



# 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** Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2** We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3** Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

## 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

☞ O God,

☞ you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

**D**o not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 112 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

**L**et mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**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 14:1, 7-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

**O**n one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. <sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(sit)

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Wynard*

(rise in body or spirit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*As We Gather at Your Table*

**ELW 522**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 As we gather at your table,<br/>as we listen to your word,<br/>help us know, O God, your presence;<br/>let our hearts and minds be stirred.<br/>Nourish us with sacred story<br/>till we claim it as our own;<br/>teach us through this holy banquet<br/>how to make Love's vict'ry known.</b></p>          | <p><b>2 Turn our worship into witness<br/>in the sacrament of life;<br/>send us forth to love and serve you,<br/>bringing peace where there is strife.<br/>Give us, Christ, your great compassion<br/>to forgive as you forgave;<br/>may we still behold your image<br/>in the world you died to save.</b></p> |
| <p><b>3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon<br/>other guests to share that feast<br/>where triumphant Love will welcome<br/>those who had been last and least.<br/>There no more will envy blind us<br/>nor will pride our peace destroy,<br/>as we join with saints and angels<br/>to repeat the sounding joy.</b></p> |  |

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

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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:    **P**    Hear us, O God.

**C**    Your mercy is great.

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

**Thanksgiving:** for the birth of Houston Gordon Hayes, great grandson of Debbie Bogue (8/25/25)

**Thanksgiving:** for the ordination of Giselle Loucks and her husband, Samuel Trottier

**Thanksgiving:** for the marriage of Tracey Gehringer and Tom Steffen

**Sympathy:** for the family and friends of Ruth Martis and Gary Westerman

**Prayers this week:** Wanda Frykberg

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

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliott, 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

## **THE PEACE IS SHARED**

**P**    The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C**    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 ANTHEM

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

setting by Anne Krentz Organ  
Kountze Bell Choir

(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.
- 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

### *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

ACS 977



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945  
Text © 2002 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
- 2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,  
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;  
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—  
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.
- 3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996

Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*(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

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

ELW 651 vs. 1-3, 5

**1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r  
that tumbles walls of fear  
and gathers in one house of faith  
all strangers far and near:**

*Refrain*

**We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!**

**2 Oh, praise persistent truth  
that opens fisted minds  
and eases from their anxious clutch  
the prejudice that blinds: *Refrain***

**3 Oh, praise inclusive love,  
encircling ev'ry race,  
oblivious to gender, wealth,  
to social rank or place: *Refrain***

**5 Oh, praise the tide of grace  
that laps at ev'ry shore  
with visions of a world at peace,  
no longer bled by war: *Refrain***

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945  
Text from New Hymns for the Lectionary © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

## 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 30 & 31, 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

**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 - 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 31:** Fellowship (Labor Day Weekend)

**Sept 7:** Rally Day

### Singing for THEIR Supper

During the month of September, you will find boxes in the Fellowship Hall with the title of a beloved hymn on it. Put your canned tuna, chicken, or ham donations in the box of the song you like the most. At the end of the month, we will see what hymn won and which staff member chose that as their favorite. Let's stock the Pantry with Protein!

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### August 31 Sunday

Pentecost 12  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### September 1 Monday

Labor Day  
No Pantry  
OFFICE CLOSED

### September 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### September 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### September 4 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### September 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry  
4:30 PM Confirmation Lock-in &  
Service Event

### September 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### September 7 Sunday

Pentecost 13  
Homebound Communion  
Rally Sunday  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite\*  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

\*Full Breakfast will begin on  
September 28

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Street Car Construction ALERT!

#### Effective Now

We have been notified that the North bound off ramp to Harney/Dodge Street from I-480 is closed until approximately the end of October for manhole relocation and water main construction. They will post detour signs. If you are coming from the South, you will need to exit at the Leavenworth exit, go East (right) to 24<sup>th</sup> Street then North (left) to Farnam Street, and then West (left) to the church.

### 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.



### 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 Ramen noodles, canned fruit and soup. 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 QR code or the link below to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.



### Kountze Memorial Adult Choir

#### Rehearsal, Wednesday, September 3, 7 to 8:30 PM Begin Singing at Worship, Sunday, September 7

Join our Kountze Memorial Adult Choir, where we sing praises to God and enjoy fellowship together. Previous singing experience a plus but not necessary. Contact Barb Carlsen (402-341-7761) if you're interested or have questions.

### Cards with Friends

#### Thursday, September 4

#### 2:00 PM

The group will be taking a break over the summer due to vacations, etc. We'll pick up again on September 4. Have a great summer and we'll see you in September! Everyone is welcome—make plans now to come be part of the fun!

### New Member Classes

#### September 14 & 21

#### 10:15 AM

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us for our upcoming new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, September 28. If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org). We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.

### Handbell Choir

The Kountze bells are looking to start back up again. Our plan is to see how many folks are interested in the group and when would be a good time to rehearse? If you are interested in participating in a bell choir, please talk to Barb Carlsen or call the Kountze office at 402-341-7761. Thank you!

**Save a life! Donate Blood!**

**Kountze Commons &  
The Nebraska Community Blood Bank  
Sunday, September 21  
9 AM—1 PM**

Reserve your donation time by going to [www.ncbb.org/searchdrives](http://www.ncbb.org/searchdrives) and use sponsor code KOUN. Walkins are also welcome. Donor FAQ's and information will be provided in Fellowship Hall. If you would like additional information please call the Blood Bank at 402-486-9414.



Blood Drive

**Swing for a Cause**

**LFS Golf Tournament  
Thursday, September 11  
Iron Horse Golf Club  
900 Clubhouse Drive, Ashland, Nebraska  
Registration at 9:00 AM | Shotgun Start at 10:00 AM**



LFS Golf

Join Lutheran Family Services (LFS) for a day of golf and giving back. This annual event, proudly sponsored by the **Corporal Daegan Page Foundation**, supports LFS's 40+ programs, including vital services for veterans, refugees, children, and families across Nebraska. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a newcomer to the sport, this tournament offers a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a day on the greens while making a meaningful impact. Proceeds from the event help fund LFS's comprehensive services, ensuring that individuals and families receive the support they need to thrive. To register, explore sponsorship opportunities, or for more information, please go to

<https://www.onelfs.org/events/2025golf/>

**Mission Field Nebraska**

**Sunday, September 28  
2 - 4 PM**

**Glacial Till Cider House  
1419 Silver St., Ashland**

Sip, support, and celebrate at the Spirit of Ministry Open House at Glacial Till Cider House & Tasting Room. You're invited to an inspiring afternoon in Historic Ashland as we raise awareness and support for the life-changing ministries of Mission Field Nebraska. Your \$20 ticket includes a beverage, hors d'oeuvre, live music, and the opportunity to meet the people behind the mission. Learn more and get your ticket:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/news-events/spirit-of-ministry/>



**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, August 21—Wednesday, August 27**

**Saturday: 44**

**Sunday: 9:00: 116 11:00: 68**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 10**

**Total: 238**

**Streaming: 40**

**Pantry Guests Served: 919 (inc. 246 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15**

**Offering:**

\$12787.38 (Regular)      \$2212.64 (Specials)  
\$437.15 (Debt Reduction)



*Freed by Christ to honor others.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality
Monday	Proverbs 25:6-7	Wise sayings of Solomon
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Service that pleases God
Wednesday	Matthew 25:31-46	Judgment of the nations
Thursday	Exodus 2:16-25	Moses flees to Median
Friday	Proverbs 3:27-30	Be kind to your neighbors
Saturday	Psalm 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
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

*But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.* **Luke 14:13-14 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, help us to see as you see, that we may give praise to you and honor those we are with for the sake of Jesus Christ, the one who sets us free. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us that we all receive your grace and mercy; for this we thank you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy to honor others.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☐ When was a time you or someone you know were honored? Explain.
- ☐ Why do you think Jesus would challenge our current social standards of behavior?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Am I smart enough, rich enough, talented enough, or powerful enough? Do I fit in? Am I acceptable the way I am? These questions can lead to self-doubt and a quiet despair. As Jesus was noticing those who tried to take the seats of honor at the banquet, he reverses these questions. We should ask: "Do I honor others, especially those in need? Does my life value and lift up the lives of those around me?" We are freed from the self-doubting questions and liberated to bring delight to others by simply valuing them. The power to honor others is a position that cannot be taken away from us. We can enjoy the pleasure of others honoring us as well, not because of our status in life, but because we are loved children of God. Through Jesus Christ, we receive grace and mercy. He came to take away our fears, hurts, and disappointments in life. What we need to know is that we are lovable, forgivable, and capable to honor and love others in Christ.

*Discuss:* When and how have you or someone you know been honored?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you promise us an eternal banquet of peace and love; help us to enjoy that banquet feast now as we welcome others with generous hearts 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 give dignity to someone who doesn't feel valued?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus uses a parable about a wedding to show how God's protocol for good manners is a different way to look at the world. At God's table everyone is welcome. Think or talk about who you would invite if you were hosting a dinner. Write their names on a piece of paper. Look at the names and think about how you could make each guest feel welcome.

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus, teach us to be humble like you. Help us to welcome all people to God's table in your name. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33