

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor

Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor

H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68131-3616

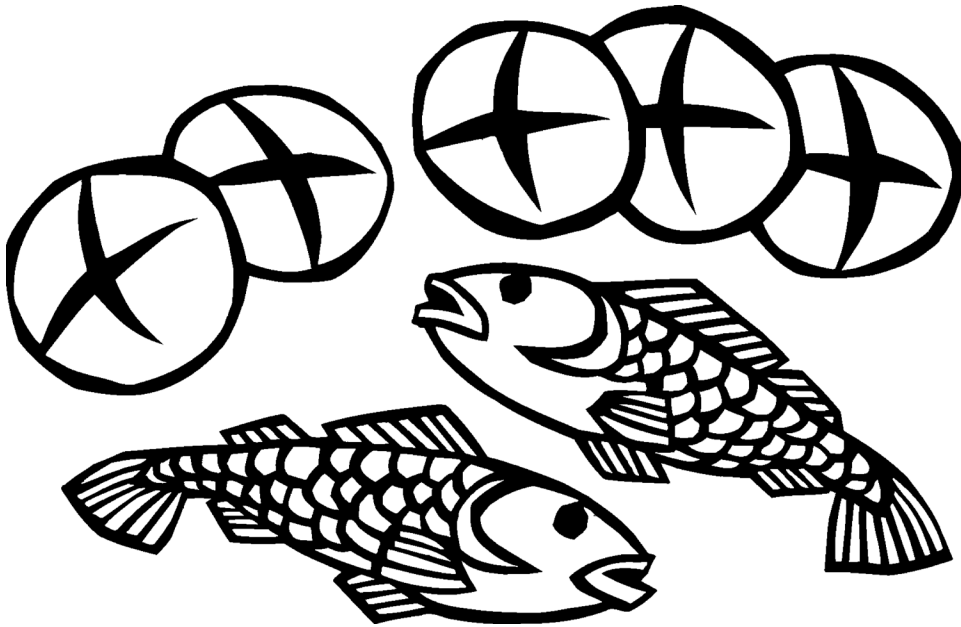
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

August 6, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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 Sing praise to God, the highest good,
the author of creation!
O God of love, you understood
our need for your salvation.
With healing balm our souls you fill;
all our lament with peace you still.
To God all praise and glory!</p> <p>2 What your almighty pow'r has made,
in mercy you are keeping;
by morning glow or evening shade,
your eye is never sleeping;
in the dominion of your might
all things are just and good and right.
To God all praise and glory!</p> | <p>3 We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
and came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
who is by one and all adored.
To God all praise and glory!</p> <p>4 All who confess Christ's holy name,
give God the praise and glory!
Let all God's saving pow'r proclaim;
give God the praise and glory!
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne;
God is the Lord, and God alone.
To God all praise and glory!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640-1690;
tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897, adapt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- G** **And also with you.**

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- G** **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**
- P** For the reign of God, for peace throughout the world,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- G** **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**
- P** For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
and for the strength to live in your Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- G** **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**



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



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



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Glorious God,
C your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21 (*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.**

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

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“In Christ, There Is No East or West”

ELW 650

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth. | 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me. |
| 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind. | 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth. |

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

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

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Judy Ryan

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

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

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

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Linda Wells
Sue Mollner, vocalist

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain



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

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

Refrain

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

OFFERING PRAYER

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ACS 1089



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

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

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

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

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:



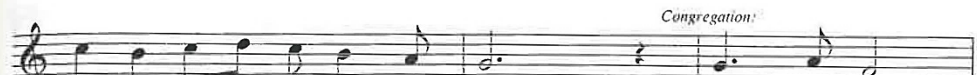
world:
us: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

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

P Come, eat what is good.

G All people are called to Christ's table.

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

ELW 480

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 O bread of life from heaven,
O food to pilgrims given,
O manna from above:
feed with the blessed sweetness
of your divine completeness
the souls that want and need your love. | 2 O fount of grace redeeming,
O river ever streaming
from Jesus' wounded side:
come now, your love bestowing
on thirsting souls, and flowing
till all are fully satisfied. |
| 3 We love you, Jesus, tender,
in all your hidden splendor
within these means of grace.
Oh, let the veil be riven,
and our clear eye in heaven
behold your glory face to face. | |

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862-1946, sts. 1, 3;
tr. Philip Schaff, 1819-1893, st. 2

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

“All Depends on Our Possessing”

ELW 589

stanzas 1-4

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 All depends on our possessing
God's free grace and constant blessing,
though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
by their God are not forsaken
and will keep a dauntless heart. | 3 When with sorrow I am stricken,
hope my heart anew will quicken,
all my longing shall be stilled.
To your lovingkindness tender
all my being I surrender:
Lord, on you alone I build. |
| 2 God, who hitherto has fed me
and to many joys has led me,
is and ever shall be mine.
God, who did so gently school me
and who daily guides and rules me,
will remain my help divine. | 4 Well you know what best to grant me;
all the longing hopes that haunt me,
joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt your wisdom never;
as you will, so be it ever;
I commit to you my way. |

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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<u>KOUNTZE STAFF</u>	
Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

August 5 & 6 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.



CONGREGATIONAL

MEEING

Sunday, August 6 | 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall

Election of Council Members

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of David Carlsen given by the Carlsen & Campbell families

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Randall S. Fike given by Mary Jo Fike 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:** Congregational Meeting **Next week:** Farewell to Pr. Steve—Join us as we thank Pr. Steve & Mary Kay for getting us through this transition time at Kountze Memorial

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 6 Sunday
Pentecost 10
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—Congregational Meeting & Election of Council Members

August 7 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

August 8 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

August 9 Wednesday
9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee

August 10 Thursday
Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Youth Board

August 11 Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

August 12 Saturday
5:00 PM Worship

August 13 Sunday
Pentecost 11
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM Book Group

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>

Welcome Back BBQ Party

The Lutheran Center

Saturday, August 19, 2023

5:30-7:30 PM

535 N 16th St Lincoln NE 68508

Celebrate the start of the school year with a FREE BBQ! There will be free food, free succulents, yard games, music, and time to just hang out with new and old friends. Stop on by anytime!

Confirmation Orientation and OSJ Training

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesday, August 30

6:00 PM

We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge for a meal and orientation for the Confirmation Learning year. Then we will go to the Nave for OSJ training with Robin and Jeff Perkins. Please let Pastor Shari know that you will be attending.

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>

Jesus’ compassion leads to action.

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

Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-5	An invitation to abundant life
Tuesday	Romans 9:1-5	God’s choice of Israel
Wednesday	Psalm 25:1-10	Pray for guidance
Thursday	Exodus 34:1-9	Moses makes new tablets
Friday	1 Peter 3:8-22	Suffering for doing right
Saturday	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water



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“When he [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. **Matthew 14:14 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of abundance, you shower us with your steadfast love. Give us compassionate hearts to care for others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of compassion give you joy through Christ our Lord.

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

- In what ways do you show concern for someone who is suffering?
- In what ways have you experienced God caring for your needs?

Read: Matthew 14:13-21.

The reading begins with Jesus being made aware of his cousin’s death, the beheading of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:8-10). Jesus removed himself from people to grieve in an isolated place. However, the crowds followed him and his alone time was ended before it really had a chance to begin. Instead of showing frustration or anger at the relentless crowds, Jesus showed compassion on them. He healed their sick and then fed the masses who remained with him into the evening. The feeding of the 5,000 men (plus women and children) was a miraculous event motivated by a grieving, yet loving Jesus. Nothing could stop his love. It is a love that is shown in his actions. Those actions lead his followers to be involved, too. Jesus sets the table and blesses the food but his disciples go out to distribute it and pick up the leftovers.

Discuss: What do you think it was like for Jesus to be so sorrowful, and yet compassionate enough to heal and to feed his followers?

Pray: **Compassionate God, you provide for us in ways that go beyond what we can imagine. Help us to see your love in the world and to be a part of your love for the world through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others who lack food or adequate healthcare?

In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus took what the disciples brought to him and used it to feed the whole crowd. Cut out a fish or loaf-of-bread shape for yourself and other household members. Write each person’s name on it. As part of your home devotions, name talents or gifts that you see in one another. Write these down on your “loaves” or “fish.” Think or talk about ways that you can bless others through the God-given gifts and talents that were named. Say this blessing: **May the God of abundance guide you to use your gifts to bless others.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 51

Sunday: 9:00: 117 11:00: 46

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 225

Streaming: 39

Pantry Guests Served: 1266 (inc. 335 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 24

Offering: Not available at time of printing