

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
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

September 18, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

2. Moses Brings the Decalogue from Mt. Sinai

Mark Jones, *organ*

*“And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.” Exodus 31:18
from “Biblical Sketches: Four Impressions from the Pentateuch”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

C Amen.

P Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy and forgiveness,

C we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

**We have failed to do justice, love kindness
and walk humbly with you.**

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

P Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.
God points us to Christ, who meets us on the road.
Journey now in God’s abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.

2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.

3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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.

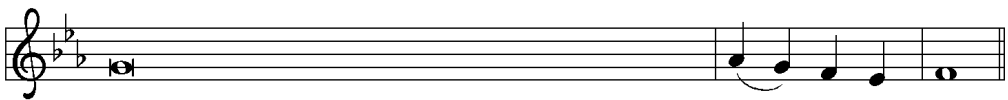
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



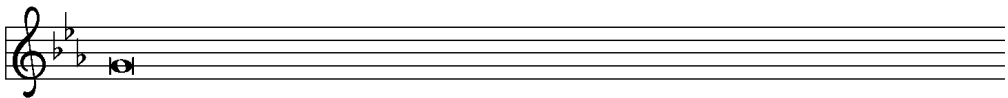
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



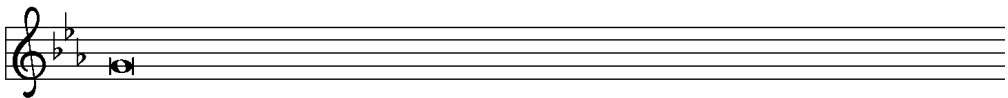
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

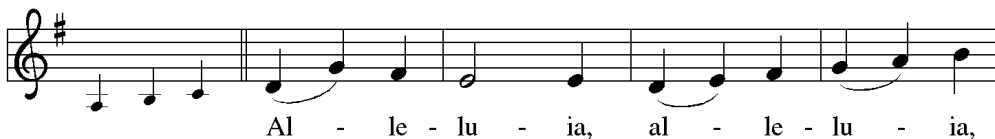
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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

Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

ELW 655

- 1 **Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.**
- 2 **As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.**
- 3 **Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.**
- 4 **Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.**

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

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.**

(sit)

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

(see insert)

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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Jeanie Rayno, wife of John Rayno

Illness: Patty Baker, Richard Bock, Jan Bowder, Gene Buchholz, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Philip Frye, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville Knapp, Chris Meyer, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, John Ray, Neal Von Seggern, Debra Woosley, 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

“Purify My Heart (Refiner’s Fire)”

arr. Patrick Tierney

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“We Are an Offering”

ELW 692

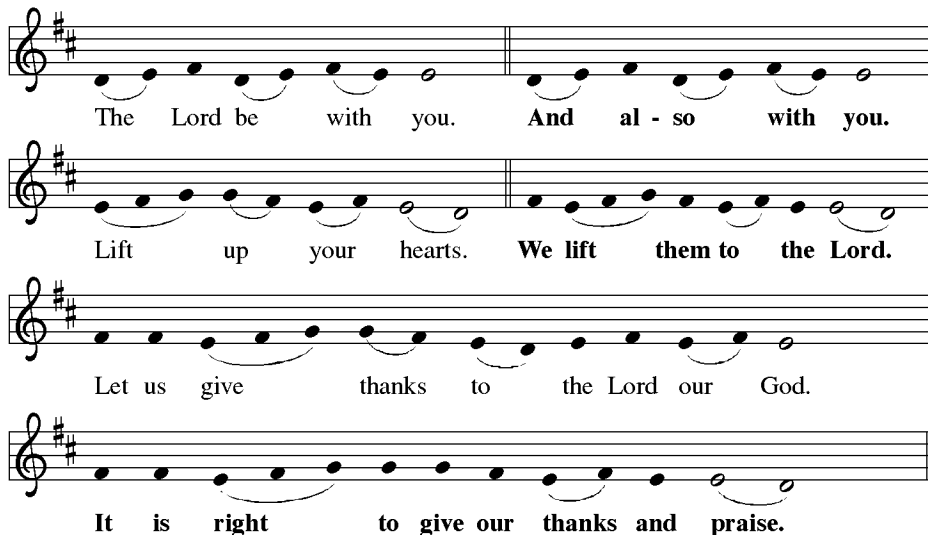
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Gracious God,

☑ **in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.**

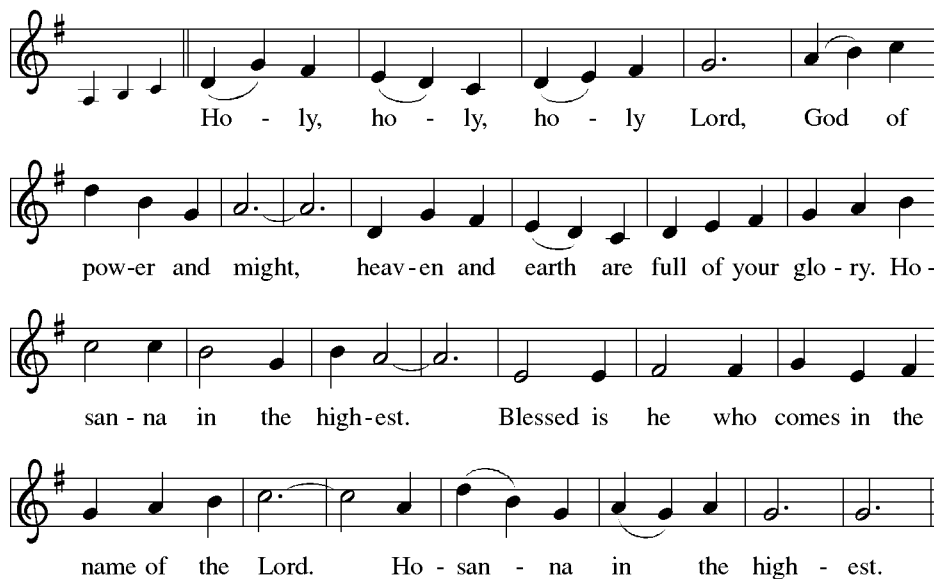
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

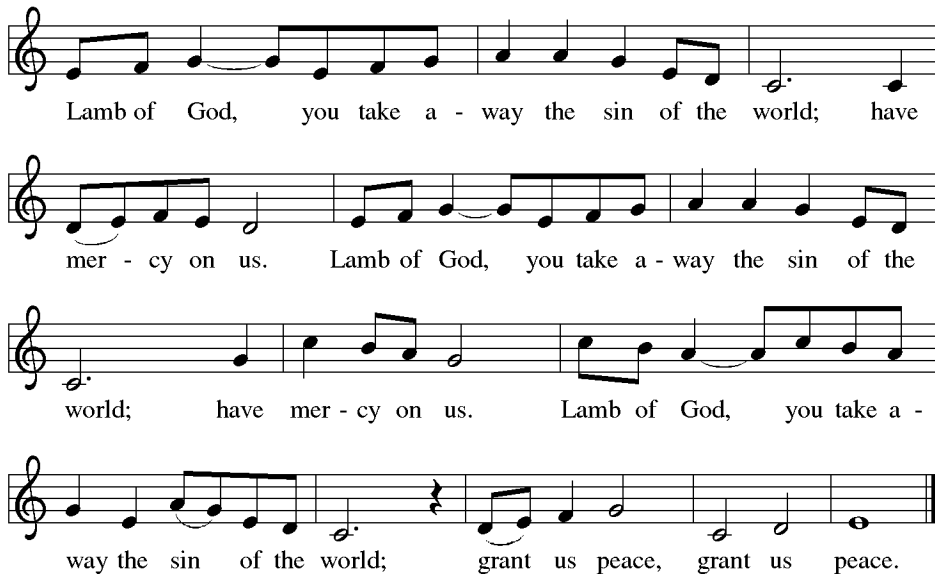
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

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

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

AGNUS DEI



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table.

G Come, taste and see.

(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 “By Your Hand You Feed Your People” ELW 469

**1 By your hand you feed your people,
food of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labor,
by your grace have we been fed:**

Refrain

**Christ's own body, blessed and broken,
cup o'er flowing, life outpoured,
given as a living token
of your world redeemed, restored.**

**2 In this meal we taste your sweetness,
bread for hunger, wine of peace.
Holy word and holy wisdom
satisfy our deepest needs. *Refrain***

**3 Send us now with faith and courage
to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying,
we become what we receive: *Refrain***

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
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7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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**1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.**

**2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.**

**3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.**

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006
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Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞** God of the abundant table,
☞ you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

ELW 669

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.</p> <p>2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.</p> | <p>3 Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.</p> <p>4 Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.</p> <p>5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace, with Christ beside you.
☞ 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
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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 Slight	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

September 17 & 18, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Gary D. Rodene given by wife, Nancy Rodene; given by Barb Chrisman in memory of her mom, Lois Soll; given by Tom Jensen in memory of his mother, Maxine Jensen; given by Robin Perkins in honor of Jeff Perkins' birthday

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Gary D. Rodene given by wife, Nancy Rodene

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Nancy Rodene in memory of her husband, Gary Rodene

Kountze Café is Open!

Sundays from 9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast (this Sunday) and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast. Opportunities to serve are still available, so please contact Pr. Shari Duminy if you would like to help with breakfast. Thanks! **Next week due to the Congregational Picnic, coffee & cookies will be served.**

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

9:15 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). Students in grades 6-8 may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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).

Sunday School Talking Point This Week

The Circle of the Church Year—In this lesson, we will learn about how Christians move through the circle of the church year. We learn what to expect from each season and what the colors of the church symbolize. This is a lesson that will be revisited each week as we move through the calendar of the year.

Youth Forum

10:10 AM

7th - 12th graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** We will join Adult Forum to

hear about a possible trip to Holden Village. **Next week:** Group Building with Games

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Introduction and Possible Congregational Trip to Holden Village **Next week:** Introduction of New Members and Fellowship

New Member Class Continues

September 18

10:15 - 11:30 AM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next New Member class. Childcare is provided.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 18 Sunday

Pentecost 15
Installation of Council Members
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12) w/Adult Forum
10:10 AM Adult Forum—Holden Village
10:15 AM New Member Class

September 19 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study—I & II Timothy
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

September 20 Tuesday

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

September 21 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study—I & II Timothy
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

September 22 Thursday

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

September 23 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 24 Saturday

1:00 PM Installation of Rev. Scott Alan Johnson as NE Synod Bishop in Kearney, NE
5:00 PM Worship

September 25 Sunday

Pentecost 16
Receive New Members
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
11:30 PM KMLC Church Picnic

Nursery Coordinator

Join the staff at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church by becoming the Nursery Coordinator. Sunday morning and some evening hours are required. Childcare skills are required with a joy for being with newborns to 2-year-olds. The Job Description and Application can be viewed at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/8c919081201/5694d574-321a-414c-bdd1-78153e280ad7.png?rdr=true>
You can also contact Kristin Boe or Pastor Shari for more information.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Be A Sunday School Teacher Assistant!

Experience the joy of watching our children learn the stories of God's people. You can help once a month or however often you'd like. The opportunity to work with Preschool, K—2nd graders, and 3rd—6th graders are available. Contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. Your leadership would be greatly appreciated!

Lift Your Voice in Song! Kountze Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The choir rehearses every first Wednesday evening of the month and sings at the 9:00 or 11:00 services each Sunday. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

KMLC "Old Fashioned Church Picnic/Potluck" Sunday September 25, 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Everyone is invited to attend the all Church picnic/pot luck. There will be lots of activities for young and old alike. The Church will provide the fried chicken or macaroni & cheese and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or desert to share with everyone. You're also encouraged to "Bring Your Favorite Blanket" to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations while enjoying our green space between the Church and Commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall. A buffet style lunch will begin at 11:30 AM, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space and, what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes?! Join us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 1:00 PM. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk to let us know how many will be attending and if you can provide either a side or dessert. You can also call the church office or email jim@kmlchurch.org to RSVP.

Meet the Bowari Family Saturday, October 8 6:00 PM

RSVP by Friday, September 30

You're invited to a celebration to meet the Bowari family and enjoy an Afghan meal with them! This is an opportunity for you to meet the family we sponsored and two other Afghan families who have been assisting us as translators when needed. We need to know how many are coming in order to buy the groceries. Would you like to help serve or learn to cook an Afghan meal? We'd love for you to join us. Please text or call Jonna Holland 402-669-4575 if you can help that day.

Annual Blessing of the Animals

Saint Cecilia Cathedral

701 N 40th Street

Saturday, October 1, 2021

Music and Socializing, 10:30 AM

Blessing at 11:00 AM

Sponsored by Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Saint Cecilia Cathedral, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Saint Barnabas Church. Join us!

Omaha Campus Ministries Evensong & Chili Cookoff Sunday, October 16, 2022

5 PM Chili Cookoff and Silent Auction

6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

10405 Fort St, Omaha, NE 68134

Festivities include a chili cookoff with cinnamon rolls, silent auction, Holden Evening Prayer worship, and the presentation of this year's Faithful Steward Award to the faithful members of St. Timothy Lutheran Church. The Chili Cookoff is a fundraiser for Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry in Omaha. If you have a chili that you would like to have represent KMLC in the cookoff, let Pastor Shari know by **September 30** so we can get registered to participate (compete) by bringing a crockpot of chili.

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! **ATTENTION! The Kountze Food Pantry will be short of volunteers on September 19th and September 26th. If you are able, please consider signing up at the link below:**

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 183 11:00: 65

Wednesday: 12:15: 10 Confirmation: 5

deFreese Manor: 4

Total: 303

Streaming: not available at the time of printing

Cox Cable: not available at the time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: 1170 (including 389 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering:

\$14,246.92 (Regular) \$1,588.14 (Specials)

\$673.06 (Debt Reduction)

God cares for the poor and the needy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday Luke 16:1-13 Parable of the shrewd manager

Monday	Amos 8:4-7	Judgment on Israel
Tuesday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Thursday	James 2:1-13	Warning against having favorites
Friday	Isaiah 58:6-9	True religion
Saturday	Psalms 113	The Lord helps people in need
Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [God] raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. Psalm 113:7-8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we thank you for your justice that is like no other and your mercy that reaches to the ends of the earth through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, help us to receive this food with a thankful heart and a living faith that prays for food for those who don't have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who cares for the poor bless you with a compassionate heart.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are some of the things you thank God for?
- How is God's care for the poor and needy shown through your actions?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 113.

The psalm begins with an exhortation to praise God everywhere and for all time. The glory, the fame and preeminence of the LORD, extends beyond the heavens, beyond what anyone can imagine. There is clearly a sense of an all-encompassing grandeur here. The God of the Bible is like no other. Why: Because God created all things? Because of God's power that can conquer the gods of the enemies of Israel? No. At least, that is not the answer given in Psalm 113. God is great and to be praised because our God *"raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap"* (v. 7). God cares for a man in his poverty and a woman in her barrenness. God creates new realities for them and for those around them, like princes who now must welcome the poor as an equal. That is a God worth praising, says Psalm 113. And, in Christ, that is the God who changes all social equations to bring honor to those not honored and eternal hope for those who seem without hope.

Discuss: God is to be praised for caring for everyone in need. What does this mean to you?

Pray: **God, you who use your power and justice to shine on those in need, we praise you now and always for your glory that shines on us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support and honor the poor in your community and the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul encourages us to offer *"supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings"* for all those in positions of authority and leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Think or talk about leaders in the world, the country, and your community. This week take time to pray for them: **Lord God, we thank you for those in leadership positions and ask that you bless them in their work. May they use their positions to care for the poor and show honor to you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31