

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 10, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY in EASTER



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *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.



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

- ☐ Almighty and ever-living God,
- ☑ you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’ ²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:8-20

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



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁸ Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us a- | mong the living**
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. *Refrain*

¹⁰ For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us in- | to the net;**
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house | with burnt offerings**
and will pay | you my vows—

¹⁴ those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats. Refrain**

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. Refrain

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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.

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 450

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

☒ 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

- 1** Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly dove,
with light and comfort from above.
Come, be our guardian and our guide;
o'er ev'ry thought and step preside.
- 2** The light of truth to us display
and make us know and choose your way;
plant holy fear in ev'ry heart,
that we from God may ne'er depart.
- 4** Lead us to heav'n, that we may share
fullness of joy forever there;
lead us to our eternal rest,
to be with God forever blest.

Text: Simon Browne, 1680-1732, alt.

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: **L** Merciful God,
 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 Kathy Cole

Prayers this week: Lydia Baum (granddaughter of Lynn & Nancy Meyer), Judi Boe, Kate McCoy, Lynn Meyer

On-going Care: Charles Cole, Irving Collett, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Janice Hansen, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Elizabeth Luczynski, Ralph Morse, Jeff Perkins, Noelle Phelps, Allyson White

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: *Seminarrians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

THE PEACE IS SHARED

L The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. 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

Loving Spirit

words by Shirley Erena Murray
music by W. Walker

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Earth, Earth, Awake!

ACS 937 vs. 1 & 4



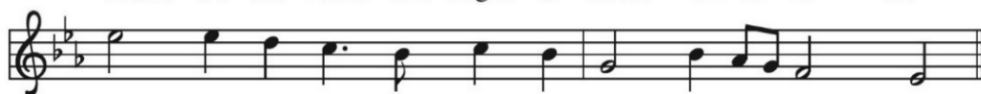
1 Earth, earth, a - wake! Your prais - es sing! Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!



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

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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 also 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.
- It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- Holy, Holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC 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 away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- Ⓑ **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- Ⓐ 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.*

1 Before I can remember
the covenant was sealed
with Father, Son, and Spirit,
in water was revealed.
The cleansing was for certain,
with water and the Word;
gentle words were spoken,
in heaven they were heard.

Refrain

They were singing waterlife,
beginning life,
waterlife all my life,
waterlife, Spirit life, waterlife.

2 A simple sweet beginning,
a loving place to start:
Christ began the singing
that swells within my heart.
his love became my calling,
his life my ministry.
His name is my adoption
into his family. *Refrain*

3 My hope and expectation
for true community
begins with resurrection,
his death and life in me.
His Spirit fills the Body:
his church through water sees
promise for tomorrow,
his waterlife in me. *Refrain*

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Text © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,
and in our hearts your work begin,
and make our hearts your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
around and in us brightly shine,
your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance
life from heaven
now is given
overflowing,
gift of gifts beyond all knowing.**

**2 Left to ourselves, we surely stray;
oh, lead us on the narrow way,
with wisest counsel guide us;
and give us steadfastness, that we
may follow you forever free,
no matter who derides us.
Gently heal those
hearts now broken;
give some token
you are near us,
whom we trust to light and cheer us.**

**3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
let your good Word in doubt and strife
be in us strongly burning,
that we be faithful unto death
and live in love and holy faith,
from you true wisdom learning.
Lord, your mercy
on us shower;
by your power
Christ confessing,
we will cherish all your blessing.**

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

(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.**

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

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ELW 449

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!**

- 2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!**

- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah!**

- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!**

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Text © John B. Geyer

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 9 & 10, 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

Happy Mother's Day!



Mothering God,

- ♥ Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day.
- ♥ Accompany those yearning to be mothers.
- ♥ Open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives.

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>



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

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,

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

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.

May 10: Tanzania and Nebraska Synod Together, with Martin Russell

May 17 Neighborhood Gathering

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 10 Sunday

Easter 6
Mother's Day
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

May 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 12 Tuesday

Election Day
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee

May 14 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord
Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Ascension of Our Lord Service (Trinity Episcopal)

May 15 Friday

Good News Deadline
10:30 AM Kathy Cole Funeral
5:00 PM Pantry

May 16 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 17 Sunday

Easter 7
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 14

7 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 North 18th Street

We are excited to again partner with Trinity Episcopal for a special Ascension Day service and choral collaboration. Our choirs will sing together for the service. We hope you can join us!

Camp CJH Work Day

Saturday, May 16

8 AM - 1:30 PM

Breakfast Served at 7:30 AM

Camp Carol Joy Holling needs our help to "set the vibe" at camp for the more than 1,600 campers arriving during the summer. Bring your friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Individuals and groups are welcome and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes, and gloves. Hats, sunscreen, and water bottles are recommended. Kids are welcome with parental



CJH Work Day

supervision. For more information and to register, go to:
<https://www.nlom.org/nlom-events/work-day-2026/>

Neighborhood Gathering

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!

Children's Choir

Singing Sunday, May 17

8:35 AM Practice

We will sing for both the 9 and the 11 AM services. Please

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

arrive at 8:35 AM to practice in the Nave. We will sing right at the beginning of the 11 AM service, so your family will be able to leave immediately after they sing. We will be singing *Every time I Feel the Spirit*. The children will sing the chorus/refrain and play percussion instruments during the verses. The adult choir will sing the verses of this song. If you would like to practice at home, the words to the refrain/chorus are:

*Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray.*

This will be our last time singing for this school year. Thank you for allowing your child to be involved in our choir. Please feel free to contact Barb Carlsen if you have any questions or concerns at, carlsen.barbara18@gmail.com

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!

Men's Lunch

Thursday, May 21

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

This month, we'll travel back to 1904 and see what two foods gained popularity at the World's Fair in St. Louis. We'll have food, fun, some trivia and a multiple-choice game to test your knowledge. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 19. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're planning to attend.



jim@kmlchurch.org

Service Fridays

June 19 - July 31

9 AM - 4 PM

Grades 7 - 9

Service Fridays are a chance for Middle School Students to spend time in fellowship while giving back to the community. Each Friday, students that are going into grades 7, 8, and 9, are invited to Kountze to work together in partnership with ministries connected to Kountze and other local non-profits. We will be working with deFreese Manor, the Kountze Love Your Neighbor Pantry, YES House, Physicians Mutual, and many other charities focused on helping those in our neighborhood. While Service Fridays are limited to those going into 7th-9th grades, we do need some adult support. If you have time, we could use some adult support during our activities. In addition, we will be focusing on collecting hygiene supplies to make care bags. Soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, lotion, Q-tips, and any other basic necessities you can imagine is needed. These items can be dropped off at the Sunday School office. If you have questions



Service Fridays

about Service Fridays, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact Kristin at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3sjzfpmk>

Confirmation "Boot Camp"

Do you have a student who wasn't able to participate in Wednesday night Collaborative Confirmation classes? Do you want a Confirmation "refresher" course? We are looking to do a Confirmation "Boot Camp" this summer for students (and adults) who for whatever reason didn't get the traditional Confirmation experience or would like a little more. Please contact Pastor Lucy if you would be interested in participating and we will look for a good time and format.

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. 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.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, April 29—Wednesday, May 6

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 200 11:00: 54

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 292

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 229 (inc. 108 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering:

\$20,330.97 (Regular) \$508.50 (Specials)

\$534.65 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit is our helper.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:7-8	God will be with you
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalms 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I [Jesus] will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.” John 14:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come, Holy Spirit, give me the faith and strength to love others as Christ has loved me and the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food and the people who have brought it from the earth to our tables, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a loving heart.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt alone or afraid?
- Jesus called the Holy Spirit our helper. What do you think the Holy Spirit helps us do?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 14:15-21.

The Gospel of John weaves themes into one another like a beautiful tapestry. That is clearly what is happening in John 14. At the heart of it, Jesus will not abandon his followers. He loves them and wants them to love him by keeping his commandments to love one another (John 13:34). Jesus will remain with us, his followers, through the presence of “another Advocate” (v. 16), just as Jesus himself is an advocate (1 John 2:1). The word “advocate” in the original Greek also means counselor, helper, or intercessor. The Advocate is here to help us. The other advocate is the Holy Spirit, described as “the Spirit of truth” (v. 17), just as Jesus is seen as “the truth” in John 14:6. After Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, he is still with us through the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. The Holy Spirit makes Christ a reality in our lives today so that we may love one another and the world as God does (John 3:16). We are not abandoned after Jesus’ ascension; we are empowered by the Spirit of truth to live out Jesus’ new commandment to love one another and the world.

Discuss: How has the Holy Spirit helped you along your faith journey?

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today is Mother’s Day in the United States. It is a time to recognize and be thankful for those women in our lives who have loved and cared for us and for others. Be a witness for God’s love and reach out to a woman you know who deserves a special thank you with a phone call, text, or a visit. Say this prayer for her: **Lord God, thank you for [name]. May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Please bless her on this day and every day with your love and care. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11