

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 18, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Gretchen Olson Kopp, *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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!</p> <p>2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!</p> | <p>3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.</p> <p>4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- G** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.
- P** For the reign of God, for peace throughout the world,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- G** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.
- P** 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.
- G** 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** God of compassion,
C you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100 (read responsively)

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

²Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

³**Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

⁴Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

⁵**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ 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*

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35—10:23

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

(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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Before the Waters Nourish the Earth"

ACS 1049



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - main'd as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that call'd cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - in'd morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 & 11:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Jair Antonio, son of Tony Corona-Williams & Melody Diggins; for the baptism of Noa Corinne, daughter of Nicholi & Ashley Arnio

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

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

Gretchen Olson Kopp

(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

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

"As We Gather at Your Table"

ELW 522

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.</p> | |

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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- 1 Come down, O Love divine;
seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**
- 2 Oh, let it freely burn,
till worldly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path
illuming.**
- 3 Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing--
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.**
- 4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the pow'r of human
telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace
till it become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-1890

(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, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”

ELW 663

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord.
Send forth our Creator's call,
heaven's gifts extend to all.</p> | <p>3 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
now to guide us on to heav'n,
strong and holy, just and true,
working both to will and do.</p> |
| <p>2 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
who, to save our human race
and to pay rebellion's price,
gave himself as sacrifice.</p> | <p>4 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath'ring nations all
see your light and heed your call.</p> |

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774-1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Gretchen Olson Kopp, *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 17 & 18, 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.

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 Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Hannah Rief on her 21st birthday given by her parents; in memory of Hannah Rief given by Leigh & Vicky; in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike & Family; in honor of LeClare Steffen's 100th birthday given by Jane, Tom, Rod, and Jennifer

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Kay and Kathe Andersen in memory of Marvin Andersen

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 the 3rd Sunday

We are grateful to the team that shows up on this Sunday to get our biscuits and gravy or ham and hash ready for us. Sherri and Frank Labedz, Carole Woodworth, Leon, Sheila and Mia Valquier, Barbara and Dan Paris, Terri Gogetap, Jim West, and Zac Duminy have been seen in the kitchen making the magic of Sunday Morning breakfast happen. Thank you for great service with smiles!

Today at Kountze Memorial, *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:** Outlining the Congregational Meeting Process **Next week:** Special Congregational Meeting & Vote

KMLC Camp Week Carol Joy Holling Camp June 18 – 23

Even if your child wasn't able to attend camp this coming week, you can still sign them up for camp

anytime this summer. 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!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 19 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

June 21 Wednesday

12:00 PM Summer Confirmation
12:15 PM Worship

June 22 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
12:00 PM Summer Confirmation
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 23 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

June 24 Saturday

9:00 AM First Aid Training
3:00 PM Arispe & Zambuto Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

June 25 Sunday

Pentecost 4
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:15 AM Special Congregational Meeting & Vote

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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:

- 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.

First Aid Training

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.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Pantry is always short of canned soup and peanut butter. If you want to donate these items, please leave them in the box in Fellowship Hall. We are also very short of volunteers on Friday evenings. The service is from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Volunteers should arrive by 4:30. If you, or someone you know

would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

What Happened to the Parking Meters?

You can download the [Park Omaha app](#) or the [ParkMobile app](#), create an account, and use it to pay for parking at any metered space in Omaha, or text "PARK" to 77223 (accepts card payment). You can also "pay by plate" by entering your license plate information at a multi-space meter (which accepts coins or card payments). Metered parking is enforced MONDAY - SATURDAY, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, excluding Sundays and holidays. This includes when you are at Kountze attending Worship services, meetings, etc. during the week and Saturday evenings. Sunday and handicapped hangers/plates are still free.

Please remember not to park in the Methodist parking lot by the handicapped entrance Monday—Friday (9:00 AM—4:30 PM).

House Painting for Low Income Seniors

Are you a low-income Senior Homeowner or do you know one? They can get a free fresh coat of exterior paint on their homes on Saturday, August 19. For more information call Leslie at Project Houseworks at 402-965-9201.

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Program

YAGM invites young adults (ages 21—35) into a transformative year of service and fellowship. Through YAGM young adults learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk

alongside global church companions. They become immersed in new communities and form deep relationships. And they confront issues of poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, year-round. The timeline for decisions follows:

- January 15—Priority deadline for the upcoming service year.
 - February 1—Final deadline for the upcoming service year.
 - August—YAGM participants depart for service.
- If you have questions about these updates or would like to chat about anything YAGM-related, please reach out to Mae, Interim Program Director, at MaeHelen.Jackson@ELCA.org.



To all fathers and father figures on this special day, thank you for the love, strength, and guidance you provide. Today, we celebrate you and the incredible role you play in our lives.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 25, 10:15 AM

A special congregational meeting will be held 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 amendments may be made to either resolution. No other items of business may be conducted at this meeting.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 44

Sunday: 9:00: 131 **11:00:** 57

Wednesday: 12:15: 112 **6:15:** 73

Total: 417

Streaming: 47

Cox Cable: 129 (Monthly Average for May)

Pantry Guests Served: 873 (inc. 291 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$1,1729.92 (Regular) \$1,708.00 (Specials)

\$483.06 (Debt Reduction)

Sent out to do the work of Jesus.

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Exodus 19:2-8a	Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22–6:5	Bear one another's burdens
Thursday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-8	Service well-pleasing to God
Saturday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship



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*"As you [the twelve apostles] go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." **Matthew 10:7-8a (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you have promised to do great things through us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to do your will through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we are the sheep of your pasture; we thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 100)

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God be poured into your heart through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)

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

- What do you do to help others, and what gets in the way of helping others?
- How is the care you offer to others doing the work of Jesus?

Read: Matthew 9:35–10:8.

Jesus asks his disciples (described here as "apostles," that is, those sent) to go out and do what he does. They are to go out and announce the good news of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, to heal sick people, raise the dead, and cast out demons. This is also the work that Jesus did (Matthew 4:17, 23-24). Casting out demons meant freeing people from all powers that prevented them from living full lives as those created by God. What Jesus did, we will do. However, there is no mistaking our own brokenness. Peter will deny Jesus three times, Judas Iscariot will betray him, Matthew the tax collector collaborated with the Roman government, and Simon the Cananaean was a "zealot" who worked against the Romans. The fact is that this motley crew is not so different from the church of any age and yet capable of doing Jesus' work by the power of the kingdom of heaven that has also come near to us.

Discuss: When have you been surprised by the healing power given to you to bless other lives?

Pray: **Healing God, give us courage to face the challenges of daily life with love and hope that reaches out to others with the kingdom that has come near to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to give them hope in their daily lives?

In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father's Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. This day is set aside to honor fathers and provide an opportunity to celebrate fatherhood. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39