

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

June 9, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



“IF A HOUSE
is divided
AGAINST ITSELF,
THAT HOUSE
cannot STAND.”

MARK 3:25

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Bryan Rust, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
The God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

☑ Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

- ☐ God, our provider, 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 life in the world. Amen.**

- ☐ 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.

☑ Amen.

1 God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your pow'r;
 crown your ancient church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 for the facing of this hour,
 for the facing of this hour.

3 Cure your children's warring madness;
 bend our pride to your control;
 shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
 rich in things and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
 to the evils we deplore;
 let the gift of your salvation
 be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 serving you whom we adore,
 serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

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

☞ All-powerful God,

☞ **in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to pages 14-19

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 130 (read responsively)

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is written on four staves. The first staff is labeled "Refrain Leader" and "All". The lyrics are: "Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is". The second staff continues the lyrics: "God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!". The third staff begins with a 3/4 time signature and the lyrics: "3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, bind the bro - ken, find the lost,". The fourth staff continues the lyrics: "con - firm in us the fire and love of Pen - te - cost." and is labeled "Refrain".

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 3:20-35

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons.

Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.

Jesus went home; ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

☐ 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 return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.**
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.**

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☑** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Merciful God,
 G receive our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Sympathy: for the family and friends of Marvin Kovar

Prayers this week: Michael Bogue, son of Debbie Bogue

On-going Care: Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Dale Broekemeier, 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.
G 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

Bryan Rust, organ

(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

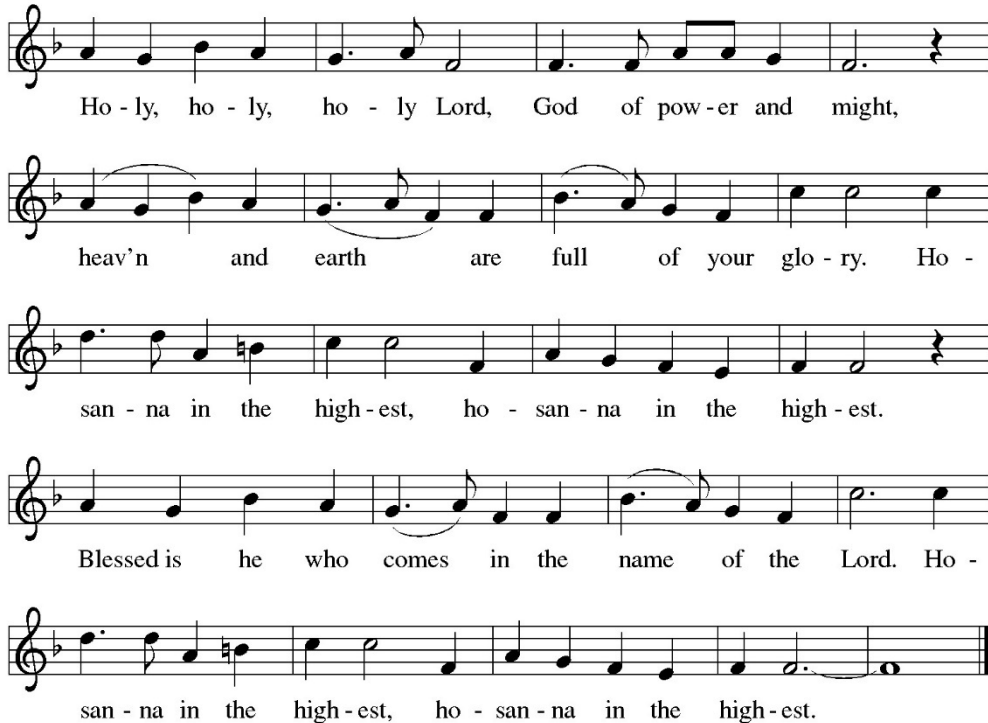
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

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:



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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☞ Come to the table Christ has set.
- ☞ **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

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 462

- 1 Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.**
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.**
- 3 Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.**

Text: Joel W. Lundeen
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

(rise in body or spirit)

Text: African American spiritual

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Jesus, Bread of life,

**☞ 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

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Bryan Rust, *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

June 8 & 9, 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 Bob & Sandy Fonda in honor of their 56th wedding Anniversary

Beignet Breakfast

Sunday, June 9

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Let the mouth-watering begin!!! Join us for our final NOLA Awareness Event supporting the youth as they prepare for their trip to the ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gathering in New Orleans. Homemade beignets and yogurt will be served. Yummy! Please be generous as we provide our final opportunity to support this trip that will enlighten and sustain the youth, young adults, and adult leaders as they participate in growing in faith and experiencing the wider church in new ways through their trip. Everyone is welcome.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

This week: Fellowship

Next week: Early Christian Baptism.

Ordination of our Former Vicar,

Gretchen Olson Kopp

Sunday, June 9

2 PM

Kountze Memorial

By the grace of God and the call of the Church, Gretchen Olson Kopp is to be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical church in America. We are all invited to attend the service and the reception to follow.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 10 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese
Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee

June 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 14 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 15 Saturday

10 AM Pool Party—All families w/
kids
5:00 PM Worship

June 16 Sunday

Jun 16 - Jun 21 Camp Week @ CJH
Pentecost 4
Father's Day
Pr. Wynard's bday
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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

10 AM—1 PM (please note time change)

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, 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 Jordon. 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 Jordon. 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 or 402-341-7761).

Happy Birthday, LeClare Steffen!

LeClare will be 101 on June 20! Birthday greetings would be much appreciated. If you don't have LeClare's address to send cards, please call the church office to get it.

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/4eebubc9>

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 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!

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>

**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!

Support for Dannika Rees

Dannika Rees has joined the Air Force and is currently in Texas for Basic Training. If you would like to send her a note of encouragement, please contact the church office for her address. Please note that at this time, she can only receive letters, not packages.

From the Transition Team:

As we discern together what God has called Kountze to be and what kind of leader we need as our next Associate Pastor, please take a few moments to share your response to this question: "What is our purpose as a congregation?" Please put your response on the form in your bulletin or email:

call.committee@kmlchurch.org

Thank you! Your input is invaluable in this process. If you have any questions or further comments, feel free to reach out to a member of our Transition Team: Pr. Lucy Wynard, Anne Dey, Dulcinea Boesenberg, Ron Brown, Scott Henneman, Tarna Kidder, Lara McCormick, and Jeff Perkins.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 5/30/24—Wednesday, 6/5/24

Saturday: 44

Sunday: 9:00: 104 11:00: 51

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 210

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: 1,007 (inc. 331 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$8,204.20 (Regular)

\$2,256.16 (Specials)

\$176.00 (Debt Reduction)

Following Jesus is the will of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:8-15	The Lord is patient
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:7-12	Treasure in clay jars
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And looking at those who sat around him, he [Jesus] said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” **Mark 3:34-35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to see your power of love and mercy in the world through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for providing us with this meal and everything we need for daily life. Help us to recognize your goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of Jesus give you peace in knowing God’s steadfast love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you witnessed an act of kindness that was not well received?
- Many religious leaders did not approve of what Jesus did or said. Why do you think this was?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 3:20-35.

In this reading, Jesus’ ministry creates controversy and conflict. It also brings healing, hope, and salvation. Jesus challenges families as well as scribes, those who represent the religious life of Jerusalem. Both our family life and our life of faith in the larger church need the power of Jesus. It is Jesus who can bind up the strong man, an image of Satan. Jesus binds and limits the powers of evil as well as unbinds people needing healing and forgiveness. The eternal sin of speaking against the Holy Spirit is rejecting the divine goodness in Jesus. Opposing the work of the kingdom that Jesus brings denies the power of God to heal and to save. The conflict presented by the kingdom of God is either believing or not believing in the divine power of Jesus. The will of God is to listen to and believe in Jesus. It is the merciful power of God that heals our lives and is intended for our homes and our congregations.

Discuss: When have you gone through a tough time and then experienced the power of God’s care and mercy?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us faith and confidence to reject evil and to see your goodness and mercy in the world through the power of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 do the will of God by reaching out to someone in need of healing?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 130 is a prayer for forgiveness and mercy. Recognizing our sin and need for God’s mercy and forgiveness is a wonderful gift of faith. The prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord’s Prayer, teaches us to ask for forgiveness. Write the words “forgive us our sins (trespasses) as we forgive those who sin (trespass) against us.” Use the paper as a bookmark for Bible readings. Finish by praying the Lord’s Prayer.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 4:26-34