

# 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  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 14, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

## 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 maker, 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 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: \*  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

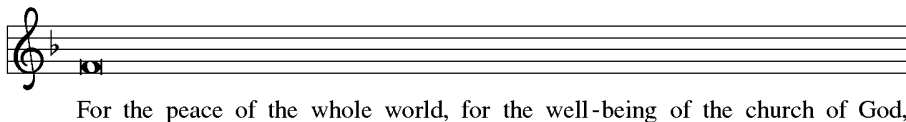
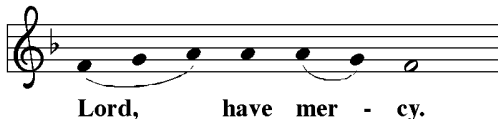
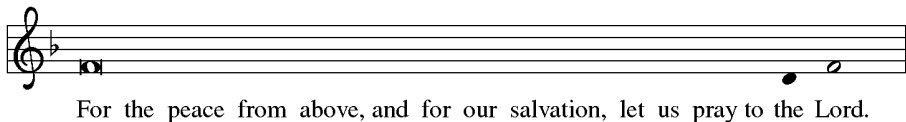
Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

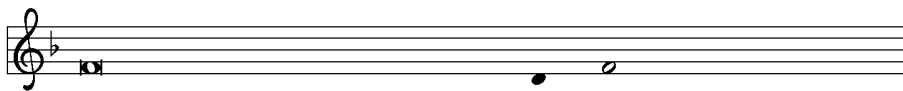
\*see 1 Samuel 7:12. Ebenezer means "stone of help", signifying a memorial of gratitude to God.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

## KYRIE

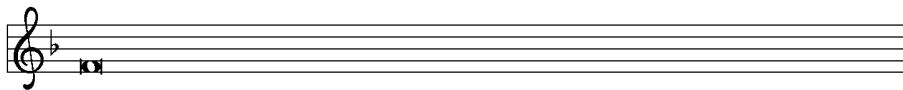




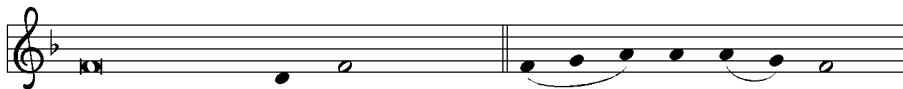
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

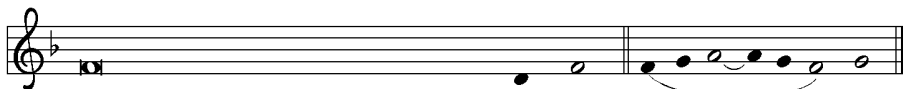


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

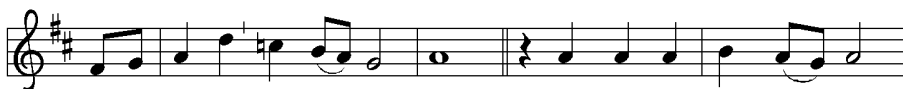


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



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



al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



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



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.

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.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God,  
**C** overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead all those who go astray back to yourself. Keep your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**WORD**

(*sit*)

## FIRST READING

## Exodus 32:7-14

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

**T**he Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stubborn they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” <sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

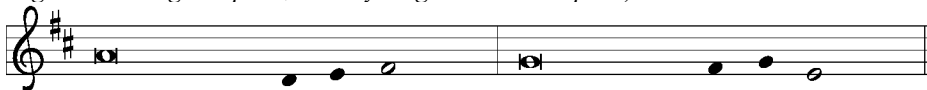
**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**© Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 51:1-10

*To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

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



<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out <sup>1</sup> my offenses.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through<sup>1</sup> from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me<sup>1</sup> from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil<sup>1</sup> in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right<sup>1</sup> in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**<sup>6</sup> Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I<sup>1</sup> shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur-<sup>1</sup>er than snow.

**<sup>8</sup> Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.  
<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,**  
**and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

## SECOND READING

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

**I** am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**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 15:1-10**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 374*

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

**N**ow all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**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, in the back of the entrance hall, available to those who prefer to stay with their families. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.*

## **SERMON**

*Rev. Brian Maas*

Vice President for Mission and Spiritual Care, Immanuel

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**ELW 588 vs. 1 & 2**

**1** There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

**2** There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Let us confess together the faith of the Church.

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

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

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Jessica Hannon (daughter of Sherri Hannon)

**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, 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

Amazing Grace

From Virginia Harmony  
Arr. by Jack Schrader

(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.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

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

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Lord of the harvest,  
**C** 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

## 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

## 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. If you cannot or choose not to receive the wine, know that the sacrament and God's promised forgiveness are complete in either element.*

- 1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

1 What is the world like when God's will is  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -

done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than  
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing  
 done? No more is neigh - bor - just  
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we  
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who

we can con - ceive: roots thread the  
 child com - ing home; watch as the  
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in  
 watch through the night, tend - ing our  
 joins us as one. Born through our

soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 plac - es where once there was none.  
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

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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

### 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

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**ELW 779 vs. 1, 2, 5**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> <b>Amazing grace! how sweet the sound<br/>that saved a wretch like me!<br/>I once was lost, but now am found;<br/>was blind, but now I see.</b>             | <b>2</b> <b>'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,<br/>and grace my fears relieved;<br/>how precious did that grace appear<br/>the hour I first believed!</b> |
| <b>5</b> <b>When we've been there ten thousand years,<br/>bright shining as the sun,<br/>we've no less days to sing God's praise<br/>than when we'd first begun.</b> |  |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

### DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
☛ **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)

September 13 & 14, 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 and the Eternal Candle** are given to the glory of God in celebration of the marriage of Tracey Geringer-Steffen & Thomas Geringer-Steffen

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

#### 9:15 AM

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 breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labedz.

### Sunday School

#### 10:10 AM

### Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Youth Forum

**Sundays, 10:15 AM**

### Youth Center

#### Grades 7-12

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

**Sept. 14:** Get-to-know one another

**Sept. 21:** Help set up for the Congregational Picnic

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

**Sept. 21:** Fellowship

### 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.

### 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!

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### September 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

### September 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### September 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### September 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

### September 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### September 20 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### September 21 Sunday

Pentecost 15

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Blood Drive

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

11:30 AM Church Picnic

\*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.

### 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



SS Volunteers

cereal, soup, and garden vegies. 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 following link to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uau5dddp>

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



Pantry

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

**Confirmation Classes Continue**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church**  
**(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)**  
**Grades 7 & 8**  
**Wednesdays**  
**6 - 7:15 PM**

### **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 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 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

**Help Us Collate the October Good News**  
**Thursday, September 25**

**9 AM**

Come be part of the crew that puts together the Good News! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it. If you can join us, give the church office a call at 402-341-7761 by Tuesday, September 23. That way we can let you know if anything changes. Thanks for helping us get the Good News out.

**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



Mission Field NE

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/>

### **St. Francis Peacemaker Service**

**Saturday, October 4**

**5 PM**

### **Held at Kountze Memorial**

Kountze Memorial and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral collaborate on a Peacemaker Service on the Feast of St. Francis. Join us as we pray for peace in our city, nation, and world. Lutheran Family Services' Chris Tonniges will preach. We will use the Eucharistic Prayer for Peace, written by Br. James Dowd and approved by Episcopal Bishop J. Scott Barker. The Cathedral and Kountze Choirs will sing together. A cookie reception will follow.

### **Parking Notice**

Next weekend, September 20 & 21, the Methodist parking lot (by the handicapped entrance) will be closed for repairs. The lot will be barricaded during this time, so please use alternative parking. For everyone's safety, we kindly ask that you do not move or drive around the barricades. Thank you for your understanding!



### **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, Sept. 4—Wednesday, Sept. 10**

**Saturday: 50**

**Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 80**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 14**

**Total: 290**

**Streaming: 43**

**Pantry Guests Served: 784 (inc. 186 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12**

### **Offering:**

\$11,867.64 (Regular) \$5,266.68 (Specials)

\$247.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Rejoicing at the amazing grace of God.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin
Monday	Exodus 32:7-14	Moses pleads for the people
Tuesday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for mercy
Wednesday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Thursday	Acts 26:12-18	Paul's conversion
Friday	Ephesians 2:1-10	From death to life
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-10	A prayer for forgiveness
Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* **Luke 15:10 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we are thankful that you seek us out and renew our lives that we may know peace and joy through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for feeding us with love, guidance, and this gift of food, examples of your care for us as the Good Shepherd. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God fill you with joy and gladness. (Psalm 51:8)

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you lost something valuable and then found it?
- Jesus told a parable about the lost sheep. How do people get "lost" from God?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 15:1-10.

Jesus offers us easy images with which we can identify. Who hasn't been lost or felt lost in the jungles of self-doubt, hardship, fear, and confusion? And who hasn't lost something of value and upon finding it is filled with joy? On one level in this story, sinners and tax collectors are the ones lost and who have been found by a kind and merciful God. On another level, it is the religious leaders, those Pharisees and scribes who are truly lost. They are the ones far from understanding and enjoying the kindness and mercy of God for humanity. This is at the core of their own biblical faith. These religious folk have lost the life-giving power of rejoicing at the amazing grace of God that gives hope and changes everything. It brings beauty and love to a life often missing these essential ingredients. Whether it's lost sheep, missing coins, sinners, tax collectors, Pharisees, scribes, or even our own selves, there is rejoicing in this life because lives can repent and be found in the oceans of God's love and heavenly joy.

*Discuss:* When have you found yourself overcome with joy at God's amazing grace?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, help us to experience joy in your presence; help us to see in Jesus your desire to find us, renew us, and bless us with your abundant love and mercy. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who do you know that may feel lost and need some support?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Luke 15:1-10 Jesus tells parables about the lost being found. Our sin is a condition of being lost and apart from God. God rejoices when, through faith in Christ, we, as the lost, are found, forgiven, and restored to a relationship with God. Hide chocolate coins or other candies and have others find them. After the treats are found, talk about the joy of finding them and then about God's joy at searching for and finding us.

*Pray:* **Thank you, God, for searching for us when we stray from you. Thank you for finding us and forgiving us. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13**