

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

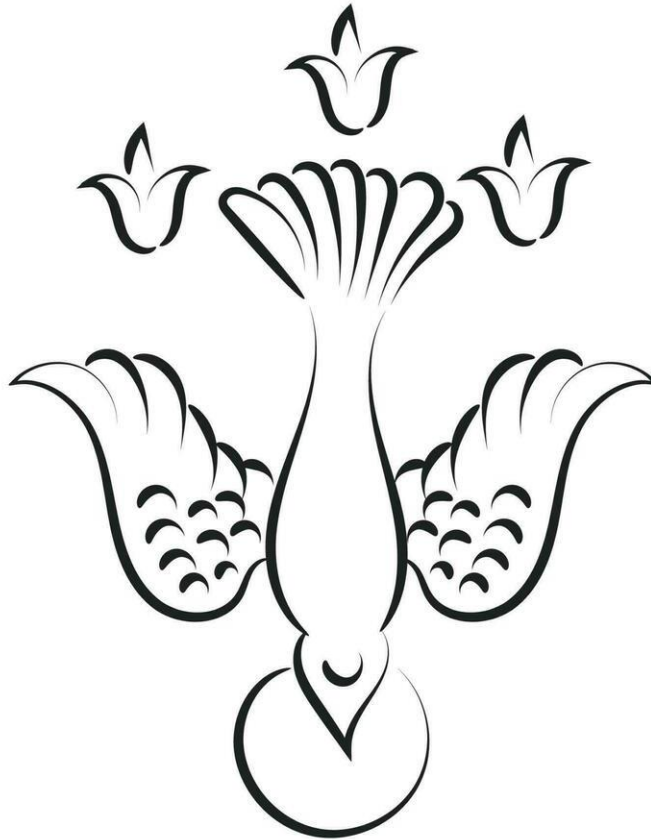
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

May 19, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

DAY of PENTECOST



Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*
The Fort Calhoun Brass Quartet
Cody Rogers & Addie Benoit, *trumpets*
Trey King, *trombone*
Alex Schuler, *euphonium*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (11:00 AM)

Seek Ye First

by Karen Lafferty

(rise in body or spirit)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

- P** Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

- P** Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

- P** At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

- P** Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

1 Come down, O Love divine;
 seek thou this soul of mine
 and visit it with thine own ardor
 glowing;
 O Comforter, draw near;
 within my heart appear
 and kindle it, thy holy flame
 bestowing.

2 Oh, let it freely burn,
 till worldly passions turn
 to dust and ashes in its heat
 consuming;
 and let thy glorious light
 shine ever on my sight,
 and clothe me round, the while my
 path illuming.

3 Let holy charity
 mine outward vesture be,
 and lowliness become mine inner
 clothing--
 true lowliness of heart,
 which takes the humbler part,
 and o'er its own shortcomings weeps
 with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,
 with which the soul will long,
 shall far outpass the pow'r of human
 telling;
 no soul can guess Love's grace
 till it become the place
 wherein the Holy Spirit makes a
 dwelling.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-1890

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.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
 Assisting minister



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

All



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



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

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

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Mighty God,
- C** you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (9:00 AM)

Seek Ye First

by Karen Lafferty

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-21

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 502

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

**Verses 9-11a in our translation substitute contemporary place names for those listed in Acts.*

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹We are from Afghanistan and Turkmenistan; Iran, Iraq and Kuwait; Israel, Palestine and many parts of Turkey, ¹⁰including Istanbul and Ankara; from Egypt and northern Libya; and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; ¹¹from the island of Crete and Saudi Arabia—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35b

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, all may sing lines in **bold print**)



²⁴How manifold are your ¹ works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full ¹ of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- ¹ y to number,
living things both ¹ small and great.**

²⁶There go the ships ¹ to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the ¹ sport of it.

²⁷**All of them ¹ look to you
to give them their food ¹ in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they ¹ gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled ¹ with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, ¹ they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return ¹ to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they ¹ are created;
and so you renew the face ¹ of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD en- ¹ dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in ¹ all your works.**

³²You look at the earth ¹ and it trembles;
you touch the mountains ¹ and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long ¹ as I live;
I will praise my God while I ¹ have my being.**

³⁴May these words of ¹ mine please God.
I will rejoice ¹ in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul.
Hal- ¹ lelujah!**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

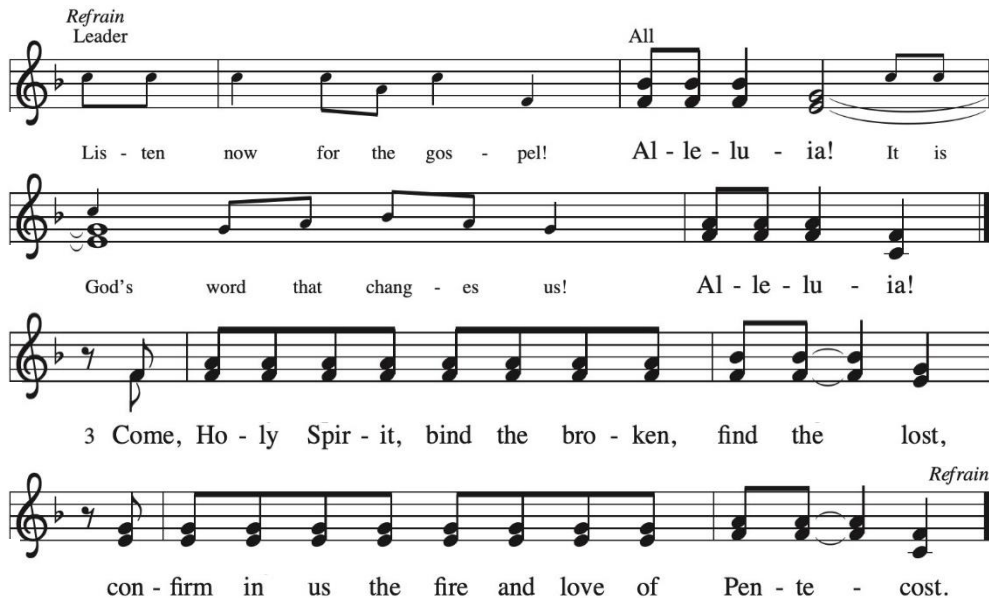
☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain
Leader

All



Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is
God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, bind the bro - ken, find the lost,
con - firm in us the fire and love of Pen - te - cost.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

Jesus said, ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, this Advocate will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send the Advocate to you. ⁸And when the Advocate comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will guide you into all the truth; for the Spirit will not speak on their own, but will speak whatever is heard, and will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴The Spirit will glorify me, because the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either 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 Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Spirit All-Embracing

ACS 944



1 O Spir - it all - em - brac - ing and coun - sel - or all - wise,
2 O Beau - ty ev - er blaz - ing in flow - er, field, and face,
3 Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your in - sight here im - part,



un - bound - ed splen - dor grac - ing a shore - less sea of skies:
you show your - self a - maz - ing in un - ex - pect - ed place.
and give your ser - vants low - ly an un - der - stand - ing heart



un - fail - ing is your trea - sure, un - fad - ing your re - ward;
We see you and re - mem - ber what once our dreams had been;
to know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are tried,



sur - pass - ing world - ly plea - sure, the rich - es you af - ford.
you fan the glow - ing em - ber and kin - dle hope with - in.
to seek you more sin - cere - ly when false i - deals have died:



Come, stream of end - less flow - ing, and res - cue us from death;
Come, fire of glo - ry gra - cious, bless all who trust in you;
for vi - sion we im - plore you, for wis - dom's pure de - light;



come, wind of spring - time blow - ing, and warm us by your breath.
un - dy - ing flame te - na - cious, burn in your church a - new.
in prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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THE NICENE CREED

**☩ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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)

Prayers This Week: Gloria Erickson, Joyce Wachal

On-going Care: Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Albert Grage, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Vinn Stephens, Gary Westerman, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens, and grandson of Vinn Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenburg Center, Germany; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, 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* – James Holzer, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks

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

Come, Holy Spirit, Come

by David Lantz, III
Kai Johnson, violin

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Christ Is Living

ACS 934 vs. 1 & 3



1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor-row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic-t'ry; sin has lost its poi-son sting.



Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev-'ry pow'r.
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.



Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"



Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Risen One,

☑ you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR PENTECOST

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

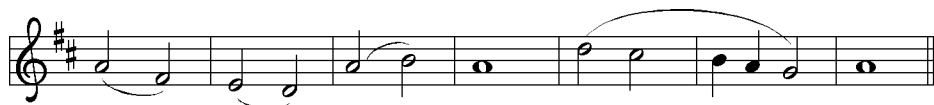
- P** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread ...
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

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

AGNUS DEI



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and eat at God's table.

C The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

(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

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401

**1 Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,
fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing,
help us to follow you.**

Refrain

**Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**2 Come to teach us, come to nourish
those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful, may they flourish,
strengthened by grace unpriced. *Refrain***

**3 Guide our thinking and our speaking
done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking,
freeing from guilt and shame. *Refrain***

**4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty. *Refrain***

**5 Keep us fervent in our witness;
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure. *Refrain***

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
English and Swahili text © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
 in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
 spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
 2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
 3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
 asked my Lord if all was mine.
 chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Shepherding God,
- ☑ **in you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

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SENDING

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Almighty God:

The Source of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God of the Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW 400

**1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**2 God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!**

**3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

**4 God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

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DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*
The Fort Calhoun Brass Quartet
Cody Rogers & Addie Benoit, *trumpets*
Trey King, *trombone*
Alex Schuler, *euphonium*

✝ ✝ ✝

KOUNTZE STAFF

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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 18 & 19, 2024

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

Holy Communion

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

Children in Worship

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

Nursery

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

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

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

E-news & Social Media

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

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



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pam & Bob Johnson in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary; given by Dana Boden in memory of her father, Howard Boden

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Pam & Bob Johnson in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary

Faith Formation

Intergenerational Faith Formation

This Sunday, May 19

10:10 AM

Join us this Sunday in Fellowship Hall for a special Intergenerational Event on this last day of Sunday School.

Baptism Reunion

Sunday, May 19

12:15 PM

For all who have been baptized from January 2023 to May of 2024, we invite you and your families to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch. Following the meal there will be some introductions and then a time for children to gather in spaces for care while the parents come together to explore ideas of how to bless your child within your home. We plan to send you on your way within the hour.

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

Table Theology

Sunday, May 19

6:30 PM

Local Patio & Grill

RSVP to Greta by emailing:

omahalutheranyoungadults@nelcm.com

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 19 Sunday

Day of Pentecost
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Intergenerational Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM Baptism Reunion
6:30 PM Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology

May 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
5:00 PM KCCOC Board
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 21 Tuesday

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

May 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 23 Thursday

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

May 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 26 Sunday

Holy Trinity
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

May is Blindness Prevention Month

During May we will again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Interested in Spiritual Direction?

Tuesday, May 21

7:00 PM

Are you interested in the art of spiritual direction and guidance? Seeking the Spirit Within warmly invites you to an online dialogue exploring the formational path towards becoming a soul caregiver. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr4mbyzh>

Silent Retreat

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 14 - 16, 2024

During this spiritual weekend, you can expect to have scheduled times for silence, worship, walking a labyrinth, prayer, and self-reflection. Learn more or Register:

<https://www.cjhcenter.org/silent>

Carol Joy Holling Camp is Hiring for Their Summer Ministry Team

If you are 18 years or older, or have completed Leadership Camp and are interested in a full-time, paid summer job with all meals and on-site housing included, this might be the summer job for you. The Summer Ministry Team is a powerful group of young leaders who are changing the world by working hard,

talking faith, and caring for others. This super team provides leadership and care for campers at Sullivan Hills Camp and Carol Joy Holling Camp. More info at: <https://www.nlom.org/smt>

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling

If you didn't get a chance to register for camp by the Early Bird pricing deadline (January 31), Kountze Memorial will still cover the cost of the Early Bird pricing, but you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

- In order for the church to pay the fee, choose
- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- Email a copy of the receipt to shari@kmlchurch.org

We will then submit the Early Bird portion of the payment on behalf of your youth. You'll need to mail in your portion. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

Vacation Bible School

Camp Firelight

St. Timothy's Church (510 N 93rd St)

July 8-11

5:15 PM: Family Dinner

6—8 PM: Class

Have an adventure with God this summer! Make plans

now to attend VBS. Registration is open now to register for VBS youth and volunteers. Sign up with the following link:

<https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Volunteer opportunities include kitchen clean up, teachers, assistants, and more. We would love to see you there!

Breakfast Ministry

Our Breakfast might look a little lighter during the summer months from May 26 through September 1. We are so grateful for the Breakfast Crews and their good work since September of 2022. An encouragement for more people to offer a helping hand is needed. If you could help out once, twice, or three times during the year that would greatly aid in this ministry, especially on the 2nd Sunday for clean up or some of the crews that are often short handed.

Kountze Food Pantry

Do you or anyone you know need service hours? Volunteering at the Kountze Food Pantry is a perfect opportunity to boost your resume and have some fun at the same time! We are in need of strong, young people to help us unload deliveries at 8 AM Monday morning, and to carry out groceries for our guests from 10 AM-1 PM. You can work all or part of that time. We also need people on Friday evenings from 5 PM-6:45 PM. There are other positions for people of all ages and abilities. Please consider joining us by signing up at the following link:

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

WELCA

Collecting Personal Care Items for the Pantry

Our Women of the ELCA Groups are collecting personal care items for the Kountze Food Pantry during the month of May. If you'd like to help at this time—or any time—please place the items in the box in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks.

Lost & Found

If you lost it, we might have found it. Check out the counter by the back office door to see if any of these belong to you, including several pair of glasses that will be donated if they have not been reunited with their owners at the end of the month. Please take a look.

Nebraska Synod Disaster Response—NE/IA Tornadoes

Through the NE Synod Disaster Response Fund, we are able to help respond to needs related to recovery

and rebuilding for the long-haul. All gifts to the disaster fund are used in response to recovery, responding, and rebuilding to disasters. You may give to KMLC and mark it “Disaster Response” or give directly to Disaster Response at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5h3y7pm8>

Icons in Transformation

All Saints Episcopal Church

9302 Blondo St.

Open to the Public

Through June 9

Icons In Transformation by Ludmila Pawlowska will be exhibited at All Saints through June 9. Jane Tan Creti is a member of the All Saints Episcopal Church and a very talented iconographer. She has written many icons which are on display in the All Saints Episcopal Church including a recently completed major project that is now displayed over the main doors of the narthex at All Saints. It includes the main icon of the Three Angles plus seven saints surrounding it. Jane is the iconographer that wrote the icon on our cross that is used during Lent and Easter as well as the icon in the KMLC Pantry. Icons in Transformation regular operating hours now through June 9:

- Fridays 5 PM to 7 PM docent-led tours, wine & cheese
- Saturdays 12 PM to 4 PM docent-led tours (on display until 7 PM - no tours after 4 PM)
- Sundays 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM art workshops for all ages

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 5/9/2024—Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 137 11:00: 69

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 308

Streaming: 35

Pantry Guests Served: 966 (inc. 316 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$15,554.44 (Regular) \$1,873.44 (Specials)

\$1,028.33 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit comforts and guides us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Tuesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Thursday	Psalm 139:7-12	The inescapable God
Friday	Acts 4:23-31	The believers pray for boldness
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit



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

“Nevertheless I [Jesus] tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” **John 16:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit that comforts and guides us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fill us with good things, we thank you for this food that strengthens us to be your witnesses in the world. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the comfort and power of God give you peace in Christ's name.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt you needed guidance from someone else?
- How do you experience the work of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the community of faith as a guide for your life in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

Jesus says that because he is leaving, he knows his followers are very sad. Because of his departure and because of the disciples' sorrow, Jesus sends the Advocate, that is, the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for advocate means someone who walks alongside us and can also be translated as helper, comforter, teacher, guide, or companion. It is a word rich in meaning and a powerful term for Jesus' followers who are grieving and needing direction. When we experience loss and transitions, feel alone, and are not sure of the future or how to understand the present, the Advocate, the *"Spirit of truth"*, speaks the same message Jesus taught his followers and is here for us. Pentecost is a time to remember that Jesus remains with us as Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are lifted up and sent on our way to do the work of Jesus in the world. We are not alone; we never have been and we never will be. Our loving God does not want to leave us feeling grief. We are empowered as the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in the world.

Discuss: How does being empowered by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, make a difference to you?

Pray: **Everlasting God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that comforts and strengthens us; help us to faithfully be your presence in the world 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 the work of the Holy Spirit help you comfort someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost has been described as the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of the ministry of the preaching of Peter (Acts 2:14-21) and all future preachers. It is also the birth of hearing the gospel in our own language. Light a candle, preferably a red one, to celebrate Pentecost. Take a moment to look at the flame as a reminder of the *"fiery tongues that settled on each person"* (Acts 2:3, CEV). *Then Pray:* **Dear God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that helps us in our weakness and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen.** (Romans 8:26)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17