

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 21, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider, help us.

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

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

C Amen.

- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.**
- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another's pain
as though it were our own.**
- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great heart,
become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

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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.



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 O God,

C powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the "flock" of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David's line to save Israel and Judah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear

any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *(read responsively)*

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:11-22

The author of this letter reminds his audience that originally they were not part of God’s chosen people. Through Jesus’ death, however, they are included in God’s household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

📖 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.

Refrain

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

☐ 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.

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

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THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

℘ 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,
G hear our prayer.

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

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Greta Royce Chida

Prayers this week: Pr. John & Joanne Carlson, brother & sister-in-law of Paul Carlson, Diane Nickeson-Ray

On-going Care: Lesley Akers, 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, Lyn Meyer, 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: *Seminarrians* – 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

It Is Well with My Soul

Philip P. Bliss
Rick Lienemann, *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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.</p> | <p>2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.</p> |
| <p>3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.</p> | |

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let us seek
your straying children, lost and lone.</p> <p>2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.</p> | <p>3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing our words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.</p> <p>4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
until our very hearts o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

(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

LITANY OF FAREWELL

P Good Christian People, we now pray for the saving presence of our living God.
In this world:

C **He is risen.**

P In this community:

C **He is risen.**

P In this gathering:

C **He is risen.**

P In the hearts of all faithful people:

C **He is risen.**

P But especially, we pray and give thanks now for Pastor Shari who is leaving our community.

For expectations not met:

C **Lord have mercy.**

P For grievances not resolved:

C **Lord have mercy.**

P For wounds not healed:

C **Lord have mercy.**

P For anger not dissolved:

C **Lord have mercy.**

P For gifts not given:

C **Lord have mercy.**

P For promises not kept:

C **Lord have mercy.**

P And, also, for this lifelong pilgrimage which you have made, and the time you have invested with us in this place:

C **Thanks be to God.**

P For friendships made, celebrations enjoyed, and for moments of nurture:

C **Thanks be to God.**

P For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given, promises kept:

C **Thanks be to God.**

P For trust and confidence shared; times of good humor and moments of gentle leadership:

C **Thanks be to God.**

P For bread and wine, Jesus' body and blood:

C **Thanks be to God.**

- P** And so, as you go and establish a home with other members of the family of Christ:
- C** **Go in peace.**
- P** To continue the journey with new friends and new adventures, new gifts to give and receive:
- C** **Go in peace.**
- P** To offer wisdom and experience, with competence and compassion, in the ministry to which you are called:
- C** **Go in peace.**
- P** With whatever fears, whatever sadness, whatever excitement may be yours:
- C** **Go in peace.**
- P** With our faith in you, our hope for you, our love of you:
- C** **Go in peace.**
- P** May we be kept close to each other in the communion of saints. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** 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



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 Omaha, NE 68131
402-341-7761 www.kmlchurch.org

July 20 & 21, 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



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Pr. Shari Duminy

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Gary & Judy Westerman in celebration of their grandchildren, Andrew and Ashley's birthdays;

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Laurine Savine in honor of Pr. Shari Duminy

Special Breakfast in Honor of Pr. Shari
9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

This Sunday morning, we'll have a Farewell

Reception in honor of Pr. Shari. A special breakfast—and cake!—will be served. Join us as we celebrate her time with us at Kountze Memorial and wish her all the best in her new Call.

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: Farewell to Pr. Shari Duminy

Next week: Lutheran Campus Ministry of Omaha with Pr. Heather Goertz

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 21 Sunday

Pentecost 9

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Special Breakfast &

Cake in Honor of Pr. Shari

Duminy

10:10 AM Adult Forum

July 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

7:30 PM Youth Committee

July 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

July 25 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free

Clinic

July 26 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 27 Saturday

9:00 AM CJH Quilt Auction

5:00 PM Worship

July 28 Sunday

Pentecost 10

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

Dinners for Eight

Sign up by Monday, August 12.

- Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight.
- Meet each month for a meal in September, October, and November
- Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
- Enjoy a meal and conversation with one

another.

- Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 19.
- See you around the table!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes continued

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 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/4eebubc9>

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>

Cards With Friends

We won't be meeting in August. Watch the bulletin, e-news, and Good News to see about starting up again in the fall.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 7/11—Wednesday, 7/17

Saturday: 47

Sunday 9:00: 106 **11:00:** 65

Wednesday 12:15: 13

Total: 231

Streaming: 43

Pantry Guests Served: 1167 (inc. 389 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$18,446.13 (Regular) \$2,888.5 (Specials)

\$1,367.00 (Debt Reduction)

God cares for us like a shepherd.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	God promises a righteous king
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:11-22	United by Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 2:18-25	The example of Christ's suffering
Thursday	Matthew 9:35-38	Jesus talks about his suffering
Friday	Micah 2:12-13	A promise of hope
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

As he [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you for supplying our wants with your healing touch that feeds us with your love through Christ Jesus our Shepherd and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for us like a shepherd cares for the sheep; we thank you for this food, a gift of your loving care for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God care for you and calm your fears through Christ our Lord.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When you hear the word shepherd, what images come to mind?
- How does God act like a shepherd to calm your anxieties and give you hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jeremiah 23:1-6.

The shepherds spoken of in this reading are the kings of Judah and Israel. These kings are recognized as shepherds, those who care for the people. Due to the injustices and unfaithfulness of most of the kings, the people have suffered. There is clearly prophetic judgment in this writing. The point of prophetic judgment is not scolding but

hope. Through the prophet Jeremiah God gives hope to the people with the promise of a just and faithful shepherd king. The people will live without fear; they will not be appalled by events around them; they will not be abandoned or disappear from the face of the earth. Jesus, in the reading from Mark 6, is the one who comes as the Son of God, the true shepherd king. The people are in great need, fearful, and distressed. In Mark 6, Jesus comes with compassion to feed the five thousand, heal, and calm their anxieties and sicknesses.

Discuss: What needs to be shepherded with the goodness of God in our lives and in the world today?

Pray: **Dear God, you shepherd us with your love that we may not live in fear or in want. We thank you for your compassion that touches our lives through Jesus Christ our shepherd. 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 cope with their fears and anxieties?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 23 is one of the most familiar psalms in the Bible. Many people know this psalm by heart. A pattern of divine reading called *lectio divina* is a way to meditate and pray. Read Psalm 23 once, then pause. Read it again and then pick out a word or phrase that has meaning for you. Read it again and wonder how it speaks to you today. Consider highlighting or underlining the words or phrases you have chosen in your Bible. Pause and reflect on those words. *Pray:* **God of compassion and protection, give us peace and faith in knowing that you, our shepherd, pursue us with your goodness through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21