

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

June 22, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST



This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Dirk Lindner, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.
Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,
the author of creation!
O God of love, you understood
our need for your salvation.
With healing balm our souls you fill;
all our lament with peace you still.
To God all praise and glory!</p> <p>2 What your almighty pow'r has made,
in mercy you are keeping;
by morning glow or evening shade,
your eye is never sleeping;
in the dominion of your might
all things are just and good and right.
To God all praise and glory!</p> | <p>3 We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
and came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
who is by one and all adored.
To God all praise and glory!</p> <p>4 All who confess Christ's holy name,
give God the praise and glory!
Let all God's saving pow'r proclaim;
give God the praise and glory!
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne;
God is the Lord, and God alone.
To God all praise and glory!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640-1690; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897, adapt.

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

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

- P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- C** To you alone, O God, we cry;
the Holy One we name you, for you alone are God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O Lord God,

☞ **we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. ² I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³ a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; ⁴ who sit inside tombs and spend the night in secret places; who eat the flesh of pigs, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; ⁵ who say, "Keep to yourself; do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. ⁶ See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps ⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the Lord; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. ⁸ Thus says the Lord: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake and not destroy them all. ⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:19-28 (read responsively)

¹⁹ But you, O Lord, be not far away;

O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword,**

my life from the power of the dog.

²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²² **I will declare your name to my people;**

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

²³ You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴ **For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face hidden from them;**

but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

- ²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the

man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

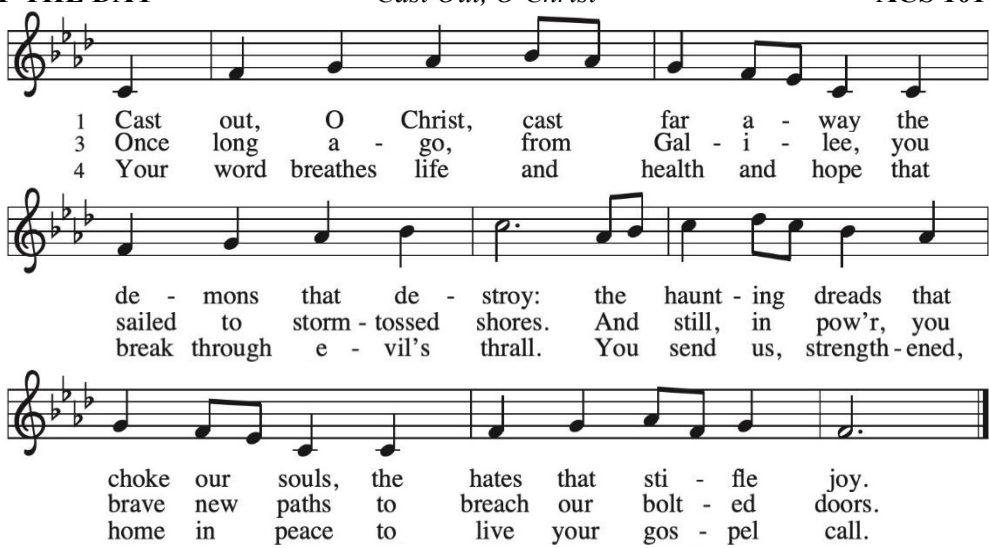
Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Cast Out, O Christ

ACS 1016 vs. 1, 3, 4



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
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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: ☞ God of grace,
☞ **hear our prayer.**

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

Prayers this week: Walter Nash

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, Glenn Lindgren, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, 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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

lyrics by Henry W. Baker
arr. by Dan Forrest
Janet Carlsen Campbell, *vocalist*

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658 vs. 1-3

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you

parts head; we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
turn, our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Creator God,
- C** in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- C** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P** Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
... be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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

- P** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- G** **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** The kingdom of God is set before you.
- G** **Let us eat and rejoice.**

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

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

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

ELW 442

**1 All who believe and are baptized
shall see the Lord's salvation;
baptized into the death of Christ,
they are a new creation;
through Christ's redemption they will stand
among the glorious heav'nly band
of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**2 With one accord, O God, we pray,
grant us your Holy Spirit;
help us in our infirmity
through Jesus' blood and merit;
grant us to grow in grace each day
by holy baptism, that we may
eternal life inherit.**

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

**1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
o'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
those of earth to thrones on high;
living, life-imparting Spirit,
you we praise and magnify.**

**2 Holy Spirit, ever living
as the church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming
in the church the mind of Christ:
you we praise with endless worship
for your gifts and fruits unpriced.**

**3 Holy Spirit, ever working
through the church's ministry;
quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding
age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending,
you we worship and extol.**

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Mothering God,

C you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886 vs. 1-4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!</p> <p>2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.</p> | <p>3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.</p> <p>4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Dirk Lindner, *organ*



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 Slaughter	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

June 21 & 22, 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 worshipping, 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

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 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.

Thank you to Dirk Lindner for serving as our organist this Sunday while Mark Jones is on vacation. We appreciate Dirk's time and talent in leading us in worship.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Patricia Grow given by Trish Daffer; in memory of Hannah Rief on her 23rd birthday given by her parents; in loving memory of Bill & Marjorie Sears from their children

Eternal Candle and Television Broadcast are sponsored to the glory of God in celebration of Ron & Pam Brown's 50th wedding anniversary given by their children and families

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades Preschool-5th grade may join our Faith Formation Leaders for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

June 22: Compassion & Courage, Not Controversy

June 29: Fellowship

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 Pr. Lucy
by following
the link or QR
Code. [https://
calendly.com/
pastorlucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastorlucy/45min)



This Week at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Compassion & Courage, Not Controversy

Adult Forum

Sunday, June 22

10:15 AM

Fellowship Hall

Pr. Lucy invites us to join her during Adult Forum to talk about questions of how and why and what it looks like to be God's church in this divided age. How do we do that in a way that honors God and produces in us the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and

self-control)? We'll talk together about:

- A biblical approach to difficult conversations.
- What does it look like to treat each other with dignity and compassion – especially when we disagree?
- How much disagreement can we and should we tolerate in our community? How do we do that, practically?
- What are the essentials that unite us?

We hope you'll join in the conversation.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 22 Sunday

Pentecost 2

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite -
Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

June 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

June 25 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

June 26 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 27 Friday

8:00 AM Summer Service Day

5:00 PM Pantry

June 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

June 29 Sunday

Pentecost 3

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite -
Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Summer Service Days

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

Fridays through 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 register at:



Summer
Service Days

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4EA8A629A0F49-57146062-service#/>

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-oflove.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. They 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 until July 21. Quilts cannot be accepted after July 21. Please submit in a plastic bag with donation form that can be found at:

www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction



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 our Nursery Director Shannon Picha at nursery@kmlchurch.org.

School Supplies Needed

Over the summer, we will be collecting backpacks of all types, notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue, tissues, scissors, hand sanitizer, and anything else you may find useful for our school-aged pantry guests. You will find labeled donation tubs in the Fellowship Hall for your donations.

Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars®

Did you know that if you are a Thrivent member, you can direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds to a favorite nonprofit organization or cause? For more info., go to:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>

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 **macaroni & cheese, popsicles (unfrozen in a tube kind), and pasta sauce**. You may leave your donation in the



Pantry

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/uausdddp>

Save the Date!



Annual Congregational Election Meeting

Sunday, August 10

10:10 AM

The Nominating Committee is working to identify people to serve on Council, other Committees, and Boards. If you or someone you know has gifts to offer, please pass their name(s) to Pr. Lucy or Tina Broekemeier for consideration.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, June 12—Wednesday, June 18

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 110 11:00: 52

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 209

Streaming: 51

Pantry Guests Served: 179 (inc. 41 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$8,392.05 (Regular)

\$1,238.99 (Specials)

\$347.00 (Debt Reduction)

God is with us in good times and bad times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus casts out demons
Monday	Isaiah 65:1-9	Righteousness of God's judgment
Tuesday	Galatians 3:23-29	The purpose of the law
Wednesday	Lamentations 3:1-24	God's steadfast love endures
Thursday	Matthew 9:27-34	Jesus heals three men
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 22:19-28	Suffering and praise
Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. **Psalm 22:21-22 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, thank you for accepting our complaints, our fears, and our praise, all part of what it means to be your faithful people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, during good times and bad times we receive this food with thanksgiving, giving you our praise for your goodness and mercy in Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God walk alongside you in good and bad times.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who do you turn to for help when you experience a crisis?
- Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 22:19-28.

Psalm 22 is familiar to us because of how it begins: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus spoke these words from the cross. Psalms originally were not numbered but identified by their opening lines. It is quite possible that Jesus was referencing the entire psalm and not just the first verse. He could have been saying to us that all of Psalm 22 was his message from the cross. When we are in crisis, we can feel abandoned by God. This psalm accepts that very human feeling yet also moves beyond it to give praise to God. After a crisis has passed, the life of faith is able to once again declare God's presence and goodness. We are not meant to be left in torment but in the assurance of God's care. Psalm 22 is honest with our pain and sense of abandonment and also affirming that God's goodness "did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him" (v. 24). By referencing Psalm 22, Jesus claims our human experience of suffering and joys as his as well. Thanks be to God!

Discuss: When have you experienced a crisis but felt assured by God's care?

Pray: **Merciful God, you know our thoughts and feelings; we thank you for walking alongside us in good times and bad for the sake of Christ Jesus the great healer of our souls. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who is someone feeling alone that you can visit?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The best way to understand faith is to experience it. Take someone on a "faith walk." Blindfold a friend or family member and take turns leading one another on a walk outside or inside your home using only verbal cues. Share your experiences and how you felt when you were blindfolded. Talk about what it means to live by faith in Jesus as our trustworthy guide and helper.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62