

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 25, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *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 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, 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 Teach us, good Lord God,

C to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 69:7-18 *(read responsively)*

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰**I humbled my self with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹¹I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.

¹²**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴**Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

¹⁶**Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸**Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff is labeled "Congregation:" and contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "go? You have the words of e - ter - nal". The third staff concludes the piece with the lyrics "life. Al - le - lu - ia!" and is marked "Repeat optional" at the end.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **C** Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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 Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Don’t Be Afraid”

ACS 1027 sung twice

Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger, my love is stron-ger than your
fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger and
I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, and Graham Maule, 1958–2019

Music: DON'T BE AFRAID, John L. Bell

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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,
 A 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 Lois Johnson, mother of Lee & Dayle Johnson

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, 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.
A 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

"I Love to Tell the Story"

William E. Fischer
Larry Holcombe, *soloist*

(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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

* you pour your Holy Spirit on

Congregation:

world:
us: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Just As I Am"

Traditional

Larry Holcombe, *soloist*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

ELW 798

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.</p> <p>2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.</p> | <p>3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.</p> <p>4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- [P]** We thank you, generous God,
- [C]** **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.**

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

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

ELW 876 vs 1 & 2

1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.

2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *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 Slight	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 24 & 25, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the marriage of Domenic & Angie (Arispe) Zambuto; given by Dr. Emilio & Sharon Arispe in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary; in memory of Bill & Marge Sears given by their children, Ron, Lois, and Claude; given by Tracey Saklar in memory of Barbara Saklar

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God in honor of Tom Holcombe's 90th birthday given by his son, Larry; daughter, Lisa; grandsons, Andrew and Nolan; great granddaughters, Lilja and Elsie, and family.

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 for the 4th Sunday of the Month

We give thanks for this team of great experience. Several of this group were a part of the breakfast ministry before the pandemic. They see the big change between then and now, but remain eager to make sure breakfast continues. Jane & Ralph Ross (last fall) Jim West, Pat Studts, Julie O'Doherty, Allyson White, and Tim & Pam Backora, are the skilled baconators, fluffy eggs, and tater tot crew. We also want to give a big shout out to Tim Backora for getting the groceries every week. He will often go to one or even two places before the drop off on Friday or Saturday.

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, *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:** Special Congregational Meeting & Vote **Next week:** Fellowship

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 26 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3

June 28 Wednesday

12:00 PM Summer Confirmation
12:15 PM Worship

June 29 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 30 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

July 2 Sunday

Pentecost 5
Homebound Communion
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

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 Wednesday:

- Discipleship: June 28

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday,

August 27. Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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>

Cards with Friends

Thursday, July 6, 2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. Bring a snack to share. All are welcome.

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.

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).

St. Croix Hospice

St. Croix Hospice is looking for hospice volunteers who are willing to share their time and talents to provide emotional and practical support for patients and their families. St. Croix Hospice volunteers are provided training, support, and flexible scheduling. Call 24/7 at 855-278-2764 or visit stcroixhospice.com/volunteer to learn more.

2023 VBS Hero Hotline Thank You!

A big thank you to Christian Education Director Kristin Boe for leading the VBS Cooperative with 4 other Lutheran Churches this year. Kountze Memorial was in charge of the program and St. Timothy's hosted us for the week. Other churches included Lord of Love, Luther Memorial and Morning Star. Dinner was served each night with our night being provided by Julie O'Doherty and Barb Chrisman. We also thank the volunteers that stepped forward to help make this year a great success: Shelia Valquier, Laura McCormick, Pastor Paul Moessner, Kara DiLorenzo, Ashley Sum, Julie O'Doherty, and Lilly Kassal. On behalf of the almost 60 participants, you were Incredible! A Marvel! Superman or Wonder Woman! Shazam!



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 137 **11:00:** 50

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 235

Streaming: 60

Pantry Guests Served: 874 (inc. 278 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$ (Regular) \$ (Specials)

\$0 (Debt Reduction)

Freed from fear, we live in newness of life.

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old life and the new
Thursday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Friday	Romans 8:9-17	Life in the Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

taking
faith
home

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Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for the power and gift of baptism and our new life in Christ that frees us from fear so that we can be Christ's faithful followers in the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, with this gift of food give us strength to overcome our fears and to serve others through the power of Christ's love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love, bless you with mercy all the days of your life. (Psalm 69:16)

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

- How do you describe your own life's goals, values and beliefs?
- If someone were to ask you about your faith and what you believe, how would you respond?

Read: Romans 6:1b-11.

Just before this reading, Paul writes: *"where sin increased, grace abounded all the more"* (Romans 5:20b). Paul responds to this statement in Romans 6:1b with an understandable question, *"Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?"* Then he answers, *"By no means!"* (v. 2a). Paul is emphatic that seeking a life of sin is out of the question. He describes this conviction by using the language of baptism. We are joined with Christ through baptism. In baptism, we die with Christ and are raised with Christ *"so we too might walk in newness of life"* (v. 4b). We are joined to Christ's life. His story of death and resurrection is now our story. We die to a way of living and thinking that finds pleasure in sin and separation from God. The power of sin over our lives dies with Christ through baptism. Our lives are then freed from the power of sin and death to live a new life filled with love and grace for our neighbor and world.

Discuss: What questions do you have about baptism?

Pray: God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of baptism that binds us to Christ and gives us new life filled with hope, joy, and love for all. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you be freed from fear to joyfully serve those in need?

"Do not fear" is a recurring theme in Matthew 10:24-39. Think or talk about things that you are afraid of. Naming and talking about your fears can be helpful. Draw a cross on a sheet of paper. Write the fears you named around the cross. Take a moment to look at your list of fears and say them out loud.

Pray: Dear God, may our life in Christ draw us nearer to you and free us from our fears. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42