

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

July 7, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the "between": between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *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.

- ☐ 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 Making their way down through the ages,
sinners and saints have heard God's call:
wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,
Jesus' disciples, one and all.
Gathered for worship, offering thanks,
the greatest with the least
have come to share this feast.

2 Making their way all the world over,
Christians assemble on this day,
hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,
learning to walk in Jesus' way.
Members of Christ, united in love,
they seek our God to know,
and so together grow.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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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

- P** God of the covenant,
C in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 123 (read responsively)

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**

so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 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 6:1-13

Children may follow along to a parallel story using the Spark Bible, pages 252-253

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

☐ 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

Ask the Complicated Questions

ACS 1005 vs. 1, 3, 4



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,



strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

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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** In your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

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

Prayers this week: Leslie Akers, Michael Bogue, Lynn Meyer

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

How Great Thou Art

arr. Dan Forrest
Paul Rath, *vocalist*

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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



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

☐ 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

For by Grace You Have Been Saved

ELW 598

**1 For by grace you have been saved
and even faith is not your own,
it's the gift of God for you
and not the works that you have done.
Don't let anybody boast,
for this is God's great gift. Amen.**

**2 "So my grace is all sufficient
for each child who is my own,
for my strength is now made perfect
for each child who is my own.
When you're weak, then you are strong,
for this is God's great gift." Amen.**

**3 So this weakness with contentment
I'll accept now in myself,
all my hardships, pains, and griefs
that still lie deep within myself.
When I'm weak, then I am strong,
for this is God's great gift. Amen. Amen.**

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
Text © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

- 1 **This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

- 2 **My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

- 3 **This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3
Text sts. 1-2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company. Text st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> <p>2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> | <p>3 God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> <p>4 God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *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

July 6 & 7, 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 Lynn & Nancy Meyer in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary and the 2-year anniversary of their son, Chris' heart transplant

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 Labeledz.

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: Fellowship

Next week: TBD

Letter from Pastor Shari Duminy

July 1, 2024

Pastor Shari Duminy has received and accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor at a congregation in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. She will begin her new ministry on August 1. Her last Sunday at Kountze Memorial will be July 21, with her final day in the office on July 26. If you are on our mailing list, you should have received Pastor Shari's letter to the congregation. If not, you can read her letter by using the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/3rb3wxzs>

Join us on July 20 & 21 to say farewell and to celebrate Pastor Shari's ministry among us.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 7 Sunday

Pentecost 7
Homebound Communion
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

July 8 Monday

Jul 8 - Jul 11 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Camp Firelight VBS @ St.
Timothy's
10:00 AM Pantry

July 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

July 10 Wednesday

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

July 11 Thursday

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

July 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 13 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

July 14 Sunday

Jul 14 - Jul 21 ELCA Youth
Gathering (gr 8-12 & 19 - 25
yrs) in New Orleans
Pentecost 8
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
12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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!

Seeking Singers!

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 North 18th Street

Wednesday, July 10

7 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is inviting anyone wanting to sing for the Annual Pride Mass to arrive at Trinity Episcopal on July 10 at 5:30 PM to rehearse an anthem. If interested, contact the Kountze office for more details. Not into singing? Members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies are invited to Trinity Cathedral's Third Annual Pride Mass!

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, July 14

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

All are welcome

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Horse is based on a true story of Lexington, America's most famous race horse. Geraldine Brooks is a Pulitzer Prize winning author who skillfully brings the past to life and writes a compelling story of American history. The novel begins in Washington D.C. in 2019 where characters, Theo and Jess are introduced. Theo is a Nigerian American art historian who discovers an old painting of a horse in a box of belongings discarded by his neighbor. Jess is a native Australian scientist at the Smithsonian who is studying the skeleton of a horse that has been found in an attic. These two characters are brought together in their interest in finding the history of this horse. The story then goes to 1850 Lexington, Kentucky, where Jarret, a slave boy, serves as a horse groomsman and bonds with a bay foal. During this period, Thomas J. Scott, an artist, paints paintings of horses, and discovers Lexington and Jarret.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, July 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

There is always good food and a good time. Watch the Announcement Page for more information.

36th Annual Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Carol Joy Holling Camp

The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Bring your friends and families! Quilt donations can be delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp until July 19. Please submit in a plastic bag with donation form that can be found at:

www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction

Blessing of Backpacks

August 3, 5 PM

August 4, 9 & 11 AM

All students, teachers, professors, Sunday school volunteers, and support staff are invited to bring their school bags to church and receive a blessing for a year of abundant learning and development.

Table Grace The Musical

August 8-9

This musical is based on a combination of real life stories molded into fictional characters and story-lines. It's a celebration of grace, love, second chances, and acceptance. Don't miss it! The Table Grace newsletter can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4eeubc9>

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>

Simple Ideas for a Spiritually Rich Summer

Taken from Pr. Lucy's June/July Good News Article

- ☼ Volunteer somewhere new – just once, to check it out. Perhaps it's the Kountze Food Pantry or at our Neighborhood Gathering, or perhaps at the Humane Society, a local senior center, or with refugees new to our city. ShareOmaha.org is a great resource to find a good fit for you.
- ☼ It's tempting when the weather gets nice to skip church. I get it! But keep in mind how vital it is to keep plugged in with God through your connection to God's people. There's lots of exciting mission & ministry that happens in the summer months – make plans to be part of it! (And also... it's okay to skip church once in a while – see #10...)

A Summer of Service

Taken from Jill's June/July Good News Article

- ☼ Volunteer to put the Good News together at the end of each month (except June). We'll be getting the August Good News ready for mailing on Thursday, July 25 beginning at 9 AM. Lunch will be served at noon. Please call the church office if you're able to help so we know how many to plan on for lunch.

Cards With Friends

We won't be meeting in July or August. Watch the Good News to see about starting up again in the fall.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 6/27/24—Wednesday, 7/3/24

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 98 11:00: 63

Wednesday: 12:15: N/A at time of printing

Total: 194

Streaming: 52

Pantry Guests Served: N/A at time of printing

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering: N/A at time of printing

God's power is made perfect in weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve
Monday	Ezekiel 2:1-5	The Lord chooses Ezekiel
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Paul's vision
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock
Thursday	Isaiah 43:1-3	Restoration promised
Friday	Romans 8:26-27	Spirit intercedes for us
Saturday	Psalm 123	A prayer for mercy
Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore I [Paul] am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Corinthians 12:10 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who conquer all powers from the cross, guide us to a life of faith, hope, and love for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, and that you show us mercy and kindness each day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a humble heart and faith in Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you experienced rejection from friends or family?
- How can God use your weaknesses to bring healing and hope to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10.

Christian spirituality is a way of life that is shaped by the gospel. Paul says he could boast about a mystical spirituality, but he refuses (vv. 2-5). Instead, he lifts up his weakness *“for the sake of Christ”* (v. 10). In a world that seeks wisdom, power, and mystical experiences, Paul's message to the Corinthians and to us is a cautionary note. Christian spirituality for Paul is a life lived for the sake of Christ that is grounded in *“weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities”* (v. 10). Humble experiences open us to a strength, a wisdom, and a transformed life. This is a life very different from one that some in the Corinthian church promoted to show their godliness. In Mark 6 Jesus experiences rejection yet sends his disciples out with power and authority. Today, God's mercy, grace and healing power may look fragile, yet it is clothed in a gospel strength that changes lives.

Discuss: When have you experienced a difficult moment that was transformed by God's grace and power?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to trust in your power that humbles the mighty and lifts up those experiencing insults, hardships, and persecutions for the sake of 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 help someone who is experiencing a hardship?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 6, Jesus sends out his disciples with very little to sustain their trip. They are to rely on the hospitality of others. The church was built on the humble act of being dependent on the generosity of others. Set out a cup in your home to remind you that God fills your cup (the “daily bread” you need), often through others. Let the cup remind you to be ready to receive the kindness of others as well as to be kind to others. When you set out the cup, pray the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29