

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

July 5, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Bruce Nissen, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ℣ Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, source of hope
in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

✠ Amen.

- ℣ Let us bring every burden to God

Silence is kept for reflection.

- ℣ God of all mercy,

✠ **we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

- ℣ All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

✠ Amen.

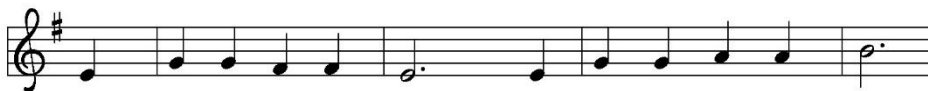
- 1 Before you, Lord, we bow,
our God who reigns above
and rules the world below
with boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring
in joy and praise,
our hearts we raise,
to you we sing!
- 2 May ev'ry mountain height,
each vale and forest green,
shine forth in wisdom's light,
and its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
be tuned to praise
and join to raise
a grateful song.
- 3 Earth, hear your maker's voice;
your great redeemer own;
believe, obey, rejoice,
and worship God alone.
Cast down your pride,
your sin deplore,
and bow before
the Crucified.
- 4 And when in pow'r he comes,
oh, then may ev'ry land
from all its rending tombs
send forth a glorious band,
a countless throng,
with joy to sing
to heav'n's high king
salvation's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, 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

- ℣ You are great, O God,
℣ and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14 (read responsively)

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- ℣ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☩ **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 Wynard

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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 Jennifer Lynn Chapman

Prayers this week: Debbie (friend of Leigh & Vicki Freeman), Ellie Carlson, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton (Great-Great Niece of Ken & Linda Johnson)

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Warren Cooke, Rod Carlson, Mike & Candace Edris, Wanda Frykberg, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, 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; 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

To The Table

by Zach Williams
Deacon Haitz

(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

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God,
- ☑ for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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

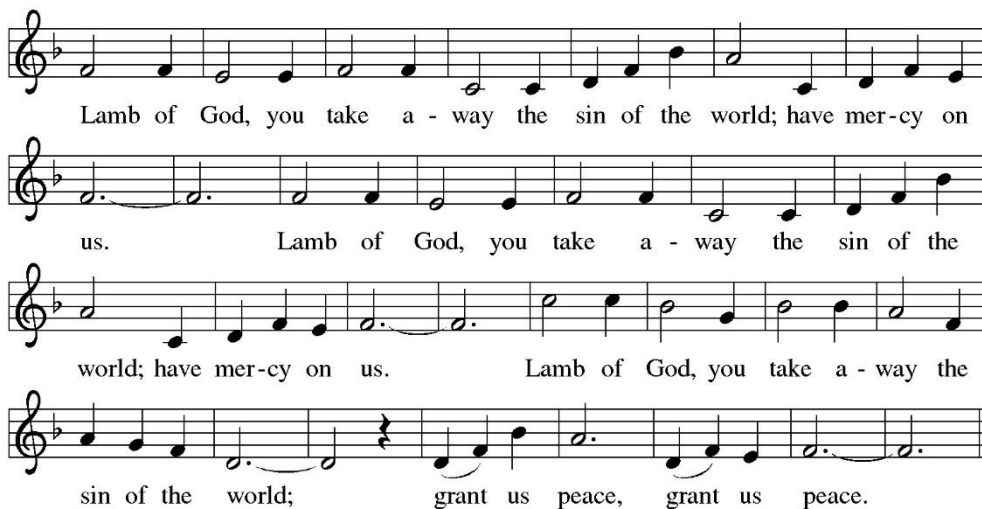
℣ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☩ **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

℣ Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
Taste and know that God is good to all.

☩ **We come to share in the feast.**

(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.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Adagio and Allegro from Sonata No. 1

by G. F. Handel
arr. by Harry Gee
Tucker Haitz, *saxophone*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

ELW 888

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.</p> | <p>2 O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.</p> |
| <p>3 O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.</p> | |

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ℣** We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
- ℣** that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ☒ The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, † one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

This Is My Song

ELW 887

- 1 **This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

- 2 **My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

- 3 **This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3
Text sts. 1-2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company. Text st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

- ☒ Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.
☒ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bruce Nissen, *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
Heidi Pospisil	Pantry Director
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 4 & 5 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 by Debbie Bogue in memory of John Bogue

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.

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>

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

July 5: Fellowship

July 12: Rev. Bridget Gautieri, ELCA Wittenberg Center, Global Missions

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>



This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

July 6 Monday

Jul 6 - Jul 12 Journey Mission Trip
10:00 AM Pantry

July 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

July 8 Wednesday

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

July 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

July 10 Friday

9:00 AM Service Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

July 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

July 12 Sunday

Pentecost 7
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Kountze Care Companions

Do you have a few hours to share each month? We are forming a team of volunteers to assist some of our older members with simple tasks such as sorting and organizing around the house, light cleaning, carrying or putting away groceries, and spending time in conversation and companionship. No special skills are required—just a willing heart and a desire to serve. Whether you can help occasionally or on a regular basis, we would love to have you join us as we care for one another and live out Christ's call to bear one another's burdens. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at the welcome desk, or contact the church office for more information.

Service Fridays Continues Through July 31

9 AM - 4 PM

Grades 7 - 9

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. 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

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.

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 and of course games! Please register your child/ren now so we can have all the supplies needed and be ready for a

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

great week together. The child registration form can be found by using the QR code to the right or go to:

<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 use the QR code to the right or go to:

<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!

VBS "Noisy" Offering

Our kids will be collecting coins for the San Andrés Food Pantry to help them buy a refrigerator/freezer and other needed supplies. San Andrés is one of our Mission Field Nebraska congregations just south of us here in Omaha. You can support our youth AND one of our mission partners in Omaha by collecting your own coins this July and donating them. Let's see if our adults can beat our kids in this friendly competition?! We'll have a Noisy Offering on Sunday, July 19 (but we'll accept quiet paper donation as well). Join the fun and let's help our neighbors.

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:

<https://forms.gle/Cyctn3TdoCtmsBnX9>



VBS Registration



VBS Volunteers

to assist in the event in the fall, please reach out to Toby Rees (402-979-1425 or toby@kmlchurch.org).

School Supply Drive

The youth are 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.

Carol Joy Holling 38th Annual Quilt Auction Saturday, July 25

Just a reminder that the funds raised from the CJH Quilt Auction helps to provide a great camp experience for the more than 1,600 campers that are arriving this summer. Quilts may be delivered to the camp anytime between now and July 15. If you're not able to donate a quilt, plan to attend the auction and bid on one or two... or six. Quilts in the past have gone for anywhere between \$25 and \$20,000. There's something for every budget, and it's a very good cause. For more information or a donation form, use the QR code or go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/quilt-auction/>



CJH Quilt Auction

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.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>



Pantry

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.

Halloween Costume Collection

Please bring gently used costumes to the church to be donated! If you have questions on donations or would like

Attendance & Giving Thursday, June 26—Wednesday, July 1

Saturday: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 114 **11:00:** 57

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 206

Streaming: 54

Pantry Guests Served: 448 (inc. 139 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$10,347.97 (Regular) \$1,866.18 (Specials)

\$207.15 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus gives rest to the weary.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Coming ruler of God's people
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	Hebrews 4:1-11	Rest that God promised
Friday	Mark 2:23-27	A question about the sabbath
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for giving us rest when we are weary and the invitation to lean on you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this gift of food that strengthens our bodies and your presence in our lives that gives rest for our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God take your burdens and give you rest.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

When you are exhausted, where do you find rest and support?

Jesus gives rest to the weary. How has Jesus given you rest?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

In this text Jesus speaks with two very different emotional tones. When Jesus names *“this generation”* (v. 16), he is really speaking about us. As humans, we are bent on rejecting God, preserving alienation from God, and pursuing idols of any sort. We, as people seeking after our own glory, will never be satisfied with God. We reject the austerity of John the Baptist and the life of abundant pleasure of Jesus. God's message offered music that we refuse to dance to and grief for which we refuse to express sadness. But the tone changes dramatically at verse 25. God reveals Jesus to infants, to the weary, and to those carrying heavy burdens. The Gospel of Matthew is filled with judgment for those who are content with their own lives and yet merciful to those wanting and needing something they cannot give themselves: the peace and joy of the reign of God. In the moment of need, Jesus comes and gives us rest, takes our burdens, and gives us an easy yoke to guide us.

Discuss: Jesus speaks with words of judgment and of comfort. Why do you think we need to hear both?

Pray: **Merciful God, cleanse us of our self-assurance that is blind to you, and help us to hear your invitation to find rest for our souls 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, how can you help and support someone you know who is in need of rest?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 145:8-14 as a traditional prayer practice called *lectio divina*. Read the text two times slowly, pausing after each reading. After the second reading, choose a word or phrase from the text that captures your attention. Focus on that word or phrase. Then read the text again and think about how the text connects with your life today. Pause, again, for reflection. Read the passage a fourth time and spend time reflecting on how this passage might direct your life to some action in the next few days. Conclude your time of prayer and reflection with verse 8: ***“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.”***

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23