

# 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  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

July 13, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

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

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

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

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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## 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** O Lord God,

**C** your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors.*

*Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

**T**he Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup>“Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>14</sup>No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 25:1-10 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

- <sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.
- <sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING

**Colossians 1:1-14**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

**P**aul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**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.

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 360*

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

**A**n expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(sit)*

### **CHILDREN’S BLESSING**

*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**

*Joel Stoltenow*  
Assistant Vice President of Development, Lutheran Family Services

(rise in body or spirit)

# HYMN OF THE DAY

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

ACS 1043 vs. 2 & 3

*Refrain*



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.  
2 Write your love up - on my heart; as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day, and to  
*Refrain*  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.



## 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)*

**Sympathy:** for the family and friends of Marjean Gillaspie, Russ Jensen (father of Mike Jensen), Mary Martens

**Prayers this week:** Nina Castro (cousin of David Samaria), Tracey Gehringer

**On-going Care:** John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Dale Grundman, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Dale Spier, 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

At the River

by Robert Lowry  
arr. by Aaron Copland  
Stephanie Ann Stephens, *vocalist*

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658 vs. 1 & 2

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
parts head; we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.

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**

- ☞ 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; have mercy on us.**
- Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

- ☞ The kingdom of God is set before you.**
- ☞ 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**

*Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*

**ELW 464**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1 Bread of life, our host and meal,<br/>Jesus, feed us.<br/>Christ, by faith, to see and feel,<br/>feed us with your love.</b> | <b>3 Grant forgiveness in the feast<br/>Jesus, feed us<br/>for the greatest and the least;<br/>feed us with your love.</b>     |
| <b>2 Bread now break and wine now pour,<br/>Jesus, feed us.<br/>Make us one, our hope restore;<br/>feed us with your love.</b>    | <b>4 Thank you for this gift we share.<br/>Jesus, feed us.<br/>Save God's children everywhere;<br/>feed us with your love.</b> |

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.  
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Text © 2002 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

*(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

*To Be Your Presence*

**ELW 546**

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here,  
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near,  
alleluia!
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold,  
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,  
alleluia!
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest,  
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,  
alleluia!
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,  
alleluia!

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### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✙ ✙ ✙



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### KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
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)

July 12 & 13, 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

#### This Weekend at Kountze

#### Special Guests from Lutheran Family Services

We're pleased to welcome Chris Tonniges, President/CEO of LFS, as our Saturday evening preacher. He's happy to chat after worship if you have questions about their mission. On Sunday, Joel Stoltenow, Assistant VP of Development, will bring the message, and together with Jens Acamo, Director of Church Relations, will lead the Adult Forum.

Join us in welcoming our guests and learning more about the impactful work of Lutheran Family Services!

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in celebration of Jean Johnson's birthday; in honor of Barb & Bruce Nissen's wedding anniversary

#### 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 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.

**July 13:** Lutheran Family Services

**July 20:** Fellowship

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### July 13 Sunday

Pentecost 5  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM Book Group

### July 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### July 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### July 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### July 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### July 18 Friday

8:00 AM Summer Service Day  
5:00 PM Pantry

### July 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### July 20 Sunday

Jul 20 - Jul 23 VBS @ Luther Memorial  
Pentecost 6  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Communion Assistants & Lectors Needed for July & August

If you'll be in town for any of the remaining Sundays in July, please consider signing up to serve as a Communion Assistant or Lector. Summer schedules can be tricky, and having volunteers in place ahead of time really helps! Thank you for being part of this important ministry.

### Summer Service Days

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

Fridays through August 8

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

### Men's Lunch

Thursday, July 17

11:30 AM

**Suggested Donation: \$10**

Join us for National Hot Dog Day (it's actually July 16). Who doesn't love a good all beef hot dog with chili, onions, cheese, sauerkraut, and all the fixings. Let Jim know what you like on your hot dog and we will try

and have it available. Please RSVP by Tuesday, July 15. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let us know you're coming.

### 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 (402-740-1985 or [pastorbecky@lord-oflove.org](mailto:pastorbecky@lord-oflove.org)).

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



VBS

### CJH 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. 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: <https://www.nlom.org/quilt-auction/>



Quilt Auction

### 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 the labeled donation box 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 pasta, baked beans, ramen noodles, and taco seasoning**. 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/uasdddp>



Pantry

**Open Door Mission's Lydia House** is having to turn away women and families in need of housing, because even though they have the space for them, they don't have enough staff to provide quality care for them. They are in urgent need of full or part-time employees. Training is provided. If you would like to be the hands and feet of Christ in a powerful and practical way, use the link below to get more information or to volunteer. You can also use the link below if you are interested in volunteering at the Open Door Mission with meal service, mentoring a program participant or youth, helping to sort donations, etc.



Open Door Mission

<https://www.opendoormission.org/volunteer/>

### Looking for Sunday School Volunteers

Would you like to be a part of this important ministry? The Sunday School department is looking for adult leaders for the upcoming year. The lessons are scripted and all supplies are provided. If you are available one weekend a month and interested in spending time with the youngest members of our congregation, please reach out to Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org).



### We're Looking for a Part-time Youth Ministry Director

Are you called to inspire the next generation of faith at Kountze Memorial?

#### Position Details:

- 15–20 hours/week
- \$20,000–\$25,000 salary (based on experience)
- In-person Sundays plus flexible remote planning
- Start Fall 2025

#### Responsibilities Include:

- Lead Sunday Youth Forum (Sept–May)
- Plan mission trips, retreats, service & social events
- Engage with Synod & camp programs
- Recruit & equip volunteers
- Communicate via newsletter & social media

#### We're Looking For Someone Who:

- Connects deeply with faith & youth
- Is creative, organized, tech-savvy
- Communicates well and builds relationships
- Loves teens, teamwork, and church life

**Interested?** Request a job description for more information and submit a letter of interest, resume, and three references to the church office. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact the church office.

### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, July 3—Wednesday, July 9

**Saturday:** 39

**Sunday: 9:00:** 82 **11:00:** 72

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 12

**Total:** 205

**Streaming:** 48

**Pantry Guests Served:** 423 (inc. 134 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** Closed

**Offering:** Not available at time of printing

*Showing care to a stranger.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 10:25-37	The good Samaritan
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Colossians 1:1-14	A prayer of thanks
Wednesday	Genesis 39:6-23	God protects Joseph
Thursday	James 2:1-13	Warning against favorites
Friday	Leviticus 19:17-34	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Sunday	Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing needed



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? He [a lawyer] said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, it is your will to show steadfast love and faithfulness; give us faith to show your love and mercy to others for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you feed all through your loving kindness; we thank you for feeding us today and for showing us how to be kind to others. In Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to have mercy for all.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How would you describe a good neighbor?
- When someone is called a good Samaritan, what does that mean to you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 10:25-37.

A lawyer tried to trick Jesus by asking him, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 25b). Jesus turned the tables and answered the lawyer with a question about what was written in the law. The lawyer gave a good answer that included the importance of loving "your neighbor as yourself" (v. 27). The lawyer fell into his own trap by asking another question: "And who is my neighbor?" (v. 29). He wanted to know who his neighbor was so he could identify who to care for. Jesus told the lawyer the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the story, the Samaritan, a foreigner, was the one who cared for the person in need. Ironically, for the lawyer, it was the foreigner who showed what it means to be a good neighbor. Instead of looking good in the exchange with Jesus, the lawyer looked ridiculous. The Samaritan showed that anyone who needs care is a good candidate to be one's neighbor.

*Discuss:* When have you shown care for someone who was not a family member, friend or acquaintance?

*Pray:* **Life-giving God, help us to be compassionate in our actions towards others that we may enjoy our life together and trust in your goodness through 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 show kindness to a stranger?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 25 guides us in understanding how to live in a relationship with God, one that is filled with promises. Faith practices we do in our homes strengthen our relationships with one another and with God. One faith practice is to read scripture daily. Read Psalm 25 and circle those words or phrases that guide you to a personal, trusted relationship with God. Write the words from Psalm 25:4, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths" on a paper. Place it beside your bed and recite the words each morning or night.

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