

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

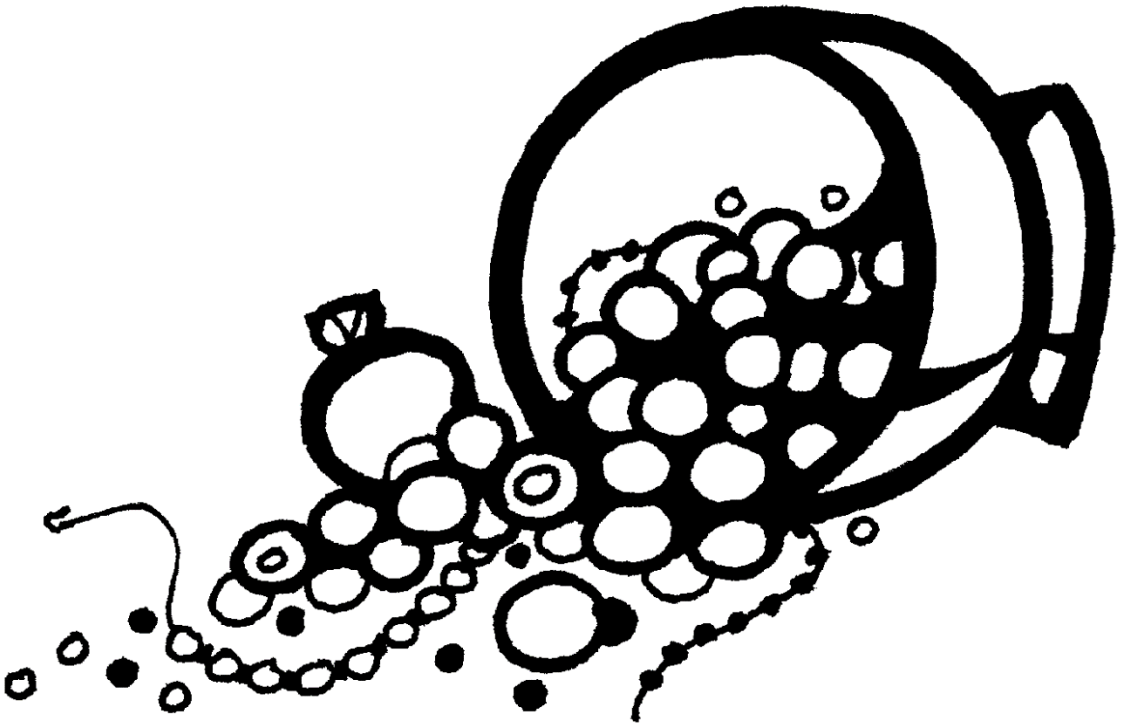
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

August 3, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.*

# 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.

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

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

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

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

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Benevolent God,

☞ **you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*

**V**anity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 49:1-12 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;  
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

<sup>2</sup> **you of high degree and low,  
rich and poor together.**

<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak of wisdom,  
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

<sup>4</sup> **I will incline my ear to a proverb  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

<sup>5</sup> Why should I be afraid in evil days,  
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

<sup>6</sup> **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,  
and boast of their great riches?**

<sup>7</sup> One can never redeem another,  
or give to God the ransom for another’s life;

<sup>8</sup> **for the ransom of a life is so great  
that there would never be enough to pay it,**

<sup>9</sup> in order to live forever and ever  
and never see the grave.

<sup>10</sup> **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish  
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

<sup>11</sup> Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,  
though they had named lands after themselves.

<sup>12</sup> **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;  
they are like the beasts that perish.**

## SECOND READING

**Colossians 3:1-11**

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

**S**o if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

📖 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 12:13-21**

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

**S**omeone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my

crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

 The Gospel of the Lord.

 **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**

*Gretchen Ahrens  
Director for Youth & Justice Ministries, NE Synod ELCA*

*(rise in body or spirit)*  
**HYMN OF THE DAY***All Depends on Our Possessing***ELW 589 vs. 1, 3, 5**

- 1 All depends on our possessing  
God's free grace and constant blessing,  
though all earthly wealth depart.  
They who trust with faith unshaken  
by their God are not forsaken  
and will keep a dauntless heart.

3 When with sorrow I am stricken,  
hope my heart anew will quicken,  
all my longing shall be stilled.  
To your lovingkindness tender  
all my being I surrender:  
Lord, on you alone I build.
- 5 If on earth my days should lengthen,  
God, my weary soul still strengthen;  
all my trust in you I place.  
Earthly wealth is not abiding;  
like a stream away it's gliding;  
safe I anchor in your grace.

Text: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## 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 Elizabeth Woodhull (mother of Karen Jacobson)

**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

*Fantasy Duo on “Jesus Calls Us”*

by Ron Planting  
Jason Hage, *clarinet*

(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

- ☞ 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

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

**ELW 359 vs. 1-4**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Where charity and love prevail,<br/>there God is ever found;<br/>brought here together by Christ's love,<br/>by love we thus are bound.</b></p> <p><b>2 With grateful joy and holy fear,<br/>God's charity we learn;<br/>let us with heart and mind and soul<br/>now love God in return.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Let us recall that in our midst<br/>dwells Christ, God's holy Son;<br/>as members of each body joined,<br/>in him we are made one.</b></p> <p><b>4 Let strife among us be unknown;<br/>let all contentions cease.<br/>Be God's the glory that we seek;<br/>be his our only peace.</b></p> |
|--|---|

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

**1** Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

**2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

**3** Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

*(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

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### 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

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551

**1** The Spirit sends us forth to serve;  
we go in Jesus' name  
to bring glad tidings to the poor,  
God's favor to proclaim.

**2** We go to comfort those who mourn  
and set the burdened free;  
where hope is dim, to share a dream  
and help the blind to see.

**3** We go to be the hands of Christ,  
to scatter joy like seed  
and, all our days, to cherish life,  
to do the loving deed.

**4** Then let us go to serve in peace,  
the gospel to proclaim.  
God's Spirit has empowered us;  
we go in Jesus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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### DISMISSAL

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



### KOUNTZE STAFF

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



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**August 2 & 3, 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**

#### **Children's Sermon**

**9:15 AM**

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

#### **Kountze Café Lite**

**9:30—11:00 AM**

#### **Free-will Offering**

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

#### **Adult Forum**

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

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

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

**August 10:** Meet & Greet with Deacon Eric Haitz

#### **Packing of Backpacks**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a donation box in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### August 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### August 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### August 6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

### August 7 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
7:00 PM Youth Committee

### August 8 Friday

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

### August 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Meet & Greet Potluck

### August 10 Sunday

Pentecost 9  
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—Meet & Greet  
12:15 PM Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Communion Assistants & Lectors Needed

Please consider signing up to serve as a Communion Assistant or Lector in August. We still need people for most dates. Summer schedules can be tricky, and having volunteers in place ahead of time really helps! You can use the links below to sign up. 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

Just one more week for students going into grades 7, 8, and 9 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. 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

**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



Open Door Mission

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/>

### 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/3yvvh3fy>

or email Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org) with questions or a link to sign up. Thank you for your consideration.

### Vacation Bible School

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>

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.

### 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 vegetables, canned meat/fish, popsicles (unfrozen in a tube kind)**. 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>



### 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 24—Wednesday, July 30

**Saturday:** 32

**Sunday: 9:00:** 94   **11:00:** 62

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 12

**Total:** 200

**Streaming:** 32

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1034 (inc. 321 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 16

#### Offering:

\$15,573.98 (Regular)   \$3,031.08 (Specials)

\$337.15 (Debt Reduction)



*Being rich towards God.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Wisdom makes sense
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-11	New life in Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-12	A reason for hope
Thursday	Hebrews 13:1-6	Service well-pleasing to God
Friday	Philippians 4:10-20	Paul gives thanks
Saturday	Psalm 49:1-12	Don't depend on wealth
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven



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

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And he [Jesus] said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."* **Luke 12:15 (NRSV)**

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

God of truth, free us from false gods that claim to make us happy but leave us unsatisfied; give us peace and joy in your presence through Christ. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; give us joy and laughter in the simple pleasures of this meal and the friends and family we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May you treasure God's goodness and mercy.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is one of your treasured possessions? Explain.
- How is faith in Jesus a treasure for you?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 12:13-21 and Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23.

In these readings, we are reminded that the real treasure of life begins and ends with the abundant joy that comes from the goodness and mercy of God. What a gift from Jesus! It is the richest treasure in life to learn that the joy of life is not found in storing up wealth or in momentary fame. True delight in life can look like an unsolved riddle to those who chase after the stuff of life that decays and disappears. Those who appear to be wise and rich are mere fools because of their vanity. No one has fully learned the meaning of a life that is fleeting and will sooner rather than later be gone. Unlike the man in Jesus' parable who builds bigger barns, the wise soul has Jesus as their teacher and remembers and celebrates the beauty of life in the simple joy of faith and hope in God.

*Discuss:* How has God's goodness and mercy been a treasure for you?

*Pray:* **Awesome God, you alone hold the key to true wisdom and joy, a life that trusts in you alone; help us to be thoughtful, enjoy the many treasures you bless us with, and serve others in love through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### SERVICE

Service: Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share something you treasure with someone else?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 49:1-2 is about the foolishness of trusting in riches. Caring for and the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures with others is a Christian tradition. Learning to give to others begins in the home. Place grapes or cookies in a bowl. Think or talk about how many you would need to be satisfied. The foolish rich man would want them all! How about you? Take a moment to think about all that you have and how you might share with others.

*Pray:* **Lord God, help us to be thankful for your goodness and mercy and to be willing to share our time, talents, and treasures with others. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40