

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

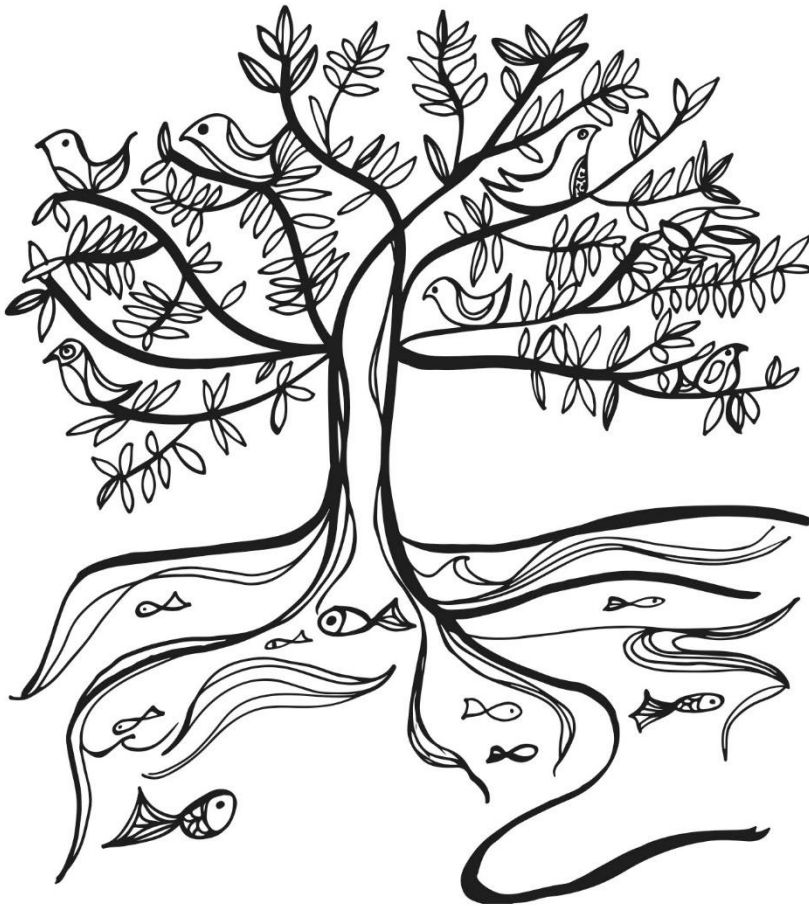
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

May 18, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in EASTER



Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*
The Fort Calhoun Brass Quintet
Cody Rogers & Addie Benoit, *trumpets*
Logan Hansen, *French horn*
Trey King, *trombone*
Michael Maxon, *tuba*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.
- C** Amen.
- P** Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks
for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

- C** make us one as you are one.
- P** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C** make us one as you are one.
- P** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C** make us one as you are one.
- P** Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that each day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
the Crucified and Risen One.
- C** Amen

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

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

This is the Feast

Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God,

C you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 526

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

*(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, all may sing lines in **bold print**)*



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, ¹ all you angels;**
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the Lord, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- ¹ en of heavens,**
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name ¹ of the Lord,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,

- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹² **young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

 Word of God, Word of Life.

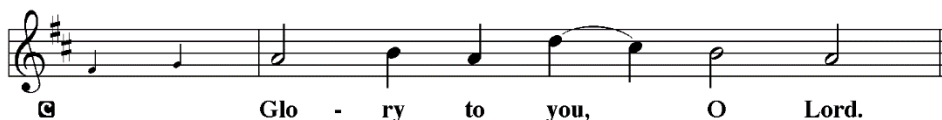
 Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.



HOLY GOSPEL

John 5:1-9

Jesus performs a healing miracle on the sabbath. In doing so he both reveals divine creative power and teaches a richer, deeper meaning for the sabbath as a healing and creative time.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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 either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453 vs. 1, 3, 4

1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

3 We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.

4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

(sit)

HOLY BAPTISM

see ELW pg 227

Olive Victoria Nicolle Hage (9:00 AM)

Calvin Christopher McEwin (11:00 AM)

After the baptism, the congregation welcomes the newest member:

P Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Pamela Bennett

Randi & Heidi Bird

Arthur & Joyce Hayes

Manfred & Carol Wunderlich

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:  Hear us, O God.

 **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)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Olive Victoria Nicolle Hage and Calvin Christopher McEwin (5/18/2025)

Thanksgiving: for the marriage of Leslie Perez & Sam Manganaro (5/17/2025)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Orville Knapp and Brian Miller

Prayers this week: Riley Hoven, Donna Reinig


On-going Care: Sharon Ambler, Cheri Biggs, John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Tracey Gehringer, Dale Grundman, Jessica Hannon, Julie Hoogestraat, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, Donna Reinig, David Samaria, 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

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* – Joseph Daffer, 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. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. You may use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

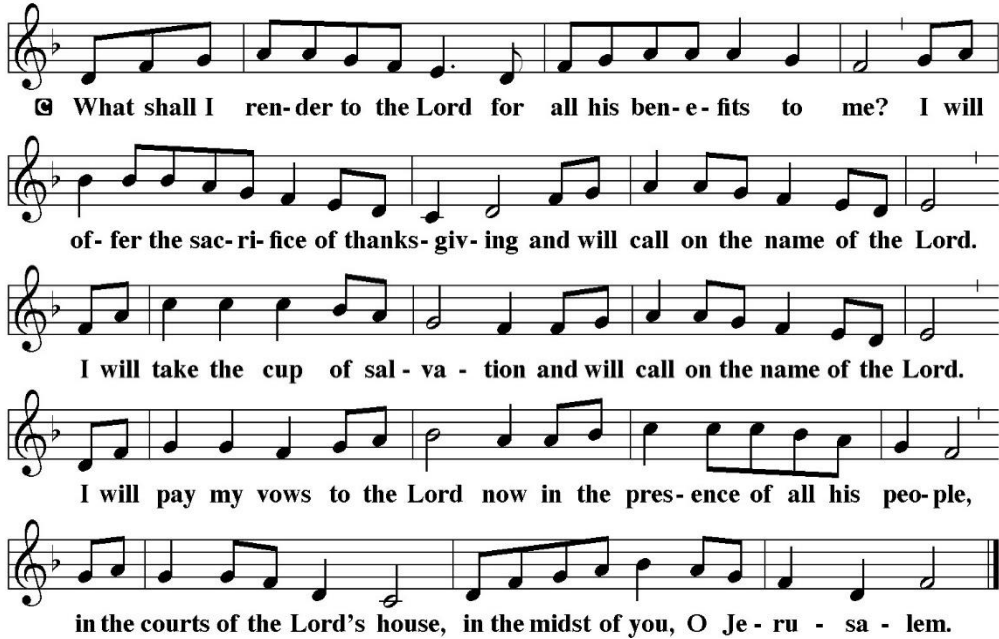
We Have Come This Far By Faith

words by J. Paul Williams
music by Joseph M. Martin

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Shall I Render to the Lord



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will
of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Risen One,
C you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Detailed description: This block contains a four-line musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving'. Each line is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes, which are connected by horizontal lines. The first line has a double bar line after the first measure. The second line also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth lines end with double bar lines.

PREFACE

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Detailed description: This block contains a four-line musical score for 'Sanctus'. Each line is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line has a double bar line after the first measure. The second line also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth lines end with double bar lines.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

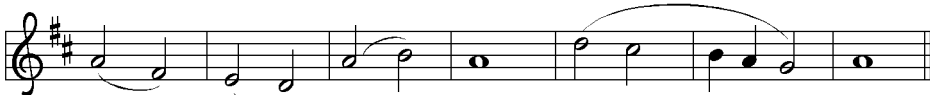
- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith.



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

- P** O God of resurrection and new life: . . .
. . . Grace our table with your presence.
- C** Come, Holy Spirit.
- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread ...
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C** Come, Holy Spirit.

- P** With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

- 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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- Come and receive the gift of new life.
- We come to the table of grace.

(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.

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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.</p> | <p>2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.</p> |
| <p>3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.</p> | |

Text: African American spiritual

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.</p> | <p>3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.</p> |
| <p>2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.</p> | <p>4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.</p> |
| <p>5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.</p> | |

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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*(rise in body or spirit)***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Living One,
- C** in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The triune God,

who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631 vs. 1, 2, 4

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*
The Fort Calhoun Brass Quintet
Cody Rogers & Addie Benoit, *trumpets*
Logan Hansen, *French horn*
Trey King, *trombone*
Michael Maxon, *tuba*

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
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

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

May 17 & 18 2025

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 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 or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it 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 plates 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 Pas-
tor Lucy by fol-
lowing the link or
QR Code. [https://
calendly.com/pastor-
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Pam & Bob Johnson's 50th wedding anniversary

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Judy Sealer in honor of the baptism of her great grandson, Calvin Christopher McEwin

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades K-4 may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All 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 suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Sunday School children can enjoy the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

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.

May 18: Reception of New Members

May 25: Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Young Adult Listening Session

Ages 18—35

Sunday May 18

5 PM

Kountze would like to launch a program in the fall of 2025 providing young adults with the spiritual support they need

as they enter young adult life. The evening will feature a Southwestern themed meal. We invite you to come share with us what you view as the challenges you are facing as well as how the church can support you spiritually. Please join us.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 18 Sunday

Easter 5

Receive New Members

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 Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

5:00 PM Young Adult Listening

Session (ages 18-35)

May 19 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

May 21 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 22 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 23 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 24 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 25 Sunday

Easter 6

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 Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

May 26 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)

OFFICE CLOSED

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Ascension Day Liturgy

Thursday, May 29

6:30 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, we will be hosting the liturgy. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome. **If you would be willing to be an Usher for the evening**, please contact Jim Smejkal (jim@kmlchurch.org) or call the church office.

Cantare! Omaha Concert

Welcome Summer!

Held at Kountze Memorial

Sunday, June 1

6:00 PM

Join Cantare!, Omaha's premier Renaissance Vocal Ensemble for their annual spring fundraiser. Cantare! presents a 40-minute concert, followed by a light hearted, delectable hors d'oeuvres & dessert reception & silent auction serenaded by Cantare!. New repertoire of Madrigals, motets, Sea Shanties and more! Proceeds support outreach programs, to bring Renaissance music to area residents in elder care & veterans' communities, and their development program for High School singers. Come for the music, contribute to support enriching the community! Suggested donation \$50 at the door or online.



Youth Summer Kick-Off Event

Grade 7 and Up

Sunday, June 8

5-8 PM

Link/Courtyard

Come and join us for a time of fellowship & fun to kick-off the summer. We'll have hotdogs & s'mores around the firepit, games, and a chance to hang out and get to know other Kountze Memorial young people. Friends are welcome! Open to youth going into 7th grade and up, including recent high school graduates. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk or by calling or emailing the church office. Contact Pastor Lucy at lucy@klmchurch.org with any questions.

KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Join your Kountze friends at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Spend the week making new friends, spending time in nature, and growing in faith through song, lessons, and testimonies. If you didn't register by the Early Bird registration date, you will need to pay the additional cost and Kountze Memorial will cover the rest of the registration for any Kountze Memorial child/youth. Kountze Camp Week is June 15—20, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Please call the church office and we'll give you details on how to register so



For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

we can pay the registration fee minus the early bird discount. To check on available dates use the QR code or the link below.

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>

Summer Service Days

2025/26 7th, 8th & 9th Graders

Fridays, June 20 - August 8 (closed on July 4)

8 AM - 4 PM

This summer, students going into grades 7, 8, and 9 are invited to participate in service projects within our church and community. The day will begin between 8 and 9 AM with a light breakfast, lunch will be served, and the day will end at 4 PM. Projects include making art for the pantry and freshening up the youth room, working in the community garden, reading or playing board games with the elderly, and more. We know families with children this age are often very busy in the summer. Participation is encouraged on whatever days and times fit your schedule. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk or you can call/email the church office to let us know you'll be attending. Contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org with any questions.

Lutheran Collaborative VBS (All free!)

Held at Luther Memorial Church

1031 Sunset Trail (61st St. & Western Ave.)

July 20-23

Preschool (potty trained) to Grade 5

5:15 PM: Family Meal

6-8 PM: Programming

This year, we are going on a "Road Trip with God". Our studies will be based off of the Bible verse Joshua 1:9 – "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Join us as we discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Register or volunteer by using the QR code or link below. If you have questions/concerns, please contact Kristin Boe (kristin@kmlchurch.org) or Pastor Becky (402-740-1985 or pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org).

<https://luthermemorial.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



VBS

Carol Joy Holling Camp 37th Annual Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 26, 2025

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Carol Joy Holling Camp

It's time to think about the quilt you'll donate to Carol Joy Holling Camp. The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts. It is held rain or shine. Friends and families are welcome. Our kitchen will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and a selection of favorite salads from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon request. Concessions will be offered before and after lunch. Quilt donations can be delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp between June 1 and July 21. Quilts cannot be accepted after



Quilt Auction

July 21. Please submit in a plastic bag with donation form that can found at:

www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction

Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers to help provide occasional care for our children in the nursery. Volunteers are willing to be contacted when our regular nursery staff are out of town or otherwise unavailable. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our youngest members, making a positive impact in their lives and in the lives of their families! Duties include playing with children, changing diapers, and providing a warm and loving environment. Training will be provided. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at info@kmlchurch.org or speak with Nursery Director Shannon Picha.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. **The current needs this week for the pantry are water, deodorant, and pasta sauce.** You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. You are welcome to volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the link or QR code to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasudddp>



Pantry

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, May 8—Wednesday, May 14

Saturday: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 148 11:00: 68

Wednesday: 12:15: 14

Total: 255

Streaming: 39

Pantry Guests Served: 621 (inc. 196 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$9,133.79 (Regular) \$2,415.75 (Specials)

\$1,022.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus commands us to love one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	Romans 12:1-8	New life in Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 4:7-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Friday	1 Corinthians 8:1-3	Love builds up
Saturday	Psalm 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the Counselor



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I [Jesus] give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, help us to love as you have loved us so that others may see your glory in the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you our thanks and praise for this gift of food, a sign of your constant love for us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus' love guide you to love others.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☐ When is a time that someone showed you kindness?
- ☐ What does it mean to you to love someone as much as Jesus loves you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 13:31-35.

To understand these five verses, we need to know the context of its original setting, Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. Jesus already knew Judas would betray him (13:2) and that Peter would deny him three times (13:38). He had just washed the disciples' feet, a very humble act of service. Now he gives his disciples a new commandment, to love one another. Jesus' glorification involves his faithful love that will not be stopped, not even by his death on a cross. Jesus' crucifixion is his glorification. To love includes acts of humble service that put the community of Jesus' followers above one's own safety. Jesus knows our human weaknesses and that we will fail again and again at this essential commandment, but to love is the only way forward. At the heart of the church's faithful witness to Jesus—even more than moral purity or teaching correct doctrines—is displaying love and forgiveness.

Discuss: In what ways have you or someone you know shown love and forgiveness?

Pray: **Loving God, you know our weaknesses and failures, yet you love us still; give us faith to love one another as you have loved us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what humble act of kindness can you do for someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God gave the apostle John a vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-6). Verse 5 tells us that the one on the throne will make all things new. What do you imagine the new heaven and earth will look like? Take a moment to answer this question. Then draw a picture of what you imagine or write about it on a piece of paper.

Pray: **Dear God, you who are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we ask that you dwell within us and make all things new. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29