

# 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  
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 28, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

### DAY of PENTECOST



*Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.
- C** Amen.

- P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

- C** Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
- P** Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
- C** Amen.

**1** O day full of grace that now we see  
 appearing on earth's horizon,  
 bring light from our God that we may be  
 abundant in joy this season.  
 God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
 your name on our hearts emblazon.

**2** O day full of grace, O blessed time,  
 our Lord on the earth arriving;  
 then came to the world that light  
 sublime,  
 great joy for us all retrieving;  
 for Jesus all mortals did embrace,  
 all shame and despair removing.

**4** God came to us then at Pentecost,  
 the Spirit new life revealing,  
 that we might no more in death be lost,  
 its pow'r over us dispelling.  
 This flame will the mark of sin efface  
 and bring to us all true healing.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.

## THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God,

**C** on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-21

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

**W**hen the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 104:24-34, 35b** (*read responsively*)

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

**N**o one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of

healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 20:19-23**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**W**hen it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may 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, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.*

(stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Gracious Spirit, Heed our Pleading”

**ELW 401 vs 1-3**

**1 Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,  
fashion us all anew.  
It's your leading that we're needing,  
help us to follow you.**

**2 Come to teach us, come to nourish  
those who believe in Christ.  
Bless the faithful, may they flourish,  
strengthened by grace unpriced. Refrain**

*Refrain*

**Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**3 Guide our thinking and our speaking  
done in your holy name.  
Motivate all in their seeking,  
freeing from guilt and shame. Refrain**

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

English and Swahili text © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**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** Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.

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

**Prayers this week:** Ellie Carlson, Gloria Erickson, Dee-Dee Lundahl, Donna Moessner

**On-going Care:** Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Joel Brown, Don Burton, David Chand, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preninger, Darlene White, Deb Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians*— Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

## 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

“Spirit Sing”

by Joseph Martin

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”

ELW 373 vs. 1, 4, 5



1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” All on earth with an - gels say;  
2 Love’s re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav’ns; and earth, re - ply.  
Lo! The sun’s e - clipse is o’er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.  
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!  
Praise to thee by both be giv’n.  
Thee we greet triumphant now:  
hail, the resurrection, thou!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,  
everlasting life is this:  
thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,  
thus to sing, and thus to love!

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Generous God,

**C** in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
 Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
- With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
 Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** With your holy ones of all times and places, ...  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come and know Christ,

**C** **broken and poured out for us.**

(sit)

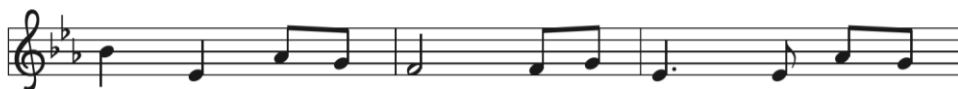
## THE DISTRIBUTION

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 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



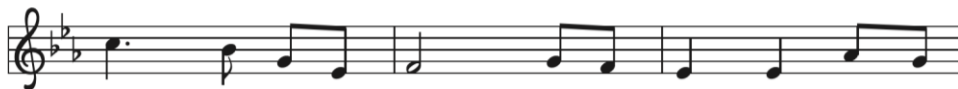
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
a - ges: “I am with you; do not fear!”  
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

- 1 **Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.**
- 2 **In life, in death, we trust  
in God's most holy name,  
forever traced by water sign,  
and sealed by Spirit flame.**
- 3 **We pledge ourselves anew  
to flee the lures of hell,  
to cling to Christ's community,  
in justice, peace to dwell.**
- 4 **God, bless us by your grace;  
remind us of your care.  
Renewing Spirit, fill us now,  
inspire our work, our prayer.**
- 5 **Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
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*(stand)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Gracious God,
- G** **in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the  
world in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“God of the Tempest, God of Whirlwind”*

**ELW 400 vs 1-3**

**1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,  
as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;  
past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service,  
there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**2 God of blazing, God of burning,  
all that blocks your purpose, purge!  
Through your church, Christ's living  
Body,  
let your flaming Spirit surge!  
Where deceit conceals injustice,  
kindle us to speak your truth,  
kindle us to speak your truth!**

**3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,  
shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder,  
for earth's healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us;  
make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923  
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## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
☞ **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
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 27 & 28, 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 worshipping, 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.*

## Today at Kountze

### 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.**



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of Leo Gardiner given by daughter, LeClare Steffen and in memory of Arnold Steffen given by wife, LeClare Steffen and family

### 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:** Fellowship **Next week:** Fellowship





## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 28 Sunday

Day of Pentecost  
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  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 29 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)  
OFFICE CLOSED  
No Pantry

### May 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### May 31 Wednesday

12:00 AM Summer Confirmation  
12:15 PM Worship

### June 1 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### June 2 Friday

Jun 2 - Jun 3 Synod Assembly  
5:00 PM Pantry

### June 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### June 4 Sunday

Holy Trinity  
Homebound Communion  
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

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Summer Confirmation

Did Confirmation pass you by, or do you want to continue learning? We'll have a program of 5 meetings this summer for those in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above. A light meal will be served. We will participate in Wednesday Eucharist and then the learning will begin at 12:15 and conclude at 3:00 PM. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at **noon** on the following Wednesdays:

- The Lord's Prayer – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Ten Commandments – June 28
- Worship/Sacraments July 19
- Discipleship—August 16

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, August 26. Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org) if interested in participating. Anyone is welcome to attend sessions they are interested in.

### Cards with Friends

#### Thursday, June 1

#### 2:00 PM

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

### Welcome Pr. Moessner

The weekend of June 3 & 4 we welcome Pr. Paul Moessner as our preacher. We look forward to his proclamation of the Gospel on Trinity Sunday.

### Vacation Bible School

#### Welcomes all Superheros!

Held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
(510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> St)

Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14

5:30 to 8:00 PM

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time. Please register here: <https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

### Volunteers Needed for VBS

If you are able to help with VBS, please use the same link above and go to Volunteer Sign Up. For those ages 18 and over, a background check is required if you have not already had one through Kountze Memorial's Sunday School program.

## Men's Lunch

**Thursday, June 15**

**11:30 AM**

**Suggested Donation is \$10.00**

Join us for lunch and a brief program. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 13, to jim@kmlchurch.org or call the church office so we know how many to plan for.

## CPR/First Aid Training

We will be holding a CPR/First Aid training course in June. All Ushers and Sunday School teachers are encouraged to attend the training and the Church will take care of the registration fee which covers the training materials and certificates. All other members of the congregation are invited as well for a small fee of \$32.00. Training will take place in the lower level of Kountze Commons.

- The CPR class will be June 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM with a light lunch following in the link.
- If we have more than six people signed up we will add a CPR class from 12:45 to 3:45 PM.
- The First Aid training will be Saturday June 24 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM (a light lunch will be served during training). The first aid training is free of charge for those attending the CPR classes on June 17.

Please RSVP to the Church office or you can email jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your spot.

## NeLCM Golf Scramble

**Friday, June 9**

**Holmes Golf Course in Lincoln**

**9:00 AM Start**

Attention golfers and all campus ministry fans!! SAVE the DATE for our 2nd annual Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry four-person Golf Scramble. There will be golf, food, friends, and fun!!!

Serving on the Omaha Campus Ministry Board, Pastor Shari knows the alue of this ministry shaping leaders for the church now.

Come help celebrate Pastor Sari's birthday as we support this important state-wide ministry.

Register at nelcm.com/nelcm-golf-scramble-2023/

## KMLC Camp Week

**Carol Joy Holling Camp**

**June 18 - 23**

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay

for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

## Thank You

Thank you to the Quilters of Kountze Memorial for your gifts of time and talents to provide beautiful homemade blankets of love for our graduating Seniors. Your handiwork is admired and will be treasured for years to come. As we send them out into the world, these gifts are a sign that they are never alone, but wrapped in our love and prayers and united in our faith in Christ, a bond that is never broken. Well done, servants of God!

## Kountze Food Pantry

If you would like to donate items to the Pantry, please consider picking up some extra hygiene products, including feminine products, razors, and shaving cream. We never seem to have enough for everyone in need. Soap, shampoo, and deodorant are always appreciated, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

### Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 43

**Sunday: 9:00:** 151 **11:00:** 78

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 9

**Total:** 281

**Streaming:** 59

**Pantry Guests Served:** 971 (inc. 315 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 19

**Offering:**

\$10,140.16 (Regular)      \$17,790.83 (Specials)

\$1,587.5 (Debt Reduction)

*The Holy Spirit breathes new life into us.*

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

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Acts 2:37-42	The first converts
Thursday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Friday	1 John 4:13-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples



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*When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." **John 20:22-23 (NRSV)***

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and living God, we thank you for Jesus and the Holy Spirit that sends us out as the body of Christ with the power to forgive in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; when you open your hand, you fill us with good things through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Holy Spirit fill you with new life, and abundant joy.

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

- What gets in the way of forgiving someone or asking for forgiveness from someone?
- How does forgiveness breathe new life into bruised relationships?

*Read:* John 20:19-23.

This story is sometimes called "the Johannine Pentecost" and different from the Pentecost story in Acts 2. In John 20, Jesus gives his Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit, on Easter Day during his first appearance following the resurrection. The giving of Jesus' breath (same word as spirit in the original Greek) is the culmination of the promise of the Holy Spirit since the time of Jesus' baptism and referred to throughout the Gospel of John. The critical point is that "*the Spirit of truth*" (John 14:16-17) will teach Jesus' followers everything they need to know and remember from Jesus' own teaching (14:26). The Spirit glorifies Jesus (16:14) by creating the community that is sent out into the world to love the world in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit creates a new community to love the world by forgiving others and breathes new life into relationships. This glorifies Jesus by doing the ministry of his resurrection right now with love, hope, and forgiveness.

*Discuss:* In what ways do you and the larger faith community spread Jesus' message of forgiveness and peace to others?

*Pray:* **Dear God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit that empowers us with the ministry of Christ for the world, we give you our thanks and praise. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve and show forgiveness toward others?

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The miracle of the story of Pentecost is that the apostles were "*filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability*" (Acts 2:4). It represents the birth of each person hearing the gospel in their own language. Celebrate as you would any other birthday. Consider using red candles and balloons (the liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday) for decorations. Make a cake and place red candles on the cake. Light the candles as a reminder of the fiery tongues that descended on the apostles and sing Happy Birthday to the church. As you are enjoying the cake, think or talk about who taught you about the church.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 1:1--2:4a; Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20