

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

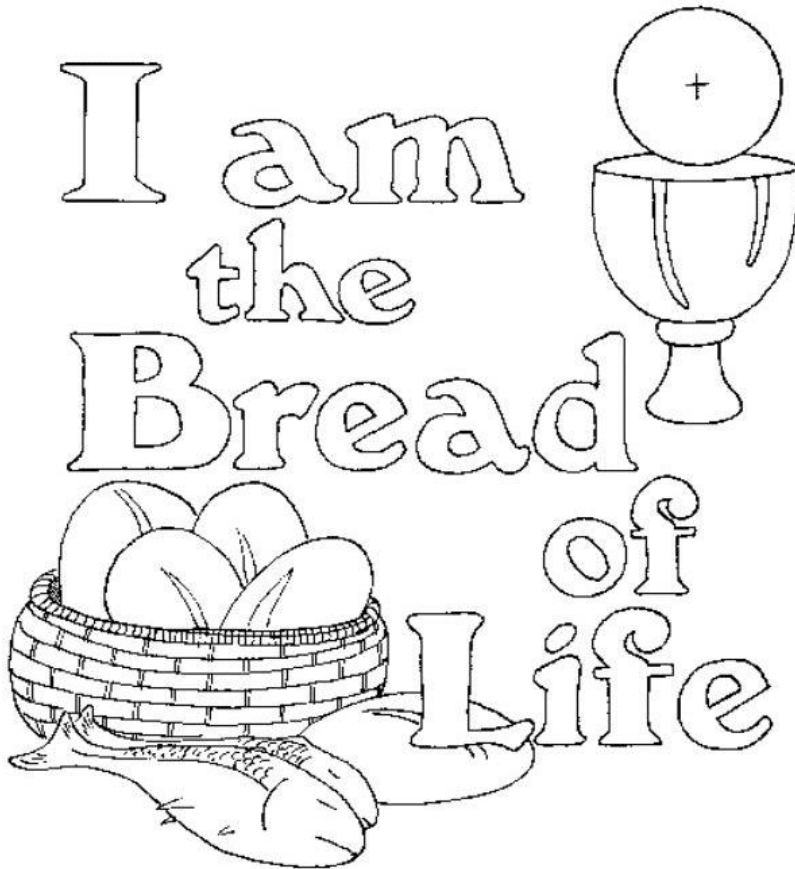
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

August 11, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

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 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932
Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

☞ Gracious God,

☞ **your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:4-8

First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the Lord is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again.⁷ The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 34:1-8 (read responsively)

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

² **I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴ **I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵ Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶ **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

⁸ **Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

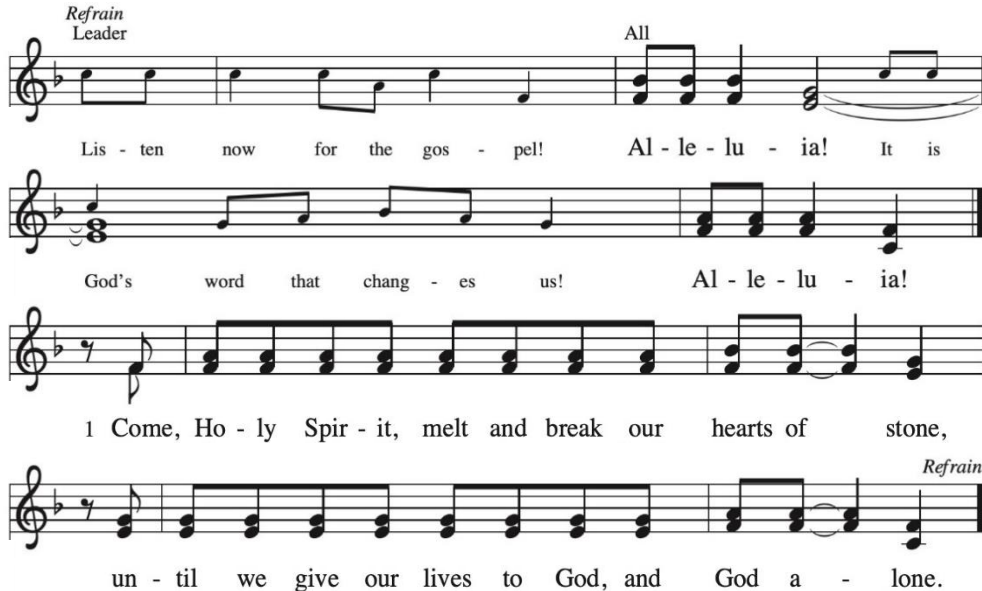
☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ 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. John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from

heaven.”⁴² They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves.⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

☐ 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

Katie Larson

Human Rights Educator/Community Organizer with ELCA Global Mission in Colombia

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

**1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
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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: ☞ Merciful God,

☞ **receive our prayer.**

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

On-going Care: Lesley Akers, Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, 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: *Seminarians* – James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

- 📄 The peace of Christ be with you always.
- 📄 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

Dona Nobis Pacem

arr. Teresa Jennings

Janet Diggins & Evelyn Drickey, vocalists

(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

- ☐ Jesus, Bread of life,
- ☑ **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

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

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 192



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

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.

1 What feast of love is offered here,
 what banquet come from heaven?
 What food of everlasting life,
 what gracious gift is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the bread come down from heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 How sweet the manna given!

2 What light of truth is offered here,
 what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life,
 what wondrous word is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sun come down from heaven.
 Oh, see and hear and sing!
 The Word of God is given!

3 What wine of love is offered here,
 what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life,
 what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 The Son of God is given!

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I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

1 "I am the Bread of life.
 You who come to me shall not hunger,
 and who believe in me shall not thirst.
 No one can come to me unless the Father
 beckons."

Refrain

"And I will raise you up,
 and I will raise you up,
 and I will raise you up on the last day."

2 "The bread that I will give
 is my flesh for the life of the world,
 and if you eat of this bread,
 you shall live forever, you shall live forever."
Refrain

3 "Unless you eat
 of the flesh of the Son of Man
 and drink of his blood,
 and drink of his blood,
 you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

4 "I am the resurrection,
 I am the life.
 If you believe in me,
 even though you die, you shall live forever."
Refrain

5 Yes, Lord, I believe
 that you are the Christ,
 the Son of God,
 who have come into the world. *Refrain*

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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

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW 542 vs 1 & 4

**1 O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows.**

**4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.**

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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. 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

August 10 & 11, 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 loving memory of Don & Jean Nippert given by Marvin & Kris Olson; given by Steve & Diane O'Connor in memory of Steve's mother, Loretta O'Connor

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Steve & Diane O'Connor in memory of Steve's mother, Loretta O'Connor

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11 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: Katie Larson and Global Mission

Next week: Congregational Election Meeting; Leadership, Finance, & Property Ministry Areas.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 11 Sunday

Pentecost 12
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/Katie Larson and Global Mission
12:15 PM Book Group
5:30 PM S'mores & Hotdogs

August 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
4:00 PM KCCOC Board

August 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

August 14 Wednesday

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

August 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due
Good News Deadline
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

August 16 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

August 17 Saturday

Carlson/Bird Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

August 18 Sunday

Pentecost 13
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/
Congregational Meeting and
Ministry Fair: Leadership,
Finance, Property

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch

Thursday, August 15

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

Have you ever wanted to eat like a king? Join us for the August Men's Lunch, where we will experience

what it was like to eat in medieval times. Bring your appetite and you guessed it: no silverware allowed. Sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, August 13 to reserve your seat for this dining experience.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes *continued*

Congregational Election Meeting

Sunday, August 18, 2024

10:15 AM

Please plan to join us between services in Fellowship Hall for our Annual Congregational Election Meeting. We will

- elect new members to the Council,
- hear updates and vote on the administrative structure for KCCOC (Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center),
- and discuss the use of funds from the sale of deFreese Manor.

Notice of Special Meeting

Kountze Commons

Community Outreach Center

Sunday, August 18, 2024

During the Congregational Meeting at Kountze Memorial

The purpose of this special meeting is to:

1. consider and vote upon the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation
2. consider and vote upon the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Corporation

Copies of the Amended & Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Amended & Restated Bylaws are at the Welcome Desk.

Back to School Gathering

Hotdogs & S'mores

Grades 7-12

Sunday, August 18

5:30 PM

Meet at the Link Door (by the tall orange tower) at 5:30 PM for Hot Dogs, Smores & Games in the Courtyard. We have invited our friends from Immanuel in Bellevue to join us. Let us know your plans by signing up and tell us what you can bring to the party. See you there as we grow in relationships and faith.

Dinners for Eight

Sign up by Monday, August 19.

- 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!

You are Invited!

John Waterman's 90th Birthday Party

Sunday, August 25

1-4 PM

DAV Hall, 4515 F Street, Omaha

Please RSVP—and get the address of the party - by August 15 via call or text to Shari at 402-830-5769.

Confirmation Orientation

August 28

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (93rd & Dodge)

Do you have a student who will be in 7th or 8th grade this fall? Our Confirmation programming kicks off with an Orientation Meeting & Meal for both students and their adults at St. Timothy's on August 28 at 6 PM **AND**... a lock-in and service night here at Kountze, September 6-7. Look for more information in your email and mailbox soon. Let the church office or Pastor Lucy know if you have a student who should be included, or if you have any questions.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 8/4—Wednesday, 8/7

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 106 11:00: 49

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 200

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 896 (inc. 290 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$19,837.51 (Regular) \$3,058.68 (Specials)

\$605.92 (Debt Reduction)

As beloved children, be imitators of God.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven
Monday	1 Kings 19:4-8	Elijah flees from Jezebel
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Rules for the new life
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1	Do all to the glory of God
Thursday	1 John 2:1-6	Christ our advocate
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 34:1-8	Taste and see
Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice of God. **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your saving grace and ask that your love guide our actions for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and the Bread of Life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we give you thanks that you are the bread of life that gives us hope, just as this meal today gives us daily strength. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of life, guide you as a beloved child of God.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Talk about or reflect on a time someone did something kind and unexpected for you.
- You are a beloved child of God. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 4:25-5:2.

Since the time of the New Testament, the message that all our hope in Christ is based on God's undeserved kindness led some to think they could live however they wanted. It made human efforts seem unimportant. Yet, this passage clearly speaks with words that command action: *"speak the truth," "do not grieve the Holy Spirit,"*

and "be kind." These and many more statements set an expectation for compliance. However, the motivation is not to earn God's love. It is because of God's love that our only real response is to *"be imitators of God, as beloved children"* (5:1). We will never fully grasp the clear statement of God's saving grace and our response of love and joy. The point is that because we are beloved children of God, our life is not to desire selfish acts of evil but to love one another as a *"fragrant offering"* that expresses our thanksgiving and love for God in Christ. *Discuss:* How do you show thanks for God's love and undeserved kindness for you?

Pray: **Loving God, your goodness comes to us anew each day; help us to respond to your goodness and mercy with love for others and a thankful heart 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, consider ways to help feed people who live with hunger?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus as the bread of life is the theme throughout John 6. Bread is a symbol of the food that gives us strength and keeps us alive. Make or buy a loaf of bread to share during a meal with family or friends. Begin the meal with the Mealtime Prayer in this Taking Faith Home. During the meal invite each person to take a turn to tell of a personal mountain high or valley low for the week. After the meal, bless one another: **May Jesus, the Bread of Life, guide you as a beloved child of God.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58