

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

July 9, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Righteous God,

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

C Amen.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.</p> <p>2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.</p> | <p>4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.</p> <p>5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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** You are great, O God,
C and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14 (read responsively)

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong.
Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,
¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

ELW 510

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.</p> | <p>2 Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.</p> |
| <p>3 Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.</p> | |

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919
Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com

COMMISSIONING JOURNEY TO DENVER PARTICIPANTS (9:00 AM)

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,
 C hear our prayer.

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

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Dee-Dee Lundahl, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Donna Moessner, 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

“Jesus Paid It All”

by Hall & Grape
James Holzer, *soloist*

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain



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

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

Refrain

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

OFFERING PRAYER

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


HOLY COMMUNION

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

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ACS 1089



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

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

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

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


EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
- Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
- For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI


Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, * you take a - way the sin of the

you pour your Holy Spirit on


Congregation:



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


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

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

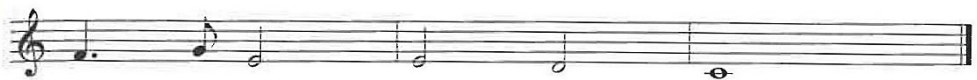


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

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)

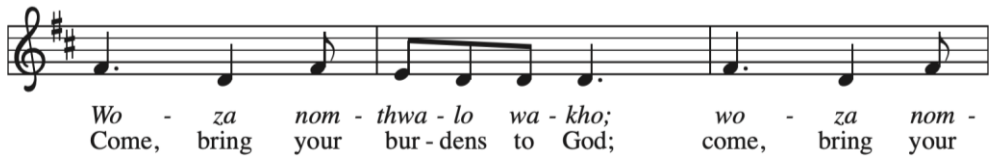
THE DISTRIBUTION

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.

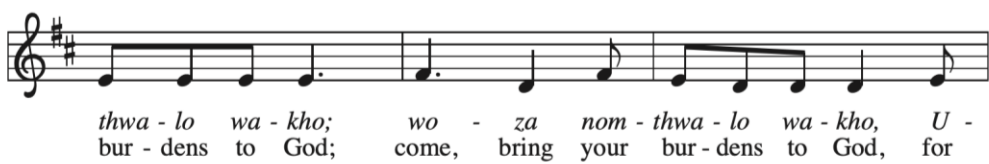
HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Come, Bring Your Burdens”


ACS 1009
sung twice



Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your



thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for



ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 1 I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

Refrain

- 2 Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.**

Refrain

- 3 When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.**

Refrain

Text: North American traditional

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We thank you, generous God,
☞ for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread
your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW 765

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares
could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we
pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the
break of the day.</p> | <p>3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms
to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we
pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve
of the day.</p> |
| <p>2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we
pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the
noon of the day.</p> | <p>4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose
presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we
pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the
end of the day.</p> |

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
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

July 8 & 9, 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

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 honor of Jean Johnson's birthday

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:** KCCOC Update **July 23:** Window Celebration Update and Farewell to Sarah Jewell

Summer Youth Trip

Please uplift in prayer the following participants Journeying to Denver with over 130 others from NE Synod Congregations this next week. We are excited for those who have set aside time during their summer to join with others on this trip. Pray for Sofia DiLorenzo, Sheyenne Glasgow, Lilly Kassal, Jane Kidder, Mia Valquier, Pastor Shari Duminy as they encounter God's call and grace through exploring the theme of: Life in the "And". In addition to support from all through the church budget, we also give thanks to those who sponsored our trip this year: Jerry Fischer, Linda Daugherty, Judith Boeltz, Bob and Pam Johnson, Lee and Jean Johnson, Vinn Stephens, and Neal and Ardis Von Seggern graciously answered the opportunity to help send us out into the world. We journey into new connections and service, grateful for your faithful investment in our lives.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Kountze Food Pantry

The Pantry is always short of canned soup and peanut butter. If you want to donate these items, please leave them in the box in Fellowship Hall. We are also very short of volunteers on Friday evenings. The service is from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Volunteers should arrive by 4:30. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Program

YAGM invites young adults (ages 21—35) into a transformative year of service and fellowship. Through YAGM young adults learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They become immersed in new communities and form deep relationships. And they confront issues of poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity, and globalization, all through the lens of faith. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, year-round. The timeline for decisions follows:

- January 15—Priority deadline for the upcoming service year.
- February 1—Final deadline for the upcoming service year.
- August—YAGM participants depart for service.

If you have questions about these updates or would like to chat about anything YAGM-related, please reach out to Mae, Interim Program Director, at MaeHelen.Jackson@ELCA.org.

St. Croix Hospice

St. Croix Hospice is looking for hospice volunteers who are willing to share their time and talents to provide emotional and practical support for patients and their families. St. Croix Hospice volunteers are provided training, support, and flexible scheduling. Call 24/7 at 855-278-2764 or visit stcroixhospice.com/volunteer to learn more.

July—Go and...

Listen

How do we listen with our full selves? In reality, all of our senses are used when we listen – with our ears, our eyes, our mouths, and our bodies. As disciples, we listen to ourselves, our neighbors, and God. When we listen, we find new perspectives, shared history, and common ground.

Questions to consider:

- What is something you learned from listening to

your heart?

- What is something you learned from listening to a stranger?
- In a year of *GOING*, how will you listen to those around you?

Prayer: Listening God, help me stay open to the surprises you provide while on the road this summer. Amen.

Suggested Song: Listen, God is Calling (ELW 513)

The 19th Annual Lutheran Service Corps Golf Tournament

Sunday, August 6, 2023

Eagle Hills Golf Course, Papillion.

Check in and lunch begins at noon

Golf will start at 1:30 PM

Individual golfers are \$100; foursome is \$400

There are many sponsorship opportunities ranging from hole sponsorships at \$250 up to our presenting sponsor at \$5,000. To find out more about sponsorship opportunities and to register your team, go to our golf website at www.charitygolftoday.com/lutheranservice. For questions, contact Scott Glaser at scott@lutheranservicecorps.org or 720-218-5112.

Camp Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction

July 29, 2023

The 35th annual Quilt Auction is coming soon! The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Quilts can be viewed online starting this weekend. Quilts can be donated and delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp until July 22. They should be placed in a plastic bag with a completed copy of the donation form found on the camp website. This year our kitchen will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and a selection of favorite salads. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids (4-12), and free for children 3 and under. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon request. Concessions will be offered before and after lunch. Bring your friends and families!

The Camp Classic Tournaments

August 18, 2023 | September 22, 2023

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course | Ashland Golf Club

Do a 2 Fore 2 deal or pick one tournament, but the camp would love to see you out on the course supporting camp! Four person scramble, noon: shotgun start, teams & individuals welcome. Info and

registration form can be found at <https://www.nlom.org/golf>

Lutheran Family Services

Turning Apartments into Homes

We need help setting up homes for newly arriving refugee families this week. If you are available to help, please log into your volunteer hub account

here: <http://>

omamoversandshakers.lfsneb.volunteerhub.com/.

Full details will be sent to you once you register to help. If you have friends or family who'd like to help, please ask them to "Create an Account" and contact me with their name. Please don't hesitate with questions! Best regards,

Morgan Mattson

Lead Volunteer Coordinator, Refugee Services

Lutheran Family Services

morgan.mattson@onelfs.org

402-578-7224

Applications Open for Administrative Assistant

We are seeking applications for the Administrative Assistant at Kountze Memorial. This is a full-time position. Duties include, answering phones, greeting visitors, prepare worship bulletins, record membership and pastor acts information, help with mailings, and other administrative and clerical support. The position requires confidentiality and high level of trustworthiness, general office experience, writing, word processing skills, and excellent people skills. Must be familiar with Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point - and willing to learn church membership software. Send resume and cover letter to debbie@kmlchurch.org.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 9 Sunday

Pentecost 6

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

July 10 Monday

Jul 10 - Jul 15 Summer Youth Trip to Denver

10:00 AM Pantry

July 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

July 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

6:00 PM Executive Committee

July 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

July 14 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

July 15 Saturday

Good News Deadline

Hasenkamp & Frederick Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

July 16 Sunday

Pentecost 7

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 19

Sunday: 9:00: 97 **11:00:** 61

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 187

Streaming: Not available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: Not available at time of printing

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$15,354.00(Regular) \$2,829.25 (Specials)

\$414.00 (Debt Reduction)

God rescues sinners.

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	The coming ruler
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Luke 12:22-31	God knows your needs
Thursday	Psalms 34:1-10	Honor the Lord
Friday	Judges 10:10-16	Israel is unfaithful again
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower



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"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for your care that rescues us when we are weary and carry heavy burdens. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your humble heart that gives rest for our souls and strengthens us with this gift of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in the care of Jesus Christ that rescues you from all your burdens.

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

- When is a time you or someone you know did something you knew was wrong?
- When you feel you are carrying a heavy burden, where or who do you turn to for help?

Read: Romans 7:15-25a.

Paul has a deep understanding of our brokenness. We are not what we want to be. Although we know what is the right thing to do, we do not do it, at least not consistently. Paul calls this inconsistency sin. We like to think we are in control of our thoughts and actions. However, Paul experiences the power of sin within him that does not submit to God's goodness. He states clearly, *"For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do"* (v. 19). He calls this way of life *"wretched"* (v. 24). It seems there is no hope for us, but that is exactly why we need Jesus. Only sinners can be saved or *"rescued"* (v. 24). In the language of Jesus in Matthew 11:28, we are *"weary and are carrying heavy burdens."* In our brokenness, Jesus brings healing, rescues us from the power of sin, and gives us rest and peace. The response of faith is: *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 7:25a).

Discuss: When have you faced brokenness and become aware of God's forgiveness that heals your heavy burdens?

Pray: **Gracious God, we thank you that your mercy endures forever, and your power over sin and death rules in our lives 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 others when they are tired and weary?

A yoke is a wooden piece that joins two animals together, usually oxen, to help pull a plow. The work becomes easier with two pulling. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus says, *"take my yoke upon you, and learn from me."* There are days when we feel like we are carrying heavy burdens without support from someone else. Jesus reminds us that we are not alone. Think or talk about what it means to be connected with one another through Jesus and how it helps us to "bear one another's burdens."

Pray: **Lord Jesus, help us to share your love with one another and be yoked to you so that our burdens are lifted. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23