

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

June 19, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST



This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

Save us from ourselves

and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

P Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

ELW 665

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord
has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin
surrounded,
with grace unbounded.</p> <p>2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and
healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are
driven,
now are forgiven.</p> | <p>3 Come, celebrate; your banners high
unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the
darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.</p> <p>4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save
us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave
us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

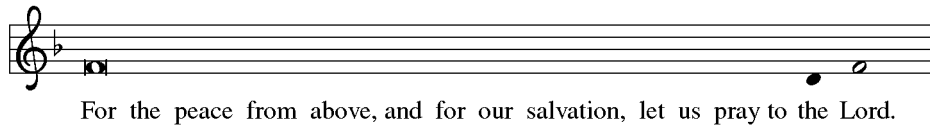
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

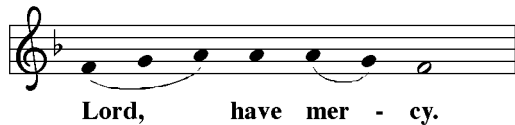
KYRIE



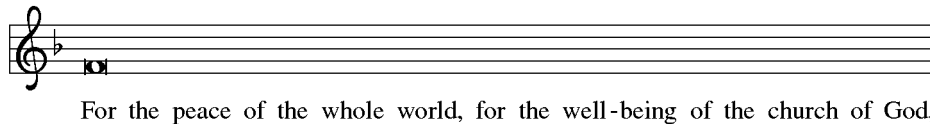
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



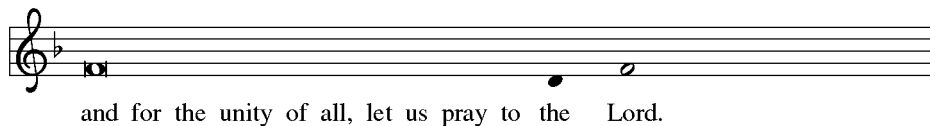
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



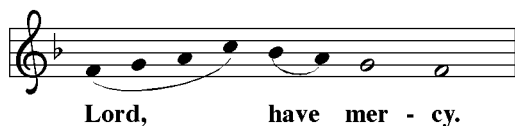
Lord, have mer - cy.



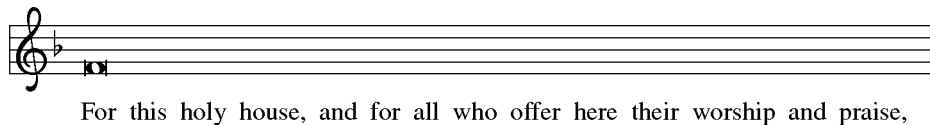
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



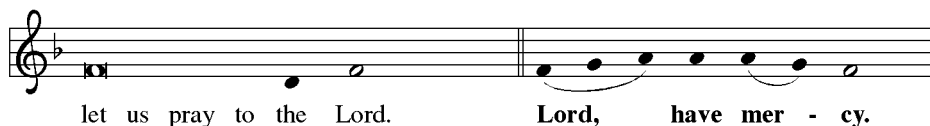
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



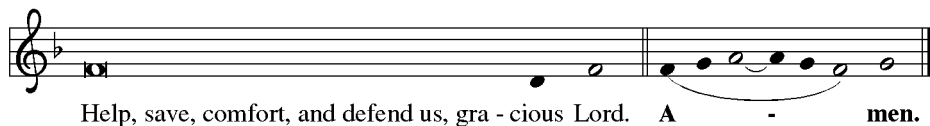
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God,

C we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name.

²I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;

³a people who provoke me to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;

⁴who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places;
who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

⁵who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."
These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

⁶See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps

⁷their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the Lord;
because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions.

⁸Thus says the Lord: As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,"
so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.

⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:19-28 (*read responsively*)

¹⁹But you, O Lord, be not far away;

O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰**Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**

²¹Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²²**I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the Lord's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

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

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

ELW 843

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.</p> | <p>2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.</p> |
| <p>3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.</p> | |

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 Ordination to the Word and Sacrament of Pastor Adam Klinker on June 14, 2022

Illness: Patty Baker, Richard Bock, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Susie Henry, Richard Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Stephanie Stephens, John Waterman, Darlene White

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; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Cinema Paradiso Love Theme” by Ennio & Andrea Morricone
Kai Johnson, violin

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN “For the Fruit of All Creation” **ELW 679 vs. 1-2**



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.

OFFERING PRAYER

☞ God of abundance:

☞ you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

SANCTUS

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Creator: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

. . .

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is your, almighty God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet.

C In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

(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.

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our
wounds,
and drives away all fear.**
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.**
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.**
- 5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

- 1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.**

- 2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.**

- 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.**

- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.**

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐** Life-giving God,
- ☑** **through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW 886 vs. 1-4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!</p> <p>2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.</p> | <p>3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.</p> <p>4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slaughter	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

June 18 & 19 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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

Sharing of the Peace

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

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 celebration of LeClare Steffen's 99th birthday given by Jane, Rod, Jennifer & Tom; in honor of Hannah Rief on her 20th birthday by her parents, siblings, and extended family; in memory of Barbara Saklar by Tracy Saklar, James Holzer, and Kris Placek & family

Holy Play

Through August 28

10:00 - 11:00 AM

All youth are invited to join in Summer Holy Play from 10 to 11 AM each Sunday morning through August 28. (July 3, no activities provided). We will meet in the Link/Green Space unless otherwise noted. Different activities will be offered each Sunday with treats.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Sunday**—Fellowship or join in on the Growing Young Book Study Planning Session in the Fellowship Lounge.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Growing Young Book Study/Planning Sessions Fellowship Lounge 10:10 AM

How might we cultivate a community that helps younger generations discover and love being a part of the church? The KMLC Christian Education Committee is inviting you to join in the conversation of Growing Young. All are welcome to join in the book study through the month of June. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge and encourage you to join as you are available. This week, Chapters 5 & 6; Next week, Chapters 7 & 8.

KMLC Camp Week at Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills

Kountze camp week is this week, June 19 – 24, 2022.



This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 19 Sunday

Jun 19 - Jun 24 KMLC Camp Week
Pentecost 2
Father's Day
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Holy Play
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Growing Young Book Study

June 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 21 Tuesday

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

June 22 Wednesday

9:30 AM Healing Gift Free Clinic Board Meeting
12:15 PM Worship
6:15 PM Acolyte Training

June 23 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 24 Friday

2:00 PM Sandra Johnsen Memorial Service
4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

June 25 Saturday

2:00 PM Johnson & Ray Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

June 26 Sunday

Pentecost 3
Neighborhood Gathering
Receive New Members
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Holy Play
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Growing Young Book Study

Attention 8th Grade Members and Older

For 81 years, the Order of Saint John (OSJ) at Kountze Memorial has provided leadership in our worship experience. OSJ members carry the processional cross, torches, gospel book, and banner. In addition, OSJ members light candles, as well as assist the pastors at baptisms and Holy Communion. If you are interested in being part of the OSJ, Acolyte training will be conducted on June 22 at 6:15 PM in the Nave. Please contact Jeff or Robin Perkins at 402-339-5384 with any questions.

Eucharistic Ministers Needed

We have several people that aren't able to come to church on a regular basis. so we need to take communion to them. However, we don't have enough Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to them. If

you might be willing to serve in this way or would like more information on what Eucharistic Ministers do, please contact the church office or talk to one of the Pastors. Thanks.

Kountze Food Pantry

There are many volunteer opportunities for every desired level of participation in our pantry. You can serve for one hour, for the whole pantry service which goes from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM, or any combination that best fits your schedule. We also need people at 8:00 AM to unload the delivery trucks. Volunteers can even serve by picking up donated bread and pastries from Rotella and Hy-Vee. You will find a sign up notebook outside the kitchen in Meeting Room A or you may sign up at the following link:

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

Kountze Community Garden

Our pantry garden has been planted and soon we'll need volunteers to help pick, sort, and transport produce from our Community Garden to Kountze Memorial. If you love to garden and think this would be something you would be interested in, please contact the Church Office.

Jazz on the Green

Thursdays, July 7 - August 11

Please call the church office or talk to Jim if you're interested in attending as a group.

Women's Luau

Saturday, July 9

11:30 AM

Children Welcome

Please RSVP on the insert sheet by July 5 so we know how many to plan for.

Eye Glass Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated the used eyeglasses in May. We collected over 175 pairs of glasses. You have helped those in need to see their world more clearly. God Bless You.

Update on our Refugee Family

The Bowari family is making great progress adapting to life in Omaha. The biggest need right now is for Guldin to find a job and transportation to that job.

Two companies are hiring refugees who don't speak English, Nebraska Beef and Airlite Plastics - neither one is reachable by public transportation. Neither can offer transportation to Guldin. The Bowari family lives at 137th & Harrison, Airlite Plastics is near the airport, and Nebraska Beef is in South Omaha near 36th & L. Your help is needed! If you know of any companies who might hire Guldin (he's willing to do any type of work), or if you know of anyone willing to help with transportation 5 or 6 days a week, please let us know. We have some funds available to reimburse for gas costs. Call Jonna Holland at 402-669-4575. And please keep this family in your prayers!

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 43

Sunday: 9:00: 111 11:00: 67

Tuesday Ordination: 180

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 413

Streaming: 86

Cox Cable: 128

Pantry Guests Served: 940 (inc. 298 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering:

\$17,680.00 (Regular)

\$1 667.65 (Specials)

\$567.00 (Debt Reduction)



KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

IN THE COURTYARD NEXT TO KOUNTZE COMMONS

Free to love God and one another.

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

Sunday	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus casts out demons
Monday	Isaiah 65:1-9	Righteousness of God's judgment
Tuesday	Galatians 3:23-29	The purpose of the law
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Divisions in the church
Thursday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Final greetings
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 22:19-28	Suffering and praise
Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus



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There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, you desire peace and unity on earth and in your church, the body of Christ. Free us to unite with one another for Christ's sake. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you and free you to tell others what God has done for you through Christ our Lord.

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

- When have you felt like an outsider?
- What difference does it make to know that Christians are united through baptism with one purpose of being God's hands, feet, and voice in the world?

Read: Galatians 3:23-29.

The law of God in the Old Testament served its purpose for the people of God. It was like a designated household tutor, "*disciplinarian*" (v. 25) that guided the children until they grew up. Through baptism, we are clothed with—we participate in—Christ's rule in our lives. Faith in Christ now replaces a tutor. That means a life now freed to love God and one another. We are freed from the old categories found in our cultures like honor and shame, insiders and outsiders, rich and poor, all the differences that lead to fear, anger, and distrust of one another. Those clothed in Christ through baptism are one people, one body. As we relate to one another in the Christian community, no more divisions of Gentile or Jew, no more male or female, no more slave or free to separate us from one mission, one faith, and one hope through one baptism (Ephesians 4:1-6).

Discuss: How does knowing we are one body in Christ through baptism affect your relationship to others in the church? In the world?

Pray: **Dear God, you who overcome all the barriers we create between people, help us to reach out to one another with your power that unites us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme, how can you be accepting of Christians who express their faith differently from you?

Galatians 3:26-27 reminds us that in baptism we were "*clothed*" with or "*put on*" Christ. This week in your home, remember your baptism daily. Dip your fingers in a small bowl of water. Trace the sign of the cross on yourself or one another's foreheads. Say: **You are a child of God through faith in Jesus. In baptism you were clothed with Christ.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62