

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

September 6, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

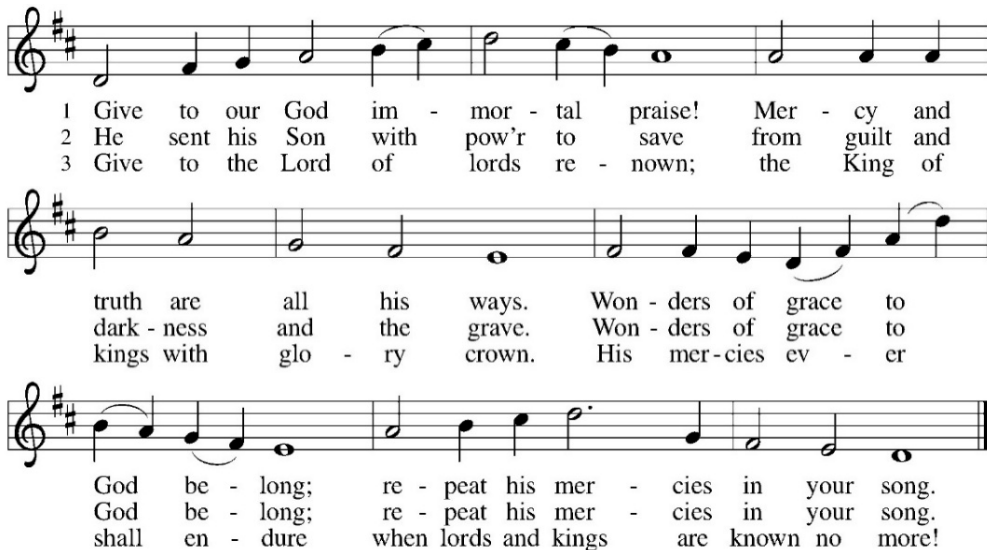
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

📖 O Lord God,

🙏 **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people.

Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:33-40 (read responsively)

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Built on a Rock

ELW 652 vs. 1, 3, 5

**1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.**

**3 Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.**

**5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.
Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

℣ Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **L** Merciful God,
 C 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: Nakoma Baker, Ellie Carlson, Janice & Len Hansen, Linda Hoagland, Theresa & Shawn Powell (daughter & son-in-law of Gwen & Don Berney)

On-going Care: Bruce Anderson, Ryan Anderson, 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, Lynn Meyer, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, Noelle Phelps, John Rayno, 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

L The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Garden

by C. Austin Miles
Tessa Futey, 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

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.*

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.

Text & music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praises everlasting ring!</p> <p>2 God be praised for grace and favor
to our forebears in distress.
God be praised, the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious is God's faithfulness!</p> | <p>3 Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, as mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the great Eternal One!</p> <p>4 Angels sing in adoration,
in God's presence, face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- L** Compassionate God,
- C** 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

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715 vs. 1, 2, 5

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain

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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	Exec. Dir. 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

September 5 & 6, 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 Jeff & Robin Perkins' 40th wedding anniversary

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Now through Labor Day weekend, we are serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labedz.

Children's Sermon

Children are invited to sit with their families at the beginning of the service. Following the children's sermon, youth who are going into grade four and younger are invited to follow the adult leader upstairs for the Kountze Summer Reading Program. The kids will enjoy a story book on important life lessons. Coloring sheets, fidgets, and sensory items will be provided. They will return to their families for communion.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

September 6: Fellowship

September 13: Rally Day

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>



Sunday School
Leaders

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 Pas-
tor Lucy by fol-
lowing the link or
QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Help Our Lost and Found Find Its Way Home!

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with items looking for their owners! Stop by the counter in the Fellowship Hall near the office's back door and see if anything belongs to

you. Items will remain on display for the next couple of weeks. After that, anything still left behind will have to find a new home. Hope you find your missing items.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 6 Sunday

Pentecost 15
Homebound Communion
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum

September 7 Monday

Labor Day
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

September 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 11 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 13 Sunday

Pentecost 16
Rally Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Classes Begin This Wednesday!

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
(93rd & Dodge)

Wednesday, September 9

Dinner: 5:45 PM

Class: 6:05 - 7:30 PM

If any students and their adults weren't able to be at the Confirmation Orientation at St. Timothy's on August 26 but want to participate, or if you have questions, please contact Pr. Lucy or Dn. Eric. We are looking forward to a fun, faith-filled year in Confirmation!

Choir Members Wanted!!! New and Returning!

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 - 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.)

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 13

Join us to celebrate the start of the new faith formation year. Our children will lead the procession out of the church at the end of the 9 AM service and we will ALL gather on the

front steps for a **whole congregation photo!** Saturday evening and 11 AM service attendees, plan to meet us at 10:00 AM on the front steps. During the Faith Formation hour at 10:10 AM each age group will be welcomed to an **Open House** to learn more about the learning, fellowship, and fun opportunities ahead: 0-2 in the Nursery, pre-K through 6th grade upstairs in the Sunday School rooms, 7th-12th graders downstairs in the Youth Center, young adults (18-30) in the Fellowship Lounge, and adults in the Fellowship Hall. There will be food and opportunities to register for the year and/or update your contact information and tell us more about your gifts and passions. The first day of Sunday School and Youth Forum will be the following week, September 20th.

Children's Choir

Beginning Sunday, September 13

9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has over 35 years of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people. All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. The children go upstairs following the Children's Blessing at the 9 AM service and return to their families for communion. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, September 13

***The Last Woman of Warsaw* by Judy Batalion**

The female characters are based on actual Polish women and focuses on the struggle Jewish residents faced in a hostile world. Please join us for enlightenment on this topic.

Young Adult Fall Kick-off Event

Ages College - 30's Adults

Smash Park

8121 S 123rd Street, La Vista

Sunday, September 13

1:00 PM

Come join us for our Young Adults Fall Kick-off! We'll have axe throwing, food, maybe food throwing, and plenty of time to connect and catch up. Whether you've been part of Kountze Memorial for years, just started coming, or haven't been around in a while, you're invited!

Spamtember Men's Lunch

Thursday September 17

11:30 AM

For the third year in a row, we will celebrate Spamtember at the men's lunch. Jim has been researching and creating some of the finest recipes you're sure to enjoy. We may even bring back some of the favorites from the last two years. You won't want to miss your spam at the table. Sign up today at the welcome desk in the Fellowship Hall or email: jim@kmlchurch.org. If you have a favorite spam recipe, please share it and we may try it!

Church Picnic Potluck and

Dedication of the Schneider Link

Sunday, September 20

Buffet line will open at 11:30 AM

Dedication of the Link at 12:15 PM

Pr. Carlos and Jan Schneider will be joining us on Sunday September 20th for a picnic potluck and a dedication ceremony in the Link. An anonymous individual has secured the naming rights for the Link and it will be named in their honor that day. We are planning a German themed event complete with brats for the entree and a kid's option. Dust off your European side dish and dessert recipes (not required). Activities for the kids include bounce houses, face painting and balloons. Oktoberfest games for the adults. Did you know that in Germany, Oktoberfest is celebrated in September? Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the 9 AM service for coffee and pastries.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are cereal, soup, and deodorant. We are always in need of gently used grocery bags. 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 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.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

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

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, August 27—Wednesday, September 2

Saturday: 32

Sunday: 9:00: 117 **11:00:** 61

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 221

Streaming: 63

Pantry Guests Served: 654 (inc. 210 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$7,695.36 (Regular) \$2,990.93 (Specials)

\$14,705.00 (Debt Reduction)

Resolve conflicts in the church with mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God’s judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Philippians 4:1-3	Paul encourages the Lord’s followers
Thursday	Romans 5:6-11	Being acceptable to God
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one.” Matthew 18:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, teach us your ways that we may live together in peace and see Jesus in the face of others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in the midst of violent storms and droughts we encounter in the world, we thank you for this gift of food and for those who have brought it to us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to love your neighbor as yourself.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What do you do when your relationship with a neighbor, family member, or someone else is in conflict?
- Jesus says we are to pursue others with love and grace. How can knowing this help you to resolve differences in relationships that are difficult?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

All relationships experience conflict, even relationships in the church. Jesus is aware of this and lays out a plan of action: out of love, be direct. It is the way of life of the people of God. This is announced by Paul in Romans 13:10: *“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”* Being right is not good enough. Having your own way is not good enough. Be loving, be merciful, and pursue what is right; face conflict through a personal conversation to resolve the issue. But if the person who has hurt you does not repent, this is not an excuse to treat them badly. Treat them as Jesus would treat a Gentile or tax collector. He pursued them with his love. Jesus is present in all our relationships, even the stressful ones. We are to seek out relationships with love and mercy.

Discuss: When you have been wronged or hurt in a relationship, how did you handle it? How might Jesus’ words in Matthew 18 impact how you respond?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, when I am with others, remind me that you are present. Strengthen us to love one another anew each day. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help resolve a hurtful relationship you have with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said, *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”* (Matthew 18:20). Think or talk about people in your life at home, school, work, in your family, and in your neighborhood. Write their names down on a sheet of paper and next to each name, a word or words that describe your relationship with each one. How is Jesus present in those relationships? Light a candle to symbolize Jesus’ presence within you. Pray: **Lord Jesus, help us to love others, live together in peace, and see your face in others. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35