

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

August 20, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“All Are Welcome”

ELW 641

Stanzas 1,2&3

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions</p> | <p>2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

- 3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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** God of all peoples,
G your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 67 (read responsively)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

Paul writes: ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM / BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Build a Longer Table”

ACS 1062

Stanzas 1,2&3

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making
room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to
friend, Christ breaks walls to pieces;
false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will
not fail.

For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing
all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

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: Anita Morse

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

“It is Well With My Soul”

Spafford/Bliss
Rick Lienemann, 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, when
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

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

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- ☑ **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:



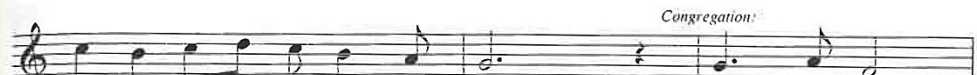
world:
us: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

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

"One Bread, One Body"

ELW 496

***Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.***

**1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain***

**2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain***

**3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain***

Text: John Foley, sa, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sj

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, Or 97213

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.</p> <p>3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.</p> | <p>2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.</p> <p>4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

(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

[P] 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

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

ELW 665

- 1**

**Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord
has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin
surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**
- 2**

**See how he sends the pow'rs of evil
reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and
healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are
driven,
now are forgiven.**
- 4**

**Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.**

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934-2003.

DISMISSAL

- [P]** Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- [C]** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

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 19 & 20 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

Welcome Anthony Bonacci

We welcome Anthony Bonacci as our Administrative Assistant. Anthony has been a member of Kountze Memorial since 2011 and was active in Sunday School, Confirmation, OSJ, and Youth Ministry activities. If you're by the office sometime during the week, be sure to stop by and welcome him.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Clara Kidder's 23rd birthday; in honor of Anne & Charles Forslund; given by Lynn Ziegenbein in honor of her son, Charlie Ziegenbein

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:** Youth Trip Sharing **Next week:** Confirmation Reception & Holden Trip Sharing. On the cake table there will be bags for those being confirmed if you'd like to bring cards for them. If you forget, cards to write on that day can be found on the Welcome Desk.

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

August 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

August 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 24 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Faith Formation

August 25 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 27 Sunday

Pentecost 13

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

Share Your Gifts During Faith Formation Hour

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.

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.

Dinners for 8 Sign-up

If you would like to get to know more church members, this is a great opportunity. You will meet for a meal one time each month in September, October, and November. The dinner can be hosted in homes or church, potluck style or out at a restaurant. You get to decide. Please sign up by September 3. We will inform you of your groups by September 6.

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.

We are invited
Tri-Faith 2nd Annual United We Walk
Sunday, September 10
3:00—6:00 PM

Alongside the walk, they will host inclusive-centric programming to make everyone feel welcome, activities to build a sense of belonging, a community fair, an immersive youth art project, entertainment, food trucks, and open houses of the four Tri-Faith buildings. (The Tri-Faith Commons and the 3 faith partners: Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and the American Muslim Institute). Join your pastors for this day of learning and celebration. For more information, please visit: <https://www.trifaith.org/www-2023>

The Camp Classic Tournaments
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>

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: 34
Sunday: 9:00: 149 **11:00:** 86
Wednesday: 12:15:
Total: 269
Streaming: 45
Pantry Guests Served: 895 (inc. 338 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16
Offering:
7/30
\$13,851.33 (Regular) \$5,911.38 (Specials)
\$767.66 (Debt Reduction)
8/6
\$13,936.20 (Regular) \$4,895.44 (Specials)
\$1,633.56 (Debt Reduction)
8/13
\$14,525.00 (Regular) \$1,380.53 (Specials)
\$492.00 (Debt Reduction)

God blesses us to go into the world with mercy.

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Jude 1:17-23	Warnings and exhortations
Thursday	Jeremiah 42:7-17	The Lord will grant you mercy
Friday	Deuteronomy 4:25-31	Moses commands obedience
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ



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May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, (Selah) that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, you have chosen us and blessed us to bless the world. Give us compassionate hearts to do your will through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for blessing us with the fruitfulness of the earth that gives us food each day we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you for the sake of the whole world. (Psalm 67:1-2)

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

- How have you been blessed by others?
- How have you blessed others with the love of God?

Read: Psalm 67.

God's mercy is shown through two distinct divine actions. First, God saves us through forgiveness, rescuing us from harm, and by saving us from death. God does a second great act that we sometimes overlook. God blesses us. God blesses us with the fruit of the earth, comfort, and joy. Psalm 67 asks for God's blessings and also affirms that God has already blessed us with abundance. God intends joy for all the earth (all the nations). We are blessed to bless the nations with joy and gladness by knowing the goodness, justice, and mercy of God. In Matthew 15:21-28 that joy is experienced by the Canaanite woman, a foreigner, who is relentless in seeking help for her daughter. Jesus, who was sent "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24) resists her requests, but her persistence gains Jesus' mercy. She is acknowledged for having great faith and Jesus' mission expands to those beyond Israel. The point of both Bible texts: God's saving work and blessings are for all.

Discuss: Like the Canaanite woman, when have you persisted in asking for God's mercy?

*Pray: **Blessing God, you care for us throughout our lives. Give us your joy and gladness and the heart to bless others with your goodness and mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others who are not part of your group or nation?

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (a temple in Jerusalem) a "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about prayer in your home. Is there a special place to pray? Is there a special time to pray? Is there a special way to pray? Do you pray alone or with others? In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"? Pray the Lord's Prayer and then say: **Let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you.** (Psalm 67:5)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20