

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

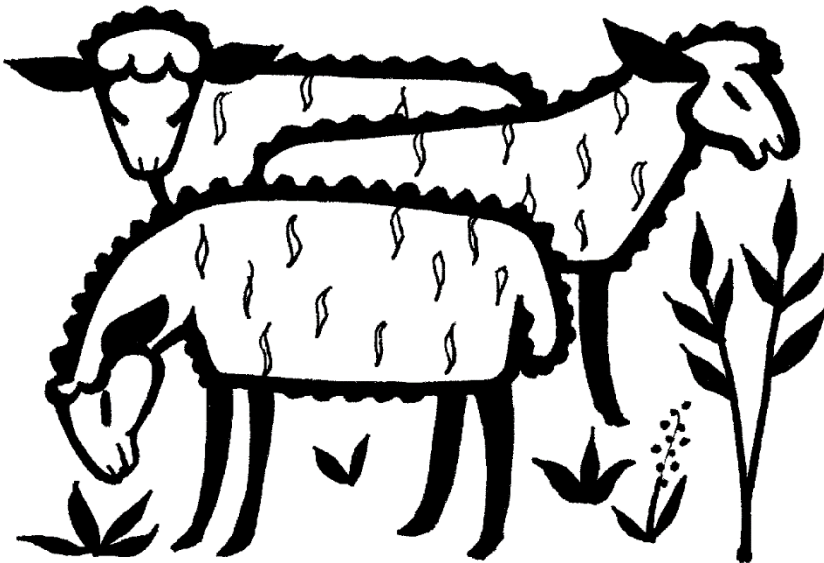
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

April 30, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in EASTER



Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
 What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
 He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
 he lives, my ever-living head!</p> <p>2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
 he lives eternally to save;
 he lives exalted, throned above;
 he lives to rule his church in love.</p> | <p>4 He lives to silence all my fears;
 he lives to wipe away my tears;
 he lives to calm my troubled heart;
 he lives all blessings to impart.</p> <p>5 He lives to bless me with his love;
 he lives to plead for me above;
 he lives my hungry soul to feed;
 he lives to help in time of need.</p> |
|--|--|


Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑** 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 our shepherd,
C you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.
Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

Jesus said: ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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.

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ELW 502 v 1, 3, 6

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 The King of love my shepherd is,
 whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am his
 and he is mine forever.</p> | <p>3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
 but yet in love he sought me,
 and on his shoulder gently laid,
 and home, rejoicing, brought me.</p> |
| <p>6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.</p> | |

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING (11:00 AM)

- ☐ The following people have been enrolled in the Order of Saint John to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and mutual mission as a congregation.

9:00 AM

John Groenjes
Lilly Kassal
Jane Kidder
Dannika Rees
Jacob Weiland

11:00 AM

Neely Edwards
Sheyenne Glasgow
Mia Valquier

Sponsors

Jill Gittler
James Holzer
Jeff Perkins
Robin Perkins

(stand)

P People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these young men and women, members of the Order of Saint John, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P I now declare you installed members of the Order of Saint John of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C **Amen.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 AM)

P God has made us God's 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.

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 Lincoln Alexander, son of Christian and Emma Mirch (4-25-2023)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Dean Anderson; to the family and friends of Paul Morse, brother of Ralph Morse; to the family and friends of Sandra Rychly; to the family and friends of Lou Ann Weber

Prayers This Week: Gene Buchholz, 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, Dee-Dee Lundahl, 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

“Shepherd Me, Oh God”

arr. Mark Hayes

(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?

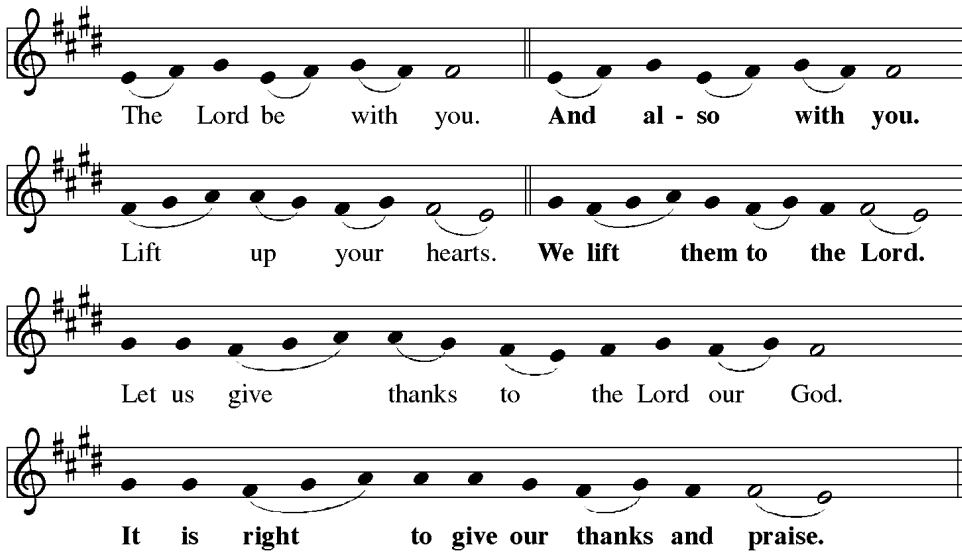
- | | |
|--|--|
| 5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!
Praise to thee by both be giv’n.
Thee we greet triumphant now:
hail, the resurrection, thou! | 6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love! |
|--|--|

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

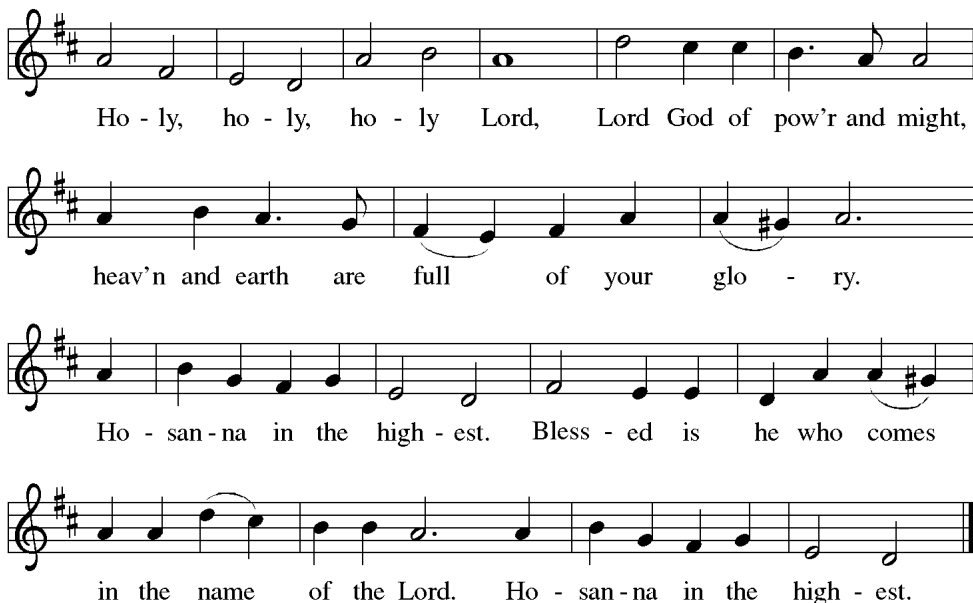
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- 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

-  Come and know Christ,
-  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.

Refrain

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain***
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain***
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain***
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love
in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain***
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
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“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock! | 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above! |
| 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock! | 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God! |

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Text © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐** Gracious God,
☑ 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

- ☐** 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

“The Day of Resurrection!”

ELW 361

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.</p> <p>2 Let hearts be purged of evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light,
and list'ning to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing,
may raise the glad refrain.</p> | <p>3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end!</p> <p>4 All praise to God the Father,
all praise to Christ the Son,
all praise to God the Spirit,
eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory
ascribe to God alone!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754;
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Mark Jones, *organ*

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP AT KOUNTZE

Sunday, May 7

10:10 AM Fellowship Reception of New Members

Sunday, May 14

9 & 11 AM High School Graduate Quilt Blessing (during worship services)

10:10 AM Fellowship Recognition of Graduates

Saturday, May 20

6:00 PM Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen (after 5 pm worship service)

Sunday, May 21

Vicar Gretchen's Farewell Sunday

10:10 AM Fellowship Reception for Vicar Gretchen's Farewell

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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 29 & 30, 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 worshipping, 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

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays from 10:10 AM

Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Fun & Games **Next week:** Questions and Doubts. Let's talk about them!

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*

Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Fellowship **Next week:** Reception of New Members

New Member Class Continues April 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.

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.

May Sunday School Service Project

In reading of The Road to Emmaus, it reads, "When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them." Luke 30. To help reinforce this lesson, the Sunday School service project will be to gather and donate snacks for the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House at Children's Hospital. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Sunday School office before the end of the Sunday School year on May 21.

Thank you!

A big thank you to all who donated items for the Nebraska Humane Society! We were able to deliver a truckload of food, toys, beds, and other needed items in April. Your support of all God's creatures was incredible.

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

May 1 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

May 4 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

May 7 Sunday

Easter 5
Homebound Communion
Receive New Members
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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!

Sunday Evening Gathering – Downtown Amazing Race

Grades 8 – 12

Sunday May 7

6:30 PM

Join us as we move together as a group on foot, we will see how many things we can view on our list. A stop for ice cream ends the journey. RSVP to shari@kmlchurch.org by Thursday, May 4.

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, May 9, 12:00 Noon

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Program on Holden Village by Pastor Shari Duminy.

Come join us! Bring your own sack lunch plus \$3.00 fee. Dessert provided. Reservations required. Phone Faith at 402- 734- 4629

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, your family members, where you are graduating from, major , and if applicable, 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.

Carol Joy Holling Work Day

Saturday, May 20, 2023

8:00 AM - Lunch

For more info and to sign up. go to [https://](https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day)

www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day

Sending of Vicar Gretchen (last Sunday with us is May 28)

- On Saturday, May 20, after the 5:00 PM Worship Service, we'll have a Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen. Please bring a dish to share.
- On Sunday, May 21 during Fellowship, a time of gratefulness and thanksgiving, will be offered as we think back on the last nine months together, birthing this last requirement of the Seminary process before her graduation, approval, and ordination.

If you are so moved gifts and cards will be gathered, speeches will be shared, and much love expressed for the time we have

journeyed together. In addition to breakfast, delicious treats will abound.

What is Discernment?

Grades 8—12

Sunday, May 21

6:30 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 7:30 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.

Summer Confirmation

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.

We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at noon on the following Wednesdays:

- The Ten Commandments – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Lord's Prayer – June 28
- Worship/Sacraments July 19
- Discipleship -August 16

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, August 26.

Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

Vacation Bible School

Welcomes all Superheros!

Held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St)

Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14

5:30 to 8:00 PM

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time. Please register here: <https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 40

Sunday: 9:00: 149 11:00:17

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 265

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 1235 (inc. 467 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$17,706.16 (Regular) \$3,394.54 (Specials)

\$8,827.5 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus the Good Shepherd restores our souls.

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

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among believers
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Wednesday	Matthew 11:28-30	Come and rest
Thursday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Friday	Colossians 3:15-17	New life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life



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The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. Psalm 23:1-3a (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you who care for all our needs, help us to trust in your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food. Help us to receive this gift of life with joy and gladness all our days through Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the goodness and mercy of the Good Shepherd follow you all the days of your life.

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

- Describe what a day filled with contentment looks like.
- How does the church, the body of Christ, help you sense God's presence as your shepherd?

Read: Acts 2:42-47.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is always the Good Shepherd Sunday. All the readings for that day except Acts 2 use the image of shepherd. However, it is in Acts 2 that the people devote themselves to shepherding one another in the Christian faith. People are brought to homes and tables for food, fellowship, and acceptance (Psalm 23:5). In this intimate fellowship people are taught the faith by hearing the message of the apostles. People learn the faith from trusted voices within the community (John 10:4). They support one another with prayer and generosity. The community serves one another by providing material needs like food, clothing, and shelter. With compassionate hearts people praise God. They gain attention and in so doing, the sheepfold grows, and *"the Lord added to their number those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). The life of the community looks like followers of Jesus, the one who is the *"shepherd and guardian"* of our souls (1 Peter 2:25).

Discuss: How does the image of shepherd help you understand what it means to be part of the body of Christ?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we thank you for the church, the body of Christ, that cares for one another that we may believe in you and serve others in love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you serve as a shepherd to someone by showing care and attending to their needs?

Faith is caught more than it is taught. Learning the faith begins in the home. As you continue to read the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what would happen if you "get caught" while reading the Bible when others are present. Consider doing so. This week highlight John 10:10b, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* Read it aloud for someone this week and engage in a conversation about what it means to you to believe in Jesus. Invite that person to join you in saying: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14