

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 27, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Lord,
Teach us to Pray

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Dirk Lindner, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

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

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

C Amen.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
with rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight,
we may, we must draw near.</p> <p>2 We perish if we cease from prayer;
oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
And when to meet you we prepare,
Lord, meet us on our way.</p> | <p>3 Give deep humility; the sense
of godly sorrow give;
a strong desire, with confidence,
to hear your voice and live;</p> <p>5 Give these, and then your will be done;
thus strengthened with all might,
we, through your Spirit and your Son,
shall pray, and pray aright.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, 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** Almighty and ever-living God,
- C** you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we
either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that
weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 (read responsively)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;**

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

Colossians 2:6-15

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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 11:1-13

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 280

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’ ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’” ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will

be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

 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 Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)


HYMN OF THE DAY

Ask the Complicated Questions


ACS 1005



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock-ing,



strong our weak-ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **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: **P** God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

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

Prayers this week: Linda Johnson, David Tollefson, Deb Woosley

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Nina Castro, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer, Dale Grundman, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Sharon Miley, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliot, fiancé of Dannika Rees; 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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. by Lloyd Larsen
Judy Boelts & Dayle Johnson, vocalists
Jean Johnson, accompanist

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

We Place upon Your Table, Lord

ELW 467

1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

Text: M. F. C. Willson, 1884-1944, 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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!</p> | <p>2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.</p> |
| <p>3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.</p> | |

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.</p> <p>2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?</p> | <p>3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us;
how great our debt to you!</p> <p>4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press 1969

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING

BLESSING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.</p> | <p>2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.</p> |
| <p>3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.</p> | |

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Dirk Lindner, *organ*

✝ ✝ ✝

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla 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 26 & 27, 2025

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

Holy Communion

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

Children in Worship

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

Nursery

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

Attendance Cards

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

E-news & Social Media

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

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

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

Scan to Give Online



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

Connect with Pr. Lucy

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



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Dayle Johnson's birthday

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Ilse Grage in memory of Albert Grage

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Karen and Shirley Bonneau in memory of Ruth Bonneau

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

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

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

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

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

July 27: Updates on Kountze Commons with Toby Reese

August 3: Gretchen Ahrens, Director of Youth and Justice Ministry, Nebraska Synod

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

July 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

July 30 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

July 31 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

August 1 Friday

8:00 AM Summer Service Day

5:00 PM Pantry

August 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

August 3 Sunday

Pentecost 8

Homebound Communion

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Packing Backpacks

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

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 **produce from your garden, macaroni & cheese, & canned fruit**. 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.

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



Open Door Mission

Looking for Sunday School Volunteers

We need your support! The Sunday School department is in need of leadership for the 2025/2026 school year. Each classroom requires a teacher and assistant. All lessons are scripted and materials are provided. If you can help, please sign up at

<https://tinyurl.com/3yvhh3fy>

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

or email Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions or a link to sign up. Thank you for your consideration.

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 (pronounced "Heights") 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.

Our children spent the week on a Road Trip with God in Vacation Bible School, learning that God is with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:9)! As part of their week they collected money for AMMPARO, the ELCA's "strategy to Accompany Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities." The Spanish word "amparo" means "protection" - AMMPARO is one way our wider church accompanies some of the members of our body who are vulnerable and might feel alone, reminding them of God's protection and care that are always with them. If you would like to join the children in giving generously towards this ministry, you may put a gift marked "VBS" or "AMMPARO" in the offering today. Learn more about AMMPARO and how you can be involved at

<https://tinyurl.com/yyxt9psj>



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 17—Wednesday, July 23

Saturday: 66

Sunday: 9:00: 134 **11:00:** 51

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 261

Streaming: 60

Pantry Guests Served: 1,047 (inc. 280 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$13,617.01 (Regular) \$643.15 (Specials)

\$472.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus teaches his followers to pray.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer
Monday	Genesis 18:20-32	Abraham haggles with God
Tuesday	Colossians 2:6-19	Fullness of life in Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 32:7-14	Moses appeals to God
Thursday	James 5:13-20	The prayer of faith
Friday	Matthew 6:5-15	Jesus on prayer
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." **Luke 11:1 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, we thank you that you reach out to us in Christ so that we may enjoy a personal relationship with you filled with hope and confidence. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your care for us goes beyond what we can imagine; we thank you for this food, one of the ways you shower us with your mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you confidence in your life of prayer.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is a person you know that is easy to talk to? Explain.
- How has prayer had an impact on your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 11:1-13.

How can one comfortably and confidently speak to the Almighty? Jesus' followers wanted to learn how to pray. Whether we are a person in the role of leadership in the congregation or one who participates regularly in worship and other activities, many of us feel ill-equipped when asked about our prayer life. It is normal to feel that way. There can be a feeling of vulnerability. When Jesus taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer, he did two important things. First, he prayed often, something that is especially noted in the Gospel of Luke. Second, Jesus gave a simple and short outline for prayer: praise God; pray for God's kingdom to be evident in life; ask for food to stay alive; seek forgiveness; and ask for help to avoid times that test our character as a follower of Jesus. All of this is offered to God as "Father," as an intimate relationship of a child to a parent. Prayer involves a personal and trusted relationship with God. Prayer gives praise and thanksgiving to God and requests for the basics in life, including forgiveness for ourselves and for others.

Discuss: Who taught you to pray the Lord's Prayer and how often do you pray it?

Pray: **Heavenly Father, teach us to pray that we may celebrate our trusted relationship with you and care for all that you have made through Jesus Christ, our partner in prayer. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who can you visit and pray with?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is a practice we need to learn, both as individuals and when in groups. Even Jesus' disciples needed to learn how to pray. Prayer helps us to grow in our relationship with God. What part does prayer play in your daily life? Consider building a daily routine of prayer using the acronym **ACTS** as a guide. **A**doration is praising God, **C**onfession is admitting wrong doings, **T**hanksgiving is thanking God, and **S**upplication is asking and making requests known to God. Take a moment now to use this format and write a prayer for today. Read your prayer aloud and finish by saying "Amen," which means "so be it."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21