

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

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

August 14, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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.

- 1 Love has brought us here together;
love of fam'ly, love of friends;
love, our vow till death should part us;
love, God's gift, that never ends.
From our birth, throughout our lifetime,
love's insistence calls our name.
Floods of waters cannot drown it
or put out its dancing flame.**
- 2 Love is gentle, love is patient,
soft in words and kind in deeds.
Love is strong and never pompous;
love puts first the other's needs.
Not quick-tempered or resentful,
prone to take offense or brood,
love excels in grace and mercy,
never jealous, never rude.**
- 3 Love does not rejoice at evil;
love rejoices in the right.
Keen in giving and forgiving,
spreading love is love's delight.
When two people pledge their union,
all who witness are renewed,
feasting at love's earthly banquet,
tasting heav'n's beatitude.**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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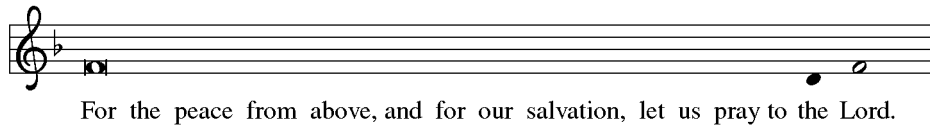
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

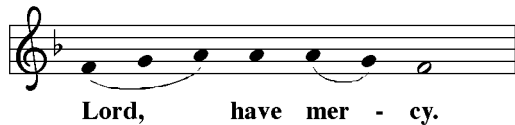
KYRIE



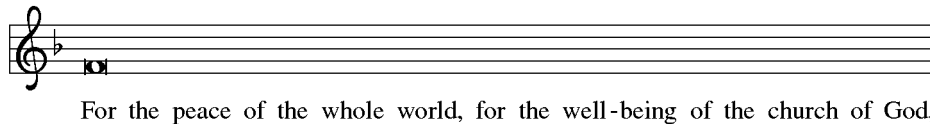
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



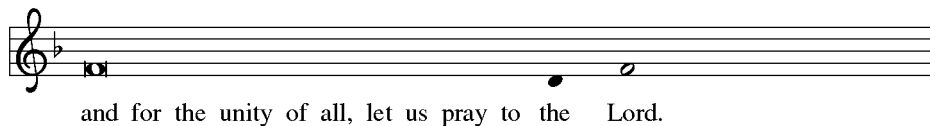
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



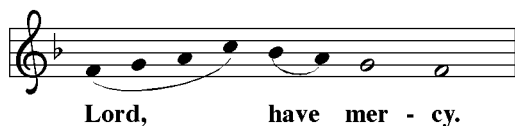
Lord, have mer - cy.



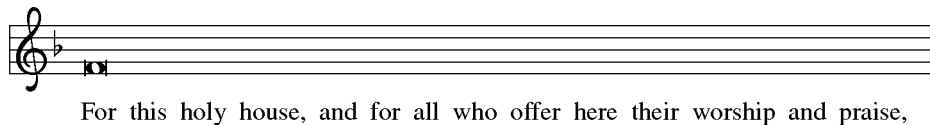
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



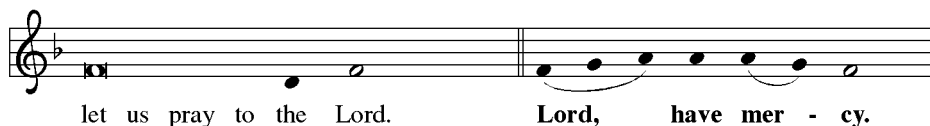
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



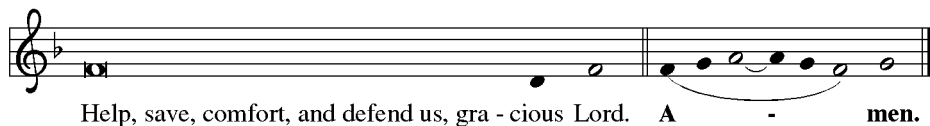
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 God, judge eternal,
C you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 82 (read responsively)

¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

²**“How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?”**

³Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’”

⁸**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

Jesus said: ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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 return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.

SERMON

Pastor Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O God of Every Nation"

ELW 713

tune: LLANGLOFFAN

- 1 O God of ev'ry nation,
of ev'ry race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.**
- 2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver ev'ry nation,
eternal God, we pray.**
- 3 Lord, strengthen all who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.**
- 4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.**

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923
Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin.
Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **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** Merciful God,
 C 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 Sheryl Tverberg, sister of Barb Donelson

Illness: Patty Baker, Richard Bock, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Philip Frye, Marvel Green, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville Knapp, Chris Meyer, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Paul Rath, John Ray, Stephanie Stephens, Dorothy Yeshnowski

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; Katie Larson, Columbia; 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, 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

“You Raise Me Up”

Lovland/Bober

Jean Johnson, piano

“In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them” Isaiah 63:9b

(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 away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☩ Come to the banquet.
☩ 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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"O Living Bread from Heaven"

ELW 542

tune: AURELIA

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows.</p> <p>2 My Savior, you have led me
within your holiest place,
and here yourself have fed me
with treasures of your grace;
for you have freely given
what earth could never buy,
the bread of life from heaven,
that now I shall not die.</p> | <p>3 You gave me all I wanted;
this food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted
the cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
the favor you have shown;
and all my soul and spirit
bow down before your throne.</p> <p>4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”

ACS 1049



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined³ morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Life-giving God,

C 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

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

ELW 805

tune: LANCASHIRE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.</p> | <p>2 Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.</p> |
| <p>3 Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!</p> | |

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



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KOUNTZE STAFF

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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
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

August 13 & 14, 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.

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

Pastor Hall

Pastor Hall is not at Worship this weekend as he is presenting at the International Luther Congress in Thousand Oaks, California this week.

A Brief Update on our COVID Measures.

At this point we will continue with our present recommendations. We encourage you to stay informed and

take whatever protective measures you believe are necessary. These may include wearing a mask indoors and maintaining distance from others outside your own household. Because of several family health concerns among the staff, we do ask that you wear a mask when visiting in the church office. If you are experiencing symptoms, stay home, consult your health care provider, get tested, and follow the CDC guidelines.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones given by Marge Bock; given by Joe & Patt Council in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary (8/19)

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Tom Jensen in memory of loved ones

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. 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 Week:**

Congregational Meeting

Next week: Dag Hammarskjöld: A Life of Public Service and Spiritual Awareness

7th - 12th Grade Youth

Sunday, August 14

10:10 to 10:50 AM

Join us for a time to gather. Bring your calendars and talk with your parents about your schedule for the fall. Many ideas have come forward and we want to get things scheduled for the first half of the school year. A time to share summer best and summer bummers with prayer will close our time. Join us!



This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 14 Sunday

Pentecost 10
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Holy Play
10:10 AM Youth Forum (7th—12th gr)
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting
12:15 PM Book Group

August 15 Monday

Good News Deadline
Scholarship Application Deadline
10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study

August 16 Tuesday

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

August 17 Wednesday

11:00 PM Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship

August 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

August 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 20 Saturday

Blessing of Backpacks
5:00 PM Worship

August 21 Sunday

Pentecost 11
Blessing of Backpacks
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Holy Play
10:10 AM 5th & 6th Grade Gathering
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Register for Sunday School

Register online by going to <https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/SundaySchoolRegistration>. Links to registration will also be on the KMLC Parent and Friends Facebook Group. You can also stop into the Sunday School office to register your child there. All children, ages infant through 12th grade, should register for the 2022/23 Sunday School Year.

Scholarships

Application Deadline is August 15

The Scholarship Program makes funds available to any active member of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church who is a student enrolled and attending any post secondary education college or seminary. In order for a student to be deemed an active member of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, the student, or the student's parent/guardian, must be an actively communing and contributing member of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church as evident in their worship life. Applications for this scholarship can be found on the website at: Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church under tab Grow/Youth Ministries/Scholarships. The last day to submit an application this year is August 15. If mailed, the postmark must be August 15 or earlier. No applications will be accepted after that date.

Bible Studies Begin Again!

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Beginning August 15 & 17

Join Pastor Shari and others in the Fellowship Lounge. We will gather around the Word and explore how the Bible speaks to our lives today. We will try out a few different ways to approach study of the Bible before deciding as a group how to proceed. Looking forward to a weekly journey with you and your Bibles.

August Men's Lunch

Thursday August 18

11:30 AM

Kountze's Version of "How's That Made"

Cost is \$10.00

Did you ever wonder what it takes to outfit a new police car, ambulance, or firetruck? Join us and Ron Brown will share with us just what it takes to outfit new emergency vehicles with the latest in technology. Gone are the days that they just put a magnetic flashing light on top and plugged it into the cigarette lighter. Please call the church office or use the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to register by Tuesday, August 16.

Blessing of Backpacks

August 20 & 21

All students, teachers, professors, and school support staff are encouraged to bring their school bags to church for the Blessing of the Backpacks so the congregation of Kountze can surround you with prayer and blessings for an enriching, productive, and safe school year. In addition, we will be **collecting school supplies and backpacks** for school-aged guests of the Kountze Pantry. Donation boxes will be located at the welcome desk in the Fellowship Hall. Please **bring any donations by August 21**. Following the 9:00 AM service on the 21st, the youth of Kountze will be assembling these supplies to give out at the Pantry the following day. Meet in the link to put bags together while enjoying fellowship and a special treat.

A Gathering for 5th and 6th Graders

Sunday, August 21

10:10 AM

All are welcome to join us in the Youth Center between worship times! This will be a time to learn more about each other, play some games, have devotions, and share in prayer. We hope to see you!

Help Wanted – Night Manager

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of Night Manager. The individual would live on-site in the Church apartment and be responsible for the Kountze Campus after hours and when the facility is closed for inclement weather. Some light janitorial duties, opening and closing the building for worship services and special functions, verifying doors are locked, etc. Please call or stop by the church office to request a complete job description and submit an application and resume. Applications are due in the church office by August 21, 2022.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to teach and assist for the upcoming school year one week-end a month. We are in need of Preschool volunteers, Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers and assistants, and 3rd through 6th grade teachers and assistants. The lesson is prepared and scripted with all activities ready to go for that day. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. Your leadership would be greatly appreciated!

Sunday Morning Breakfast!

Could you assist once a month on a breakfast crew or bring 2 dozen pastries for the 5th Sunday of the month? We are also looking for individuals that would be on a list for people to call if they are not able to make it one weekend. Consider how you might help bring back this popular ministry for our congregation. Sign-up is located on the welcome desk.

Confirmation Orientation for Youth & Parents Wednesday, August 24

6:00 PM

Parents and students are invited to attend an orientation meeting on Wednesday, August 24 starting at 6:00 PM with a meal. We hope to be finished with our meeting time by 7:00 PM. Registration will take place during this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please be sure to register by August 26. This will help our planning for the year to come so we can get the information for the Confirmation year to you. The registration form can be found at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/confirmation/confirmation-ministry-reg-form/> The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7th and 8th graders. A time to begin to affirm their baptismal faith will begin in person on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:00 PM beginning with a meal. Class time each Wednesday night will be from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. During the year we will take a one week break on November 23 and December 28 and will finish our year of study on April 12.

Baptism Seminar

August 28

10:10 AM

If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, be sure to join us. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions you might have. Please call the church office to register. Please reach out to Pastor Shari Duminy with any questions or concerns.

Back to School Celebration

August 28

10:10 AM (following the 9:00 AM service)

The youth of Kountze and their families are invited to a Back-to-School Celebration, hosted by the Christian Education Committee. Join us in the Green Space for games, snacks, fellowship, and fun. We encourage you to bring a friend to this event. The more, the merrier! Let's show others just how great our Kountze Sunday School community is.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is asking you to clean your home pantries! Yes, we are collecting any and all odd (not expired) food items. We have an "extras" section of the pantry, where guests get to choose from an assortment. This allows our guests the chance to get a few things they normally wouldn't have access to. Good items to donate are: jelly, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, mayonnaise, seasonings, cooking oil, flour etc. We also continue to collect hygiene products. We are especially in need of bar soap or body wash. Remember, we can once again reuse dry, clean plastic grocery bags. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Kountze Food Pantry! Please continue to sign up in the Meeting Room A in the Fellowship Hall, or at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 40

Sunday: 9:00: 97 **11:00:** 71

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 216

Streaming: 69

Cox Cable: Not Available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: 1018 (inc. 285 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 9

Offering:

\$18,749.89 (Regular)

\$1,684.88 (Specials)

\$1,083.96 (Debt Reduction)

Living a life of compassion for those in need.

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

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division
Monday	Jeremiah 23:23-29	God's word is like fire
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Faith in God
Wednesday	Psalms 37:27-33	Trust the Lord
Thursday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Friday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 82	Justice to the weak
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the sabbath



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Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who want compassion and justice to guide our lives, give us faith and courage to live and speak truth with love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of justice and mercy give you peace and good courage.

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

- When was there a time you felt you were treated unfairly?
- God demands a commitment to justice. What does this mean to you?

Read: Luke 12:49-56.

There is a history of domestic and global violence. Today's news reminds us that there are still divisions and violence. In this reading, Jesus' call for fire and division represents God's demand—not request—for justice. Biblical faith, both Old and New Testament, reveal a God who cares enough to judge, to condemn, to divide, yes, even to kill Egyptians in the Red Sea to protect God's people. Christianity stands for something. That means it stands against something, too. Jesus can be critical and outraged. He notes that people are able to read the signs of the weather, but what about the signs of discrimination around them? Everyone seems to have their own standards and their own causes. This can blind people who think they know God. Jesus will have none of it. Following Jesus does not permit a blind eye to violence and discrimination, whether it is in the first or twenty-first centuries. The good news is that God's kingdom promises to make all things new.

Discuss: How have you or someone you know experienced discrimination?

Pray: **God of justice, help us to see the times we live in and pursue compassion and fairness for all through Christ Jesus, the one who died that we may live for others. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show compassion for those who are weak and needy?

Hebrews 12:1 speaks of being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses and encourages us to get rid of everything that slows us down from following Jesus. On a sheet of paper write a list of things people do or say that do not show ways Jesus would like us to act towards others. Some examples: belittling or bullying others, lying about something, stealing, or cheating. Take a moment to read over your list and then crumble it up and throw it away. Then pray: **Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we are unkind and thoughtless about the needs of others; help us to follow you in love. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17