

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

July 20, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

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 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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

P Eternal God,

C you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives,
make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 34

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15 (read responsively)

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before

him,²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.



²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

-  Word of God, Word of Life.
-  Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

-  The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
-  Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:38-42

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 366
During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

-  The Gospel of the Lord.
-  Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

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

For All the Faithful Women

ELW 419 vs. 1, 7, 3

**1 For all the faithful women
who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given;
to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness,
proclaimed your pow'r to save.**

**7 We sing of busy Martha,
who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence
to hear the word again.
Christ, keep our hearts attentive
to truth that you declare,
and strengthen us for service
when work becomes our prayer.**

**3 All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise to God the Spirit,
who binds the church as one!
With saints who went before us,
with saints who witness still,
we sing glad alleluias
and strive to do your will.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923–2007

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(sit)

HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

Amanda Lauren Roynesdal
Izabella Marie Roynesdal

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 Margaret Rose Kreiser (7/19/2025), Amanda Lauren Roynesdal and Izabella Marie Roynesdal (7/20/2025)

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

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, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Dale Spier, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White

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

Oaks of Mamre

Daniel Hendrix, guitar

(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

- ☐ Creator God,
- ☑ 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.
- C** **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.
- C** **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

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.**
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!**

- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!**
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to hear you say:
"Come, share my home above."**

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

ELW 775

- 1 Jesus, priceless treasure,
source of purest pleasure,
truest friend to me:
ah, how long I've panted,
and my heart has fainted,
thirsting, Lord, for thee!
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;
nothing in this world can hide thee,
naught I ask beside thee.**

- 2 In thine arm I rest me;
foes who would molest me
cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash and thunders crash;
yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.**

- 3 Hence, all fears and sadness,
for the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
God, who dearly loves us,
from all trial saves us,
gives sweet peace within.
I have borne this worldly scorn;
still in thee lies purest pleasure:
Jesus, priceless treasure!**

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Mothering God,
- ☑ 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

You Servants of God

ELW 825

- 1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**
- 2 Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**
- 3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**
- 4 Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C** 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

July 19 & 20, 2025

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a “City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry” and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 165 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plates located by the doors in the Nave.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

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

Scan to Give Online



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

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time
to meet with Pas-
tor Lucy by fol-
lowing the link or
QR Code. [https://
calendly.com/pastor-
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of our sons Marcus and Jason given by Dick & Carolyn Sieling;

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

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 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.

July 20: Fellowship

July 27: Updates on Kountze Commons with Toby Reese

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 Week at Kountze Memorial

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

July 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

July 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM KCCOC Board
12:30 PM Circle 3 (off site)

July 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

July 24 Thursday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly
9:00 AM KETV Board
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

July 25 Friday

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

July 26 Saturday

9:00 AM CJH Quilt Auction
5:00 PM Worship

July 27 Sunday

Pentecost 7
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 7th, 8th & 9th 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

CJH 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.



Quilt Auction

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/>

Backpacks and School Supplies

Sunday, August 3

10:10 AM

The Sunday School students will be packing new backpacks full of school supplies to provide to our school aged pantry guests. Please bring school supplies (notebooks, crayons, pencils, folders, erasers, markers, glue, pencils cases, and backpacks) to church by August 3rd. There is a donation box in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

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 **soup, tomato sauce, canned fruit & vegetables**.

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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.

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



Open Door Mission



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.

Save the Date!

Annual Congregational Election Meeting
Sunday, August 17
10:10 AM



Exciting News!

After a process of interviews, prayer, and discernment, the Call Committee and Church Council are thrilled to recommend Deacon Eric Haitz as our new Associate pastoral team member. Deacon Eric will join us the weekend of **August 9–10** to preach during worship, share in a Saturday potluck, and lead Sunday's Forum. This is an opportunity for you to get to know him and to prayerfully consider calling him to serve with us in ministry. Look for more information about Deacon Eric in the August *Good News*. Feel free to speak with members of the Call Committee or Council about what excites them about his potential ministry here at Kountze Memorial. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 17**, when the congregation will vote on whether to extend a call to Deacon Eric during our Annual Election Meeting.

Attendance & Giving Thursday, July 10—Wednesday, July 16

Saturday: 33
Sunday: 9:00: 107 **11:00:** 39
Wednesday: 12:15: 10
Total: 189
Streaming: 35
Pantry Guests Served: 783 (inc. 305 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19
Offering (7/6 & 13):
\$47,331.57 (Regular) \$5,510.77 (Specials)
\$674.00 (Debt Reduction)

Listening to Jesus is an act of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | Luke 10:38-42 | Only one thing needed |
| Monday | Genesis 18:1-10a | A son is promised |
| Tuesday | Colossians 1:15-28 | The supremacy of Christ |
| Wednesday | 1 Samuel 3:10-21 | The Lord speaks to Samuel |
| Thursday | Proverbs 12:15-22 | Speak the truth |
| Friday | James 1:19-27 | Hearing and doing the word |
| Saturday | Psalms 15 | Worshiping the Lord |
| Sunday | Luke 11:1-13 | Jesus teaches about prayer |



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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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken from her." **Luke 10:41-42 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you are the source of all that is good and holy; give us faith to trust you with all our hearts through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that gives us strength and your word of promise that gives us hope and courage, we give you thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a servant's heart.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How have you shown hospitality to someone?
- If Jesus came to visit you, what would you do?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 10:38-42.

The familiar story of Mary and Martha can be unsettling. Mary can appear to be a bit lazy. She is gladly listening to Jesus but seems to be ignoring her sister, Martha, who is providing Jesus proper hospitality, an important, caring practice in the Bible. This story follows on the heels of the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) where someone took the initiative to act with loving service. These two stories are linked to point out that service to others is important, and that service is best done with the message of Christ in our hearts. Service that is done in faith is not distracted but energized by Jesus' message. It is neither loving service or attention to Jesus but loving service that is motivated by the message of Jesus. It is essential to our lives of faith and love, to listen to Jesus. This results in lives of service that will not be a distraction but will be acts of love through Jesus.

Discuss: How does listening to Jesus motivate you to care for others?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to center our lives on your strength and wisdom so that we may serve you as we love others through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show hospitality to another person?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Even when we are busy, we need to take time to listen to Jesus, as Mary did. If you're not in the practice of taking a few moments each day to hear God speak to you, consider setting time aside to do so. Turn off all electronics and other distracting noises. Take a few deep breaths and relax. Sit quietly for a few minutes. *Finish with this prayer:* **Lord help me not to be worried or distracted by many things and listen to you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]; Luke 11:1-13