

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

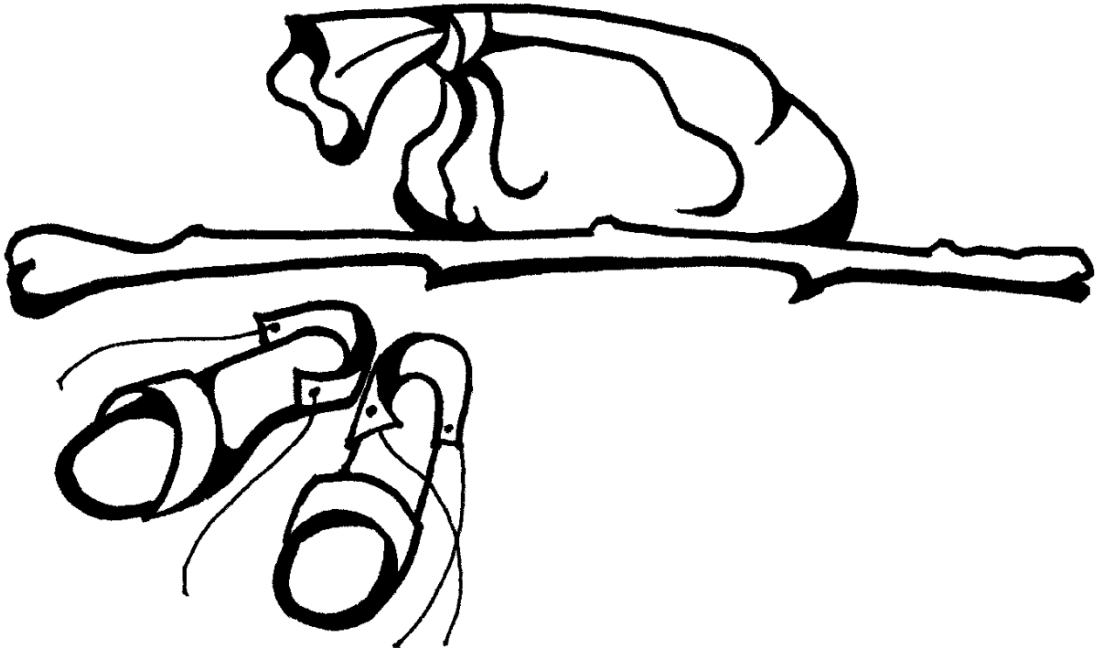
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 7, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
our make, our helper, and our keeper.

**C** Amen.

**P** Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Merciful and loving God,

**C** we are your stubborn people.

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**

**and have been found.**

**Amen.**

**P** Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C** Amen.

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Direct us, O Lord God,
- ☑ in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

## Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

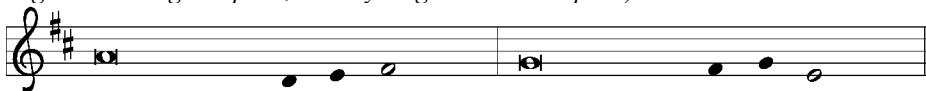
See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 1

*(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, all may sing lines in **bold print**)*



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the Lord,**  
**and they meditate on God’s teaching <sup>|</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that <sup>|</sup> do not wither;

everything they <sup>|</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;**  
**they are like chaff which the wind <sup>|</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>|</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>|</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the Lord knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous,**  
**but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING

## Philemon 1-21

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

**P**aul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup>to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

**N**ow large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

**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, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children’s Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 who are not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children’s sermon in the Upper rooms. All children will return to the sanctuary in time to receive communion. There are Children’s Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Hall*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

**ACS 1004**



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ Let us confess together the faith of the Church.

☞ **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,  
☞ **receive 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:** 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

- ☐ 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 ANTHEM

Greater Love


Stan Pethel

(rise in body or spirit)


OFFERTORY HYMN

Here Is Bread

ELW 483



1	Here is bread,	here is wine,	Christ is with us,	he is with us.
2	Here is grace,	here is peace,	Christ is with us,	he is with us.
3	Here we are,	joined in one,	Christ is with us,	he is with us.



Break the bread,	taste the wine,	Christ is with us	here.
Know his grace,	find his peace,	feast on Je - sus	here.
We'll pro - claim	till he comes	Je - sus cru - ci -	- fied.

Text and music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950  
Text and music © 1991 may Way Music, admin. By Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Lord of the harvest,
- ☑ we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes with ties. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

### SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is more rhythmic than the first section, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P** Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.  
The universe declares your praise: ...  
... with every breath.

**C** **We praise you, O God.**

**P** Generations bless your faithfulness: ...  
... into the future.

**C** **We bless you, O God.**

**P** We give you thanks for your dear Son: ...  
... with us now.

**C** **We thank you, O God.**

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed, ...  
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us ...

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** We pray for the gift of your Spirit: ...  
... Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.

**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 a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

**C** We come to this meal of mercy.

(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.*

**1** Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

**2** Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

**3** Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

**4** Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359

**1** Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.

**2** With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.

**3** Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.

**4** Let strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.

**5** Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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*(rise in body or spirit)*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** O God,

**C** through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

# SENDING

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### BLESSING

- ☞ The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

### THREE- FOLD AMEN

### CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

*All children are invited to come forward to receive a flag, lead us in our recessional hymn, and then they will recess outside and back to the Fellowship Hall for a blessing and presentation.*

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*As Saints of Old*

**ELW 695**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought<br/>of orchard, flock, and field<br/>to God, the giver of all good,<br/>the source of bounteous yield;<br/>so we today firstfruits would bring,<br/>the wealth of this good land,<br/>of farm and market, shop and home,<br/>of mind and heart and hand.</b></p> | <p><b>2 A world in need now summons us<br/>to labor, love, and give;<br/>to make our life an offering<br/>to God, that all may live.<br/>The church of Christ is calling us<br/>to make the dream come true:<br/>a world redeemed by Christ-like love;<br/>all life in Christ made new.</b></p> |
| <p><b>3 In gratitude and humble trust<br/>we bring our best today<br/>to serve your cause and share your love<br/>with all along life's way.<br/>O God, who gave yourself to us<br/>in Jesus Christ your Son,<br/>teach us to give ourselves each day<br/>until life's work is done.</b></p>                        |   |

Text: Frank von Christiernson, 1900-1996, alt.

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### DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
☞ Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

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### KOUNTZE STAFF

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

September 6 & 7, 2025

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

### Holy Communion

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

### Children in Worship

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

### Nursery

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

### Attendance Cards

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

### E-news & Social Media

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

### Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

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

### Scan to Give Online



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

### Connect with Pr. Lucy

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



### Today at Kountze Memorial

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of LeClare Steffen given by Tom Steffen & Tracey Gehringer

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Karen & Shirley Bonneau in memory of Andy Killion

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Lee Johnson in memory of Lois Johnson, mother of Lee Johnson and Dayle Johnson

### Rally Sunday!

**9/10:10 AM**

Following the blessing at the 9 AM We will receive a blessing for the upcoming year of Faith Formation. We will process out of the church and to the Fellowship Hall. There, the Youth will present all the ways they were challenged and grew this summer through the different programs Kountze provided. We hope you'll join them.

### Children's Sermon & Children's Choir

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)**

**2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room**

**Grades K-6**

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe 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 AM**

### Free-will Offering

We will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast until September 28, when we will begin serving a full hot breakfast again. If you would like to help with

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

**Sept 7:** Rally Day

**Sept 14:** Immanuel Visions Foundation with Rev. Brian Maas

### 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

### 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  
12:00 PM KCCOC

### September 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### September 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### September 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### September 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### September 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### September 13 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### September 14 Sunday

Pentecost 14  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite\*  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour  
10:15 AM New Member Class  
12:15 PM Book Group

\*Full Breakfast will begin on September 28

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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.



SS Volunteers

code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

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

### Confirmation Classes Begin St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge) Grades 7 & 8 Wednesday, September 10 6 - 7:15 PM

If any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents weren't able to be at the Confirmation Orientation at St. Timothy's on August 27 but want to participate in the classes or you have questions, please contact Pr. Lucy.

### 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 cereal, chili beans, and deodorant. 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



Pantry

### 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  
Join Lutheran Family Services (LFS) for a day of golf and



LFS Golf

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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/>

### **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!

### **A Spamtember Men's Lunch**

**Thursday, September 18**

**11:30 AM**

**Recommended Donation: \$10.00**

Move over beef—it's Spam's time to shine! Spamtember is back—because one year just isn't enough for this culinary classic! Come for the food, stay for the fellowship—and see if Jim can top last year's creations. Please RSVP at the welcome desk, call the church office or email: [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to reserve your spot at the spamtacular event.

### **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



Blood Drive

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.

### **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?

**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 28—Wednesday, September 3**

**Saturday: 33**

**Sunday: 9:00: 108 11:00: 51**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 13**

**Total: 205**

**Streaming: 93**

**Pantry Guests Served: 226 (inc. 56 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14**

**Offering:**

**\$8,201.78 (Regular)**

**\$1,333.53 (Specials)**

**\$122.00 (Debt Reduction)**

*Following Jesus is important and demanding.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Isaiah 57:14-21	A promise of health and healing
Thursday	John 15:12-17	Love one another
Friday	Philippians 2:12-18	Shining as lights in the world
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin



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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

*I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live. Deuteronomy 30:19 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, your ways bring life, love, and hope; help us to follow your ways that our lives may flourish, and our acts of love serve others through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, may your life-giving gift of food remind us of your love and faithfulness that makes all the difference for our daily lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

Grace and peace to you from God the Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philemon 1:3)

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it mean to you to "follow the crowd"?
- How does following God's ways help you? How does it challenge you?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 14:25-33 and Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

The way of discipleship is demanding. In Luke, Jesus makes drastic demands of those who want to follow him. Deuteronomy makes a similar demand. Either you follow the ways of God and live or you follow false gods and die. Dramatic and clear? Yes! Deuteronomy was written with the people of the Babylonian captivity in mind. The enslaved people in Babylon had not followed God by adhering to the commandments, decrees, and ordinances. The people were given a new chance to make the right choice. God's word is to be taken with all seriousness. This message is to be heard by us now as well. There are real consequences for not having the right priorities in life, including the importance of following Jesus completely. God's eternal grace does not diminish the importance of being a disciple of Jesus. Following Jesus, however imperfectly, does not wipe out the power of grace that gives us a new beginning each and every day.

*Discuss:* What do you think makes following Jesus difficult?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, your ways lead to life; give us courage to place our trust in Jesus that we may pick up our crosses and experience life with grace and mercy now and always. 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 help someone who needs a second chance?

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10