

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

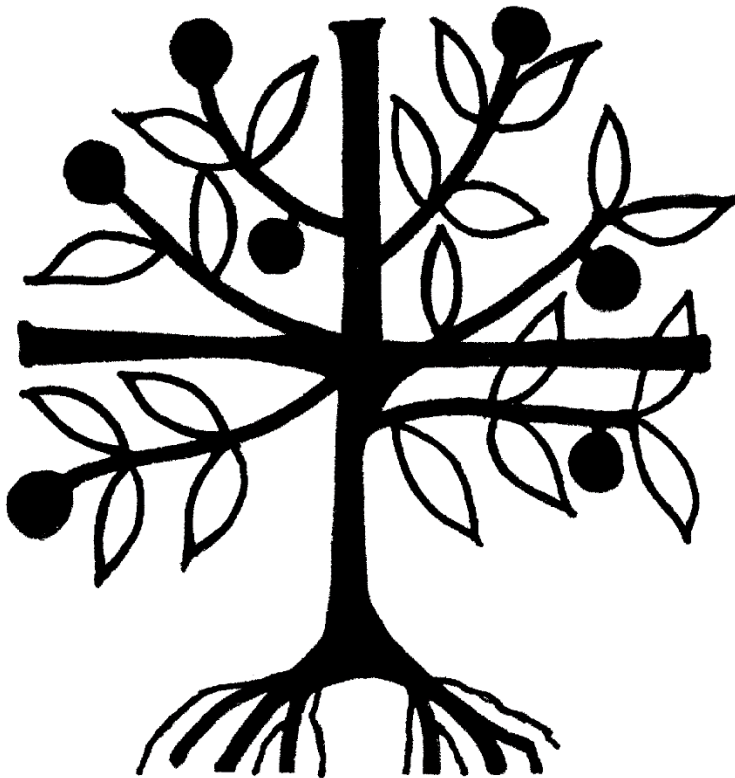
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

February 13, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

G Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

G **we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

G Amen.

1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

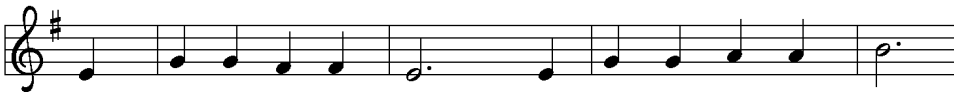
Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

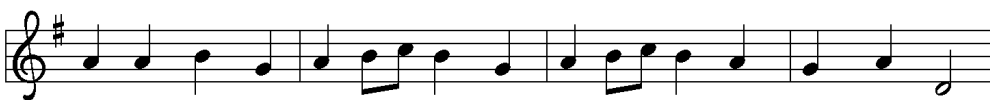
GLORIA



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Living God,

☞ **in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 *(read responsively)*

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

📖 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 either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

ELW 479

**1 We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**2 We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**3 We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Text © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ God has made us his 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** God of grace,
 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)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Desmond Damme, son of Clayton and Ana Damme

Illness: Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Janis Dagerman, sister of Richard Bock, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Bud Gogetap, Vernon and Mary Hilkemann, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Doug Revord, John Schneiderman, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Dean Winther, Darlene White, Dan Wolf

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, 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; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

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

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. 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. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“My Jesus I Love Thee”

arr. Dan Forrest

Dayle Johnson, *soloist*

Jean Johnson, *accompanist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God,
- ☑ **Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. 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.

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to God's table. There is a place for you

C and enough for all.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

(sit)

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 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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.</p> | <p>2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.</p> |
| <p>3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.</p> | |

Text: African American spiritual

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.</p> <p>2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!</p> | <p>3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!</p> <p>4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to hear you say:
"Come, share my home above."</p> |
|--|---|

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153;
tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

“O God in Heaven”

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 O God in heaven, grant to your children
mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing,
grace to invite us, peace to unite us—
O God in heaven, author of love.</p> | <p>2 Jesus, redeemer, help us remember
your pain and passion, your resurrection,
your call to follow, your love tomorrow—
Jesus, redeemer, savior, and friend.</p> <p>3 Spirit unending, give us your blessing:
strength for the weary, help for the needy,
hope for the scornful, peace for the mournful—
Spirit unending, comfort and guide.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Daniel T. Niles, 1908-1970, alt.
Text © 1964 Christian Conference of Asia. All rights reserved.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We give you thanks, gracious God,
☞ for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and
to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your
Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

☐ God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✚ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“May the God of Hope Go with Us”

ACS 984

May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

DISMISSAL

☐ Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✚ ✚ ✚

Mark Jones, *organist*

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
Kayla Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 12 & 13, 2022

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.

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. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

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 9 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 or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Pat's sister given by Robert & Pat Ranney

Children's Choir Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen is leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Sunday School Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!
This Sunday—We will be attending the Congregational Meeting - All Confirmed Members are Voting Members.
Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Our Congregational Meeting is this Sunday.

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 2022
10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall**



Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

THANK YOU to all who donated furniture, household items, and grocery gift cards for the refugee family. We now have everything to set up the apartment and are waiting for LFS to assign us a family. Volunteers are still needed to help move furniture! Once our family is assigned and LFS finds the apartment, we will only have a day or two to get everything moved from storage to the apartment. The crew who has been picking up the furniture is just about worn out: we need reinforcements for this last step! Please call Jerry Fisher on 402-981-5765 to let him know if you have a truck or a strong back- This is an excellent opportunity to get high schoolers and young adults involved. Thank you for helping answer the call to provide hospitality to strangers - they'll soon be our new neighbors.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 13 Sunday

Epiphany 6
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum—Congregational Meeting
12:15 PM Book Group

February 14 Monday

Valentine's Day
10:00 AM Pantry

February 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

February 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

February 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

February 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 20 Sunday

Epiphany 7
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

February 21 Monday

President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday School Talking Points

In today's lesson, The Parable of the Deep Well, we will be studying a parable about parables. As we have been learning different parables over the last few weeks, this enrichment lesson is meant to deepen our understanding about what these stories are and what they mean. It is meant to help the students define their own interpretation of parables.

In addition to asking your children to explain the lesson, the following questions can help reinforce the lesson.

– I wonder what the desert could really be?

- I wonder what the well could really be?
- I wonder what the golden threads could really be?
- I wonder which of the endings you liked best?
- I wonder which ending is most important?
- I wonder what part of the parable is especially like you?

Men's Lunch

Thursday, February 17

11:30 AM

Our guest this month is Mr. Farhad Latifi, a member of the Afghan American Community. He will speak to us about the challenges a refugee family will face. Please RSVP to the church office or to Jim Smejkal (Jim@kmlchurch.org) by Tuesday, February 15.

Service Project for the Youth of Kountze

Youth Emergency Services

February 25

6:00 PM

Youth Emergency Services provides outreach for youth experiencing homelessness, or housing insecurity by providing them with tools and resources to be self-sufficient. Join us on February 25 in preparing meals for the YES House located in our community at 26th and Harney. We are looking for helping hands to prepare the meal, as well as donations of goods to use in the preparation of food. Please bring canned donations of refried beans, enchilada sauce, green chilies, aluminum serving trays, and packs of tortillas to the Sunday School office by February 20. Please RSVP to help make the meal by calling the church office at 402-341-7761 or emailing Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Communion Kits

If you are a Eucharistic Minister and have a communion kit at home, please bring it back so it can be restocked. Also, if you are a Eucharistic Minister but don't have anyone to take communion to but would like to, please let the church office know. We have several homebound members that would like to have communion brought to them. If you're interested in being a Eucharistic Minister and would like more information, please call the church office. Thanks.

Lenten Meals

Beginning Ash Wednesday (March 2)

Marlys and Jim can always use an extra set (or two or three) of hands in the kitchen to help prepare meals for lunch and/or dinner. For more info or to sign up: jim@kmlchurch.org

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you for all the hats, scarves and socks for the Pantry guests. We are still in need of adult men's gloves. We are also collecting toilet tissue. Our biggest need is for volunteers! Several key helpers will be flying south for the winter and we could really use your help!

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Camp Carol Joy Holling

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 - 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. You can give two ways:

1. on our website under the "give" tab
2. on the ELCA.org website and go to Lutheran Disaster Response

Links to both sites are in the Friday e-news

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 126 **11:00:** 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 13 **Confirmation:** 9

Total: 251

Streaming: 74

Cox Cable: Not available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: 1289 (inc. 320 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$18,122.00 (Regular) \$902.01 (Specials)

\$1,642.00 (Debt Reduction)

Trust in God alone.

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Proverbs 3:1-6	Trust and honor God
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Friday	Joshua 1:1-9	The Lord speaks to Joshua
Saturday	Psalm 1	The way of the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies



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Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. Jeremiah 17:7 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, please give us the strength to trust in you alone and support our hope in the days to come through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God gives us food, God gives us drink, God gives us all, more than we think. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with hope and good courage.

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

- What is something that makes you happy and you enjoy doing?
- How does God bring you joy and happiness?

Read: Jeremiah 17:5-10.

Pleasures and personal security in life are fleeting. They can easily become a memory from the past. When the difficult times arrive, we long for the stability that only God gives. Momentary pleasures are like the shrubs in the wilderness, vulnerable to the desert heat. The hearts of those who trust in human strength turn away from God and trust the superficial joys found on the surface of the desert. Jeremiah offers an image of the tree planted by a stream in the desert. The tree's shoots are not seen, but they go deep into the earth so that even when drought happens, the tree is green and fruitful. The people to whom Jeremiah was originally speaking were in a drought situation. The wealth of the nation's resources and leadership had been cast into exile in Babylon. The future of Israel looked grim. When we experience tough times, trusting in the promises of our gracious God is the only sure foundation—not wealth, not fame, nor momentary pleasures.

Discuss: How does God bring you comfort and give you courage to trust in God alone?

Pray: God of promise, help us not to put our confidence in things that do not last and to put our trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, when someone is experiencing tough times, how can you comfort them?

The Greek word, *makarioi*, means blessed or happy. A blessing announces God's love and care for others. We are blessed to be followers of Jesus. Establishing the ritual of blessing those in our home and those who visit builds trusted, caring relationships. Use this blessing as you greet and say farewell to family and friends: **May God bless you with hope and joy.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38