

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

August 13, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others..

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
 praising thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 fill us with the light of day.</p> | <p>2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
 earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
 stars and angels sing around thee,
 center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
 chanting bird, and flowing fountain
 call us to rejoice in thee</p> |
|---|--|
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
 ever blessing, ever blest,
 wellspring of the joy of living,
 ocean-depth of happy rest!
 Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
 all who live in love are thine;
 teach us how to love each other,
 lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

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.



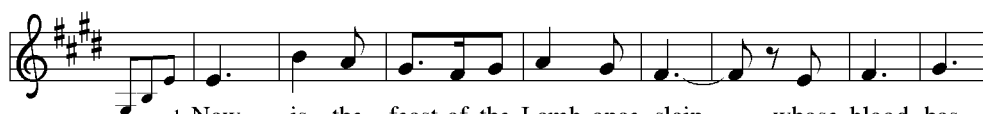
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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 O God our defender,

C storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13 (*read responsively*)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

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

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

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

ELW 755

Stanzas 1&2

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

2 As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey thy will
when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Prayers this Week: Laurie Houseworth and family

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Steve Dragon, Mike Edris, Linda Filbrant, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Jim Hopkins, 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.
G And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“My Tribute” (To God Be the Glory)

Andre Crouch
Roy Miller, vocalist


(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of field and forest, sea and sky,
C you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ACS 1089

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

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

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

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


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:*

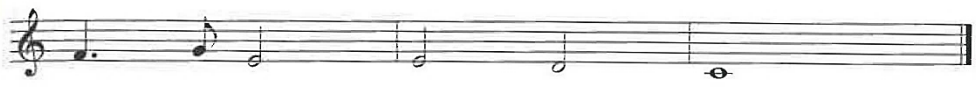


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

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

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

ELW 773

**1 Precious Lord, take my hand
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

**2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

**3 When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1977, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music, Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

(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.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

- [L]** Pastor Stephen Griffith, since January of 2022, you have been with us at Kountze
Memorial Lutheran Church as our Transitional Senior Pastor: to proclaim God's word, to
baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With
the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our
loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in
the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the
whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's
blessing.

People of God, members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor
Stephen Griffith from service as your Transitional Senior Pastor?

- [C]** We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.
[L] Pastor Stephen Griffith, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Response: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

📖 Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Stephen Griffith among the people of God in this place. You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love. You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together; heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help Pastor Steve and Mary Kay and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us. As *he has* been a blessing to us, so now send *him* forth to be a blessing to others; through 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

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW 618

**1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791;
tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, 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	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Anthony Bonacci	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**

August 12 & 13 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Dean Anderson by his wife, Darlene

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Martha Eckman in memory of loved ones.

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:** Farewell to Pr. Steve—Join us as we thank Pr. Steve & Mary Kay for getting us through this transition time at Kountze Memorial **Next week:** Youth Trip Sharing

Assembling School Supplies

Fellowship Lounge

10:10 AM

This Sunday the youth of Kountze Memorial will be stuffing backpacks with school supplies for pantry guests headed back to school. All youth are invited to prepare the backpacks after the 9:00 AM service. Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church supports students and their teachers!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 13 Sunday

Pentecost 11

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

August 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

August 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

6:00 PM Worship & Music

August 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 19 Saturday

2:30 PM Wilma Ann Kruse Wallin

Sagers

5:00 PM Worship

August 20 Sunday

Pentecost 12

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

Faith Formation Leaders are Needed

If you are interested in supporting the youth of Kountze Memorial by leading a class, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. All lessons are scripted and supplies provided. Teachers lead on a rotation schedule, allowing for weeks off. Be the difference in our youngest member's relationship with God and give of your time and talents.

Help Connect Students to Campus Ministry!

It's almost time to head back to school! On college campuses across Nebraska and beyond, you can help connect students to our Lutheran Campus Ministries! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry has a contact and referral page: <https://nelcm.com/refer-a-student/> Please take a moment to help invite those you know to Christ! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry locations include: Chadron State College, Creighton, UNK, UNL, SECC/Beatrice, Peru State, UNO, and Wayne State College. For more information or to make a gift of support, go to: www.nelcm.com.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, August 17

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Join us for lunch and a brief program entitled "The Return of the American Buffalo." Please RSVP by Tuesday, August 15 to jim@kmlchurch.org or call the church office so we know how many to plan for.

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 16th 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!

Blessing of Backpacks

Saturday, August 19

Sunday, August 20

All students, teachers, professors, and support staff are invited to bring their backpack for a special blessing for the upcoming school year along with a token to remind them of God's love and the congregations support throughout the year.

Summer Affirmation of Faith

Sunday, August 27

11:00 AM

Youth affirming their faith are: Marah McDougal, Tye McDougal, and Mia Valquier. They will be introduced during forum that day, along with Faith Sponsors: Darlene Anderson, Thomas Jensen, and Mert Wieble, who attended class and shared their faith. You are encouraged to bring a card to share your congratulations with these youth, as they continue in the faith journey.

Confirmation Orientation and OSJ Training

Grades 7 & 8

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.

Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praises to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir will have its First meeting/rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 10

All youth are invited to participate in the celebration of praise for both the rededication of the stained-glass windows (see Stained-Glass Window Rededication and Celebration announcement) and the upcoming year of Faith Formation which begins Sunday, September 17.

Children's Choir

From: Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 10

9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has 35 years of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people. All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. Students in grades 6-8 who would like to be involved may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help the director lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

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>

Stained-Glass Window

Rededication Celebration

Sunday, September 10

We hope you'll join the celebration of the rededication of our stained-glass windows. There will be lots of activities that day including organ, brass, and choir during both Sunday Worship services. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this special service!

If you would like to donate toward the cost of the celebration, please put "Window Celebration" on the memo line of your check, online giving, or on the pew envelope. Thanks.

Before September 10

- Watch your mailbox for a postcard with information on events of the day as well as some other events happening this fall.
- Pick up a yard sign to let your neighbors know about our celebration. The signs are available at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.
- Order your KMLC T-shirts so you'll have them to wear on September 10 (order by August 20) The T-shirts will need to be prepaid and you can order them at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. The cost of the T-shirts is:
 - Children (all sizes), Adult S, M, L, & X-Large - \$6
 - 2X-Large - \$7
 - 3X-Large - \$9

Pick up:

- A yard sign to place in your yard
- Your window decal
- KMLC stained-glass window perpetual calendar—\$10

On September 10:

- Events for children during the Faith Formation Hour
- Coloring books for the children
- Cake
- Special KMLC ice cream from eCreamery. all at no cost
- Stained-glass window walk

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 23

Sunday: 9:00: 148 11:00: 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 248

Streaming: 40

Pantry Guests Served: 899 (inc. 303 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering: Not available at time of printing

Even a little faith is enough.

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

Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water
Monday	1 Kings 19:9-18	The Lord appears to Elijah
Tuesday	Romans 10:5-15	Anyone can be saved
Wednesday	Luke 17:1-6	Sayings of Jesus
Thursday	Acts 15:6-21	The council at Jerusalem
Friday	Romans 12:1-8	The new life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 85:8-13	Restoration of God's favor
Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28	A woman's faith



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

*Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He [Jesus] said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. **Matthew 14:28-29 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to trust in you during the difficult and scary times of life that we may still sing your praises through Jesus Christ, the one who calms our fears. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, you give what is good and bless our land with abundant food; for your goodness and mercy we thank you for this meal. Amen. (Psalm 85:12)

A Blessing to Give:

May God calm you when you are afraid and bless you with steadfast love.

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

- Think or talk about a difficult time in your life.
- Who or what has helped you make it through a difficult time in your life?

Read: Matthew 14:22-33.

Once again, Jesus is on the sea with his disciples. And, again, Jesus points out the disciples' fears and little faith as he did when he stilled a storm (Matthew 8:23-27). Just the night before, Jesus fed the 5,000 men plus more women and children. Don't they understand how powerful and caring Jesus is? How many of us would have the faith and courage of Peter to step out of a boat during a storm and onto dangerous and deep waters? Yes, Jesus calls it "little faith," but that little faith is still quite remarkable. When we are in the midst of a storm, a painful period in our lives that scares us, our lives are very fragile, needy, and weak. We often do not respond with great confidence and faith. No matter how little our faith is, it is enough because of Jesus who is Emmanuel, God with us. When life gets calm following a difficult time in our lives, at least then we are relieved—even joyful—and can say of Jesus, "*Truly you are the Son of God*" (Matthew 14:33).

Discuss: How does your faith help you when you face difficult situations?

Pray: Merciful God, when we experience moments that scare us and make us long for stable ground to stand on, give us even a little faith to hope in you through Christ our 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 who are anxious or worried?

Jesus came to the disciples in the middle of the night and calmed their fears. Bedtime is a special opportunity to think, talk, listen, and pray for yourself and others. Take time to think or talk about your highs and lows at bedtime this week. Give thanks to God for your highs. For your lows, pray that Jesus will come and remain with you during the night and calm any "storms." Then pray the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28