

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

September 22, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross

Keith & Kristyn Getty

arr. Kristin Campbell

Kai Johnson, *violin*

Mary Norton, *organ* 9:00 AM

Mark Jones, *organ* 11:00 AM

1 *Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me come.
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.*

2 *Beneath the cross of Jesus,
His family is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish
dreams;
Now, one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
See the children called by God.*

3 *Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown,
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
We will gladly live our lives.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Gracious God,

☞ **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

☞ God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

☞ **Amen.**

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

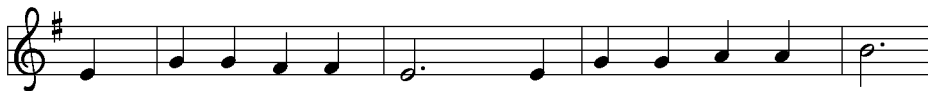
3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1979 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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GLORIA

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

C our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

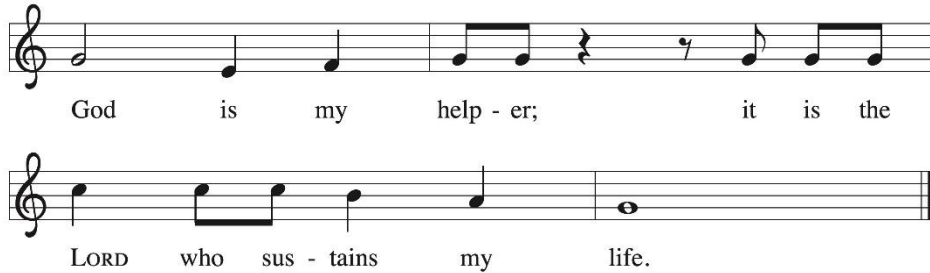
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 54 (choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)



¹Save me, O God, ¹by your name;

in your might, de- ¹fend my cause.

²Hear my ¹prayer, O God;

give ear to the words ¹of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have ¹sought my life,
those who have no re- ¹gard for God.

⁴Behold, God ¹is my helper;

it is the Lord who sus- ¹tains my life. *Refrain*

⁵Render evil to those who ¹spy on me;

in your faithful- ¹ness, destroy them.

⁶I will offer you a ¹freewill sacrifice

and praise your name, O Lord, for ¹it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from ¹every trouble,

and my eye looks down ¹on my enemies. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 324

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 6th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 who are not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. All children will return to the sanctuary in time to receive communion. There are Children's Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781 vs. 1-3

- 1 **Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**
- 2 **God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.**
- 3 **Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

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

Sympathy: for the family and friends of Nelda Olson-Hultgren, mother of Ruth Henneman

On-going Care: Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Vinn Stephens, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, 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, 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

Serving God by Loving All

Joel Raney
Kai Joynson, violin

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694 vs. 1 & 3



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

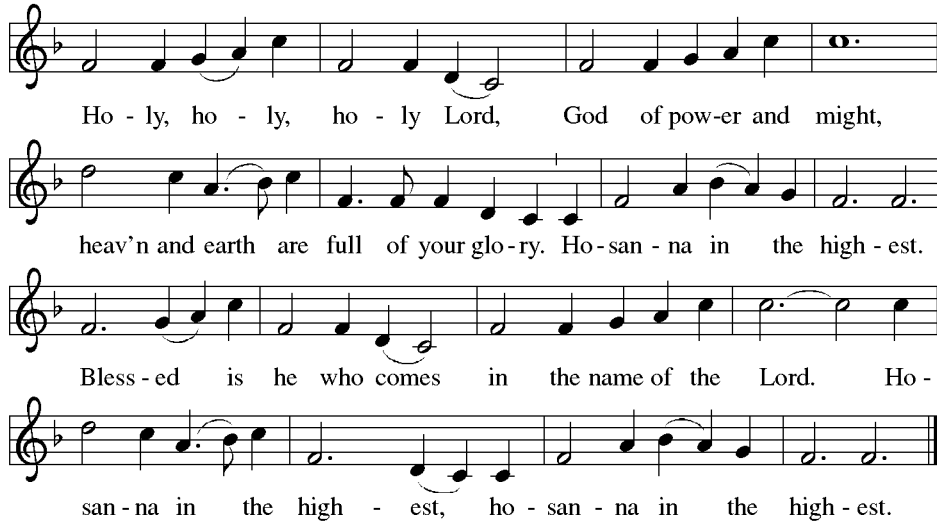
OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God,
- ☑ **source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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:

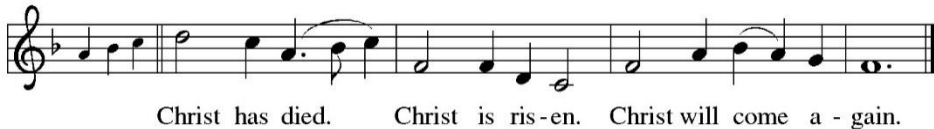
SANCTUS



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.
Bless - ed 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

- ☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes you to this table.

C **We come to meet our God.**

(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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Fairest Lord Jesus

Silesian Folk Song
Arr. Kristin Campbell
Kai Johnson, *violin*

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

Refrain

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

**3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
*Refrain***

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
*Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Jesus Loves Me!

ELW 595

**1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

Refrain

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

**2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. *Refrain***

**3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. *Refrain***

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Holy God,

G you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

† † †

Mary Norton, *organ* 9:00 AM
Mark Jones, *organ* 11:00AM

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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
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

September 21 & 22, 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 worshipping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 165 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.

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.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Thank you to Mary Norton for her willingness to share her talents on the organ and piano with us at 9 AM this Sunday morning.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Wayne Hahn in memory of Joyce E. Hahn; given by Donald & Arlene Hirsh in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Wayne Hahn in memory of Joyce E. Hahn

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Donald & Arlene Hirsh in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The schedule for September is slightly changed. This morning is our picnic, so join us for cookies & coffee and stay for the picnic lunch! Next week is the 5th Sunday of the month - cookies and coffee only will be served. Hot breakfast will begin in October.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions.

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 (Congregation Picnic Set up)

Next week: 165th Anniversary Presentation, 2

Annual Church Picnic

Everyone is Invited!

Sunday, September 22

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Get ready for a day of food, fun, and fellowship at our Annual Church Picnic! The day will be filled with outdoor entertainment for the kids, and we'll wrap up with everyone's favorite—BINGO! Hope to see you there!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 22 Sunday

Pentecost 18

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

September 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

6:00 PM Global Mission

September 25 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.
Timothy

September 26 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 27 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

September 28 Saturday

Miller & Woster Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

September 29 Sunday

Michael & All Angels

Pentecost 19

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

New Member Classes Continue

September 29

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member class. The next new member classes will be held in January.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, October 3

2:00 PM

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first Thursday of the month for a time together playing cards. Bring a snack to share. All are welcome.

Worship Assistant Training

Sunday, October 6, 12:15 PM or

Sunday, October 13, 10:10 AM

• Join us for a training of Lectors, Greeters, Ushers,

Communion Assistants, Altar Guild

- **All current servers** are encouraged to attend for a refresher course
- If you are interested in learning more about Worship Assistants, please contact the church office to register or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall

Explore! Day Retreat

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Elementary Age Students

Saturday, October 5

9 AM

Cost: \$25 per camper (includes meals)

Explore! Day Retreats for elementary students is a chance for young campers to get out and enjoy camp in one compact and fun day. In addition to Bible study and worship, the children will be experiencing many

favorite camp activities together as they share in fun and fellowship. Every Explore! Day Retreat is different, so first-time and long-time participants can both join in the fun as we focus on environmental education, fellowship, and faith! If you have questions about the Explore! Day Retreat, please contact our Youth Programs Specialist, Laura, at LStalder@NLOM.org or 402-944-2544. For more info or to register, go to: <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 5

10:30 AM

St. Cecilia Cathedral

701 N 40th St

Cathedral will host an outdoor celebration of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Bring your pets (dogs on a leash please) to the Cathedral front steps and join in this delightful event for all creatures great and small. Music and socializing 10:30 AM. Blessing at 11:00 AM. Come early and bring your pooch with you to the Pancake Breakfast!

Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker

Tuesday, October 9

7:00 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 North 18th Street

Mark your calendars! Kountze Memorial will once again join Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in a service commemorating St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker.

First Communion Classes

Sunday, October 13 or Sunday, October 20

12:15 - 2:00 PM

A light lunch will be served.

Meet with Kristin Boe and Pastor Hall in the Nave. The curriculum will be "Fed & Forgiven". All ages are welcome; the course is geared toward 2nd graders. Please call the church office, email kristin@kmlchurch.org, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or use the QR Code to register. Children will receive their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, October 27.

Table Grace Café Food Truck Events

The Mobile Grace food truck is around town serving delicious food. Check the schedule below for dates and times. You can enjoy delicious food and feed the community at the same time!

9/26	11 AM—1 PM	Viterra Omaha (1331 Capitol Ave)
9/27	3-9 PM	Blackstone (3922 Farnam)
9/29	9:30 AM—1:30 PM	St. Thomas (17007 Q)

Haunted House & Fellowship Night

High School & Young Adults

Sunday, October 13

5–6:30 PM - Kountze Memorial (food & fellowship)

7 PM - Dungeon of the Damned

(basement of Hollywood Candy - 1209 Jackson St.)

We want everyone who can make it to come, so if cost is a concern, please reach out to Pastor Lucy! Buy tickets online for \$20 at:

www.dungeonofthedamned.com

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is continuing to collect toothbrushes and toothpaste for our Pantry guests. These items are always available along with bar soap, razors, feminine hygiene products, and toilet tissue. We offer deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, shave cream, body wash, and lotion on the first Monday of the month. Any donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste (or any of these hygiene products) would be greatly appreciated. You may place your contribution in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall or, if ordering online, sent directly to the Church. As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 9/12—Wednesday, 9/18

Saturday: 32

Sunday: 9:00: 175 **11:00:** 61

Wednesday: 12:15: 7

Total: 275

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: 1029 (inc. 309 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$11,269.95 (Regular) \$1,624.84 (Specials)

\$362.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus calls us to be a servant to all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest
Monday	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Plot to kill Jeremiah
Tuesday	James 3:13–4:3, 7-8a	Wisdom from above
Wednesday	Galatians 5:13-15	The nature of Christian freedom
Thursday	Psalms 31:14-24	A prayer for protection
Friday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul's charge to Timothy
Saturday	Psalms 54	A cry to God for help
Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] sat down, called the twelve and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us wisdom and faith to see that being a servant to others is the path of life and greatness through our Lord Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your loving service that provides for us this gift of food through Jesus Christ, the one who came to be a servant of all. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God deliver you from every trouble. (Psalm 54:7)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is the most important person you know? Describe what makes that person important.
- How does our general understanding of greatness differ from Jesus' focus on greatness through service?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 9:30-37.

In this reading, Jesus' disciples clearly do not understand what Jesus is saying. They are afraid to even question Jesus. They seem clueless and pretty much end up imagining the opposite of what Jesus has been saying. They argued about who was the greatest among them. Jesus had to shake things up a bit to get them on the right track. Instead of greatness and power, Jesus used the example of a defenseless child. He reasoned that if you want to understand his kingdom, you must be like a small, powerless child. Whatever you consider to be the best and the greatest, put that last. Whatever you are tempted to dishonor, honor it for all to see. So, what does a follower of Jesus look like? (A servant of everyone else.) Instead of the greatness of being served, greatness for Jesus is serving. Giving your life's blood for the needs of others will fill them with good things and bless them with the presence of a gracious God.

Discuss: How has someone served you and how did that make you feel?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us ears to hear and eyes to see the life you want for us as servants that all may know your love through Christ Jesus, the one who died that we may live. 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 be a servant to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

James 3:18 states, *"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace."* Pray this well-known prayer written by St. Francis of Assisi and discuss what it means: **Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50