

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

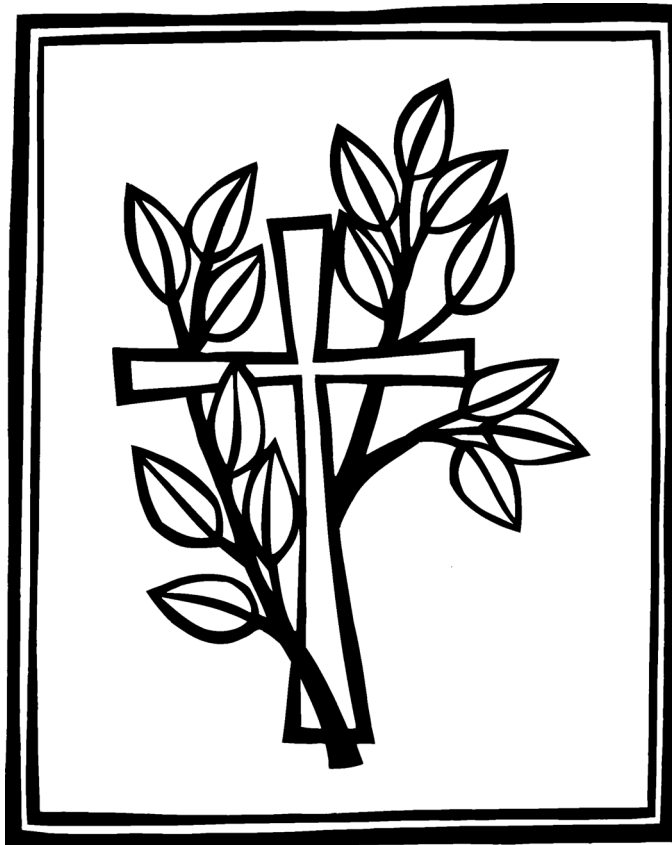
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

September 3, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Righteous God,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the
courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant
us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim
the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.

3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

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.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** 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.
- C** 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.
- C** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.



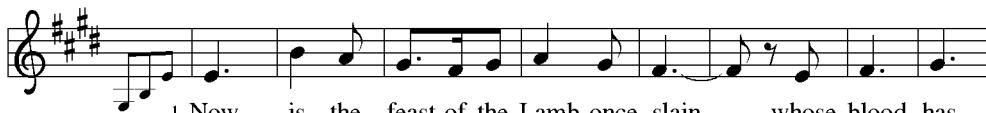
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



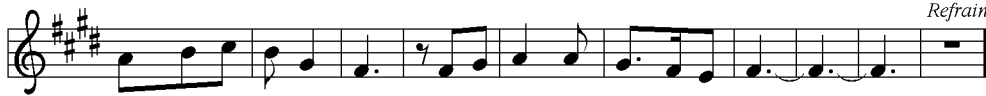
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



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,

C we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26:1-8 (*read responsively*)

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ 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 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 6th 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

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

ELW 798

Stanzas 1&5

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

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

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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** Merciful God,
 C receive our prayer.

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

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Steve Dragon, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, 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.
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

“Remember Me”

Mark Schultz

Dayle Johnson and Barbara Carlsen, vocalists

(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

- ☐ God of power, God of plenty,
- ☑ all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress


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:



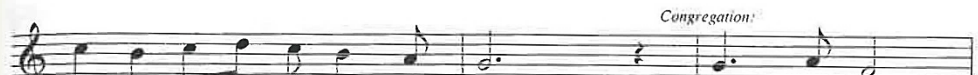
world:
us: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

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

- Jesus invites you to this table.
- Come, eat and live.

(sit)

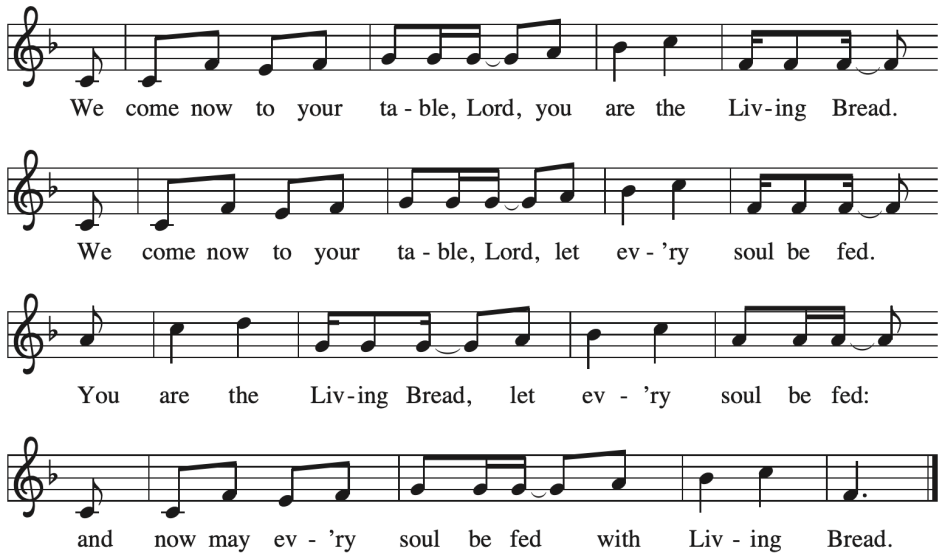
THE DISTRIBUTION

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

“We Come Now to Your Table, Lord”

ACS 970



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'We Come Now to Your Table, Lord'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.' The second staff contains 'We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.' The third staff contains 'You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:' The fourth staff contains 'and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop
Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013
Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop
Text © Caribbean Conference of Churches

- 1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
- 2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**
- 3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**
- 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931

Text © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ Blessed be your name, O God,**
- ☞ for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none
are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- P** The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.
- G** Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.</p> | <p>2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.</p> |
| <p>3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way--the path untried;
your truth--the heart of stranger;
your life--the Crucified.</p> | |

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. God is at work in you.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	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

September 2 & 3, 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 the 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 Pastor Lucy Wynard

We extend a warm welcome to Pr. Wynard. May our shared commitment to worship, grow, and serve bring us closer as we move forward as one church family

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Carol & Paul Carlson on their 56th wedding anniversary

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in loving memory of our son, Evan Michael Hardy given by Mom & Dad (Alex & Karen).

Kountze Café

Sundays, 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

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** History and Images of Our Windows, Bruce Nissen and Judy Boltz **Next week:** Rally Day and Window Celebration

Dinners for 8

Sign-up by Today, September 3

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. We will inform you of your groups by September 6.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 3 Sunday

Pentecost 14

Senior Pastor Lucy Wynard's first

Sunday at KMLC

Homebound Communion

10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

September 4 Monday

Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

September 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

September 7 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 10 Sunday

Pentecost 15

Rally Sunday

Stained Glass Window Rededication

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

12:15 PM Book Group

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.

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.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, September 7

2:00 PM

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

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.

Register Today to Attend

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>. If you'd like to help, sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a622a2f9c25-united1#/>

Children's Choir

From: Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 17

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor 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.

Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
Begins Sunday, September 17
Sundays, 10:10 AM

We will be learning about Jesus calling the disciples to follow him and do God's work. Through six rotation lessons in art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions, the students will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others. Jesus' choice of followers surprised some people, but Jesus was showing that anyone could follow him and do God's work. That includes the youngest members of Kountze!

Register online using the link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/FaithFormation>

The Camp Classic Tournament
Friday, September 22
Ashland Golf Club

Four-person scramble, noon: shotgun start, teams & individuals welcome. Info and registration form can be found at <https://www.nlom.org/golf>

Kountze Memorial "Old Fashioned Church Picnic"
Sunday September 24

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Here at the Church

Everyone is invited to attend the annual church picnic pot luck. There will be lots of activities for the young and old alike. The church will provide the entrées including a vegetarian option and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share with everyone if attending. You are also encouraged to "Bring Your favorite blanket" to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations in our green space between the church and commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall for those who prefer not sitting on a blanket. A buffet style lunch will begin at noon, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space. Bring a blanket and spread out on the grass or you can sit at tables outside, in the Link, or the Fellowship Hall. And what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes?! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to play. Please fill out the form found in your bulletin and drop it in the offering plate, email (jim@kmlchurch.org), call the church office (402-341-7761), or sign up at the Welcome Desk. We hope to see you all there!

New Member Classes
October 1 & 8
10:15 AM

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please consider joining our new member classes on October 1 and 8 (please plan to attend both classes). New members will be received on Sunday, October 15. Please call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toilet tissue for our guests. Even though we only give out 1 roll per person, on request only, we go through a great deal. We appreciate any contributions you can make. We are desperately in need of Monday morning volunteers to carry groceries to the vehicles of our guests. There are only a few people who are able to do this vital service and they could really use a break! If you could help all or any part of the hours between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, please sign up at the link below or contact Susie Henry

at susannfrances@kmlchurch.org

<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

Pick up...

- a yard sign to place in your yard
- pre-ordered T-shirts
- window decal
- KMLC stained-glass window perpetual calendar—\$10

On September 10:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 40

Sunday: 9:00: 136 **11:00:** 83

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 268

Streaming: 40

Pantry Guests Served: 1180 (inc. 398 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$13,728.33 (Regular) \$3,860.84 (Specials)

\$587.66 (Debt Reduction)

Following Jesus is not an easy path.

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Jeremiah is reassured
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-21	Rules for Christian living
Wednesday	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Paul's instructions to Timothy
Thursday	Philippians 1:27-30	Live your life in a worthy manner
Friday	1 Corinthians 12:12-26	One body with many members
Saturday	Psalms 26:1-8	Prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation



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Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to pick up our crosses, suffer, and follow Jesus for what is right, just, and loving. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ free you to care for all.

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

- When is a time you experienced pain or suffering?
- How does your faith in Christ help you when you are in pain or suffering?

Read: Matthew 16:21-28.

In general, we do our best to avoid pain and suffering. Peter wanted Jesus—and himself—to avoid suffering, and so he rebuked Jesus. However, some suffering is necessary in life. There are times when the path in life is not easy. Fighting for justice on behalf of others and God's creation and defending God's mercy and forgiveness when hatred and vengeance is pursued by others are examples of times when suffering is warranted. Peter failed to understand this. Jesus called him out as one who was following the path of evil. The path Jesus chose picks up a cross. Jesus picked up his cross for the salvation of all that God has created. It was a very costly cross for Jesus. It led to torment, false accusations, suffering and death. It is what is referred to as the "theology of the cross," that is, out of suffering God brings healing, new life, and salvation.

Discuss: When is a time in your life you avoided the harder path? What happened?

Pray: **Compassionate God, give us courage and strength to follow you where truth and justice are needed, to paths that bring healing and hope through Christ Jesus 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 by risking your own comfort for the sake of others?

The cross is a Christian symbol. It reminds us that Jesus is with us through hard times. We see crosses in many places in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, notice the number of crosses you see in your home and in the community this week. Each time you see one, take a moment to pray: **Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross to save us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20