

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

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

June 11, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”
“I am the Bread of Life”*

Ron Schmoltze
Ron Schmoltze
Dirk Lindner, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

[C] **Amen.**

[P] Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

[C] **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

[P] Righteous God,

[C] **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the
courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant
us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

[P] God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim
the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

[C] **Amen.**

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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.**

KYRIE

- ☐ In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- ☑ **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**
- ☐ For the reign of God, for the peace throughout the world,
and for the unity of all, let us pray,
- ☑ **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**
- ☐ For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
and for the strength to live in your Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- ☑ **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**



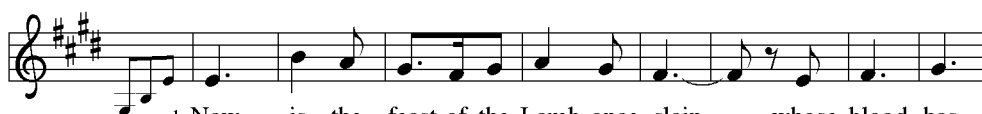
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

C you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Hosea 5:15—6:6

Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.

I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.

In their distress they will beg my favor:

^{6:1}“Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

²After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

⁴What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 50:7-15 (*read responsively*)

⁷“Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;
for I am God, your God.

⁸**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

⁹I will not accept a calf from your stalls,
nor goats from your pens;

¹⁰**for all the wild animals of the forest are mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

¹¹I know every bird of the mountains,
and the creatures of the fields are mine.

¹²**If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

¹³Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,
or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

¹⁵Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It

will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he

went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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 return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

ELW 764 vs 1, 3

**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!**

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

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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** God, in your mercy,
 G hear our prayer.

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Bill Booten, brother of Barb Chrisman

Prayers this week: Ellie Carlson, Allen Olson

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Joel Brown, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Gloria Erickson, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Dee-Dee Lundahl, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Linda Peltz, 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.
G 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

“Cry No More”

Dan Forrest

John Tuvera Lim, *vocalist*

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of field and forest, sea and sky,
C you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. 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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ACS 1089



San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . You are ho - ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . .
. . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to, e - res, oh Dios.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ## AGNUS DEI

12

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come, eat what is good.
C All people are called to Christ's table.

(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

"Morning Has Broken"

ELW 556

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

**1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!**

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞** We thank you, generous God,
☞ for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✙ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”

ELW 722 vs. 1-3

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.</p> | <p>2 As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another's pain
as though it were our own.</p> |
| <p>3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great heart,
become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.</p> | |

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

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DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Share the harvest.
☛ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go”

Christopher Tambling
Dirk Lindner, *organ*



KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate 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
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

June 10 & 11, 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 Memorial

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.



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.

Breakfast Teams for Continental Breakfast on the 2nd and 5th Sundays

We are grateful for the many hands that do the work to make our breakfast time happen during Sunday Mornings. The following have been providing a variety of services to this ministry throughout the year. **Quiche Makers:** Carolyn Sieling and Louis Flake **Pastry Bakers/Suppliers:** Pam Brown, Barb Chrisman, Jean Johnson, Sharon Miley, Anita Morse, Toby Rees, Ashley Sum, Amy Wemhoff **Set Up/ Clean Up Crews:** Theresa and Tom Gruber, Nakoma and Olivia Baker, Darlene Anderson, Sherri Labedz, Louis Flake, Lara McCormick & family, Carole Woodworth **Those who are willing to fill in when people need to be gone:** Kristin Boe, Larry Camenzind, Mike Jensen and family, Melissa Osentowski, Toby Rees, Becca Sedlack and family. If you would be able to join the clean up crew for the 2nd Sunday of the month (paper products used) please speak with Pastor Shari

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Summary Report of Synod Assembly **Next week:** TBD

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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/>

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 11 Sunday

Pentecost 2

Jun 11 - Jun 14 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

VBS @ St. Timothy's

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

June 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

11:00 AM Meal Served - Light fare

with vegetarian options

12:00 PM Summer Confirmation

12:15 PM Wednesday Eucharist -

Candidate shares message

Q & A following

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

1:45 PM Break for Candidate

3:00 PM Meeting with Pastors

4:00 PM Meeting with Staff

5:00 PM Evening Meal - Light fare

with vegetarian options

6:00 PM Executive Committee

6:15 PM Evening Eucharist -

Candidate shares message

Q & A following

June 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due

~~11:30 AM Men's Lunch~~

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

June 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 17 Saturday

9:00 AM CPR Training

5:00 PM Worship

June 18 Sunday

Pentecost 3

Father's Day

Jun 18 - Jun 23 Camp Week @ CJH

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Lutheran Women Omaha(LWO)

Tuesday, June 13, 12:00 Noon

Bethel Lutheran Church

Lunch provided, \$7.00

Reservations required, Faith 402-734-4629

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. A light meal will be served. We will participate in Wednesday Eucharist and then the learning will begin at 12:45 and conclude at 3:00 PM. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at **noon** on the following Wednesdays:

- Creeds: June 14
- Worship/Sacraments: June 21
- Discipleship: June 28

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. Anyone is welcome to attend sessions they are interested in.

Men's Lunch

The Men's Lunch has been postponed to July. Hope you can join us then.

CPR/First Aid Training

We will be holding a CPR/First Aid training course in June. All Ushers and Sunday School teachers are encouraged to attend the training and the Church will take care of the registration fee which covers the training materials and certificates. All other members of the congregation are invited as well for a small fee of \$32.00. Training will take place in the lower level of Kountze Commons.

- The CPR class will be June 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM with a light lunch following in the link.
- If we have more than six people signed up we will add a CPR class from 12:45 to 3:45 PM.
- The First Aid training will be Saturday June 24 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM (a light lunch will be served during training). The first aid training is free of charge for those attending the CPR classes on June 17.

Please RSVP to the Church office or you can email jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your spot.

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!

Kountze Food Pantry

If you would like to donate items to the Pantry, please consider picking up some extra hygiene products, including feminine products, razors, and shaving cream. We never seem to have enough for everyone in need. Soap, shampoo, and deodorant are always appreciated, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste.

If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 38

Sunday: 9:00: 129 **11:00:** 47

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 227

Streaming: 44

Pantry Guests Served: 764 (inc. 259 children) (does not include Monday numbers)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$24,082.62 (Regular) \$2,683.03 (Specials)

\$707.50 (Debt Reduction)

Meet the Senior Pastor Candidate

Council Vice-President Kate Jones is happy to inform you that the Congregational Council of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is ready to recommend a candidate to serve as Senior Pastor.

***The candidate will be at Kountze on
Wednesday, June 14***

to meet the congregation. Members are invited to attend any or all of the events that day to get acquainted, worship together, hear them speak, and ask questions. A biography of the candidate will be available to those attending that day.

Candidate's Visit Itinerary

11:00 AM Meal Served - Light fare with vegetarian options

12:15 PM Wednesday Eucharist - Candidate shares message. Q & A following

1:45 PM Break for Candidate

3:00 PM Meeting with Pastors

4:00 PM Meeting with Staff

5:00 PM Evening Meal - Light fare with vegetarian options

6:15 PM Evening Eucharist - Candidate shares message. Q & A following

Summer Confirmation Note - We will spend time with this process. To accommodate, Creeds will be taught on June 14.

Also Note:

***A special congregational meeting will be conducted on
Sunday, June 25, 10:15 AM***

to elect a rostered minister of the church to serve as Senior Pastor of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. The vote will take place by paper ballot, and time for questions will be provided. A two-thirds majority is required for the election of a rostered minister. As provided in our constitution, no absentee or proxy ballots are permitted. There will also be a vote on the recommended compensation package for the rostered minister, which may be decided by voice or hand vote, and requires a simple majority. No other items of business may be conducted at this meeting.

Jesus calls us to follow him.

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus
Monday	Hosea 5:15-6:6	A call to repentance
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise realized by faith
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:28-33	Moses, the mediator of God's will
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Ephesians 5:1-20	Let love be your guide
Saturday	Psalms 50:7-15	What pleases God
Sunday	Matthew 9:35-10:23	The sending of the twelve



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As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us faith and courage to follow you and to touch the lives of those around us with your grace, mercy, and healing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the one who gives us hope now and always. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to trust in the one who blesses us with grace. (Romans 4:16)

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

- When is a time you have been a leader? a follower?
- Jesus calls us to follow. What has this meant to you in your life?

Read: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.

It is interesting that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus never scolds people identified as "sinners and tax collectors." His harsh words and judgments are made against those who think they know God yet don't understand that God desires mercy, not the prideful acts of religious people. Jesus shows his mercy to Matthew, the tax collector, to a grieving father, and to a sick woman. Jesus calls Matthew and others to follow him, yet in these stories Jesus is the one who ends up following others, one into a home for dinner and another into a home to bring back life from death. Jesus heals a woman who did not ask for his help but simply touched his robe for healing. He is willing to follow the woman's desperate need and calls it faith. Jesus is willing and available to the needs of others. Jesus' ministry finds itself in the midst of life and death issues where "playing it by the book" is not the guide, but rather where mercy, kindness, healing, and hope are required in a world filled with chaos, confusion, and despair.

Discuss: Where might Jesus be calling you to follow in his name and go to a place you didn't plan to go?

Pray: **Merciful God, give us faith to follow you each day and to trust in your care for us and for all that you create through Christ Jesus, the Great Healer. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you follow Jesus and be available to care for someone in need?

One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace. Some have a cross or a fish symbol tattoo somewhere in a visible place on their body. Think or talk about a time you or someone you know was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Then write a list of ways you can show you are a follower. Is there something like a cross or biblical scene placed in a visible location in your home? Is it something you wear? Is it something through your actions or words?

Pray: **Dear Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow. May we do so with love and mercy toward others in our daily lives. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]