

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

June 14, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Compassionate God,

☞ **we confess to you all our sins.**

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

☞ Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

☞ **Amen.**

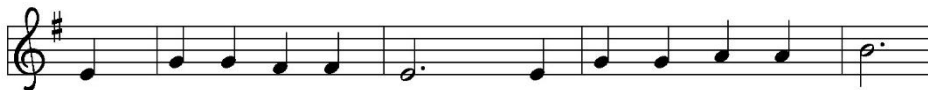
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!</p> <p>2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!</p> | <p>3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.</p> <p>4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ God of compassion,
- ☑ you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

The Israelites journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.'⁷ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one, "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100 (read responsively)

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

² Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

³ **Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

⁴ Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

L Alleluia!

C Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35—10:8, 16-20

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1} Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

¹⁶ "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 2 years through 4th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags, located in the back of the entrance hall, during the regular sermon or go to the Upper rooms for a story time. All children will return to their families in time to receive communion. 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

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579 vs. 1, 2, 4

**1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: *Refrain***

**4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society: *Refrain***

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

☑ **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: **L** Merciful God,
 G 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 Lorna Swingen

Prayers this week: Rod Carlson, Jane Ross, Kathy Sickert (friend of Leigh & Vicki Freeman)

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Elizabeth Luczynski, Kate McCoy, 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: *Seminarians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G 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

Adagio

by George Grideric Handel
arr. by Bernard Fitzgerald
Thomas Jensen, *trumpet*

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord, Let My Hart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

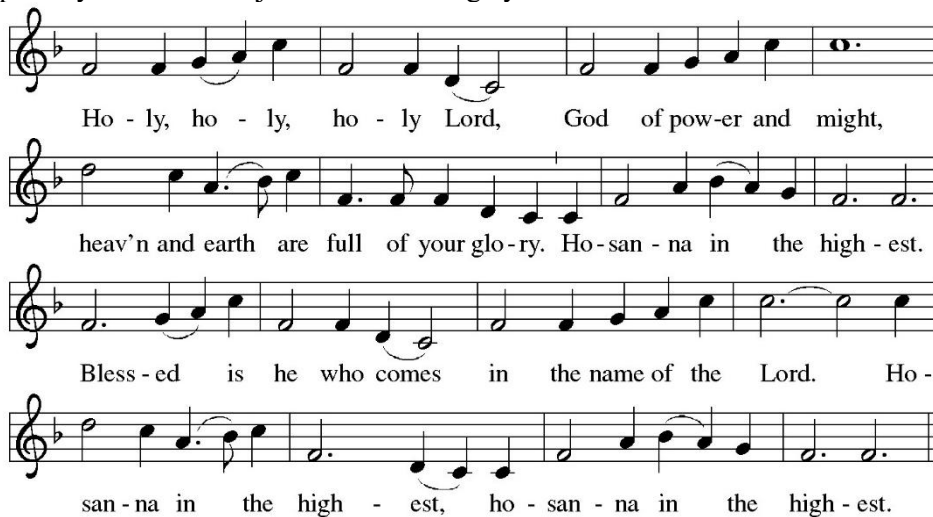
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OFFERING PRAYER

- Loving God,
- we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓐ Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, ...
... and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, ...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, ...
... be all honor and glory, now and forever.

- Ⓢ **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

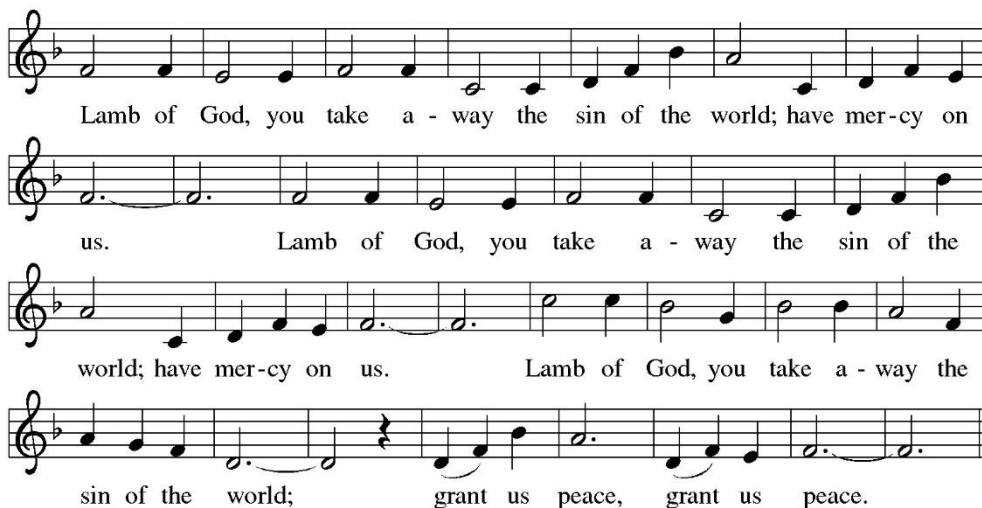
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☑ **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, share in the feast!

☑ **Heaven has come near.**

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

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 859

- 1** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.
Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake.
Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.
- 2** Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
sent by God's gracious ordaining.
- 3** Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;
see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;
Infinite Love here befriends you.
- 4** Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.
Let the amen sound from God's people again,
gladly forever adoring.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. composite
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Compassionate God,

C **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

☪ Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

You Servants of God

ELW 825

- 1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!
- 2 Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!
- 3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.
- 4 Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

☪ Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

☪ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro Marziale

by George Frideric Handel
arr. by Bernard Fitzgerald
Thomas Jensen, *trumpet*

☩ ☩ ☩

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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
Heidi Pospisil	Pantry Director
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

June 13 & 14, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Barbara Saklar given by Tracey Saklar, Kris Placzek, and family; in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike and Randall S Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and family.

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of her father, David Penning.

Television Broadcast is sponsored by the family of the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Moessner in gratitude to God for 50 years of ordained ministry. The Moessner family will also provide cupcakes in the Fellowship Hall this morning for the celebration.

Kountze Café Lite
9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Now through Labor Day weekend, we are serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

Children's Sermon

Children are invited to sit with their families at the beginning of the service. Following the children's sermon, youth who are going into grade four and younger are invited to follow the adult leader upstairs for the Kountze Summer Reading Program. The kids will enjoy a story book on important life lessons. Coloring sheets, fidgets, and sensory items will be provided. They will return to their families for communion.



Summer Reading

Are you an adult interested in reading to the youth? Use the following link or QR code to sign up to read. You may also reach out to Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

<https://tinyurl.com/2epndk6z>

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*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. This Sunday, we'll hear from those who attended the Synod Assembly.

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, June 14

The Ride of Her Life, by Elizabeth Letts

This is a true story of a woman, her horse, and the last chance journey across America.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 14 Sunday

Pentecost 3

Pr. Paul Moessner 50th Anniversary of Ordination

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

June 15 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 16 Tuesday

Pr. Wynard's birthday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

June 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

7 PM Handbell Rehearsal

June 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

June 19 Friday

No Pantry

9:00 AM Service Friday

June 20 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

June 21 Sunday

Pentecost 4

Father's Day

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite

10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Kountze Memorial Youth Ministry Parent Survey

Parents/guardians, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts regarding our Youth Ministry Program. This survey is anonymous and will help us plan youth activities and Sunday Youth Forum for next year.

Please do not include your name or your youth's name unless you would like someone to follow up with you. The survey can be found by using the QR code or the following link:



Parent Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/yhmp3jsf>

Men's Lunch

Thursdays, June 18

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 16,

Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let him know you're planning to attend.

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 Thy 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 volunteers 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 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>



Service Fridays

Youth Social Justice League Summer Field Trip

Tuesday, July 21

9 AM—4 PM

Middle and high school youth are invited to join us and the Urban Abbey Youth Social Justice League for a day of

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

exploring Omaha's "third spaces"—places where people gather, connect, and build community.

Participants will visit several locations, ride the ORBT, and learn about inclusion, community building, and social justice.

Hosted by the Kountze Mercy & Justice Team.

Please scan the QR code to **register by July 1** or go to:

<https://forms.gle/Cyctn3TdoCtmsBnX9>



Justice & Mercy

and of course games! Please register your child/ren now so we can have all the supplies needed and be ready for a great week together. The child registration form can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2m5trfbd>



VBS Registration

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

Do you have years of gently used Halloween costumes tucked away that don't fit anyone in your house any more? If so, please bring those gently used costumes to the church to be donated! 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/uausdddp>

Middle-High School students are welcome to participate as staff to make this a great learning experience for all. Adult volunteers are also needed. Volunteer registrations can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/29ppewa2>



VBS Volunteers

FYI: For those ages 18 and over, we will be requiring a background check through your home church, if you haven't already done one. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents to VBS. We are happy to have you!

VBS Volunteer Meeting

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

June 24

6 PM

Pizza will be provided

School Supply Drive

The youth will be hosting a school supply drive this summer. We are asking for supplies and backpacks to fill for our Love thy Neighbor Pantry in Kountze Commons. Notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens, glue, scissors, etc. are welcome. Please bring items to church by August 2. We will be stuffing backpacks on August 9.

Omaha Collaborative VBS

July 19-22 (Sunday to Wednesday)

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Supper (for families) 5:15 PM

Program 6 - 8 PM

Pre-K through 5th Grade

Five Omaha Area Lutheran Churches have joined forces to serve together. Our program this year is "Snowball Mountain Challenge - Find your Strength in God." Each evening begins with a simple meal provided in the Café for all participants and their families. Children will rotate through story stations, craft activities, science experiments

Attendance & Giving Thursday, June 4—Wednesday, June 10

Saturday: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 125 11:00: 65

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 224

Streaming: 57

Pantry Guests Served: 346 (inc. 103 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 8

Offering:

\$15,216.88 (Regular)

\$1,510.04 (Specials)

\$1,327.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are Jesus' hands, feet, and voice.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Exodus 19:2-8a	Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A son promised to Abraham
Thursday	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Saturday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. **Matthew 9:35 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of constant love and faithfulness, we thank you for your care; give us strength to care for and bless others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen. (Psalm 100:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May God care for you with tender compassion.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How have others cared for you?
- Our relationship with Jesus is meant to help us serve others. How do you serve others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 9:35–10:23.

In the Old Testament lesson for this week (Exodus 19:2-8a), God once again establishes a covenant with the house of Jacob, just as God established a covenant with Abram in Genesis 12. God is making a priestly people, a holy nation to bless the world. In Matthew 9 and 10, Jesus now is establishing his covenant with his followers to serve and bless others. Just as Jesus tells good news to people and heals every disease and sickness, his followers will go out and do similar acts in the kingdom of God. Those sent out by Jesus are doing the work of Jesus. The task was not easy for Jesus and will not be easy for his followers, but the Spirit of God will go with them. This passage is filled with compassion and is sobering at the same time. It is the call for all of Jesus' followers. It is a daring mission that requires courage and wisdom. It is not presented as an option. Our work as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world today wins because we do not go alone, but with the Spirit of God.

Discuss: In what ways have you been Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world?

Pray: **Almighty God, send us out with your message of hope and compassionate service, both of which heal through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, what act of kindness and compassion can you show towards someone who is ill?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2).

"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart" is a popular Christian song written in the 1920's and still stirs memories and joy in the hearts of many. Take a moment to make a joyful noise to the Lord and sing this well-known song.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39