KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

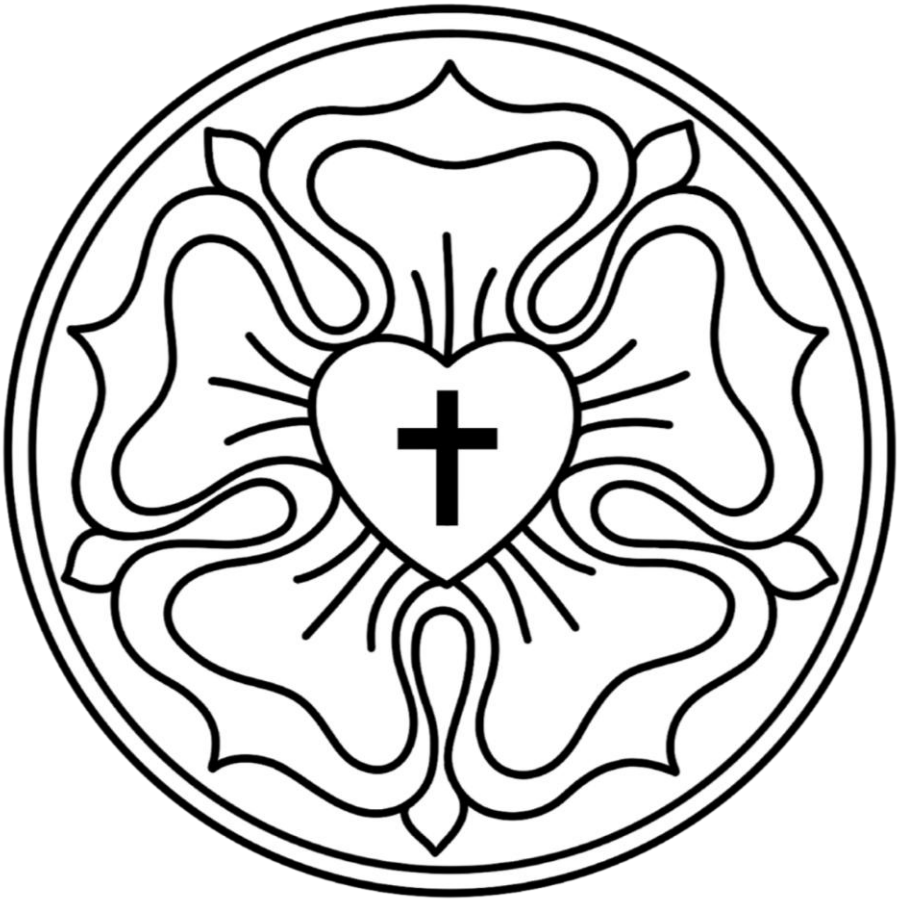
A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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 25, 2026 **9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

REFORMATION



Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Pastime With Good Company — Henry Tudor
What Harvest Half So Sweet — Thomas Campion
Kountze Brass
Scott Quackenbush and Dan Nesbitt, *trumpet*
Jason Stromquist and Jay Wise, *trombone*

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.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* **ELW 504**

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

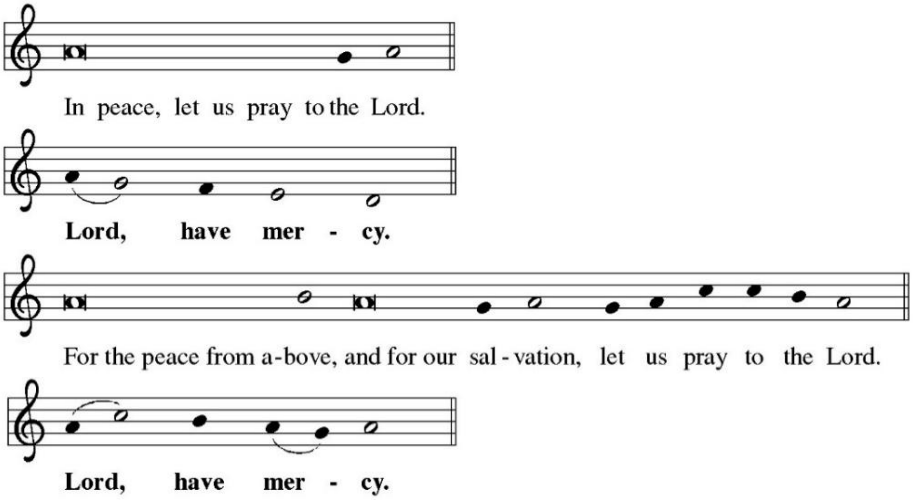
Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

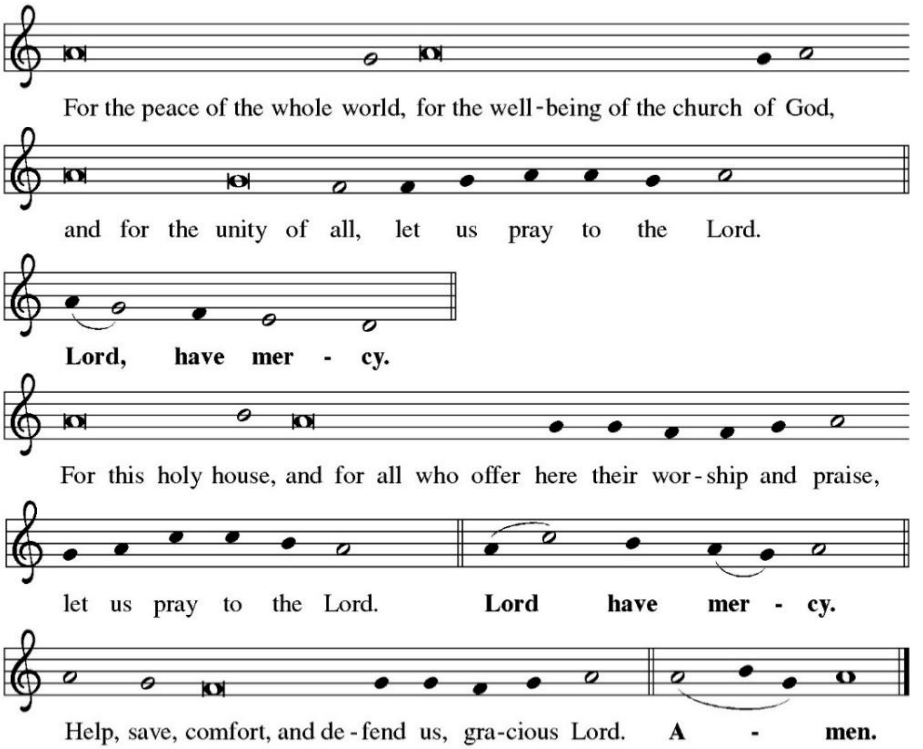
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

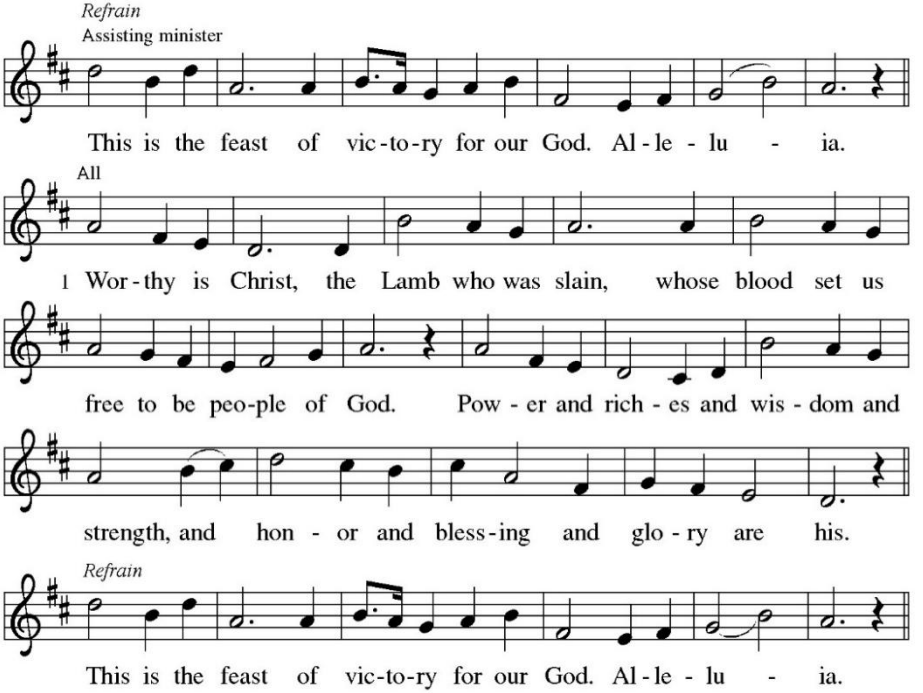
C **And also with you.**

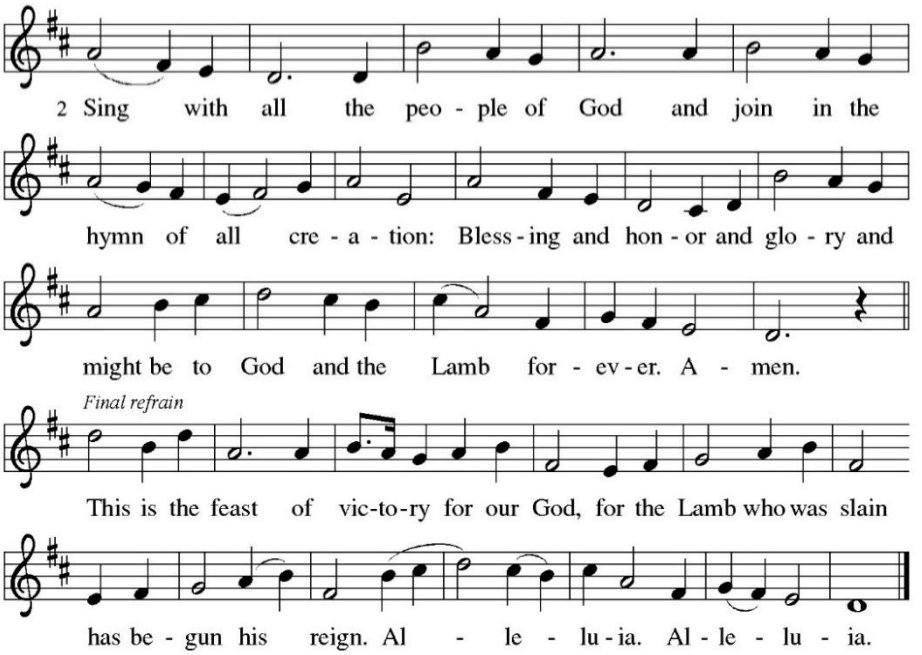
KYRIE





THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

L O Lord God,

C **you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us, your church, in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(*sit*)

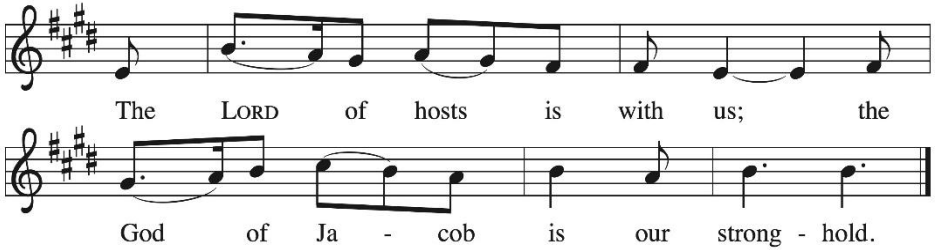
FIRST READING **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took
them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their
husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their
God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know
the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will
forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

L Word of God, Word of Life. C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46 *(choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)*



[1] God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
[2] Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
[3] though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
[4] There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
[5] God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
[6] The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. *Refrain*

[7] The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
[8] Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
[9] behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
[10] "Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
[11] The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **Romans 3:19-28**

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

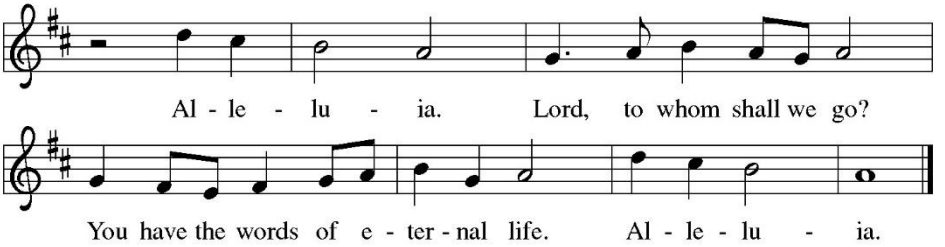
Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. [21] But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,

because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. [27] Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. [28] For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L Word of God, Word of Life. **C Thanks be to God.**

(*rise in body or spirit*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 22:34-46**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 308

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, [35] and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. [36] "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" [37] He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the greatest and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

[41] Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: [42] "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." [43] He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

[44] 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

[45] "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" [46] No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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 *Pastor Wynard*

(*rise in body or spirit*)

HYMN OF THE DAY *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* **ELW 836**

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

C **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 Hear us, O God.

C **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 Larry Jacobsen

Prayers this week: Judith Hamaker, Judy McIntire

On-going Care: Darlene Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Nakoma Baker, Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Ellie Carlson, Warren Cooke, Jinette Cswercko, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy Fonda, , 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

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

(*sit*)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

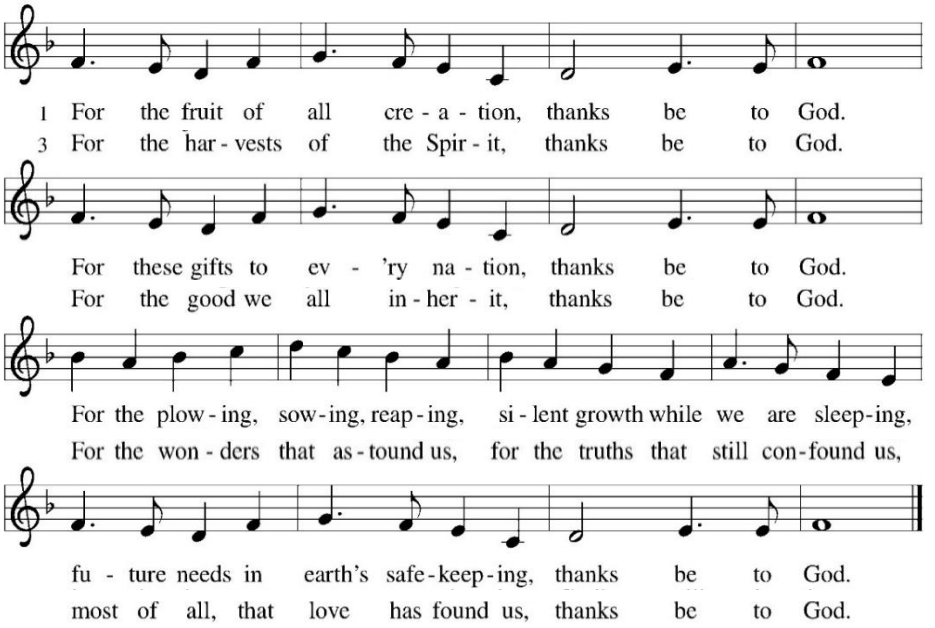
We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your 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 *Pillar and Ground of Truth* music by Mark Hayes
words by Beth Rice Luttrell & Mark Hayes

(*rise in body or spirit*)

OFFERTORY HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* **ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3**



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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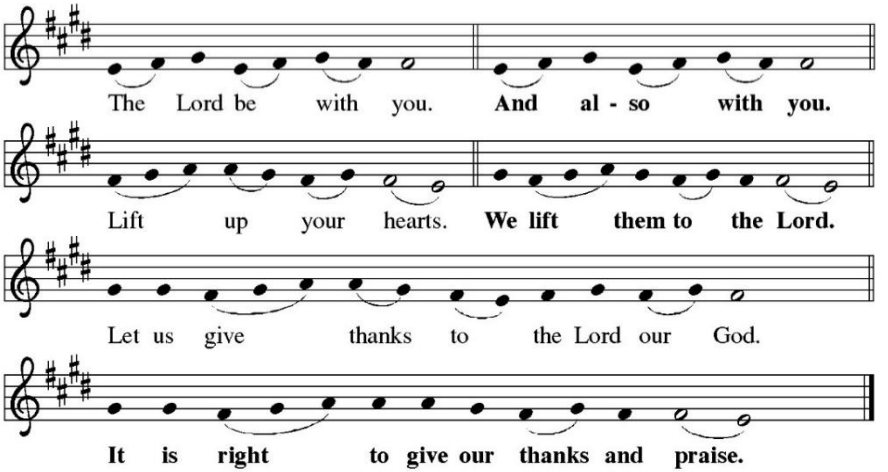
OFFERING PRAYER

L God of creation,

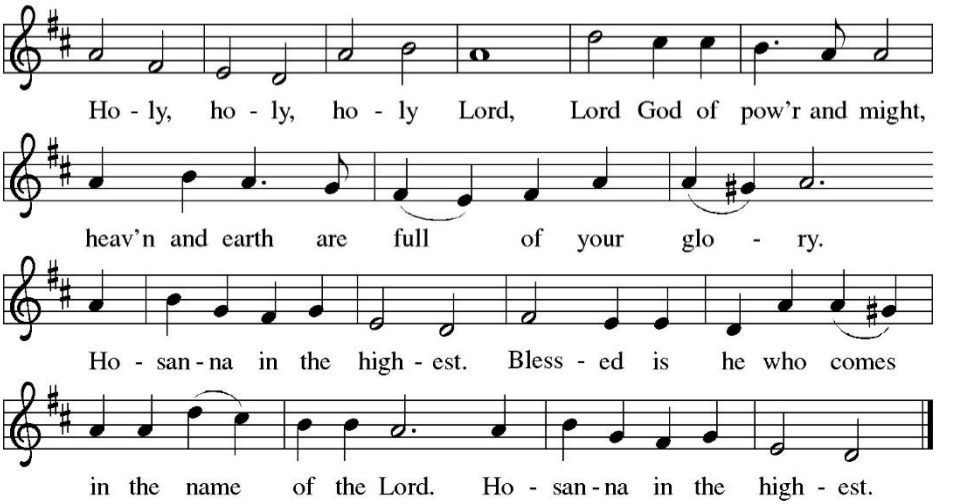
C **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVNG



PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



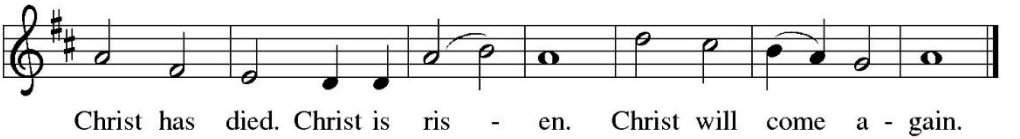
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

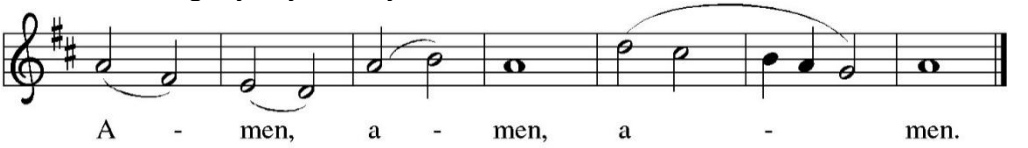
In the night in which he was betrayed, …
… Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.



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



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C **Christ invites us to this table.**

(*sit*)

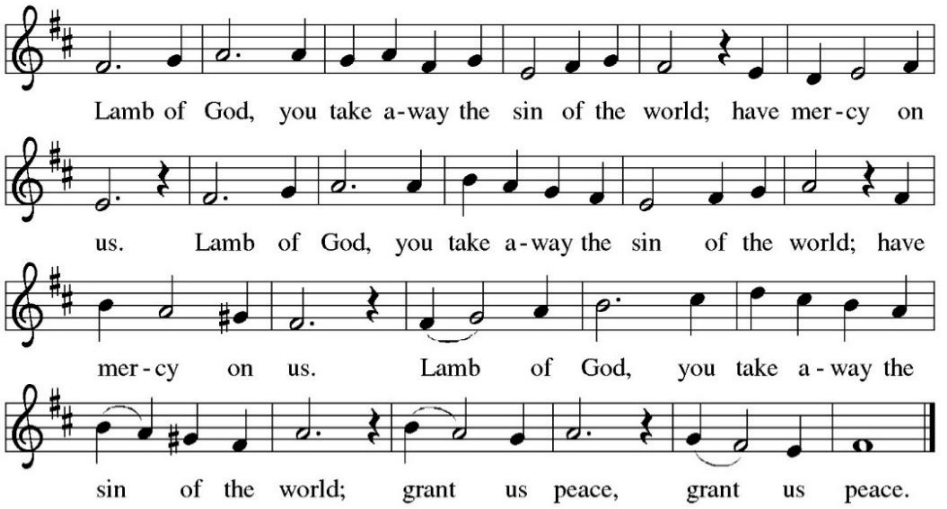
THE DISTRIBUTION

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.*

First Communion received by:

Drake Aubry Emilia Fischer Silje Pignatore

AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God*



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HYMNS DURING COMMUNION *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us* **ELW 358**

1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
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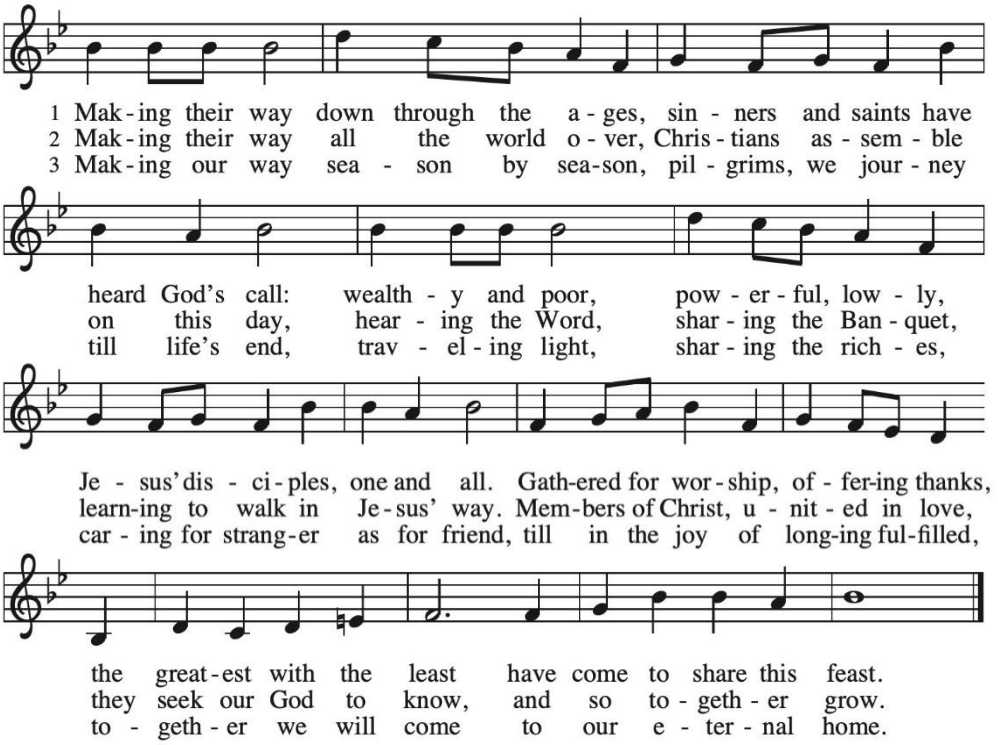
Making Their Way **ACS 979**



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
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(*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 *O Day Full of Grace* **ELW 627 vs. 1-3, 5**

1 O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.

2 O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.

3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.

5 When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

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

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Barley Break — William Byrd
Kountze Brass
Scott Quackenbush and Dan Nesbitt, *trumpet*
Jason Stromquist and Jay Wise, *trombone*

✢ ✢ ✢

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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 **Omaha, NE 68131**
402-341-7761 **www.kmlchurch.org**

October 24 & 25, 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.*

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

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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Amanda Schneiderman's birthday; in honor of Tracey Gehringer-Steffen's birthday, given by husband, Tom

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.
Please Note: On Sunday, November 8, we will have a continental breakfast with pastries and yogurt due to a very light crew that Sunday. There will be doughnuts and yogurt for the Sunday School.

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 25: Bible Sunday & First Communion
November 1: Fellowship

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 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. 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.

Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kits
This Sunday we will bless the quilts and kits made and assembled by our Sewing Group. We will send them on their way the first week of November to be sorted and then they will be sent to where natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes. Our Sewing Group also makes quilts for the Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction and for our graduating seniors. Each quilt reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. Donations to help ship the quilts would be appreciated. Just mark your check, envelope, or online giving to LWR Quilts. Thank you to all of you who cut, ironed, sewed, tied, donated materials, or helped pay postage for these quilts. You have helped in a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. You can find out more about LWR at https://lwr.org/quilts.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

October 26 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry
11:30 AM Endowment Board

October 27 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
12:30 PM Circle 3

October 28 Wednesday
No Confirmation
12:15 PM Worship

October 29 Thursday
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 30 Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

October 31 Saturday
5:00 PM Worship

November 1 Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings - fall back 1 hour
Homebound Communion
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 - Breakfast
12:15 PM Grief Seminar

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Bye-Bye Summer
Daylight Saving Time Is Ending
Sunday, November 1
2:00 AM
Remember to "fall back" one hour next 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 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.

My Omaha: Film Screening and Community Conversation
Saturday, November 7
2 PM
How do we stay connected when we see the world differently? Join us at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for a free screening of My Omaha, a powerful

documentary by filmmaker Nick Beaulieu exploring Omaha's racial history, the racial justice movement, and the ways political differences can divide families and communities. Director Nick Beaulieu and community activist Leo Louis II will join us for a guided conversation following the film. Together, we'll reflect on what we've seen and heard and consider how we can better understand one another across differences. **The conversation continues on Sunday, November 8, during Adult Forum**, when Nick and Leo will return to help us process the film's themes and continue the discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone interested in exploring our community's history, listening to different perspectives, and building understanding across divides. We hope you'll join us for this important opportunity to listen, learn, and engage in conversation together.

KMLC Book Group
12:15 PM
Fellowship Lounge
Sunday, November 8
***Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell**
Hamnet is a historical novel of the plague set in 1580 England during the Black Death Epidemic. The themes of the book are nature, spirit, grief, and pain. The novel has been made into a movie. Join us for good conversation.
NOTE: There will be no book group meeting in December. Happy Holidays!.

Meet Me at the Manger
Saturday, November 14
10 AM - 1 PM
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
A WELCA gathering for all women of the church and their guests
10 AM Registration & Nativity displays
10:30 AM Brunch
11:30 AM Program with Pr. Ashley Hall
An Evening at the Manger
Saturday, November 14 - Following 5 PM Worship
Enjoy the Nativity displays, cookies and coffee, and music provided by young adults.
Share your Nativity Set
Help fill the display with cherished Nativity sets.
BRING YOUR NATIVITY
November 7 & 8, or November 14 before 8:30 AM.
PICK UP YOUR NATIVITY
Sunday, November 15, during or after Forum.

Advent Fair
Sunday, November 22
The Advent Fair will be held a week early this year. By having it on November 22nd, we are hoping that it will be better attended than on Thanksgiving weekend when families might be travelling. Be sure to join in on the fun!

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.

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.

Pantry

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 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/uausdddp
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 15—Wednesday, October 21

Saturday: 42
Sunday: **9:00**: 120 **11:00**: 63
Wednesday: 12:15:
Total: 225
Streaming: 47
Pantry Guests Served: 832 (inc. 298 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22
Offering:
$10,808.35 (Regular) $2,035.00 (Specials)
$1,212.00 (Debt Reduction)

Disciples have a trusted relationship with Jesus.

taking faith home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	John 15:12-17	Jesus the true vine
Thursday	John 21:15-19	Jesus and Peter
Friday	Galatians 2:15-21	Justified through faith
Saturday	Psalm 46	God is our refuge
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." **John 8:31-32 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, keep your faithful people steadfast in your word that we may receive your freedom and truth through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God of glory and might, with this gift of food we remember the gift of faith that strengthens us and renews us daily through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be blessed through a relationship with Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:
What words describe the qualities of a good friend?
What words describe a disciple of Jesus Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 8:31-36.

It is the power of the word that Jesus brings that gives us freedom from sin. That word is first and foremost Jesus, the Word that became flesh (John 1:14). Christian disciples "continue" or remain in the freeing and saving word of God. The Gospel of John emphasizes that followers of Jesus are to be in an ongoing relationship with him by continuing *"in my word"* (8:31). To know the truth that sets one free is more than to know information; it is to live in a relationship with Jesus through faith. The challenge at the time of the Reformation—and today as well—is for the church to promote a living relationship with God, a relationship that depends on faith in Jesus, the Son of God. We experience this relationship through worship, prayer, reading the Bible, and serving and loving one's neighbor for the sake of Christ.

Discuss: How do you continue to live each day as a disciple of Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, help me to trust in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and have life in his name. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show Jesus' love as an act of service to others in your community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther wrote the words for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and composed the melody. This well-known hymn is based on Psalm 46. As you read Psalm 46 out loud, pause after reading a word or words that describe God as a mighty fortress. Write them on a sheet of paper. When you finish, take a moment to read through your list. *Then pray:* **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.** (Psalm 46:11)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: **Revelation 7:9-17**; **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**
1 John 3:1-3; **Matthew 5:1-12**