

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 23, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Bruce Nissen, *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 the 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 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.**

**5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.**

**6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.**

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6

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

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;



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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

- ☐ O God of creation, eternal majesty,
☑ **you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
2“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

4“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

5Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?

6On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

7when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

8“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

9when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

10and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

11and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 107:1-3, 23-32 (*read responsively*)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

²³**Some went down to the sea in ships,
plying their trade in deep waters.**

²⁴They beheld the works of the LORD,
God’s wonderful works in the deep.

²⁵**Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose,
which tossed high the waves of the sea.**

²⁶They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;
their souls melted away in their peril.

²⁷**They staggered and reeled like drunkards,
and all their skill was of no avail.**

²⁸Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD,
and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁹**You stilled the storm to a whisper
and silenced the waves of the sea.**

³⁰Then were they glad when it grew calm,
when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

³¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

³²Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people;
in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah!

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work.

Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

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!
1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, melt and break our hearts of stone,
un - til we give our lives to God, and God a - lone.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.”³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

☐ 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

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 763 vs. 1 & 2

- 1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

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 Yano Jones, Assistant Principal of PLSHS

Prayers this week: Cathy Goodman, friend of Leigh and Vicki Freeman; Tracey Mason, girlfriend of Tom Steffan; Molly Mulqueen, mother of Liz Jensen; Myrna Weiland, mother of Todd Weiland

On-going Care: Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Michael Bogue, 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, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; 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

(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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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

- ☐ 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

When Peace like a River

ELW 785

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain***
- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***
- 4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.</p> | <p>3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.</p> |
| <p>2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.</p> | <p>4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!</p> |

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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(rise in body or spirit)

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

How Marvelous God's Greatness

ELW 830 vs 1 & 2

1 How marvelous God's greatness,
how glorious God's might!
To this the world bears witness
in wonders day and night:
in form of flow'r and snowflake,
in morn's resplendent birth,
in afterglow at ev'ning,
in sky and sea and earth.

2 Each tiny flow'ret whispers,
the great life-giver's name;
the mighty mountain masses
his majesty proclaim;
the valleys deep are hymning
God's shelter for his own;
the snow-capped peaks are pointing
to God's almighty throne.

Text: Valdimar Briem, 1848-1930; tr. Charles V. Pilcher, 1879-1961, alt.
Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Bruce Nissen, *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
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

June 22 & 23, 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 given in memory of Barbara Sacklar given by Tracey Saklar and Kris Placzek and family; in memory of Lou Johnson; in recognition of LeClare's Steffen's 101st Birthday, given by Tracey, Tom, Jane & Rod Lynam & Jennifer Hellwig

Thank you Mike Edris, for substituting on piano this Saturday night and to Bruce Nissen for substituting on organ Sunday morning. We appreciate your willingness to share your musical talents with us this weekend.

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labedz.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

This week: No Forum (Neighborhood Gathering Prep.)

Next week: Synod Assembly Report and Camp Carol Joy Holling

Annual Neighborhood Gathering

Sunday, June 23

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join us at the North end of the West parking lot this Sunday morning. All are invited to stop by and have a hot dog and popcorn. We 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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 23 Sunday

Pentecost 5

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

11:00 AM Neighborhood

Gathering

June 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

June 26 Wednesday

Holy Trinity

12:15 PM Worship

June 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

June 30 Sunday

Pentecost 6

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

Table Grace The Musical

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>

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.

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!

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.

Simple Ideas for a Spiritually Rich Summer Taken from Pr. Lucy's June/July Good News Article

- ☼ Look & think back to your New Year's resolutions or Lenten disciplines. Now *realistically* rewrite those goals & rededicate yourself to them.

A Summer of Service

Taken from Jill's June/July Good News Article

- ☼ Kountze Food Pantry. You can give to those in our community with food insecurity. Volunteers are needed to assist guests, hand out food, clean, organize, unload/stock food, and pick up supplies from our partners and distributors.

A Note from Pastor Gretchen Olson Kopp

Dear People of God at Kountze:

There simply aren't enough words to express my gratitude for all the ways you made the celebration of my ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament so full of joy, beauty, grace, meaning, and connection. It was beyond what I could have imagined. Special thanks to all of you on the ordination committee -- Pastor Shari, Dulcinea Boesenberg, Ron Brown, Barb Carlsen, Ingrid Furby, Liz Pemberton, Jeff & Robin Perkins, Jacob Rump, and Jim Smejkal -- everyone who helped in the kitchen throughout the day, those who served as worship leaders, those who sang in the choir, Pastor Lucy for her gracious welcome and tour about the building, Ron Brown for his incredible camera work on the live-stream, Debbie Bogue for her extensive work on the bulletin, and all who took the time to join in afternoon worship together. The ordination committee went to incredible lengths -- providing lunch for the worship leaders, the delicious and abundant reception complete with two beautiful cakes and a spread of delicious sandwiches and chocolate, table decorations that were truly works of art and heart, the stunning stole, and all the preparations, set up and clean up for all of this. I wished I'd had my feet on the ground to recognize you more fully in the moment. You made it a day of celebration that I will not forget, but even more, you made everyone gathered and joining by livestream feel so a part of this day of worship and thanksgiving to a merciful and gracious God. So many visitors mentioned how impacted they were by Kountze's vibrant witness to the gospel and generous hospitality.

As I mentioned in my parting sermon at Kountze, the dust of your love and care remain on my feet and in my heart as I move into this new chapter. Thank you for being the face and hands of Christ to me and all who were present last Sunday afternoon. I hold you in prayer and rejoice in all that is ahead for the people of Kountze and all who are impacted by your mission and ministry.

With love and deepest gratitude,
Gretchen

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 6/13/24—Wednesday, 6/19/24

Saturday: 38

Sunday: 9:00: 90 **11:00:** 71

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 210

Streaming: 40

Pantry Guests Served: 925 (inc. 271 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 10

Offering:

\$10,083.97 (Regular) \$1,960.13 (Specials)

\$337.00 (Debt Reduction)

God cares for us when we are afraid.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the waters
Monday	Job 38:1-11	God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	How Paul served God
Wednesday	Psalms 56	A prayer of trust in God
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Joel 2:18-27	God's response and promise
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32	God saves those in distress
Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And they [disciples] were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:41 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of comfort and assurance, we thank you for your presence that promises to protect us through the storms of life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, you who still the storm and hush the waves, we thank you for protecting us and caring for us with this food through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 107:29)

A Blessing to Give:

May your heart be open to the grace of God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:13)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you were afraid? What did you do?
- How is God with you when you are afraid?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:35-41.

This story is not simply about a miracle showing the powers of Jesus over nature. It is about the presence of the kingdom of God in Jesus silencing and rebuking the powers of evil, death, and destruction. First century Jews and Christians experienced a traumatic time in history. Roman rulers dictated their lives, destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, and slaughtered countless lives. It is reminiscent of the shock and sorrow that many have experienced throughout time. At such times one wonders what will happen and if there is hope for the future. The disciples in the boat with Jesus are filled with fear and wonder who this Jesus is. We, as the readers of Mark, have a better view of what is happening. An image for the church is the boat at sea with Jesus. A word we use for the worshiping space inside a church building is nave from the Latin word (*navis*), which means "ship." There can be times in our lives when we, ourselves, are tossed by the wind and waves yet sheltered by Jesus, the Son of God who silences and rebukes all that frightens us.

Discuss: How does faith in Jesus calm you and others who follow Christ?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, in the midst of our uncertainties and fears we thank you for your saving presence that silences the storms of our lives and world through Christ 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 show God's love and care for someone who is going through a difficult time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the Bible the sea is often seen as a place that lacks order and safety. The sea represents that which seeks to undermine God's design for life. Because of this, the church has been portrayed as a ship at sea with Jesus at the helm. Some congregations actually have a ship hanging down from the ceiling in the sanctuary or nave (word for ship). Draw a picture of a boat or take a model of a ship and place it in a visible place to remind you that your life in Christ is protected by Jesus just as he protected his disciples during the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Place next to the ship these words: Thank you, Jesus, for protecting us in the storms of life.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43