

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 2, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should observe this freedom with a day of rest. No one should work seven days a week; even slaves and foreigners should be able to rest. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to restoration: the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.*



# GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

*Pastoral*

Josef Rheinberger  
Dirk Lindner, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C** Amen.

**P** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God our provider,

**C** **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for the life in the world. Amen.**

**P** Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C** Amen.

**1** Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.

**2** All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.

**3** Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

### 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.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

#### *Come, All You People*

ELW 819



1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;  
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come now and wor - ship the Lord.  
come now and wor - ship the Lord.  
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Almighty and ever-living God,  
☞ **throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

*This portion of the Ten Commandments instructs the Israelites to keep the sabbath. The Israelites are to rest, and they are to allow their slaves, their livestock, and the foreigners living among them to do the same. They were once slaves, and so they are to treat their own slaves justly.*

Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>14</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 81:1-10 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Sing with joy to God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**Raise a song and sound the timbrel,  
the merry harp, and the lyre.**

<sup>3</sup>Blow the ram's horn at the new moon,  
and at the full moon, the day of our feast;

<sup>4</sup>**for this is a statute for Israel,  
a law of the God of Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup>God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the land of Egypt,  
where I heard a voice I did not know:

<sup>6</sup>**"I eased your shoulder from the burden;  
your hands were set free from the gravedigger's basket.**

<sup>7</sup>You called on me in trouble, and I delivered you;  
I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah.

<sup>8</sup>**Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:  
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**

<sup>9</sup>There shall be no strange god among you;  
you shall not worship a foreign god.

<sup>10</sup>**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

When we carry out God's ministry we do so not for our glory but for the sake of Jesus Christ whom we proclaim as Lord. The power for ministry comes from God, not us, so that we persevere no matter what, trusting in God's power and promises at work through us.

**W**e do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Refrain*  
Leader

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.

*Refrain*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 2:23—3:6**

*Jesus challenges the prevailing interpretation of what is lawful on the sabbath and tells his critics that the sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around. Healing the man with the withered hand is work that cannot wait until the next day.*

One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? <sup>26</sup>He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup>so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

<sup>3:1</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

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

## SERMON

*Pastor Duminy*

(rise in body or spirit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Let My Spirit Always Sing

ACS 1020



1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be  
2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -  
3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and  
4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it



win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair  
gaze my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern  
chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,  
an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain



give no sign that you are there, God to whom my  
how much more there is to learn, see a world be -  
to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be  
know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er



days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.  
com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.  
full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.  
on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us God's 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)*

**Prayers this week:** Dale Broekemeier, Kathy Englert, Abiba Kodzove, friend of Leigh & Vicki Freeman

**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, Joyce Wachal, 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, Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; 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

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Dan Forrest  
John Tavera Lim, *vocalist*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

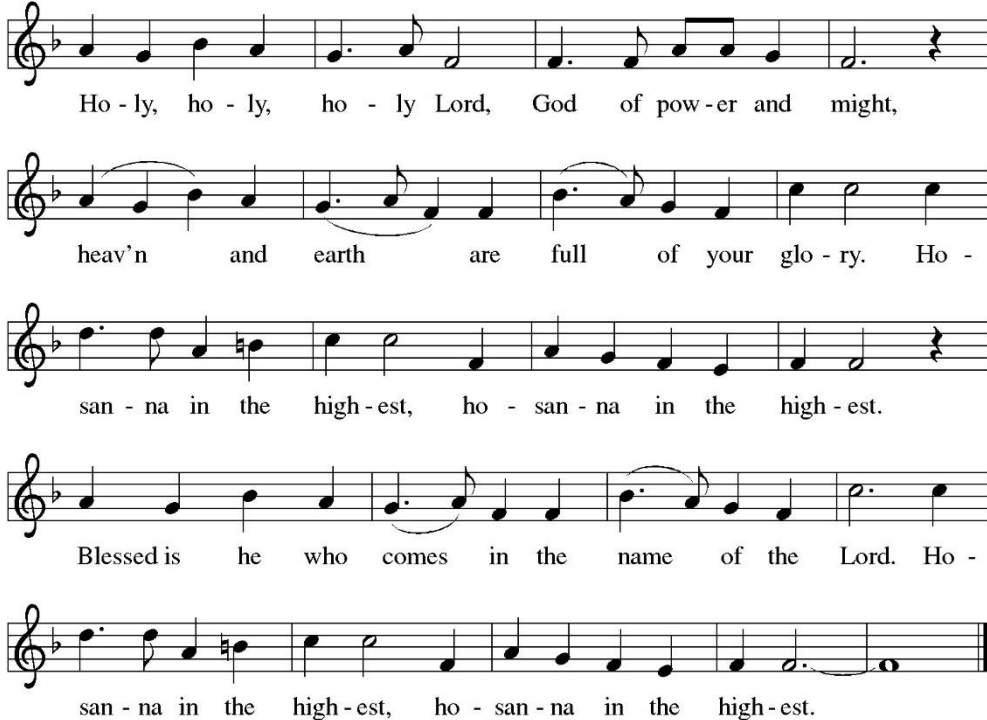
### OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Jesus, Bread of life,
- C** you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

### HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav' n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

☑ **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

- P** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- C** **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

- P** Come to the table Christ has set.
- C** **There is more than enough for all!**

*(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

*Around You, O Lord Jesus*

**ELW 468**

**1** **Around you, O Lord Jesus,  
your own you gather still  
to share the feast you give us  
with grace our lives to fill.  
You say to us so lovingly,  
“Take, eat! This is my body!  
Take, drink! This is my blood!”**

**2** **We hear your invitation,  
and heed, O Lord, your call;  
your word of consolation  
is spoken here to all.  
It draws us to your loving heart;  
it brings to us your blessing,  
which never will depart.**

**3** **We are your own forever;  
until our final breath  
we will be true and never  
in joy, in grief, in death  
depart from you, for you are still  
among your people dwelling,  
as you have said you will.**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. composite  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 1** Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2** We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3** Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4** Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Text © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Jesus, Bread of life,  
**G** we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.  
**Amen.**

# SENDING

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### BLESSING

- ☐ The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Let Us Enter In*

ACS 985



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.  
2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.  
3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.  
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.  
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.  
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.  
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.  
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.  
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Text © 1983 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
☑ Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur in B-flat*

Theodore Dubois  
Dirk Lindner, *organ*





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## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 1 & 2, 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**

#### **Kountze Café**

**9:30—11:00 AM**

#### **Free-will Offering**

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. We are grateful that Sherri Labeledz has taken over the Breakfast Coordinator position. Please consider how you might be able to help sustain this ministry with helping to clean up after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Breakfast or joining one of the other teams to give needed support. Please contact Sherri Labeledz if you would like to help.

#### **Adult Forum**

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship.

**This week:** Fellowship (Pastors at Synod Assembly)

**Next week:** Fellowship

#### **Synod Assembly Worship**

**Sunday, June 2**

**11 AM**

The Nebraska Synod Assembly will All congregations are invited to participate from Scottsbluff to McCook to Niobrara to Falls City! We are invited to gather with God's people committing to Cultivate Love and to continue in our shared mission and ministry as the whole church in the state of Nebraska. To join the Sunday 11 AM Worship, go to:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/>

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### June 2 Sunday

Pentecost 2  
Synod Assembly  
Homebound Communion  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:10 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 AM Youth Trip Gathering/  
Young Adult Gathering Meeting

### June 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### June 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### June 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### June 6 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### June 7 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Pantry

### June 8 Saturday

Einbeck/Beller Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

### June 9 Sunday

Pentecost 3  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Beignet  
Breakfast  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:10 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
12:15 PM Book Group  
2:00 PM Gretchen Olson Kopp  
Ordination

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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

### 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>

### Pool Party All families with Kids Nursery - High School June 15 9 AM—Noon

#### Westgate Pool (8233 Grover St )

The Pool Party, donated by Beth O'Reilly, is for all youth, Pre-K through High School. Breakfast snacks, beverages, and donuts will be provided. Please RSVP to Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org), on the Facebook page, or by texting 402-630-4578.

### Men's Lunch Thursday, June 20 11:30 AM Fellowship Lounge

#### Cost: \$10.00

In June, Tim Holland will share with us highlights from his trip to Egypt and Jordan. We will discuss the beginning of architecture, the 5,000-year-old pyramids, and the evolution as seen by temple architecture along the Nile. He will also share with us the path of the Holy Family in Egypt and Moses at Mt. Nebo in Jordan. Please let Jim know if you'll be attending by June 18 so he knows how many to plan on for lunch ([jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) or 402-341-7761).

### Table Grace The Musical June 21-22, June 27-29, August 8-9

This musical is based on a combination of real life stories molded into fictional characters and story-lines. It's a celebration of grace, love, second chances, and acceptance. Don't miss it!

The Table Grace newsletter can be found at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4eeubc9>

## **Annual Neighborhood Gathering**

**Sunday, June 23**

**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Kountze will be hosting our Annual Neighborhood Gathering again this year. We will hold the event at the North end of the West parking lot. Bring your friends and neighbors! All are invited! Anyone that wants to have a good time is welcome to stop by and have a hot dog and popcorn. We will have a new band this year, "Ron and the Renegades," They will not be playing for the worship services so the Gathering will start at 11:00 AM. We can always use volunteers, so please use the insert in the weekly bulletin beginning June 2 to sign up or contact the Church office if you can help. More details to follow shortly.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**Camp Firelight**

**St. Timothy's Church ( 510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## **Connect With Pr. Lucy...**

To make an appointment for coffee and a one-on-one conversation, go to:

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>

You can also message her. If you would like to follow her on Facebook or Instagram, please feel free to do so. She won't send a friend request or follow you because she doesn't want to put you in an awkward position of friending her or not. She will accept your friend or follow request.

## **School Supplies for KMLC Pantry Guests**

Over the summer, we will be collecting backpacks of all types, notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, color pencils, glue, tissues, scissors, hand sanitizer, and anything else you may find useful for our school-aged pantry guests. You will find labeled donation tubs in the Fellowship Hall for your donations.

Plan to join us in the link on August 4 after the 9 AM service to fill the backpacks with school supplies that will be given to students at the Kountze Pantry.

## **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-12:45 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.

## **Get Involved with Nebraska Synod Justice Ministries!**

Our Synod has a new Director for Youth & Justice Ministries, Gretchen Ahrens. She recently shared with Omaha ELCA pastors some of the teams and committees she's working to build up or get going. Are you passionate about issues where justice and faith intersect? Would you be willing to join others in our Synod in leading us as church together to learn, advocate and act? Some of the teams the Synod is looking to build up include: Advocacy Team, LGBTQIA+ Affirming Team, Creation Care Team, and Mental Health Team. Please let us know if you're interested and we will connect you!

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Thursday, 5/23/24—Wednesday, 5/29/24**

**Saturday: 42**

**Sunday: 9:00: 131 11:00: 80**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 11**

**Total: 264**

**Streaming: 71**

**Pantry Guests Served: 274 (inc. 78 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23**

**Offering:**

\$23,508.81 (Regular)      \$4,373.19 (Specials)

\$507.66 (Debt Reduction)

*The sabbath is good news for our lives.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 2:23-3:6	A question about the sabbath
Monday	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Respect the sabbath
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Treasure in clay jars
Wednesday	Isaiah 58:13-14	Honor the sabbath
Thursday	Exodus 20:8-11	Remember the sabbath day
Friday	Hebrews 4:1-11	The rest that God promised
Saturday	Psalms 81:1-10	God makes us strong
Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God



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## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then he [Jesus] said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."* **Mark 2:27-28 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for the gift of sabbath rest that our lives may be renewed in body, mind, and spirit through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who provide the grain of the fields for us to eat, we thank you for your love and kindness that renews our lives daily through Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God's love renew you each day through Christ our Lord.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What exhausts you? What refreshes you?
- When do you take a day of rest (sabbath) and what do you like to do on that day?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 2:23-3:6.

This amazing text from the Gospel of Mark says much about the story of Jesus. Jesus draws criticism from those wanting to protect God's teachings. He ends up gaining the deadly opposition of religious and cultural leaders (Pharisees and Herodians), even though these two groups also oppose one another in other contexts. Jesus and the Pharisees engage in biblical debate about the intent of God's word. Jesus argues, "*The sabbath was made for humankind*" (Mark 2:27). Deuteronomy 5:12-15 clearly supports that. Honoring the sabbath was much more than worshipping on the sabbath day (Sunday for most Christians). This commandment was the first recorded labor law, protecting workers from being abused and allowing for a day of rest. It protected life. Whether its gathering grain to eat or healing a withered hand on the sabbath, the real offense is challenging the wisdom and authority of established leaders. It is an age-old example of how institutional powers can become ends in themselves and miss their own stated aim, in this case, to love God and neighbor.

*Discuss:* How could resting on the sabbath day help renew you?

*Pray:* **Life-giving God, we thank you for your word that challenges the misuse of power and authority as it protects and renews life through Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and Lord of the sabbath. 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 help someone you know experience rest and renewal?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Taking time not to work and instead rest the mind and body and enjoy God's presence promotes health and wellbeing. In addition to Sunday rest and worship, consider mini-sabbath rests by taking five to fifteen minutes during the day to remain quiet and prayerful. It is good for your mind, your body, and your relationship to God and neighbor. Begin the time of sabbath with a prayer: **God of peace, thank you for the gift of sabbath rest to honor you and to restore us in health to love and serve others. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1; Mark 3:20-35