

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

June 28, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C** Amen.

**L** Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**L** Compassionate God,

**C** 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.**

**L** 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.

**C** Amen.

**1** Give to our God immortal praise!  
 Mercy and truth are all his ways.  
 Wonders of grace to God belong;  
 repeat his mercies in your song.

**2** He sent his Son with pow'r to save  
 from guilt and darkness and the grave.  
 Wonders of grace to God belong;  
 repeat his mercies in your song.

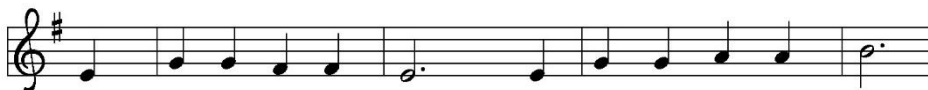
**3** Give to the Lord of lords renown;  
 the King of kings with glory crown.  
 His mercies ever shall endure  
 when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

### KYRIE



- 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

- L** O God,
- C** you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world.  
 Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ,  
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).*

**T**he prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup> But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 89: 1-4, 15-18 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup> **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup> "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup> **"I will establish your line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all generations."**

<sup>15</sup> Happy are the people who know the festal shout!  
They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.

<sup>16</sup> **They rejoice daily in your name;  
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

<sup>17</sup> For you are the glory of their strength,  
and by your favor our might is exalted.

<sup>18</sup> **Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 6:12-23**

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

**D**o not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. <sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to

which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

☒ Alleluia!

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

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

Jesus said to the twelve: <sup>40</sup> “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

*Children (aged 2 years through 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

**1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ, our head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever  
and our confidence alone.**

**3 Here bestow on all your servants  
what they seek from you to gain;  
what they gain from you, forever  
with the blessed to retain;  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.**

**4 Praise and honor to the Father,  
praise and honor to the Son,  
praise and honor to the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory  
while unending ages run!**

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

**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** God of grace,  
                  **C** hear 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 Rev. Harold Schmidt

**Prayers this week:** Ellie Carlson, Lucy Etherton (Great-Great Niece of Ken & Linda Johnson), Lynnette Olson (daughter of Bess Swanson)

**On-going Care:** Judi Boe, Warren Cooke, Rod Carlson, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Ralph Morse, Noelle Phelps, Jane Ross, 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; Lily Jansen Piening & Collin Piening, Laura Jansen, (grandchildren of Keith Jansen) Japan; 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

**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

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

by Joseph Barnby  
arr. by Sandra Eithun  
Kountze Bell Choir

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### *Lord, Let My Heart 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

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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

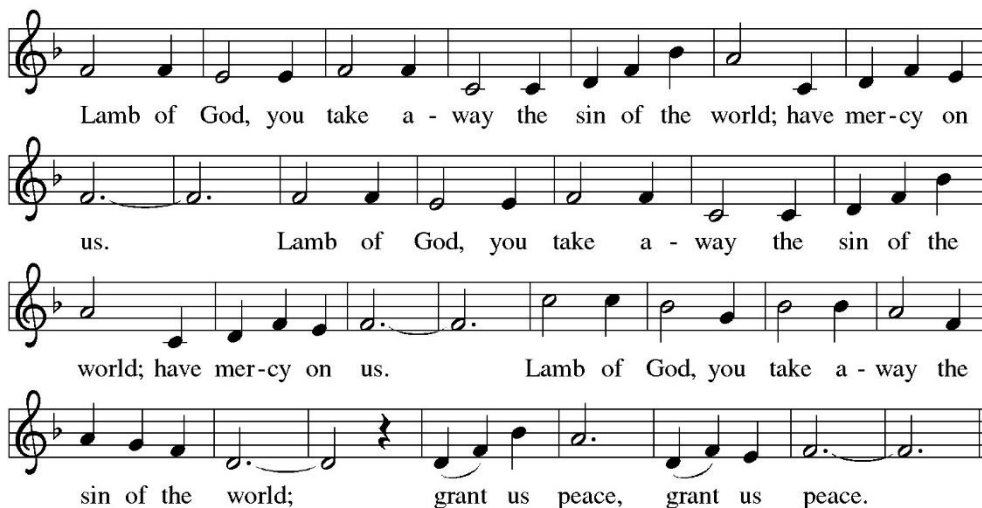
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☑ **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 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from selfish passions set me free  
and make me pure within.**
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
let me your loving servant be  
and taste your promised rest.**

- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point out your chosen way.**
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share your joy at last.**

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

*Blessed Assurance*

ELW 638

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

*Refrain*

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Compassionate God,

- ☉ **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 OF SUMMER MISSION YOUTH 9:00 AM

### BLESSING

☞ Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*

ELW 676 vs. 2-4

2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead  
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;  
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed  
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.

3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing our words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,  
until our very hearts o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

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

### DISMISSAL

☞ Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
☛ Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *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
Heidi Pospisil	Pantry Director
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

June 27 & 28, 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

### 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 given by Mark & Tarna Kidder in celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; given by Judy Westerman in memory of Gary Westerman on their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

### 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 Labedz.

### 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.

**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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).

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

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Adult Forum

#### Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

- June 28 Growing in Faith, Building a Foundation:  
Youth & Young Adult Ministry at Kountze  
Memorial
- July 5: Fellowship

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### This Week at Kountze Memorial

#### June 28 Sunday

Pentecost 5  
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

#### June 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

#### June 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

#### July 1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

#### July 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

#### July 3 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

#### July 4 Saturday

Independence Day  
Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

#### July 5 Sunday

Pentecost 6  
Homebound Communion  
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

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### For Your Calendar/News & Notes

#### Service Fridays

#### Through 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 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org). Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:

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



Service Fridays

#### Celebrate Pride with Us!

#### July 17–18

The Heartland Pride Festival & Parade is just around the corner. Once again, Kountze members have the opportunity to gather in community to watch the parade, or participate with the Reconciling In Christ congregations of the ELCA. Scan the QR code or visit the SignUp Genius with the link below to indicate that you are interested. More specifics about where and when to meet will be sent to those who sign up. Let's share love and community together!

<https://tinyurl.com/yv88e79r>



Pride Festival

#### It's a Pizza Party!

#### Saturday, July 18

#### 6 PM (after 5 PM Worship)

#### Kountze Families with Children through Grade 12

Worship with us Saturday evening, and then stay for pizza afterwards. You can also just come for the pizza. Outdoor activities provided in the green space. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk, use the QR code, or call the church office (402-341-7761) to let us know you'll be attending.

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

**Omaha Collaborative VBS**  
**July 19-22 (Sunday to Wednesday)**  
**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**  
**(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)**  
**Supper (for families) 5:15 PM**  
**Program 6 - 8 PM**  
**Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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:



VBS Registration

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

**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:



VBS Volunteers

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

**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!

**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 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:



Justice & Mercy

<https://forms.gle/Cyctn3TdoCtmsBnX9>

**KMLC Young Adults Coffee Talk**  
**Urban Abbey (1026 Jackson St.)**  
**College Age - 30's**  
**Sunday, July 26**  
**12:30 PM**

We'll gather with Pastor Debra McKnight to learn about the ministry of Urban Abbey, explore its unique presence as a coffee shop, bookstore, and United Methodist congregation, and enjoy conversation together over coffee and non-coffee drinks. All are welcome. Bring a friend and join the conversation.

### **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" 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](mailto: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 gently used grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

### **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 packing backpacks on August 9.

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Thursday, June 18—Wednesday, June 25**

**Saturday: 28**

**Sunday: 9:00: 83 11:00: 62**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 8**

**Total: 181**

**Streaming: 43**

**Pantry Guests Served: 503 (inc. 152 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18**

**Offering:**

\$9,409.77 (Regular) \$4,535.07 (Specials)

\$462.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Freed by God's grace.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Leviticus 25:35-43	The year of jubilee
Thursday	John 8:31-38	True disciples
Friday	Hebrews 6:1-12	Danger of falling away
Saturday	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary



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## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a holy life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you been tempted to do something, you knew was wrong? What happened?
- How would you describe a life that is guided by Jesus Christ?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “*where sin increased, grace abounded all the more*” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith gave license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul. What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to a life opposed to God. What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “*to God as instruments of righteousness*” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. A life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend. Paul writes, “*I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations*” (v. 19), so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence.

*Discuss:* Does knowing of God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to be hospitable and welcome someone into your home?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said that anyone who welcomes one of his followers welcomes him, and in turn welcomes his Heavenly Father (Matthew 10:40). Extend a welcome to a new friend or new neighbor to join you for a meal in your home. Think of ways to make them feel welcome. Remember that in serving your visitors you are serving Christ himself! *Pray:* **Lord, open our hearts to welcome you each day, and open our hands to serve others in love. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30