

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

October 18, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

L Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

L Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☐ And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

THIS IS THE FEAST

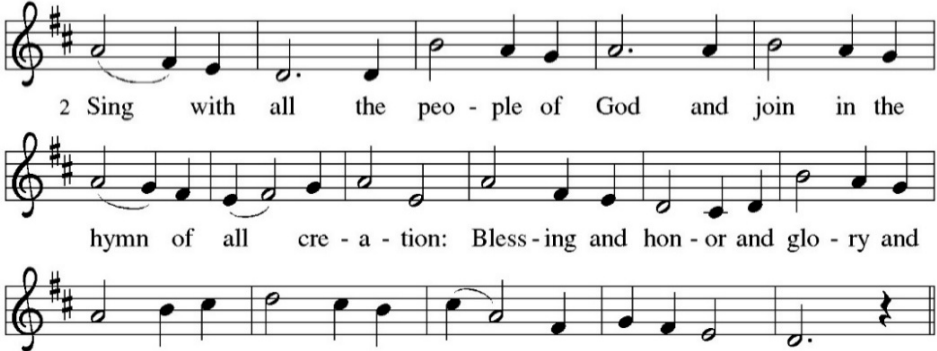
Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.
All
Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Sovereign God,
 ☞ raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

🙏 Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 306

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🙏 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 2 years through 4th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags, located in the back of the entrance hall, during the regular sermon or go to the Upper rooms for a story time. All children will return to their families in time to receive communion. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.

SERMON

Rev. David deFreese

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

**1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"**

**2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"**

**3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"**

**4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"**

**5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

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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: ℣ Hear us, O God.

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Susan Clark

Prayers this week: Darlene Anderson, Anita Morse, Marilyn Scharff

On-going Care: Ryan Anderson, Nakoma Baker, Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Ellie Carlson, Warren Cooke, Jinette Cswercko, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy Fonda, Judith Hamaker, Janice & Len Hansen, Linda Hoagland, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Lynn Meyer, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, Noelle Phelps, Theresa & Shawn Powell, John Rayno, Allyson White, Barb Zinn

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

As Long As I Have Breath

words & music by Sue Farrar

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

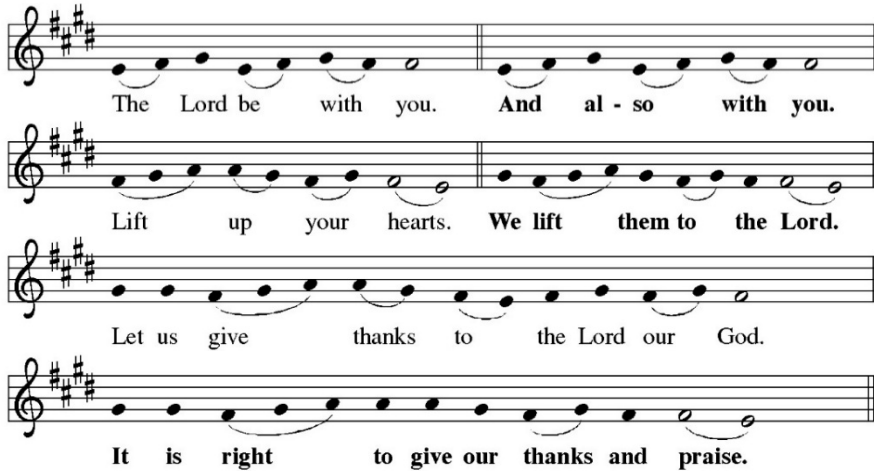
fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

- L** God of creation,
C you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

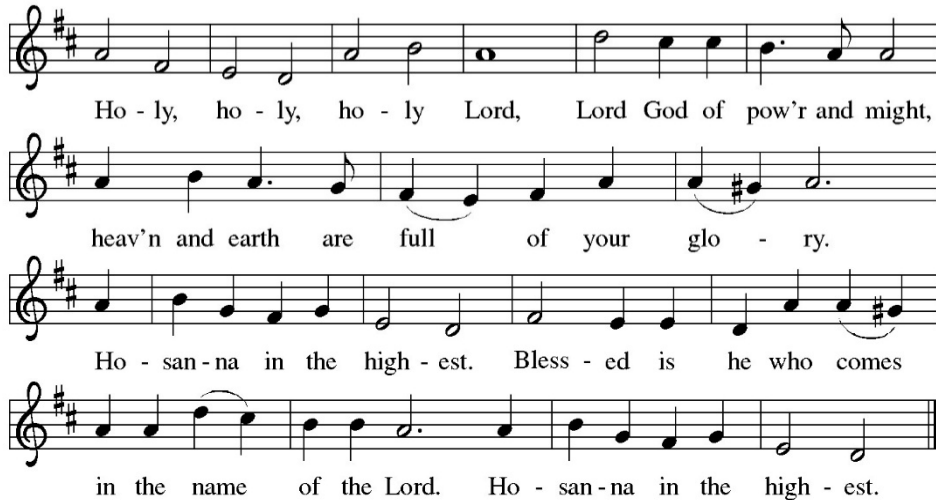
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. ...
... and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

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



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, ...
... be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

- ☐ All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
☑ **Christ invites us to this table.**

(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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text & music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.</p> <p>2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.</p> <p>3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.</p> | <p>4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.</p> <p>5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.</p> <p>6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Sustaining God,

C with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ The God of love draw you into community, in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW 678

**1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.**

**2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.**

**3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.**

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DISMISSAL

☞ Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

☛ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark Jones, *organ*

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Facility & Events Director
Toby Rees	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
October 17 & 18, 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>



Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God given by Ilse Grage in memory of her sister, Ute

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive 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.

October 18: David deFreese & Mosaic

October 25: Bible Sunday & First Communion

This Week at Kountze Memorial

October 18 Sunday

Pentecost 21
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

October 19 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

October 21 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St.
Timothy

October 22 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 23 Friday

Youth Haunted House
5:00 PM Pantry

October 24 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

October 25 Sunday

Reformation
Bible Sunday
First Communion
Confirmation Movie Night
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
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Haunted House

Friday, October 23

Youth Grades 7 - 12

Bellevue Berry Farm

11001 South 48th Street Papillion

6 - 9 PM

Are you ready for a FALL-TASTIC event? Come join us for a Haunted House and Hayrack Ride experience! We will meet at the main building at the Berry Farm. Email Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to RSVP.

Reformation

Sunday, October 25

We invite you to wear **RED** for the day as we celebrate our Lutheran Heritage and ponder the important work of theologian Martin Luther and those who continue the work that salvation comes to us in grace through faith in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 25

October 25, Reformation Sunday, is also Bible Sunday for our youth. This is a well loved tradition where the youth of Kountze Memorial receive an age-appropriate Bible thanks to the generous support from donations for Bibles. Children aged 2 and 4, plus those in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 receive a Bible each year. All students are invited to lead the choir into church at the start of the 9 AM service to receive a blessing for their Bibles and will then join their parents. There

will not be Sunday School this Sunday. The students are encouraged to eat breakfast in the Fellowship Hall with their parents to celebrate First Communion with their peers. Pre-school will be held for the service only.

Confirmation Movie Night

Sunday, October 25 (Reformation Sunday)

3 PM - 6 PMish

Immanuel Lutheran Church

104 Galvin Rd N, Bellevue

Omaha Collaborative Confirmatoin has a special event planned. We will gather at Immanuel Lutheran Church for a film screening, pizza, popcorn, and fun! Our goal is to educate a bit about the historical struggle that led to the Protestant Reformation and the reason why our churches are called "Lutheran." This gathering will replace our regular Wednesday session, so we will not be meeting on October 28 – sessions will continue on November 4.

Bye-Bye Summer

Daylight Saving Time Is Ending

Sunday, November 1

2:00 AM

Remember to "fall back" one hour Saturday night.

Grief Seminar

Sunday, November 1

12:15 - 1:45 PM

Fellowship Hall

The holiday season can be especially challenging when you're grieving. If you're struggling, you're not alone. Join us for a compassionate conversation led

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

by Deacon Sue Simmons. Deacon Simmons has years of experience leading grief groups and she is currently the Bereavement Coordinator for Tabitha Hospice (soon to be Immanuel Hospice.) Come explore ways to navigate your grief and find support within our community. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 402-341-7761 by October 28 so we have an idea of how many to plan on for lunch & materials.

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.

Meet Me at the Manger Saturday, November 14 10 AM - 1 PM

- **November 7 & 8** - May bring Nativity sets to church
- **November 14** – May bring Nativity sets to church before 8:30 AM
- WELCA Event – for all women of the church and their guests
 - 10 AM Registration and Nativity sets on display
 - 10:30 Brunch served
 - 11:30 Program - Pr. Ashley Hall
- **November 14** – Following the 5 PM Service
 - Nativity Sets available for viewing
 - Cookies and coffee
 - Music provided by young adults
- **November 15** – nativity sets may be picked up during or after Forum.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 22 Countryside Community Church 13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha 6 - 7 PM

Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude, reflection, and community as congregations from across Omaha's

diverse faith traditions come together for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

Following the service, all are invited to enjoy a dessert reception, a sweet opportunity to connect and continue the conversation with neighbors old and new.

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Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are pork & beans, canned pasta, and body wash. 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 especially need more help for Monday mornings.** There are two shifts available: 9:30–11 AM & 11 AM–1 PM. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

We're also looking for someone who enjoys working with a computer or iPad to help register guests.

Whether you can give an hour and a half, two hours, or help with guest registration, your time makes a difference for our neighbors.

Attendance & Giving Thursday, October 8—Wednesday, October 15

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 118 **11:00:** 61

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 223

Streaming: 53

Pantry Guests Served: 640 (inc. 225 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$8,605.98 (Regular) \$991.35 (Specials)

\$202.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are a people of faith, hope, and love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Isaiah 45:1-7	Cyrus serves the Lord
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The example of faith
Wednesday	Exodus 33:12-23	Moses' intercession
Thursday	Psalms 99	Our Lord is king
Friday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Saturday	Psalms 96:1-13	Sing a new song
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, use our gifts, our faith, our hope in you, to do labors of love for the sake of Jesus Christ and his reign on earth. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for how you provide for us and for the hands that have brought this food to us today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith, love, and hope. (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

When have you been proud of an accomplishment? What did it take to make it happen? Who helped you?

God can use your efforts to accomplish God's will on earth. Does this surprise you? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 45:1-7.

Cyrus is a Persian king. He is not part of God's chosen people through Abraham, Isaac or Jacob.

Cyrus does not even know the God of Israel, and yet Cyrus does God's will by setting God's people free to return home from exile in Babylon. Isaiah lifts up the supreme power and authority of God's rule throughout the world. Apart from the Lord, there is no god. All that is, is God's. It is easy for us to forget that God can use others outside of the body of Christ to do God's will on earth. It is no wonder that Psalm 96 commands all the earth to sing to the Lord. In the midst of the tragedies that happen all too often around us, it is important to remember that we are a people of hope and trust in the God who holds all things together. The Apostle Paul wrote with thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' faith, love, and hope. As a chosen people, Paul gladly affirms that they do God's work of love on earth through their "work of faith" and "steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Discuss: How does knowing of God's rule on earth give you hope? How does it encourage you to act with love and faith?

Pray: **God of power and might, we thank you for your glory that breathes hope and love into all corners of the earth through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help and support someone as a way to do God's work of love?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 96 is a song of praise to God. It tells of the sea roaring, the creatures and fields rejoicing, and the trees singing. In what ways do you praise God through sounds and music? Sing a favorite Christian hymn. Think or talk about what the words say about God. *Then say:* **Sing a new song to the Lord! Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord, sing and praise his name.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46**