

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
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2650 Farnam Street
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www.kmlchurch.org

April 26, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in EASTER
GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



"I am the
good
shepherd."

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones 9:00 AM, *organ*
Rick Richards 11:00 AM, *organ*

(rise in body or spirit)

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION!

- L** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- L** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
- C** **Amen.**

- L** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us including the Platte and the Missouri.

Blessed are you.

- C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

- L** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

- C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

- L** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

- C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

- L** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

- 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.


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.

HYMN OF PRAISE


This is the Feast

Refrain
Assisting minister




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

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ O God our shepherd,
- ☑ you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 504

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 160

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



The LORD is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.

¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.** Refrain

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.** Refrain

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ 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.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

Jesus said: ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

☐ The Gospel of our Lord

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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

Deacon Haitz

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780 vs. 1-3, 5

Refrain

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain***
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain***
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain***
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain***

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(sit)

CELEBRATION OF 2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- Ⓛ Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey. As the names of our 2026 graduates are read, we ask that they, who are present, along with their parents and families, please come forward.

Tucker Owen Haitz
Jazmin Gardner

Barrett Hinrichs
William Edmund Mattson

- Ⓛ Parents, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. In their baptisms, sacred promises were made. As parents of these young men and women, it was part of your calling to see that those sacred promises were kept:

To live with them among God's faithful people
To bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper
To nurture them in faith and prayer

You have fulfilled those promises. We now ask you to covenant with this congregation to continue to support the faith journey of these young men and women. As the spirit gives you ability, do you intend to support and routinely lift your children up in prayer? If so answer, *"I do and I ask God to help and guide me."*

Parents: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

- Ⓛ Congregation, do you promise to support and encourage these parents in the keeping of these sacred promises? If so, answer, *"We will with God's help and guidance."*

Ⓞ **We will with God's help and guidance.**

- Ⓛ Graduates, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,
To come to the word of God and the Holy Supper,
To strive to grow in faith and prayer, so that, you might trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace in all the world
If so, answer, *"I do and I ask God to help and guide me."*

Graduates: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

PRAYER (graduates kneel)

- Ⓛ Let us pray: Dear God of creation, we ask for your blessing on these young people as they enter a new period in their lives of faith. Bless them and grant them your gifts: confirm their faith, guide their lives, give them strength in serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to eternal life. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ⓞ **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF QUILTS

- Ⓛ The members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church present you, our high school graduates, with a symbol of the love we have for you. Each stitch of these quilts represents the love that God has given us to share with one another. At this time, we ask your parents to take these quilts and place them around you. They are symbolic of our congregation's commitment to support and equip you in carrying out the promises made in baptism.

(Parents wrap the quilts around their children's shoulders)

(Any other 2026 graduate please come forward)

PRAYER

- Ⓛ Let us pray:
- ☪ **We come this day before you, O God, to bless you and thank you for the gifts you give us. You have given our lives meaning and calling. Through you, we receive the gifts of love, joy, and forgiveness. We pray that these quilts will be a reminder of the warmth of family, this faith community, and of your never-failing love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

(graduates stand and face the congregation)

- Ⓛ I present to the congregation, our 2026 graduates and their families.
- Ⓛ Depart in Christ's peace.

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

- ☐ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Larry Lee Britton

Jonathan Capps

Lucas & Tessa Futey

Ian Hughes

Jacob & Kelsey Nosal

David Ramirez

Anna Renard

Micah Scarlett

Henry, Everett, Isabelle

NICENE CREED

- ☪ **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: Merciful God,
 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: Charles Cole, Candace Edris, Noelle Phelps, All our Graduates

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Kathy Cole, Irving Collett, Warren Cooke, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Marvel Green, Janice Hansen, Larry & Michele Hunzeker, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Sharon Miley, Ralph Morse, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Michael Yount

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Mallory Hoogestraat, daughter of JD & Julie Hoogestraat, Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken & Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert & Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees & Takao Elliott, daughter & son-in-law of Eric & Toby Rees; Joel 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; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

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. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing a New Song to the Lord

words by Jari Houston
music by Stephen L. Lawrence

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Earth, Earth, Awake!

ACS 937 vs. 1 & 4



1 Earth, earth, a - wake! Your prais - es sing! Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!



Greet with the dawn your ris - en King! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise we the vic - t'ry God has won! Al - le - lu - ia!



Bright suns and stars, your hom - age pay! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise we the Lamb who reigns a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!



Life reigns a - gain this Eas - ter day! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Text © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

OFFERING PRAYER

- Merciful God,
- accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, 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 image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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.'

PREFACE FOR EASTER

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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 image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.'

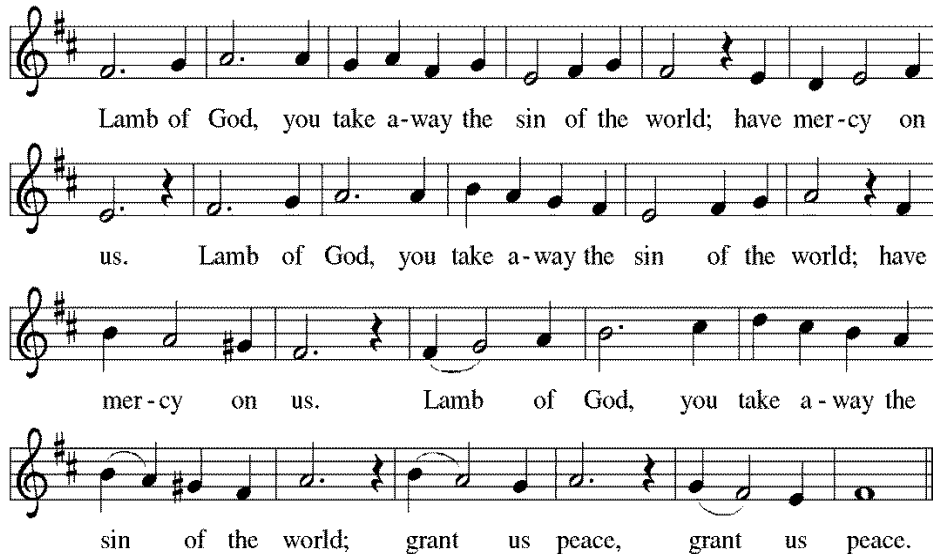
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. . . .
. . . For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Ⓑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, . . .
. . . To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
- Ⓑ **Amen, amen, amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Ⓐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:
 - Ⓑ **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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☒ Come receive the risen Lord.
- ☒ **We come to the table of new life.**

(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.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

Refrain

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.</p> <p>1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
Text © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.**
- 2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.**
- 4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.**

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

(rise in body or spirit)

THE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- L** Holy One,
C through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

- ☐ God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
- ☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones 9:00 AM, *organ*
Rick Richards 11:00 AM, *organ*

† † †

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Facility & Events Director
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons
Sheila Valquier	Youth Director
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Dan Collett	Facility Assistant
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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www.kmlchurch.org

April 25 & 26, 2026

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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Mark Andreesen in memory of his father, Earl.

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. 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

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd 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, storytelling, 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.

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 Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



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.

Adult Forum **Sundays, 10:10 AM**

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

April 26: Reception for New Member and Graduates

May 3: Reception for Confirmands

Quilt Blessing & Recognition of Graduates

Congratulations to all of our graduates. Join our graduates in the Fellowship Hall between services for a reception. More information on our high school graduates will be in the May Good News.

High School Graduates:

Tucker Owen Haitz
Barrett Hinrichs
Jazmin Gardner
William Edmund Mattson

College Graduates:

Madelyn Hinrichs
Kyra Louise Peterson
Emily Rimington

Welcome New Members!

We are happy to welcome Larry Lee Britton, Jonathan Capps, Lucas & Tessa Futey, Ian Hughes, Jacob & Kelsey Nosal and children Henry, Everett, Isabelle, David Ramirez-Huerta, Anna Renard, and Micah Scarlett as members of Kountze Memorial. Join them in the Fellowship Hall between services for a reception.

Collaborative Confirmation Year End Adventure **Experience RESPECT Educational Theatre** **Sunday, April 26**

RESPECT, a non-profit educational theatre company based in Omaha, will be presenting Choices during our closing adventure this afternoon for this year's Collaborative Confirmation Class. As the church works to empower middle school students to find as many strategies and resources as possible to prevent bullying, to be safer on social media, and to find multiple ways to help themselves and their peers, we are grateful for this partnership that helps equip all of us. RESPECT seeks to help students learn different problem-solving ideas and potential strategies to help themselves and others, as they manage their own strong emotional responses to challenging situations. By collaborating with RESPECT to reinforce the social and emotional learning needs we also help our students apply and live out their faith in practical ways. Since 2000, RESPECT has presented anti-bullying and relationship-empowerment productions to over 600,000 students in preschool through college age in communities across Nebraska and Iowa. We are very grateful for their partnership today and in general in our community!

We Need Sunday School Teachers!

Please use the link below or the QR Code to sign up to help lead the youngest members for Kountze in their Faith Formation. All the lessons are provided beforehand, scripted, and materials provided. Contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org for any questions you may have.
<https://tinyurl.com/8s4k6ax4>



SS Teachers

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 26 Sunday

Easter 4
Cinco de Mayo Ticket Presale
Quilt Blessing & Recognition of Graduates
Receive New Members
Confirmation Year-End Adventure
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 - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

April 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
11:30 AM Endowment Board
12:30 PM Circle 3

April 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
April 30 Thursday
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 1 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Cinco de Mayo Event

May 3 Sunday

Easter 5
Homebound Communion
Recognition of Confirmands
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 Affirmation of Baptism
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Funeral Notice

Marie Kubat

All Saints Episcopal Chapel (not the Nave)

9302 Blondo

Saturday, May 2

1 PM

Marie's husband, Jack, wanted to be sure we had information on Marie's funeral. He sincerely hopes that Marie's friends will attend. Pr. Ashley Hall will preach.

Cinco de Mayo

Saturday, May 2

6-8 PM

Come celebrate with an evening full of music, flavor, and fun! Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a festive Celebration the whole family can enjoy. Sample a delicious spread of authentic Mexican food and homemade desserts, sip on refreshing mock margaritas, and experience the lively sounds of Omaha's own Mariachi band, Mariachi Los Caballeros, performing live! Throughout the evening, try your luck with our raffle baskets as well. Whether you come for the food, the music, or the community, there will be something for everyone. You can purchase your tickets early from Sheila Valquier and save \$5 each or buy tickets at the door.

Ticket Prices:

Adults (14+): \$20 or \$25 at the door

Kids (6-13): \$5 or \$10 at the door

Ages 5 & under: Free

Bring your friends, bring your family, and come celebrate together with great food, great music, and great company! Proceeds to benefit youth attending the Pittsburgh trip this summer!

KMLC Book Group

The Bookworm

Sunday, May 3

1:30 PM

The Book Group does not meet in May in recognition of Mother's Day.

We'll meet for lunch and book selection at The Bookworm for the next year. The next book discussion will be June 14 when we begin a new reading list. Please join us then.

Sunday, May 17, 2026

11:00 AM- 1:30 PM

Rain or Shine

Green Space (between Methodist Clinic & Kountze Memorial)

All KMLC children, youth, families, friends, and members, as well as those in the community, are invited to attend the annual Neighborhood Gathering.

Bring the family for FREE food, games, bounce houses, face painting, prizes, balloons, and featuring a live band "Ron and the Renegades"!

See the bulletin insert if you would like to volunteer to help. You can also talk to Jim Smejkal. Come join in the fun! You

won't want to miss it!

Community Resource Fair

Monday, May 18

9 AM- 12:30 PM

Kountze Commons is excited to host its first Community Resource Fair. Numerous community partners will be present to share information about the services they provide. This event is open to all and is sponsored by our partner, Methodist Health Systems. A complete list of vendors and services is available in the church office upon request. Please join us on May 18th!

Halloween Costume Collection

Are you cleaning out closets, the attic or your garage? Do you have years of Halloween costumes tucked away that do not fit anyone in your house? Please bring those gently used costumes to the church! All sizes welcome from infant to adult. Donations can be placed in the brown collection box under the coat rack on the west side of Fellowship Hall. This fall, Kountze Commons will host an event where those in need can come select a costume of their choice. If you have questions on donations or would like to assist in the event in the fall, please reach out to Toby Rees (402-979-1425 or toby@kmlchurch.org).

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are canned pasta, ramen noodles, and toothpaste. 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. We are always in need of grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

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



Pantry

Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 16—Wednesday, April 22

Saturday: 20

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 73

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 251

Streaming: 39

Pantry Guests Served: 295 (inc. 126 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$23,567.77 (Regular) \$10,094.66 (Specials)

\$1,062.00 (Debt Reduction)

Followers of Jesus shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among believers
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Friday	Romans 12:14-18	Marks of the true Christian
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:44-45 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, keep us close to your care, and in our times of suffering may we trust in you and be cared for by others through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for preparing a table for us that we may be strengthened for our journey as we follow you, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Good Shepherd guard you always. (1 Peter 2:25)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does a shepherd do to care for the sheep?
- Jesus says his sheep listen to his voice and follow him (John 10:3-4). When and where do you hear Jesus' voice?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 2:42-47.

Every year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is the "Good Shepherd Sunday." Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. 1 Peter 2:25 states that Jesus is "*the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*" John 10:4 speaks of the sheep who follow because they know the voice of the shepherd. Acts 2 gives a picture of what the community of the Good Shepherd looks like. It is a people who shepherd one another by sharing their possessions. Together they study the word of God, have fellowship, break bread and pray. Christian shepherds do these things. Daily they worship publicly but also break bread in homes with "*glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people*" (vv. 46b-47a). The result is a community that by its very way of life and by the power of God adds "*to their number those who [are] being saved*" (v. 47b). A community of people caring for one another witnesses to God's love. The outcome is more souls in the sheepfold.

Discuss: How is your home a place to shepherd souls?

Pray: **Good Shepherd, thank you for calling out to us through a community that cares for one another publicly and also in our daily lives. 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 provide food, clothing, or shelter to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Draw or find a picture of a sheep. Imagine you are the shepherd for this sheep. Make a list of things you would do to take care of the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with the words, "*The Lord is my shepherd.*" Read Psalm 23 and compare your list with the ways the Lord cares for sheep. How are the lists the same? How are they different? Then take a moment to breathe in and say: **The Lord is my shepherd.** Breathe out and say: **I shall not want.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10