutheran as Pr. Shari & Vicar Gretchen share some principles of discernment that can guide you in making all kinds of decisions. Have some time to reflect on the decisions you're facing. Talk with peers about their decisions and how discernment figures in. We'll close our time with the 7:00 PM Omaha-area Compline Worship together. Come check it out!

Compline

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Service of Ancient Chant and Motets

Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM

Please join us for a special evening featuring the sacred service of Compline. Amidst the beauty of the candlelit sanctuary, the Schola Cantorum from Lincoln's First Plymouth Church will share a short service of meditative chants and hymns. The service of Compline has been sung for hundreds of years and offers singers and listeners a unique and special space for contemplation and communion with God.

NeLCM Golf Scramble

Friday, June 9

Holmes Golf Course in Lincoln

9:00 AM Start

Attention golfers and all campus ministry fans!! SAVE the DATE for our 2nd annual Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry four-person Golf Scramble. There will be golf, food, friends, and fun!!! Register at: nelcm.com/nelcm-golf-scramble-2023/

KMLC Camp Week

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 18 - 23

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 174 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 271

Streaming: 54

Pantry Guests Served: 997 (inc. 346 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$9,557.12 (Regular) \$7,477.63 (Specials)

\$657.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ recognized in ordinary life.

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

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Thursday	Psalm 3	Trust in God
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd



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Then they [disciples] told what had happened on the road, and how he [Jesus] had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24:35 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, for your goodness that surprises us every day, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for blessing us with the fruit of the earth that gives us food each day, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your eyes be opened to see the goodness and joy of God in Christ.

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

- What are some everyday experiences that bring you joy?
- When do you experience God's presence in everyday life?

Read: Luke 24:13-35.

This engaging resurrection story is filled with deep sadness, irony, surprise, discovery, and joy. The reading tells us who Jesus is and that he is speaking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. However, the disciples don't understand this until they reach their home, offer the usual hospitality to a stranger in a simple meal, and are amazed to recognize Jesus as he takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. This represents such an ordinary experience yet one filled with deep spiritual connections (Luke 9:10-17 and 22:7-20). During the COVID pandemic, when we could not meet in person, the church learned to support an active faith life in the home. People read Scripture, prayed, and discussed the Christian faith with others. Practicing faith in the home is not a new discovery. In an Emmaus home disciples had a conversation, prayed, and enjoyed a meal that opened their eyes to the presence of Jesus.

Discuss: When have you practiced faith in your home and been aware of Jesus' presence?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, help us to see with the eyes of faith that you are with us when we are home and when we are away from home. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others in everyday life experiences?

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too! As you continue to read the Gospel of John during the Easter season, highlight a verse that has special meaning to you and write a note alongside it in your Bible with the date to remember when you read this scripture. When you finish, say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10