

# 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)

May 5, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY in EASTER



*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Voluntary in C*

John Stanley  
Dirk Lindner, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(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 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.


Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

## 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.


## HYMN OF PRAISE

Choir




Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.


All



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God,

**C** you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 524 & 526*

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

**W**hile Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 98

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



<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with the harp,  
with the harp and the <sup>1</sup> voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound <sup>1</sup> of the horn  
shout with joy before the <sup>1</sup> king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it,  
the world and those who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers <sup>1</sup> clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity.

## SECOND READING

**1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

**E**veryone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 15:9-17**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 452*

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

Jesus said: <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** 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 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, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Wynard*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

ELW 804 vs. 1 & 4

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.

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

*(sit)*

## PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

☐ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*Noah & Kristin Bieber  
Sam & Emily*

*Rachel Landsness*

*Mark Meier*

## 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.**

**P** In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

**P** *Siblings* in Christ: do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Response:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**P** May almighty God – Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit – who gave you the will to reaffirm your baptismal vows also give you the grace and the strength to uphold them.

People of God: do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**C** **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**P** Let us pray: We give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

**C** **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)*

**Sympathy:** for the family and friends of Helen Booten; sister-in-law of Barb Chrisman, Bill Christensen, and Darlene Tuite

**Prayers this week:** Joyce Wachal

**On-going Care:** Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Barb Carlson, 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, Marce Picha, 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

*Put on Love*

by Lee Dengler

(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

**P** Risen One,

**C** you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts 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.

## THE 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 FOR EASTER

### 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

☐ 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



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

☐ Come and eat at God's table.

☑ **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

*I Come with Joy*

**ELW 482**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1 I come with joy, a child of God,<br/>forgiven, loved, and free,<br/>the life of Jesus to recall<br/>in love laid down for me,<br/>in love laid down for me.</b></p> <p><b>2 I come with Christians far and near<br/>to find, as all are fed,<br/>the new community of love<br/>in Christ's communion bread,<br/>in Christ's communion bread.</b></p> | <p><b>3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,<br/>each proud division ends.<br/>The love that made us, makes us one,<br/>and strangers now are friends,<br/>and strangers now are friends.</b></p> <p><b>4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,<br/>unseen, but ever near,<br/>is in such friendship better known,<br/>alive among us here,<br/>alive among us here.</b></p> <p><b>5 Together met, together bound<br/>by all that God has done,<br/>we'll go with joy, to give the world<br/>the love that makes us one,<br/>the love that makes us one.</b></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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**1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows,  
fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Shepherding God,

**C** 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.

# SENDING

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### BLESSING

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☛ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

☞ 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

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

### DISMISSAL

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

☛ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Healey Willan  
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 Barrett | 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)

May 4 & 5, 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 Robert & Pat Ranney in celebration of the 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Steve & Diane O'Connor

### Kountze Café

**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 and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

### Faith Formation

#### Children's Choir

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)**

**Grades K-6**

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### Sunday School

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (childcare for those too old for the nursery).

#### Youth Forum

**10:10 AM**

**Grades 7—12**

**Lower Level Youth Room**

Grab your breakfast and join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other

**This Week:** Current Events

**Next Week:** Spiritual Practices

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

**This Week:** Reception of New Members and The Creed "He Ascended"

**Next Week:** No Forum (Fellowship)

### Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar with a Cajun Flair\* & Bingo

**Sunday, May 5**

**4:30 – 6:30 PM**

**Cost: Free-will Donation**

**\*Please Note: We will be serving "normal" tacos and have Cajun toppings you can add if you wish.**

Support our youth and young adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. We'll play different forms of BINGO with prizes beginning at 5:15 PM. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend or two! You won't want to miss this!

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 5 Sunday

Easter 6

Homebound Communion

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 (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

4:30 PM Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar & Music Bingo

### May 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### May 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### May 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

4:00 PM Executive Committee

### May 9 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Ascension Day Liturgy @ Kountze

### May 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

6:00 PM Hot Dogs & S'mores (gr 7-12 & College Youth)

### May 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### May 12 Sunday

Easter 7

Mother's Day

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 (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

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## 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.

### Ascension Day Liturgy

**Thursday, May 9**

**6:30 PM**

#### Held at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, we will be hosting the liturgy. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome. **If you would be willing to be an Usher for the evening**, please contact Jim Smejkal (jim@kmlchurch.org) or call the church office.

### Upcoming Youth Activity

**Grades 7-12 and College Youth**

**Friday, May 10**

**6 PM**

You are invited to an end of the year celebration in the Link Courtyard. Hotdogs and S'mores will be provided. Games will be played. Join us! RSVP by Tuesday, May 7.

### 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. Please RSVP with the number attending by Thursday, May 16.

## Get Ready for Camp!

### Carol Joy Holling Camp Work Day

Saturday, May 18, 2024

8:00 AM - Lunch

Carol Joy Holling Camp is in need of help to ready the camp for the more than 1,300 campers that will arrive in just a few weeks. We have been invited to help!

Individuals and groups are welcome and all skill levels are needed. They will provide breakfast starting at 8 AM and work will continue until lunch around 12:30 PM. For food planning purposes, they ask that you RSVP before May 3. For questions, contact Lisa Stirtz at LStirtz@NLOM.org or 402-944-2544. More info and register at:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>

## 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 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!

## 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>

## 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 at:

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

### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 4/25/2024—Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Saturday: 14

Sunday: 9:00: 142 11:00: 94

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Streaming: 44

Pantry Guests Served: 960 (inc. 312 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$11,001.03 (Regular) \$3,026.24 (Specials)

\$462.66 (Debt Reduction)

*Disciples lovingly accept the hospitality of others.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                    |                                   |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 15:9-17       | Love one another                  |
| Monday    | Acts 10:44-48      | Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit  |
| Tuesday   | 1 John 5:1-6       | Faith conquers the world          |
| Wednesday | Romans 12:14-21    | Marks of the true Christian       |
| Thursday  | Luke 24:44-53      | The ascension of Jesus            |
| Friday    | Leviticus 19:32-37 | Living a holy life                |
| Saturday  | Psalms 98          | Make a joyful noise               |
| Sunday    | John 17:6-19       | Christ's prayer for his disciples |



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#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So he [Peter] ordered them [Cornelius and his household] to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. Acts 10:48 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, being a guest in another person's home is not always easy to do. Give us love and courage to graciously accept the hospitality of others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you are the host at every meal. Help me to receive your hospitality and to be open to the hospitality of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God's steadfast love and faithfulness give you joy. (Psalm 98:3-4)

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Tell or think about a memorable time when you have been a guest in someone else's home.
- In what ways do you show God's love when visiting others in their home?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read: Acts 10:44-48.*

While Peter is speaking, he witnesses the work of the Holy Spirit that leads him to baptize Cornelius and his household. Then Peter accepts the hospitality of Cornelius, a Roman soldier (Acts 10:1-2). What would it have been like for Peter to receive food and lodging in the home of a Roman and a Gentile? It was most likely a dramatic change for Peter. It is one thing to be the host and invite someone to receive the hospitality, food, family and faith traditions of your own culture. It is quite another to be open to the cultural life of someone else. It can easily be disorienting. Will you like the food? Will you know or make adjustments to the appropriate manners expected? Will you pick up the right utensil? Will you embarrass your host or yourself? Being a guest is not easy and requires attentiveness, acceptance, and grace. That is what the church is asked to do, to be vulnerable and not in control. That is what Jesus and the Holy Spirit expect of us, too.

*Discuss:* How does your openness to someone else's hospitality show the love of God to that person?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, your kindness knows no end. Give us faith to be open to the lives and ways of others that together we may give praise to you 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 be open to the hospitality and cultural traditions of others?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Throughout the Bible and the history of the church, singing has been a faithful way of worshiping God and expressing one's faith in God (Psalm 98). Sing or read the words of a favorite hymn. Begin your singing and reading by praying the words of Psalm 98:4: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19