

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 23, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*“How Great Thou Art”  
“Great is Thy Faithfulness”*

Hine, arr. Wilson  
Runyan, arr. Wilson  
Bruce Nissen, *organ*  
Jean Johnson, *piano*

## 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 Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.  
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
- 2 The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;  
established it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 3 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
- 4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

## KYRIE

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



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



God; to make all things new.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Faithful God, most merciful judge,  
**C** you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.*

**T**hus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 86:11-17 (read responsively)

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,  
and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;  
**because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8:12-25**

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

**S**o then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

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

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of

teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

 The Gospel of the Lord.

 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(sit)*  
**CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM**  
*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Griffith*

*(stand)*  
**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      *“On What Has Now Been Sown”*                      **ELW 550**

- 1    **On what has now been sown  
your blessing, Lord, bestow;  
the pow'r is yours alone  
to make it sprout and grow.  
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,  
and yours alone shall be the praise!**

2    **To you our wants are known,  
from you are all our pow'rs;  
accept what is your own  
and pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive  
and to your word a blessing give.**
- 3    **Oh, grant that each of us,  
now met before you here,  
may meet together thus  
when you and yours appear,  
and follow you to heav'n, our home.  
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**
- Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.



## 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)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Jason Sieling, son of Dick & Carolyn Sieling

**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, 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

*“Lord of the Small”*

Dan Forrest  
John Tuvera Lim, *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:*



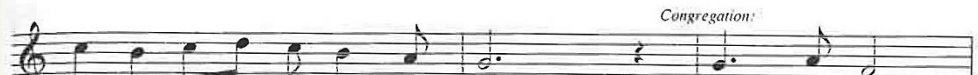
world:  
us:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,

*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.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

**ELW 679**

**1 For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.**

**2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,<br/>creation's mighty Lord,<br/>redeemer of the fallen world,<br/>by holy love outpoured,<br/>by holy love outpoured:</b></p> <p><b>2 How vast your mercy to accept<br/>the burden of our sin,<br/>and bow your head in cruel death<br/>to make us clean within,<br/>to make us clean within.</b></p> <p><b>3 But now the bonds of death are burst,<br/>the ransom has been paid;<br/>you reign above at God's right hand,<br/>in robes of light arrayed,<br/>in robes of light arrayed.</b></p> | <p><b>4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail<br/>to purge us of our pride,<br/>that we may stand before your throne<br/>by mercy purified,<br/>by mercy purified.</b></p> <p><b>5 All praise to you, ascended Lord;<br/>all glory ever be<br/>to Father, Son, and Spirit blest<br/>through all eternity,<br/>through all eternity!</b></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.

*(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

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

ELW 631

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Love divine, all loves excelling,<br/>Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!<br/>Fix in us thy humble dwelling,<br/>all thy faithful mercies crown.<br/>Jesus, thou art all compassion,<br/>pure, unbounded love thou art;<br/>visit us with thy salvation,<br/>enter ev'ry trembling heart.</b></p> <p><b>2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit<br/>into ev'ry troubled breast;<br/>let us all in thee inherit;<br/>let us find thy promised rest.<br/>Take away the love of sinning;<br/>Alpha and Omega be;<br/>end of faith, as its beginning,<br/>set our hearts at liberty.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;<br/>let us all thy life receive;<br/>suddenly return, and never,<br/>nevermore thy temples leave.<br/>Thee we would be always blessing,<br/>serve thee as thy hosts above,<br/>pray, and praise thee without ceasing,<br/>glory in thy perfect love.</b></p> <p><b>4 Finish then thy new creation,<br/>pure and spotless let us be;<br/>let us see thy great salvation<br/>perfectly restored in thee!<br/>Changed from glory into glory,<br/>till in heav'n we take our place,<br/>till we cast our crowns before thee,<br/>lost in wonder, love, and praise!</b></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*“Majesty”*

Hayford, arr. Wilson



From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.



### KOUNTZE STAFF

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pr. Stephen Griffith | Transition Senior Pastor              |
| Pr. Shari Duminy     | Associate Pastor                      |
| Pr. Ashley Hall      | Associate Pastor                      |
| Kristin Boe          | Director of Faith Formation           |
| 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 22 & 23, 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*

## Today at Kountze Memorial

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Dayle Johnson's birthday; 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:** Windows Celebration Update and Honoring Sarah Jewell **Next week:** Introduction of Candidates for Congregational Council Positions

### Orphan's Legacy Picnic

**Sunday, July 23**

**2:00-5:00 PM**

### Trinity Lutheran Church

**1546 N Luther Rd, Fremont, NE**

Celebrate the legacy of Adoption and Foster Care Join in for an afternoon of fellowship, games, refreshments, watermelon, music, and most importantly, Community. The event is free and open to the public. For those of you who are willing to share your journey story of how Foster Care or Adoption has impacted your life, we encourage you to bring your photos, scrapbooks and keepsakes. This day is a day for YOU and YOUR STORY!

### 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.**



---

## 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](mailto:MaeHelen.Jackson@ELCA.org).

### Camp Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction July 29, 2023

The 35<sup>th</sup> 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!

### LFS HQ Ribbon-Cutting

**Friday, August 4, 2023**

**3:00—5:00 PM**

**7929 West Center Road**

We are invited by LFS to join LFS for a ribbon-cutting ceremony with remarks from Mayor Jean Stothert, Lutheran Family Services CEO and President Chris Tonniges, and other special guests. After the ceremony, stay for a tour of their new building and refreshments. RSVP to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/onelfs>

### 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>

### Welcome Back BBQ Party

**The Lutheran Center**

**Saturday, August 19, 2023**

**5:30-7:30 PM**

**535 N 16<sup>th</sup> St Lincoln NE 68508**

Celebrate the start of the school year with a FREE BBQ! There will be free food, free succulents, yard games, music, and time to just hang out with new and old friends. Stop on by anytime!

### Confirmation Orientation and OSJ Training Wednesday, August 30

**6:00 PM**

We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge for a meal and orientation for the Confirmation Learning year. Then we will go to the Nave for OSJ training with Robin and Jeff Perkins. Please let Pastor Shari know that you will be attending.

### 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](http://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)

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### July 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### July 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

6:00 PM Circle 3 (off-site—note date/place change)

### July 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### July 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### July 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### July 29 Saturday

9:00 AM CJH Quilt Auction

10 AM Prayer Group

5:00 PM Worship

### July 30 Sunday

Pentecost 9

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:** 39

**Sunday: 9:00:** 107 **11:00:** 41

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 9

**Total:** 196

**Streaming:** 37

**Pantry Guests Served:** 926 (inc. 298 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 27

**Offering:**

\$15,811.12 (Regular)      \$2,996.92 (Specials)

\$437.00 (Debt Reduction)

*God is merciful and slow to anger.*

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

|           |                         |                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | Parable of the weeds            |
| Monday    | Isaiah 44:6-8           | The Lord's promise to Israel    |
| Tuesday   | Romans 8:12-25          | Future glory for God's people   |
| Wednesday | Hebrews 4:14-16         | Jesus the high priest           |
| Thursday  | Psalms 103:1-14         | The Lord is merciful            |
| Friday    | Nehemiah 9:16-25        | A merciful God ready to forgive |
| Saturday  | Psalms 86:11-17         | Save me, Lord                   |
| Sunday    | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 | Parables of the kingdom         |



© 2022 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

*But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, may your grace and mercy lead me to be humble and care for others through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your kindness and mercy that we receive through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy and loving kindness of God lead you all the days of your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☐ What is something you believe very strongly?
- ☐ What makes it hard to listen to someone with different opinions than yours?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Matthew's Gospel addresses divisions in the church. Who has the right message? Who is being faithful? What actions do not fit the kingdom of God? Matthew's message is clearly a word we need to hear. Today people who claim the Christian faith are much divided over morality and doctrine. Matthew has the strongest note of judgment against false witnesses, but that judgment is tempered. Through the parable of the weeds, it is understood that we are called to be witnesses, not judges. To think we can uproot and expel certain groups of people is dangerous. To believe we have the ability to judge rightly will end up destroying the good and loving work of the church, the body of Christ. We are not the judge. God is the judge. Until Judgment Day comes, we are witnesses to the truth that Jesus teaches and lives. It is enough to point to Jesus and his reign of undeserved kindness and peace.

*Discuss:* When have you judged others? In what ways can you show undeserved kindness and love to others?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, give us humility to trust in you more than our own judgments so we may love and serve our neighbor through Christ Jesus, the one who judges the living and the dead. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you help and lovingly serve someone who has been judged unfairly?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer, loving service, and scripture reading. Think or talk about how you can teach some of these rituals and traditions to someone else.

*Pray:* **Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

**Amen.** (Psalm 86:11)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52