

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

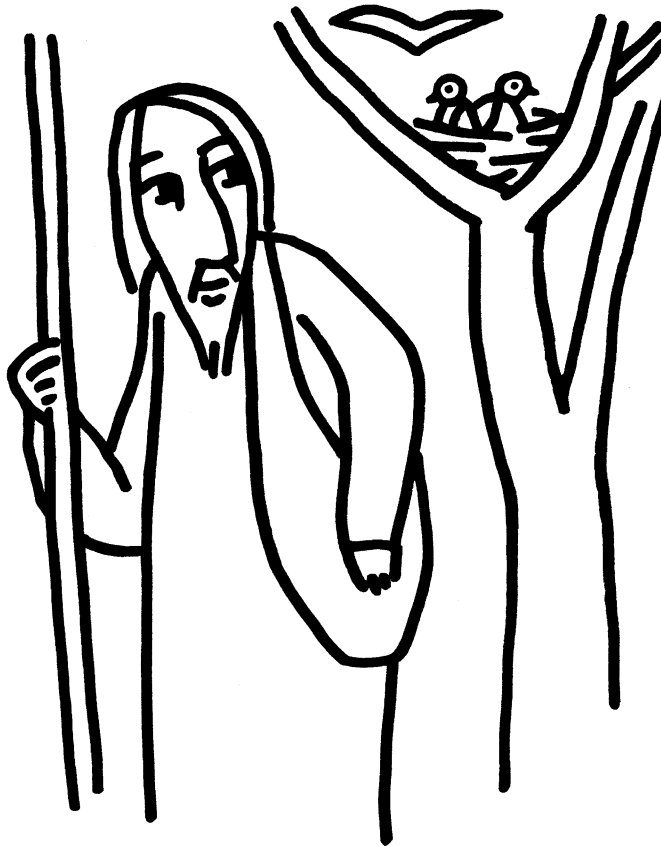
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 29, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Bruce Nissen, *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.

**1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ, our head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever  
and our confidence alone.**

**2 To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;  
come, with all your lovingkindness,  
hear your people as they pray;  
and your fullest benediction  
shed within these walls today.**

**3 Here bestow on all your servants  
what they seek from you to gain;  
what they gain from you, forever  
with the blessed to retain;  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.**

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## 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

- P** Sovereign God,  
**C** ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us  
faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly  
follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

*In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.*

**T**hen the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

<sup>19</sup> So he set out from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. <sup>20</sup> He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" <sup>21</sup> He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah and became his servant.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 16 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

<sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup> But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

<sup>8</sup> **I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## SECOND READING

**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

*For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.*

**F**or freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

**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 9:51-62**

*Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.*

**W**hen the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## **CHILDREN'S BLESSING & BLESSING OF SUMMER MISSION YOUTH 9:00 AM**

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

*The Son of God, Our Christ*

**ELW 584 vs. 1, 3, 4**

- 1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,  
shared human life and toiled throughout the day;  
from common folk he called the twelve to be  
coworkers in his sacred ministry.**
- 3 Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare  
to follow boldly and his work to share,  
to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,  
declaring to the world his holy name.**
- 4 In city street, in town, or on the soil,  
may each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,  
and in each thought and kindly word and deed,  
obey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.**

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt.

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(sit)

## **HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 AM)**

**see ELW pg 227**

Alexa Margaret Adolf

*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.**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 AM)

☞ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☞ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ 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)*

**Thanksgiving:** for the baptism of Alexa Margaret Adolf (6/29/2025)

**Prayers this week:** Wanda Frykberg, Dale Spier

**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, Walter Nash, 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:** *Seminarists* – 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

Battle Hymn of the Republic

by William Steffe  
arr. by Tedd Smith and Don Hustad  
Bruce Nissen, organ  
Jean Johnson, piano

(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 we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
turn, 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

*Just As I Am, without One Plea*

**ELW 592**

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,<br/>and Christ shall give you light;<br/>so learn his love, its length and breadth,<br/>its fullness, depth, and height.</p> <p><b>2</b> To us on earth he came to bring<br/>from sin and fear release,<br/>to give the Spirit's unity,<br/>the very bond of peace.</p> | <p><b>3</b> There is one body and one hope,<br/>one Spirit and one call,<br/>one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,<br/>one God who made us all.</p> <p><b>4</b> Then walk in love as Christ has loved,<br/>who died that he might save;<br/>with kind and gentle hearts forgive<br/>as God in Christ forgave.</p> |
| <p><b>5</b> For us Christ lived, for us he died,<br/>and conquered in the strife.<br/>Awake, arise, go forth in faith,<br/>and Christ shall give you life.</p>   |   |

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*(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

- ☞ 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.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Baptized and Set Free*

**ELW 453**

**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.**

**2 We are fed and we're nourished,  
filled and refreshed.  
Then our hunger returns and  
again we are blessed.  
For whatever the need,  
God is greater indeed:  
endless ocean, always deeper  
than all of our need.**

**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.

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
☞ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Bruce Nissen, *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 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 28 & 29, 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.

### Today at Kountze Memorial

**Thank you** to Bruce Nissen and Jean Johnson for sharing their musical talents with us while Mark Jones is on vacation.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike and Randall Fike given by Mary Jo Fike & family; in honor of Robin Perkins on her birthday

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of LeClare Steffen given by Tracey Gehringer & Tom Steffen

### Children's Sermon

#### 9:15 AM

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades Preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Labedz.

### 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 29:** Fellowship

**July 6:** 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 Pas-  
tor Lucy by fol-  
lowing the link or  
QR Code. [https://  
calendly.com/pastor-  
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### June 29 Sunday

Pentecost 3  
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 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
12:00 PM Nominating Committee

### July 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### July 2 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### July 3 Thursday

No Healing Gift Free Clinic

### July 4 Friday

Independence Day  
OFFICE CLOSED  
No Pantry

### July 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### July 6 Sunday

Jul 6 - Jul 12 Youth Trip to  
Nashville  
Pentecost 4  
Homebound Communion  
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

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Summer Service Days

2025/26 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

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



Summer Service Days

(402-740-1985 or [pastorbecky@lord-oflove.org](mailto:pastorbecky@lord-oflove.org)).  
<https://luthermemorial.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

### Carol Joy Holling Camp 37<sup>th</sup> 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 found at: [www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction](http://www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction)



Quilt Auction

### Lutheran Collaborative VBS (All free!)

Held at Luther Memorial Church

1031 Sunset Trail (61<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org)) or Pastor Becky



VBS

### 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](mailto:nursery@kmlchurch.org).

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

### 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.

### 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 **canned fruits and vegetables, soup, and cereal**. 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 volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the link below to sign up and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

### 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>



**Date: July 6 -12, 2025**

**Nashville, TN**

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship, and other activities throughout the city. They will use their gifts as they grow in faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table. Travel will be by Windstar motorcoaches, and housing will be in residence halls at Vanderbilt University, with an overnight stop each way in St.

Louis. Next Sunday, there are six youth and one adult from Kountze Memorial who will be leaving for Nashville. We will keep all of those attending in our prayers. A big thank you to all that donated to this faith-deepening experience for both our youth and adult leaders. We appreciate you.

**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.

**Save the Date!**  
**Annual Congregational Election Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 10**  
**10:10 AM**



**Attendance & Giving**  
**Thursday, June 18—Wednesday, June 25**

**Saturday: 26**

**Sunday: 9:00: 134 11:00: 50**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 15**

**Total: 225**

**Streaming: 33**

**Pantry Guests Served: Not available**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: Not available**

**Offering:**

\$12,272.61 (Regular)      \$1,615.00 (Specials)

\$682.00 (Debt Reduction)



Jesus expects his followers to be all in

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus
Monday	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21	Elijah meets God at Horeb
Tuesday	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Fruit of the Spirit
Wednesday	Leviticus 19:1-18	Living a holy life
Thursday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalm 16	Song of trust and security in God
Sunday	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Jesus sends out the seventy



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life  
as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him [someone wanting to follow Jesus], “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Ever-present God, help us to see the world as you see it so that all our thoughts, words, and actions reflect your justice and mercy through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for life and health and every good we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God’s Spirit guide you.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Would you describe your life as easy or difficult? Explain.
- Is following Jesus easy or hard? Explain.

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 9:51-62.

Jesus leaves Galilee and begins his travels to Jerusalem. It is a pivotal move, one that will lead to his rejection and death by the religious leaders there. That critical move also intensifies what it means to be a follower of Jesus. There is no looking back. There are no excuses to attend to other activities first, including those that seem to be responsible and caring. Jesus expects his followers to be all in. In this reading, this is not the Jesus who reminds us of the power of God’s forgiveness and grace. He is setting a very high bar, one that clashes with typical social behavior. Jesus expects a very different way of life for his disciples. It’s not Jesus and other obligations working together with equal value. It is Jesus alone. Everything in life is to be understood through the life he teaches. His mission on behalf of the kingdom of God challenges everything we typically value. Since it is the good news of the kingdom of God that Jesus brings, then being a follower is worthy of our total attention.

Discuss: How does knowing that Jesus expects his followers to be all in, challenge the way you live?

Pray: Almighty God, through your kingdom our lives are changed forever; make our desires your desires and our priorities your priorities through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. 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 follow in Jesus’ footsteps to help someone in need?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Make a fruit salad. Buy a selection of different fruit and peel and slice them up. As you enjoy eating the salad, think or talk about who you know that has shown the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians through their actions and words. Write a prayer thanking God for the fruit of the Spirit you have seen revealed in those people. For example, “Thank you for [name] who has shown the fruit of love in you when ...” or “Thank you for [name] who I saw being patient when ...”

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9  
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20