

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

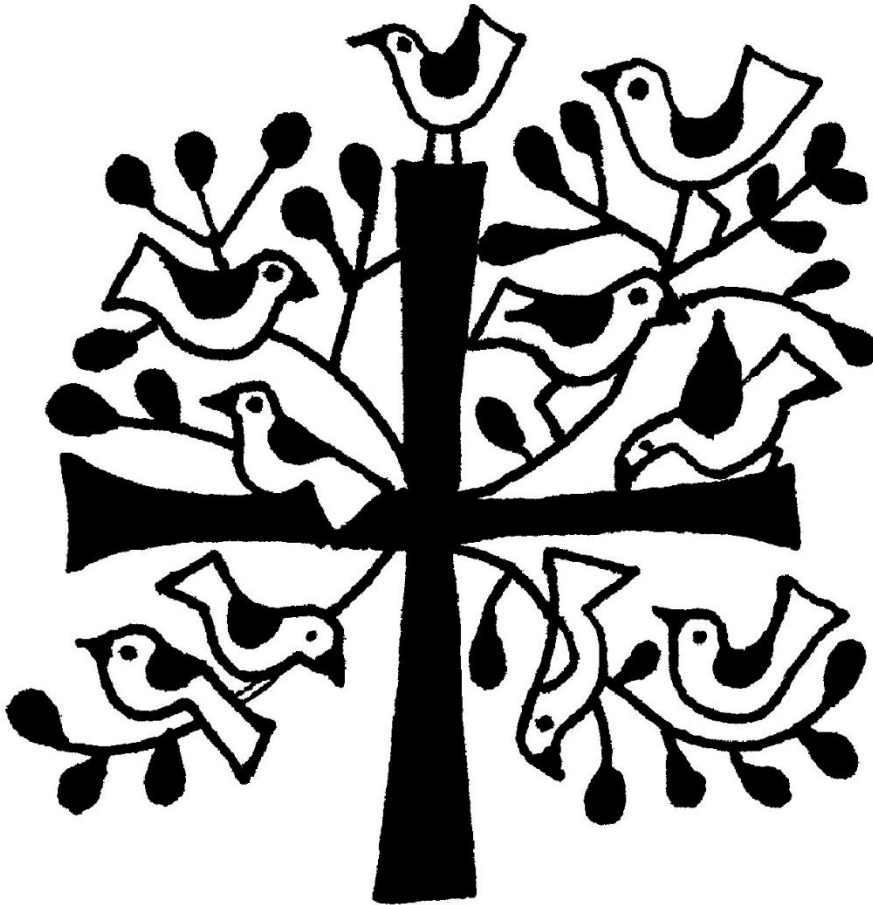
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

July 26, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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.

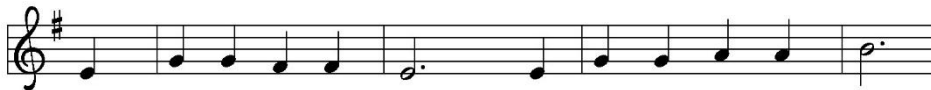
- 1** In thee is gladness amid all sadness,
 Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
 By thee are given the gifts of heaven,
 thou the true redeemer art.
 Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest.
 Who trusts thee surely has built securely
 and stands forever: Alleluia!
 Our hearts are pining to see thy shining,
 dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
 naught can us sever: Alleluia!
- 2** Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,
 not of earth or sin or death.
 He sees and blesses in worst distresses;
 he can change them with a breath.
 Wherefore the story tell of his glory
 with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
 in him forever: Alleluia!
 We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,
 love him and praise him and still shall raise him
 glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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

📖 Beloved and sovereign God,

📖 **through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

📖 **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:129-136 (read responsively)

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;**

it gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,**

as you always do to those who love your name.

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,**

and I will keep your commandments.

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant

and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,**

because people do not keep your teaching.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God 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 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

The Rev. Robert G. Moore, PhD

ELCA Volunteer Missionary, St Thomas Church, Leipzig, Germany

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

ELW 775

**1 Jesus, priceless treasure,
source of purest pleasure,
truest friend to me:
ah, how long I've panted,
and my heart has fainted,
thirsting, Lord, for thee!
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;
nothing in this world can hide thee,
naught I ask beside thee.**

**2 In thine arm I rest me;
foes who would molest me
cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash and thunders crash;
yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.**

**3 Hence, all fears and sadness,
for the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
God, who dearly loves us,
from all trial saves us,
gives sweet peace within.
I have borne this worldly scorn;
still in thee lies purest pleasure:
Jesus, priceless treasure!**

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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: ☞ God of grace,

☛ **hear our prayer.**

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Prayers this week: Sandy Fonda, Ilse Grage, Wayne Hardesty

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Rod Carlson, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob Fonda, Wanda Frykberg, Judith Hamaker, 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; Brayden Renken, son of Lenny & Aundrea Renken; 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, Wittenberg Center, Germany; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, Germany; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

Other Prayers: *Seminarists* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

THE PEACE IS SHARED

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☛ **And also with you.**

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What a Day That Will Be

words and music by Jim Hill
Roy Miller, *vocalist*

(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

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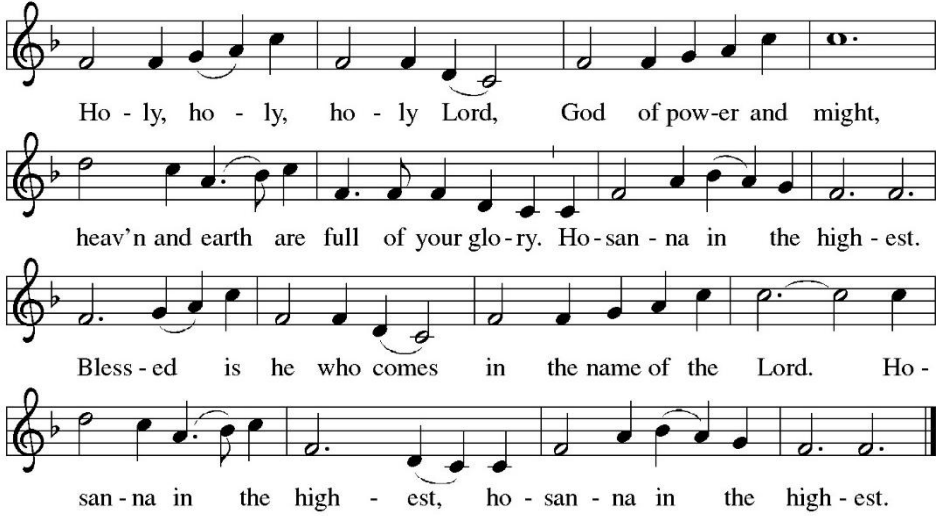
OFFERING PRAYER

☐ 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

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- L** 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- L** 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.

- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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

L Come, share in the feast!

C 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.*

Refrain

- Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**
- 1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. *Refrain***
- 2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.
*Refrain***
- 3 For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new. *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950

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Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

*(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

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.</p> <p>2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,</p> | <p>3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.</p> <p>4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

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

July 25 & 26 2026

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 165 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Dayle Johnson's birthday.

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 our 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>



Summer Reading

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

July 26: Rev. Robert Moore, PhD, Global Missions in Leipzig, Germany

August 2: Congregational Meeting

Sunday School Leaders Needed

The Faith Formation program is looking for enthusiastic volunteers for the Sunday School students. All lessons are scripted and materials provided. The children start with breakfast upstairs, providing time for fellowship with the youngest members of Kountze. They then split into their

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*

classrooms for a lesson that follows the lectionary of the day. Please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. You can sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 26 Sunday

Pentecost 9
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 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 28 Tuesday

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

July 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

July 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

July 31 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal
9:00 AM Service Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

August 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion
Spearman & Schutte Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

August 2 Sunday

Pentecost 10
Homebound Communion
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum—
Congregational Meeting

August 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

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 Continue

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

Halloween Costume Collection

Please bring 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).

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.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 8 & 9

Saturday, 5 PM

Sunday, 9 & 11 AM

Bring your school or work bag to church to receive prayers for a safe, productive, and exciting educational year.

Following the 9 AM worship service, students are invited to the Fellowship Lounge to stuff backpacks with school supplies. Bags and supplies are generously donated throughout the summer by congregation members and are given to pantry guests at our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry.

All Congregation Game Night!

Saturday, August 15

6:00 PM

The Christian Education Committee is hosting a Game Night for the entire congregation. This cross generational fellowship will begin after the 5 PM Saturday Service. Join us for friendly competition and finger foods. Bring your favorite game night snack or appetizer to share. Games provided, but if you have one to share, bring it!

Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk, call (402-341-7761) or email the church office.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are Ramen noodles, juice boxes, diapers. 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>

Truth be Told Bell Ringers

Community Bible Church

3616 S 132nd St.

Friday, July 31

7 PM

This is a free benefit concert to celebrate the USA's 250th birthday, but a freewill offering will be taken to support Voter Information Project, a non-profit, non-partisan organization. Voter Information Project is a place to acquire non-partisan information for Nebraska elections - including candidate responses in their own words, political position job descriptions, ballot issue explanations, and professional input on judges, all accessible for the individual voter's voting districts.



Pantry

Table Grace Café Golf Tournament

Friday, August 28

Miracle Hills Golf Course

(1401 N 120th St)

Tee Time 8 AM

Entry Fee: \$125 Per Person

\$500 Per Team of 4

Excitement is in the air! Get ready to be part of something extraordinary at Table Grace Ministries' fundraising event. It's an event like no other, and you won't want to miss it! Every registration to this event will bring Table Grace closer to achieving their mission. Together, we can create a brighter, more compassionate world for all. Our support is invaluable. Golf and network and help others with a hand up! Cost includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, mulligans, and a raffle ticket per player. Not able to golf? Be a golf hole sponsor or putting green sponsor. More information can be found by using the link below or the QR Code.

<https://tinyurl.com/mtdzy94y>



Table Grace Golf

CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

Sunday, August 2 | 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall
Election of Council and Endowment Members

Attendance & Giving **Thursday, July 16—Wednesday, July 22**

Saturday: 48

Sunday: 9:00: 92 11:00: 44

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 193

Streaming: 49

Pantry Guests Served: 231 (inc. 59 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$14,035.81 (Regular) \$2,725.83 (Specials)

\$553.00 (Debt Reduction)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Genesis 29:15-28	Jacob marries
Thursday	Psalms 103:8-14	The Lord's wonderful love
Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus the great high priest
Saturday	Psalms 119:129-136	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and strengthen us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with kindness. (Psalm 119:135)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think of a person who you consider to be wise. What makes them wise?
- When you are going through tough times, do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 and 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating the good from the bad. There are details in these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. Jesus asked the disciples if they *"understood all this,"* and without hesitation they simply replied, *"Yes"* (Matthew 13:51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here.

Whereas, Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes became split into two realms because of Solomon's failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded, with humility, that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us *"with sighs too deep for words"* (Romans 8:26).

Discuss: How has faith in God helped you during difficult times?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is struggling with a health issue?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things (Matthew 13:31-32). Growing the church involves being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Think or talk about how you have told your faith story or passed on Christian rituals and traditions to others. How might you sow seeds of faith that grow into something great?

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to grow your kingdom and take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21