

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

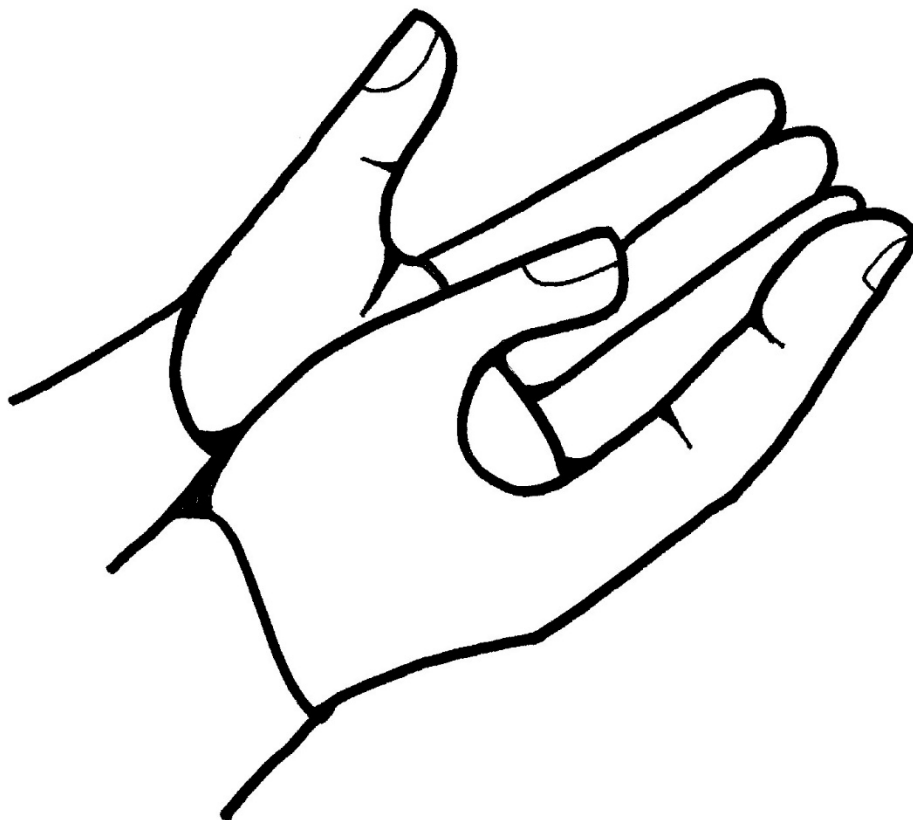
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

August 16, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☛ Amen.

☞ Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Compassionate God,

☛ we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

☞ Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

☛ Amen.

- 1** Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

- 3** Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

- 4** Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

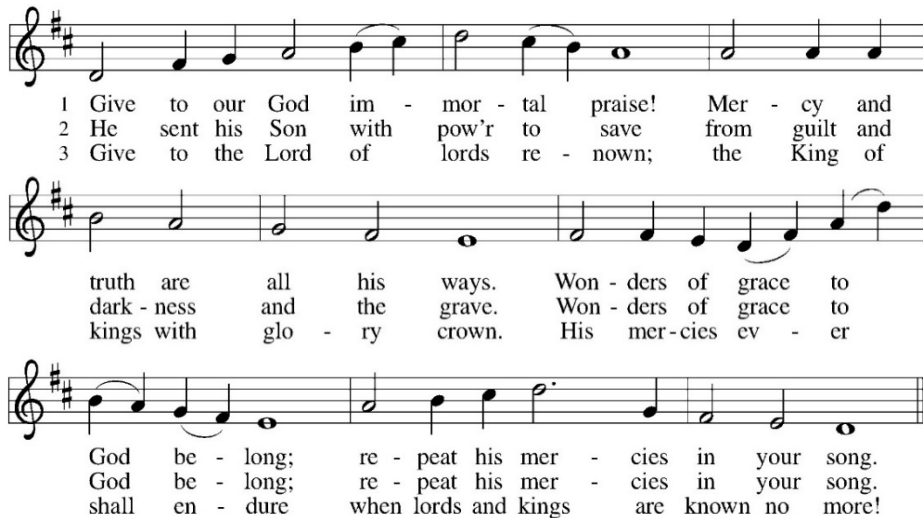
Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
permission.

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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

- ☞ God of all peoples,
☞ **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67 (*read responsively*)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

Paul writes: ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

☞ 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 15:21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Rev. David Mayen

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 587 vs. 1, 3, 4

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, 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: ☞ 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)

Prayers this week: Bruce Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Ilse Grage, Lynn Meyer, John Rayno

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Rod Carlson, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy Fonda, 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; Rev. 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

by Kathleen Thomerson

arr. Cathy Moglebust

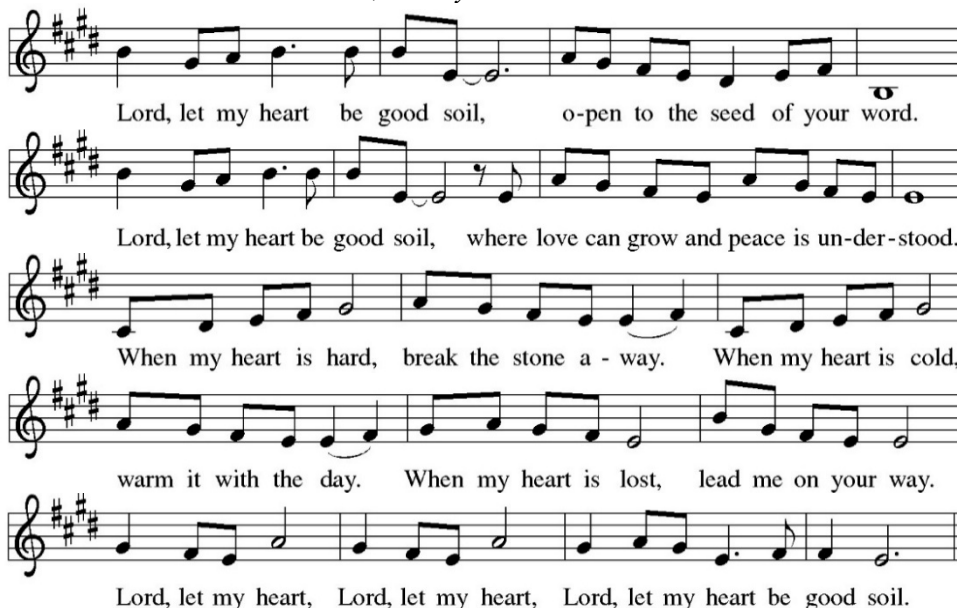
Kountze Bell Chior & Kai Johnson, violin

(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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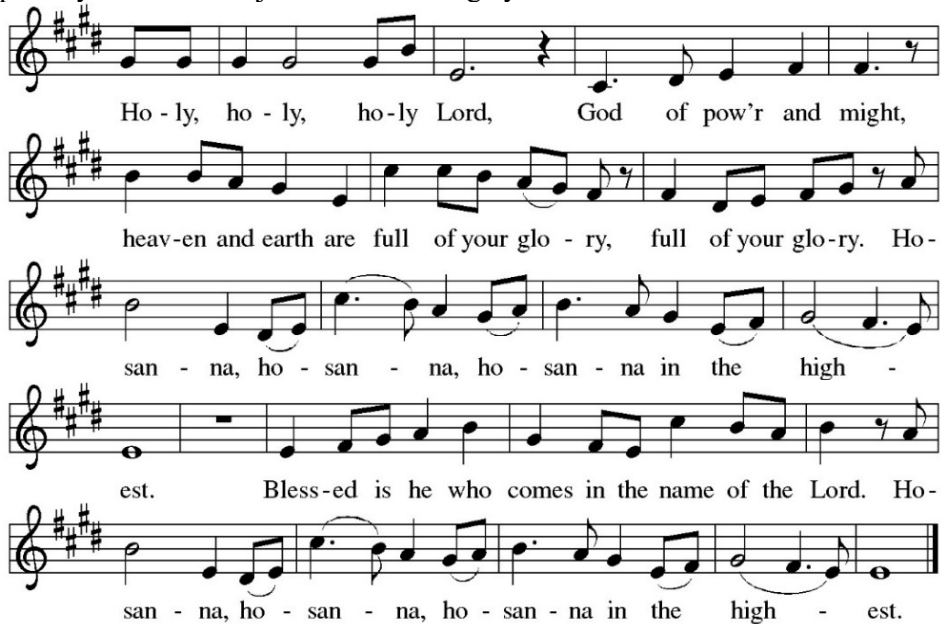
OFFERING PRAYER

☪ 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'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.*

AGNUS DEI

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.

Refrain

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain***
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain***
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain***

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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(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

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

ELW 651 vs. 1, 3, 5, 7

**1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith
all strangers far and near:**

Refrain

**We praise you, Christ!
Your cross has made us one!**

**3 Oh, praise inclusive love,
encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth,
to social rank or place: *Refrain***

**5 Oh, praise the tide of grace
that laps at ev'ry shore
with visions of a world at peace,
no longer bled by war: *Refrain***

**7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain***

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Text from New Hymns for the Lectionary © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

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 15 & 16, 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 given by Christine Forslund in memory of Anne & Charles Forslund

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

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? Only a few more weeks left, but there's still time. 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

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0-2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plates located by the doors in the Nave.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

This weekend we welcome Rev. David Mayen to preach in worship and lead our Adult Forum. Rev. Mayen leads the Dinka-speaking Sudanese congregation supported by Mission Field Nebraska Synod ministries, and he is the founder and Executive Director of Serving Hands of Hope Foundation (SHOHF). You can learn more about SHOHF and Rev. Mayen on their website, servinghandsofhope.org, and by coming to Forum in Fellowship Hall at 10:10 AM on Sunday.

August 23: Journey Youth Mission Trip

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 16 Sunday

Pentecost 12

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

August 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

August 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KCCOC Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

August 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

August 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 23 Sunday

Pentecost 13

Kountze Cafe Lite

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch

Thursday, August 20

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation \$10

Jim will be gone, so we're calling in The B-Team and it will be an "All-B" menu. They'll be serving burgers, brats, beans, potato salad, beverages, and Blue Bunny ice cream. Please call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email info@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, August 18 if you plan to attend! Hope to see you there.

Confirmation Starts Soon!

Families with 7th & 8th (and some 9th) grade students

You should have received emails regarding registration and upcoming dates for Confirmation. If you did not, please let Deacon Eric or Pastor Lucy know ASAP! Confirmation Orientation is at St.

Timothy's Lutheran (93rd & Dodge) at 5:45 PM on Wednesday, August 26. That meeting includes a meal and both students and their adults should attend. Kountze Memorial will host a Lock-In & Service event to kick off the Confirmation year on August 28-29; classes at St. Timothy's begin on September 9. Register via the link sent by email - or contact omahaconfirmation@gmail.com. Pastor Lucy or Deacon Eric are happy to answer any questions you might have.

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.
- ☞ Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

☞ Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 24. We will contact you to tell you who is in your group. 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 rice, lentils, and shampoo/conditioner. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission. We are always in need of gently used grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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 "Boo-tique"

Kountze Commons is going to host its first "Boo-tique" in September. This event will allow families in need to come shop at Kountze Commons for Halloween costumes. How can you help? Please donate your new or gently used costumes. Costumes can be placed in the donation box under the coat rack on the west side of Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to prepare for the "Boo-tique" or the day of the event, please reach out to Toby Rees at 402-979-1425 or

toby@kountzecommons.org.

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, August 6—Wednesday, August 12

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 106 **11:00:** 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 220

Streaming: 68

Pantry Guests Served: 514 (inc. 164 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$21,155.27 (Regular) \$3,389.11 (Specials)

\$302.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' ministry is for all nations.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph and his brothers
Thursday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Friday	Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ



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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

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, we thank you for your mercy and grace that is meant not only for those we know and love but for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for this food and for all those who have planted, harvested, transported, and prepared it for us this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you. (Psalm 67:1)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What have you learned from someone who speaks another language or comes from a different culture?
- It is easy to overlook how God's grace and mercy is not just for us but for all people. How can you extend kindness to someone of a culture that is foreign to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 15:21-28.

The Canaanite woman is central to this story for many reasons. She is a woman, and she is a foreigner, both good reasons for Jesus not to talk to her. He is especially not to address her plea before addressing the needs of the Jewish people, *"the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (v. 24). This woman is also a critical figure because her plea for help changes Jesus' response to her. It is not easy to understand how this woman seems to teach and change Jesus, but she does. The result, however, is clear: Jesus' ministry, like that of the God of the Old Testament (Psalm 67) is for all the nations, not just the sons and daughters of Abraham. This story lifts up the essential mission of Jesus and the church of all generations. As Jesus directed us in Matthew 28:16-20 (the Great Commission), we are to make disciples of all nations, not just our ethnic group, not just "our people," and not just our own nation.

Discuss: What opportunities do you have in your community to show God's love to a foreigner or a stranger?

Pray: **Generous God, help us to see the breadth and depth of your love for all people in the world 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 reach out to someone who needs to hear kind and loving words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (the temple in Jerusalem) a *"house of prayer for all peoples"* (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about where, when, and how you pray in your home. In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"? *Pray:* **Lord Jesus, we come to you in prayer. Help us to show faith in you today and every day. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20