

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

July 16, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

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 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!

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!

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.

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 Almighty God,

C we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65:1-13 *(read responsively)*

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;**

you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 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 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what

was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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 Hall

(stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY “God of the Fertile Fields” ACS 1063 vs. 1-3



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796
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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,
 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 marriage of Paul Frederick & Christie Hasenkamp (7/15/2023)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of DeeDee Lundahl

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Steve Dragon, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Donna Moessner, 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 “Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace”

arr. Mark Hayes
Janet Diggins, *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.

G 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

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

ELW 694

**1 Sing to the Lord of harvest
your songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices
your alleluias raise;
by him the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyous song of love.**

**2 God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with his fullness,
all things with large increase
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.**

**3 Bring to this sacred altar
the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.**

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

**1 We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**2 We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**3 We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Text © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(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.**

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

BLESSING FOR THE SENDING OF TRAVELERS TO HOLDEN VILLAGE

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

ELW 545

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.</p> | <p>2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.</p> |
| <p>3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.</p> | |

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.;
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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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 Slaughter	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

July 15 & 16, 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 celebration of Barb & Bruce Nissen's wedding anniversary

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.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** KCCOC Update
Next week: Windows Celebration Update and Honoring Sarah Jewell

Pastor DeeDee Lundahl Memorial Service **Wednesday, July 19th 6:00 PM**

A light meal will be served following the service in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help volunteer to set up/food-prep, bring a dish or help with clean up, please use the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall.

The service will be live-streamed and can be viewed using the following link:

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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>

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.

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.

July—Go and...

Listen

How do we listen with our full selves? In reality, all of our senses are used when we listen – with our ears, our eyes, our mouths, and our bodies. As disciples, we listen to ourselves, our neighbors, and God. When we listen, we find new perspectives, shared history, and common ground.

Questions to consider:

- What is something you learned from listening to

your heart?

- What is something you learned from listening to a stranger?
- In a year of *GOING*, how will you listen to those around you?

Prayer: Listening God, help me stay open to the surprises you provide while on the road this summer. Amen.

Suggested Song: Listen, God is Calling (ELW 513)

Camp Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction

July 29, 2023

The 35th annual Quilt Auction is coming soon! The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Quilts can be viewed online starting this weekend. Quilts can be donated and delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp until July 22. They should be placed in a plastic bag with a completed copy of the donation form found on the camp website. This year our kitchen will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and a selection of favorite salads. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids (4-12), and free for children 3 and under. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon request. Concessions will be offered before and after lunch. Bring your friends and families!

The Camp Classic Tournaments

August 18, 2023 | September 22, 2023

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course | Ashland Golf Club

Do a 2 Fore 2 deal or pick one tournament, but the camp would love to see you out on the course supporting camp! Four person scramble, noon: shotgun start, teams & individuals welcome. Info and registration form can be found at <https://www.nlom.org/golf>

Lutheran Family Services

Turning Apartments into Homes

We need help setting up homes for newly arriving refugee families this week. If you are available to help, please log into your volunteer hub account here: <http://omamoversandshakers.lfsneb.volunteerhub.com/>.

Full details will be sent to you once you register to help. If you have friends or family who'd like to help, please ask them to "Create an Account" and contact me with their name. Please don't hesitate with questions! Best regards,

Morgan Mattson

Lead Volunteer Coordinator, Refugee Services

Lutheran Family Services

morgan.mattson@onelfs.org

402-578-7224

Applications Open for Administrative Assistant

We are seeking applications for the Administrative Assistant at Kountze Memorial. This is a full-time position. Duties include, answering phones, greeting visitors, prepare worship bulletins, record membership and pastor acts information, help with mailings, and other administrative and clerical support. The position requires confidentiality and high level of trustworthiness, general office experience, writing, word processing skills, and excellent people skills. Must be familiar with Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point - and willing to learn church membership software. Send resume and cover letter to debbie@kmlchurch.org.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 16 Sunday

Pentecost 7

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

July 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board—Classroom

6:30 PM Christian Education Committee

July 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

July 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Lundahl Memorial Service

July 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

July 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 22 Saturday

Jul 22 - Jul 29 Holden Village Trip

5:00 PM Worship

July 23 Sunday

Pentecost 8

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



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 118 **11:00:** 64

Wednesday: 12:15: 14

Total: 229

Streaming: 41

Pantry Guests Served:

671 (including 217 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 9

Offering:

\$16,552.52 (Regular) \$1,850.43 (Specials)

\$2,238.56 (Debt Reduction)

God's word makes a difference for our lives.

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Tuesday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul's charge to Timothy
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Hebrews 4:8-13	The rest that God has promised
Saturday	Psalms 65	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds



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"Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" **Matthew 13:8-9 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Creative God, your word accomplishes all that you desire; we thank you for your work of love that brings hope and healing through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, by your strength you bring forth food from the earth. Thank you for the abundant harvest that we enjoy today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's creative word bear fruit in your life through Christ.

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

- What do you think it takes to be a good gardener and have a successful harvest?
- We can receive God's word in worship, by reading the Bible, and through prayer and conversations. What is a favorite way for you to receive God's word?

Read: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Jesus compares the sower's seed to God's word that bears much fruit. The seed needs to be planted in good soil to grow. Jesus compares the soil to our lives and our ability to hear and receive God's word. We can wonder if we are the good soil that receives God's word, but it may be that at different times we exhibit all four soils. There are times God's word doesn't stick (the path); sometimes it takes root but quickly dries up (rocky ground); sometimes the word gets smothered by competing concerns (thorns); sometimes the word takes root and produces much fruit (good soil). Our lives can experience all of these moments. This parable can be a humble reminder for us to be open to God's word so that our lives bear the fruit of love and peace. No matter how God's word bears fruit in our lives, it grows into a surprising harvest.

Discuss: How and when are you most attentive to God's word in your life?

Pray: **Dear God, you who are the source of all living things, bless us with faith in your word and your work in our lives to bless the world through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others with the power of God's healing and forgiveness?

Gather four small pots. Fill the first with gravel to represent a path, the second with rocks, the third with thorns or thistles, and the fourth with good soil. Tell the parable of the sower in your own words. As you hold each pot, pray: **Lord God, keep us from having hearts that are hard, like a path. Keep us from having hearts that are shallow, like soil on rocky ground. Keep us from having hearts that are easily choked, like seeds among thorns. Instead, make our hearts like good soil, so that we gladly receive your word and accept it. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43