

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

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

September 10, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Kountze Brass
Trumpet Dan Nesbitt and Jaime Tyser
Trombone Patrick Pfister and Jay Wise

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

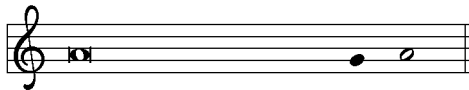
- 1** Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
at thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee,
while thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!
- 2** Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
dark as night and deep as death,
broke the light of thy salvation,
breathed thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!
- 5** Give us lips to sing thy glory,
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats that shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
May the light which thou dost send
fill our songs with alleluias,
alleluias without end!
- 6** God the Father, light-creator,
to thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



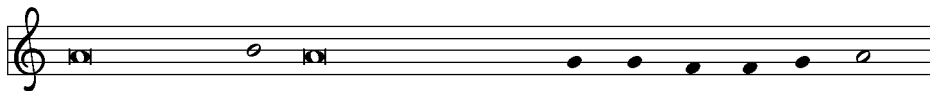
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister

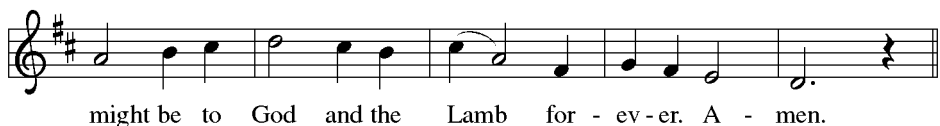


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God,

C enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40 (read responsively)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep
your teaching;**

I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and

jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

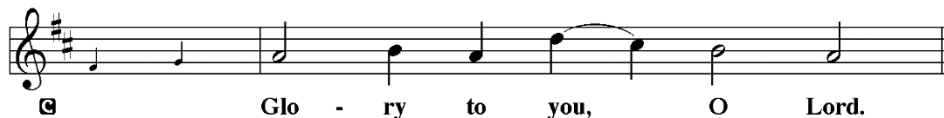
G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



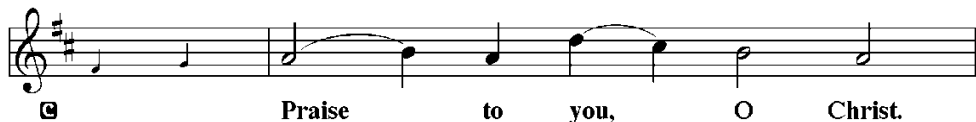
HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Refrain

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Refrain

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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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.

REDEDICATION OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

- ☞ Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart these windows to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe,
for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift;
you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children;
and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.
Send your blessing on *these windows*, which we set apart today;
as the light shining through *them* is transformed into still greater splendor,
so may our lives show the beauty of your manifold gifts of grace.

We thank you for the skill and dedication of the artisans who renewed
and installed these windows, so that they may be a lasting testimony to future generations.

We thank you for the volunteers, donors, staff members, pastors and lay leaders who shepherded
this project to completion.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Merciful God,
 G receive 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 Lois Andresen and to Al Woster and family on the death of Al's mom; to the family and friends of Linda Filbrandt

Prayers This Week: Martha Ekman, Julie King, Gary Westerman

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

“Bless This House”

arr. by Joseph M. Martin

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

Stanzas 1 & 3



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of power, God of plenty,

C all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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.
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- P** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. 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 ... we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



Amen, amen, 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, eat and live.

C Jesus invites us to this 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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.</p> <p>2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.</p> | <p>3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.</p> <p>4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

“Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359

Stanzas 1, 3, 5

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.</p> | <p>3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are in Him made one.</p> |
|--|--|
- 5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1840

Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

SENDING

BLESSING

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

All children are invited to come forward to receive a flag, lead us in our recessional hymn, and then they will recess outside and into the Fellowship Hall to receive a blessing, cake, ice cream, and a coloring book. Adults, please sit at a table and wait for the blessing before being dismissed for breakfast.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

ELW 677

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. | 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. |
| 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. | |

Text: African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. God is at work in you.
- ☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Kountze Brass.
Trumpet Dan Nesbitt and Jaime Tyser
Trombone Patrick Pfister and Jay Wise



KOUNTZE STAFF

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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

September 9 & 10, 2023

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a **"City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry"** and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.*

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Lois Andresen given by her family.

Kountze Café

Sundays, 9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Rally Day and Window Celebration **Next week:** Welcome Reception for Pr. Wynard and Family

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 10

All youth are invited to participate in the celebration of praise for both the rededication of the stained-glass windows and the upcoming year of Faith Formation which begins Sunday, September 17.

Stained-Glass Window

Rededication Celebration

Sunday, September 10

- Events for children during the Faith Formation Hour
- Stained-glass window walk
- Coloring books for the children, cake, special KMLC ice cream from eCreamery.
- Purchase a perpetual calendar

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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

Alongside the walk, they will host inclusive-centric programming to make everyone feel welcome, activities to

build a sense of belonging, a community fair, an immersive youth art project, entertainment, food trucks, and open houses of the four Tri-Faith buildings. Join your pastors for this day of learning and celebration. For more information, please visit: <https://www.trifaith.org/www-2023>.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 10 Sunday

Pentecost 15
Rally Sunday
Stained Glass Window Rededication
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
12:15 PM Book Group
3:00 PM Tri-Faith 2nd Annual United We Walk

September 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
6:00 PM Executive Committee

September 14 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 15 Friday

Good News Deadline
5:00 PM Pantry

September 16 Saturday

10:00 AM Robert Chrisman Funeral
5:00 PM Worship

September 17 Sunday

Pentecost 16
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Share Your Gifts During Faith Formation Hour

If you are interested in supporting the youth of Kountze Memorial by leading a class, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. All lessons are scripted and supplies provided. Teachers lead on a rotation schedule, allowing for weeks off. Be the difference in our youngest member's relationship with God and give of your time and talents.

Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praises to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir rehearsals are on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Children's Choir

From: Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 17

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)
2nd Floor Music Room**

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has 35 years of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people. All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. Students in grades 6-8 who would like to be involved may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help the director lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

Begins Sunday, September 17

Sundays, 10:10 AM

We will be learning about Jesus calling the disciples to follow him and do God's work. Through six rotation lessons in art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions,

the students will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God’s word and spread that message to others. Jesus’ choice of followers surprised some people, but Jesus was showing that anyone could follow him and do God’s work. That includes the youngest members of Kountze! Register online using the link below.

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

Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 21
11:30 AM

Suggested Donation is \$10.00
We will have a meet and eat with Pr. Lucy. Where everyone can spend a few minutes sharing with Pr. Lucy a short biography of their history with Kountze, family, and background. Please sign up Tuesday, September 19 by calling the church office or emailing jim@kmlchurch.org. Who knows what Jim will have on the menu but it’s sure to be good!

Orbit Bus Trip
Grades 4-6
Saturday, September 23
Register by September 15
9:45 AM to around 1:30 PM

Cost: \$5 (bring with you that day)
Upper Elementary students are invited for a bus-riding adventure through Omaha and the New Testament apostles’ travels. Apostles are “the ones sent off,” so come see where we are being sent as followers of Jesus! Bus stops include the Gene Leahy Mall and lunch at Kountze Memorial Drop off and pick up at Westroads Transit Center at the corner of 102nd and Nicholas Streets at the Westroads Mall. **We plan to board the ORBT 9:55 AM bus, so don’t be late!** Please fill out registration form found at the link below by **September 15** and inform Pastor Shari that you will be there. <https://forms.gle/rzPPPG EauKZkT15c7>

Kountze Memorial “Old Fashioned Church Picnic”
Sunday September 24
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Here at the Church
Everyone is invited to attend the annual church picnic pot luck. There will be lots of activities for the young and old alike. The church will provide the entrées including a vegetarian option and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share with everyone if attending. You are also encouraged to “bring your favorite blanket” to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations in our green space between the church and commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall for those who prefer not sitting on a blanket. A buffet style lunch will begin at noon, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space. Bring a blanket and spread out on the grass or you can sit at tables outside, in the Link, or the Fellowship Hall. And what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes?! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00

PM to play. Please fill out the form found in your bulletin and drop it in the offering plate, email (jim@kmlchurch.org), call the church office (402-341-7761), or sign up at the Welcome Desk. We hope to see you all there!

Confirmation Night Out!
Grades 7 & 8
Bellevue Berry Farm
11001 S 48th St. in Papillion
Saturday, September 30
6:30-9:00 PM
Campfire #3
Cost is \$30 per person

Come kick off the fall season with some spooky fun! (Hot dogs, chips and S’mores will be provided.) Cost includes Haunted Hayrack Ride, and entry to House of Terror, plus a bonfire and food! Meet at church at 6:00 PM, and we will head to Bellevue Berry Farm together with Pastor Shari or meet us there by 6:30 PM. Registration forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall or go to <https://rb.gy/6e10r> and return payment and form to Pastor Shari by **Sunday September 24.**

New Member Classes
October 1 & 8
10:15 AM

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

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

Attendance & Giving	
Saturday:	47
Sunday: 9:00:	112 11:00: 68
Wednesday: 12:15:	9
Total:	236
Streaming:	49
Pantry Guests Served:	218 (inc. 78 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served:	13
Offering:	
\$15,960.31 (Regular)	\$2,369.18 (Specials)
\$522.50 (Debt Reduction)	

Love your neighbor as yourself.

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4:5-14	Israel is favored by God
Thursday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Friday	Leviticus 19:9-18	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness



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The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Romans 13:9 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of goodness and mercy, give us hearts to love and to care for others as you care for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this gift of food strengthen us to delight in your law of love for the sake of all you have created through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you long for the ways of God that teach love and mercy through Jesus Christ.

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

- What news have you seen or heard recently where laws have been broken?
- Jesus said, "love your neighbor as yourself." What makes it hard to love others as you love yourself?

Read: Romans 13:8-14.

The law of God was—and is—intended as a gift from God that we may live in peace with one another. The commandments are plain and simple: we should not commit adultery, murder, steal, or covet what others have. The law mirrors the love of God that intends goodness and mercy for people. As Deuteronomy 4:8 states, "[W]hat other great nation has statutes and ordinances, as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?" The law demands right action toward people that is merciful, especially for the less powerful who cannot otherwise protect themselves. Mercy is well summarized by saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Romans 13:9), a reference to Leviticus 19:18 that was quoted by Jesus, Paul, and others in the Bible. The gospel life offers mercy and acts of love for the sake of the health of individuals and communities alike.

Discuss: What do you think it means to show mercy through the love and care of others?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your law and for freeing us to love others as you have loved us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you care for the daily needs of others?

Bible studies, Sunday school, and youth groups are wonderful opportunities to gather to read the Bible, have caring conversations, and learn together. Think or talk about where and how you learn God's word. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God's will and word. *Pray: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.* (Psalm 119:33-34)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35