

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

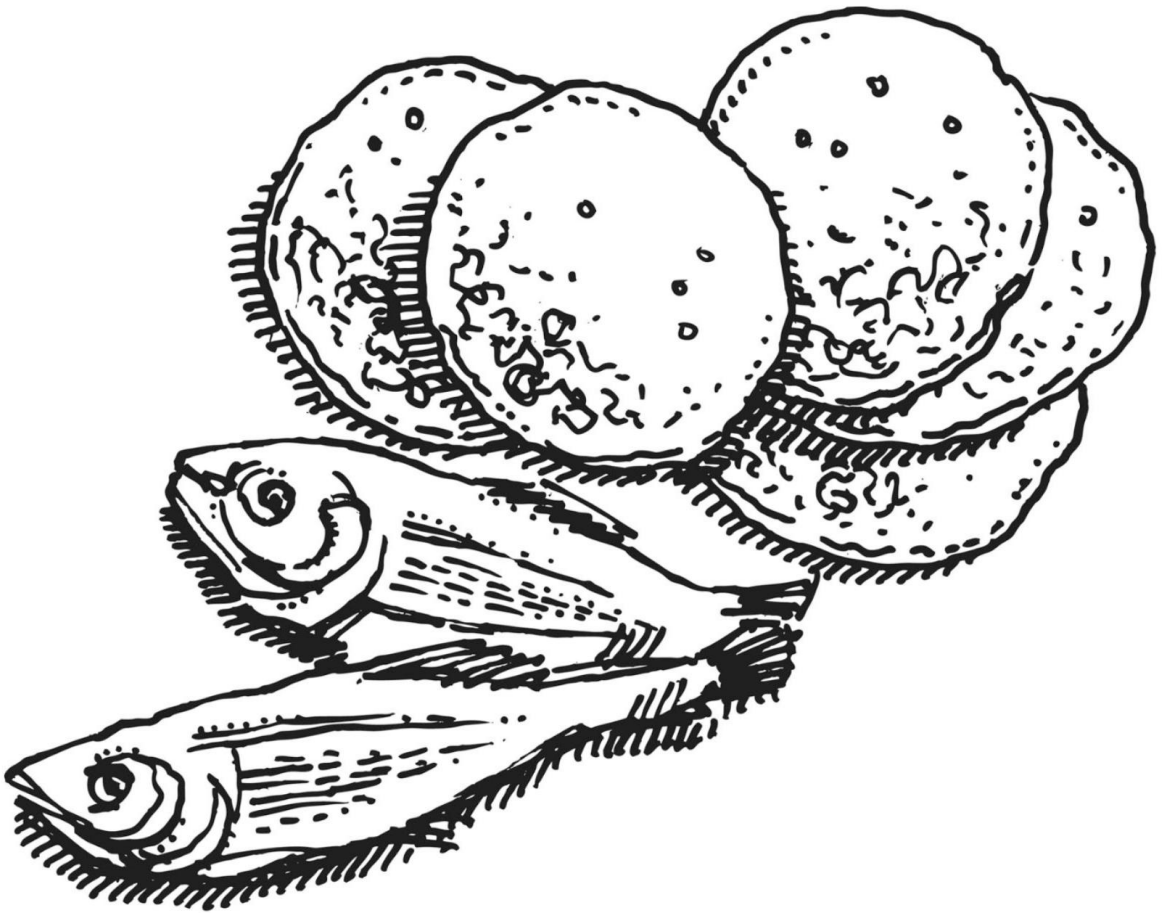
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

August 2, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

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 All who hunger gather gladly;
 holy manna is our bread.
 Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
 Here in truth we will be fed.
 You that yearn for days of fullness,
 all around us is our food.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

2 All who hunger, never strangers;
 seeker, be a welcome guest.
 Come from restlessness and roaming.
 Here in joy we keep the feast.
 We that once were lost and scattered
 in communion's love have stood.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

3 All who hunger, sing together,
 Jesus Christ is living bread.
 Come from loneliness and longing.
 Here in peace we have been fed.
 Blest are those who from this table
 live their days in gratitude.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

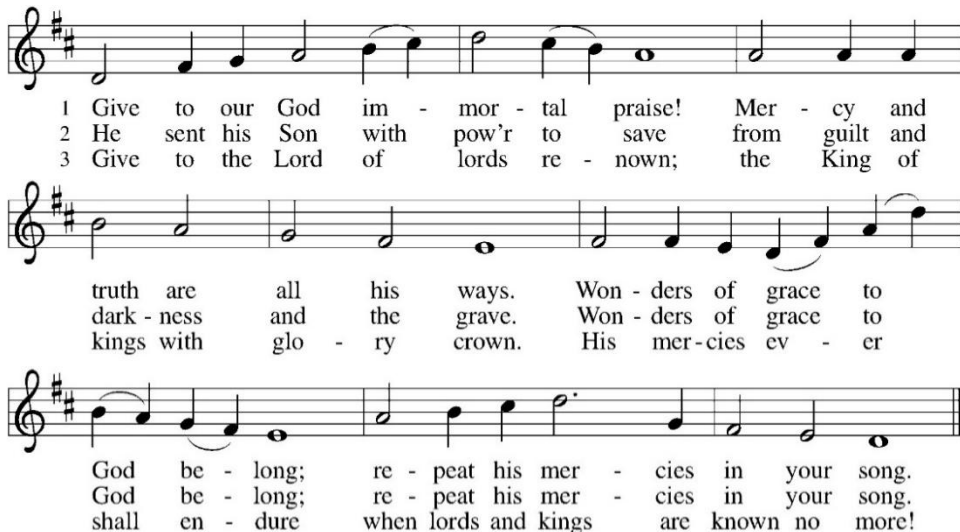
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Glorious God,

☞ **your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21 *(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.**

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

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰ You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

L Alleluia!

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

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Now when Jesus heard about the beheading of John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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.

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712 vs. 1, 2, 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.</p> | <p>2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.</p> |
| <p>4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.</p> | |

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

- ℣ 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.**

(sit)

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

Ella Elizabeth Schoonover

After the baptism, the congregation welcomes the newest member:

☞ Let us welcome the newly baptized.

☛ **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ Merciful God,
☛ **receive our prayer.**

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

Thanksgiving: for the wedding of Hanna Spearman & Noah Schutte (August 1, 2026)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Ella Elizabeth Schoonover (August 2, 2026)

Prayers this week: Ilse Grage, Kyra Mattson

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Rod Carlson, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy 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: *Seminarians* – 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

Kingsfold

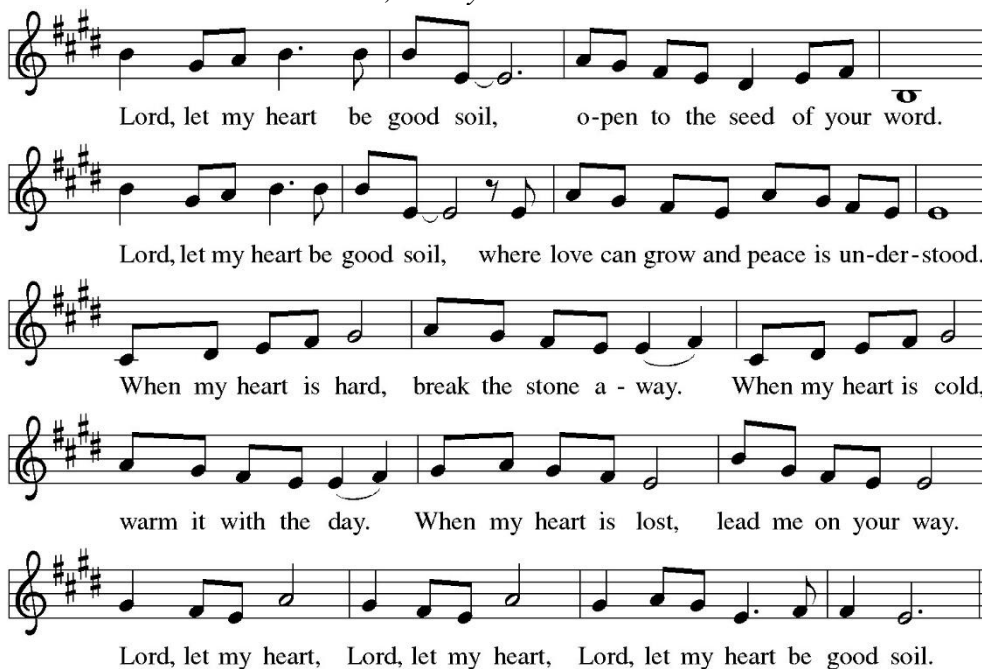
arr. by Nigel Williams
Jason Hage, *clarinet*

(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

- 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- L** Blessed are you, O God, ...
... may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- L** Pour out your Holy Spirit ...
... Power of the Most High, now and forever.
- C** **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.

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.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Text & music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain***
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain***

- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain***
- 4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain***
- 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *Refrain***

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
Text © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689 vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.**
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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

August 1 & 2 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>



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 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

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

August 2: Congregational Meeting

August 9: Fellowship

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 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>

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

August 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

August 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 6 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

August 7 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 8 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 9 Sunday

Pentecost 11

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

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.

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.

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.

Dinners for Eight(ish)

- ☞ Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight(ish).
- ☞ Meet each month for a meal in September, October, and November
- ☞ Enjoy a meal and conversation with one another.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

- ☞ Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
 - ☞ Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 24.
- See you around the table!

Help Wanted: People Who Sing!!!

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 9, 7 to 8:30 PM

Begin Singing at Worship: Sunday, September 13

Past singing experience in high school or college is a plus but not required. High School students who are involved in their choirs at school are also welcome. Director, Barb Carlsen, would like to hear you sing before joining the choir just to make sure that this group will blend with your type of voice. If you want more information about choir or would like to reserve a time to sing for Barb, please call the church office at 402-341-7761. Rehearsals are generally the first Wednesday of the month, September - May, and on Sunday mornings. (Extra rehearsals scheduled as needed.)

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are granola bars, peanut butter, and bar soap. 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/uaudddp>



Pantry

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.

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

A Note from Camp Carol Joy Holling

"We surpassed our goal, raising \$121,820 at Carol Joy Holling's 38th Annual Quilt Auction!!! God is good! We thank each and every one of you who showed up today despite the heat, as well as our silent auction bidders. Your generosity has ensured that children in need can experience camp, and that is a beautiful thing. We hope to see you next year, July 31st!" The Kountze Memorial Sewing Group donated four quilts that sold for a total of \$425! Browse all of the quilts by using the QR code or go to:

<https://piecd.com/>



Quilt Auction

Save the Date!



Sunday, September 13

*Classes begin
September 20*

We will kick off our Sunday School year with prayers, celebration, games, and fellowship. We are planning a fun and interesting faith-filled school year. We hope you join us!

Attendance & Giving Thursday, July 23—Wednesday, July 29

Saturday: 39

Sunday: 9:00: 100 11:00: 53

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 201

Streaming: 35

Pantry Guests Served: 582 (inc. 172 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$15,992.88 (Regular) \$5,404.37 (Specials)

\$467.15 (Debt Reduction)

God's generosity gives us joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-5	An invitation to abundant life
Tuesday	Romans 9:1-5	God's choice of Israel
Wednesday	Proverbs 28:25-27	The law of God makes sense
Thursday	Psalms 37:18-28	Trust the Lord
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life
as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for inviting us to the banquet feast that has no end and is filled with joy and life in your presence through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May God fill you with peace and joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What dream have you had that came true?
- How do your dreams and desires reflect your faith in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 55:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21.

Feasting is a biblical image of God's providence and grace. In Matthew 14, Jesus is feeding the masses, not just five thousand people, but five thousand men plus the women and children. This happens right after the beheading of John the Baptist at another feast, the birthday banquet of King Herod. Just as Jesus' banquet is a far cry from other earthly feasts, so is God's invitation to eat and drink without payment. God's offer of this life-giving nourishment is free. Isaiah 55 includes a challenge to all who want glory and feasting: *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"* (v. 2). Isaiah gets to the heart of the dilemma in our lives: pursuing that which is not important, not essential. Since the time when Jesus fed the masses, God has reached out to all people with the promise of true joy envisioned in a banquet feast that never ends.

Discuss: What is something you have pursued that is not essential to our lives?

Pray: **God of abundant joy, help us to remember and believe that your kingdom gives us a joy like no other 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 support those who are homeless and in need of food?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God's love and care for people is shown in the Bible with stories of meals and feasts. Think or talk about a time you hosted a meal in your home or helped someone else host a meal in your community. In what ways did you care for the guests? When did you feel the presence of God's love? Write a list of words that describe how you felt and what you enjoyed the most about hosting the meal. Pause for a moment and consider when you could host a meal again for friends or a neighbor.

Pray: **Lord, help me to find joy in your abundant care for us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33