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

November 8, 2026 **9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

TWENTYFOURTH SUNDAY after PENECOST



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C **Amen.**

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Holy God,

C **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation.**
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

L Inherit the riches of God's grace.
✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.

C **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Come, We That Love the Lord* **ELW 625 vs. 1, 2, 4**

1 Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Refrain
We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion:
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.

2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly king,
but children of the heav'nly king
may tell their joys abroad,
may tell their joys abroad. *Refrain*

4 Then let our songs abound,
and ev'ry tear be dry;
we're marching through Immanuel's ground,
we're marching through Immanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

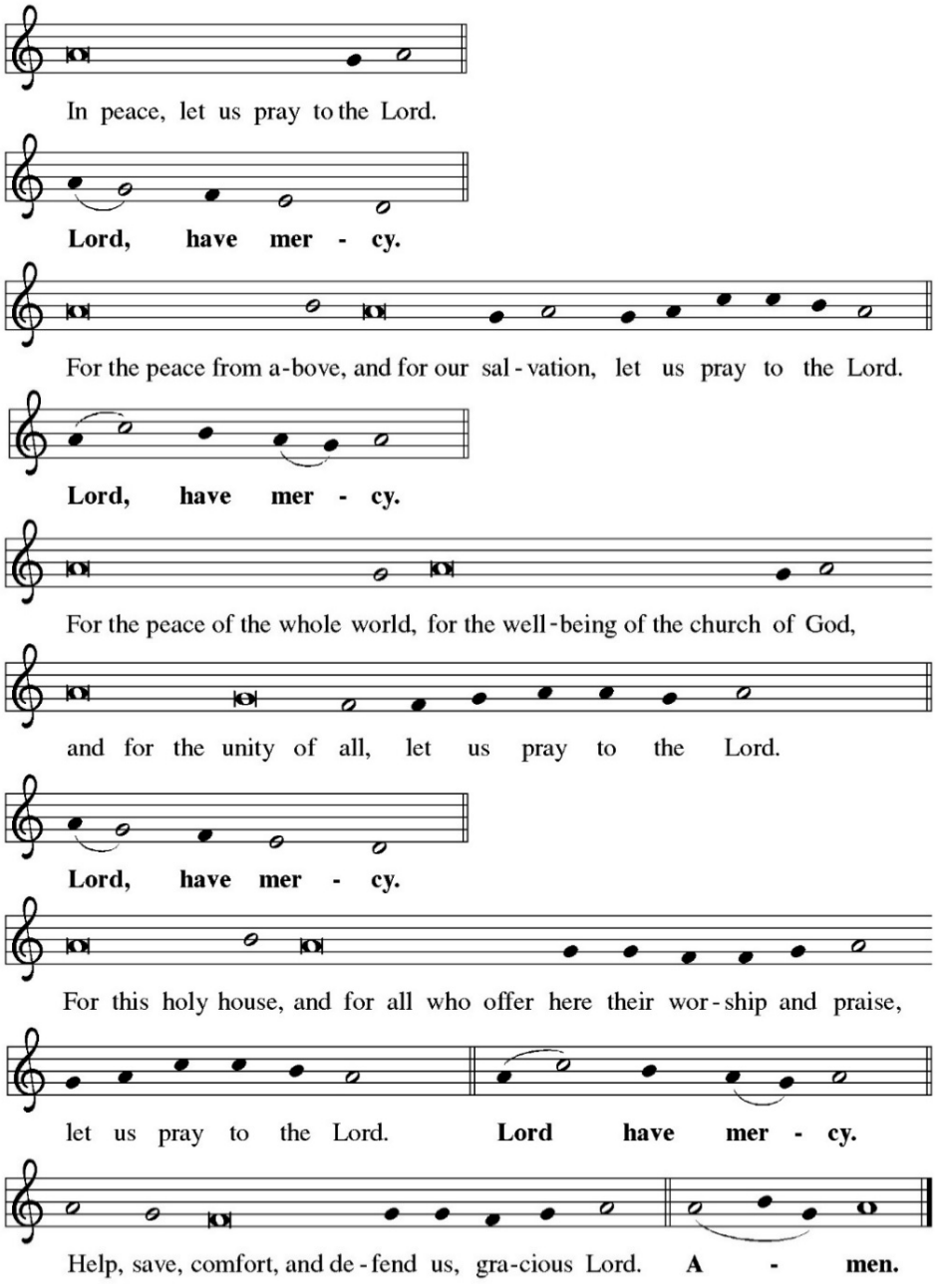
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, refrain

APOSTOLIC GREETING

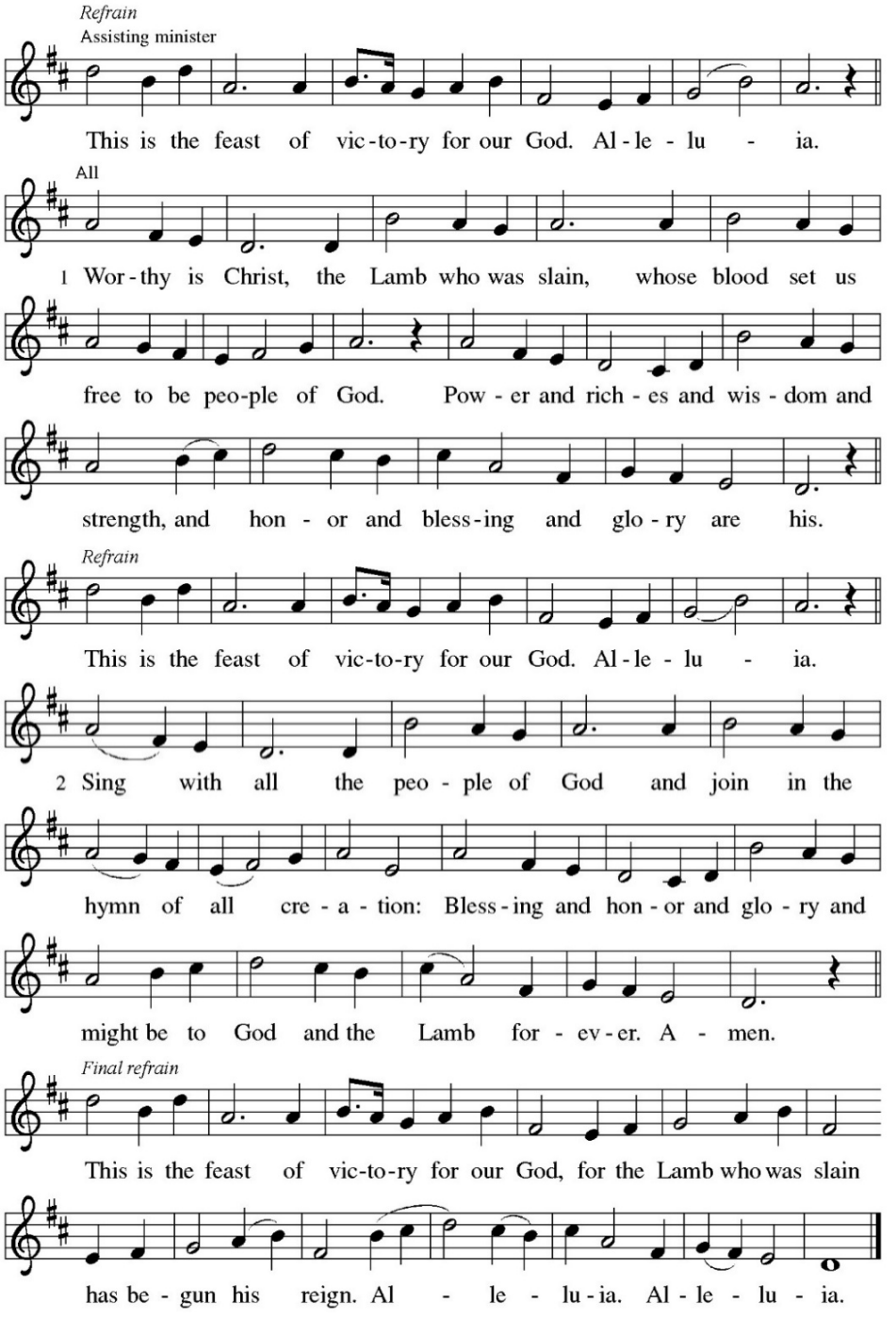
L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE


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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L O God of justice and love,

C **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

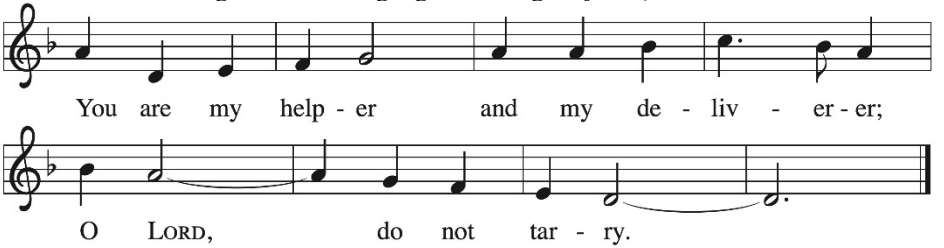
FIRST READING **Amos 5:18-24**

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not
light, [19] as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a
hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. [20] Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and
gloom with no brightness in it? [21] I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn
assemblies.
[22] Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the
offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. [23] Take away from me the noise of
your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. [24] But let justice roll down like water and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM 70 *(choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)*



[1] Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O Lord, make | haste to help me.
[2] Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. *Refrain*

[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
[4] Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!"
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

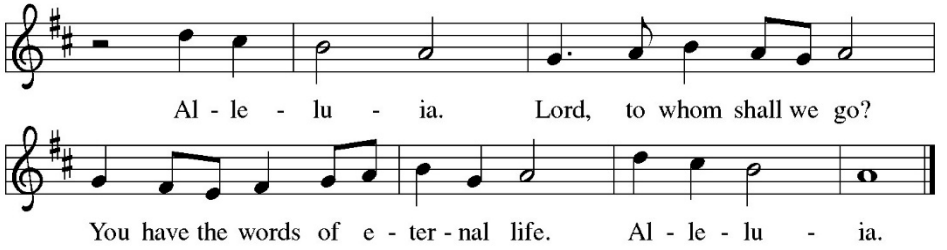
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 314

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* **ELW 244 vs. 1, 2, 4**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

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 God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

(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 Tami Parks (granddaughter of Betty Callies)

Prayers this week: Rev. Jeffrey Alvestad, Shirley Haitz (grandmother of Dn. Haitz), Allyson White

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, Judith Hamaker, Linda Hoagland, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Judy McIntire, Lynn Meyer, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, Noelle Phelps, John Rayno

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

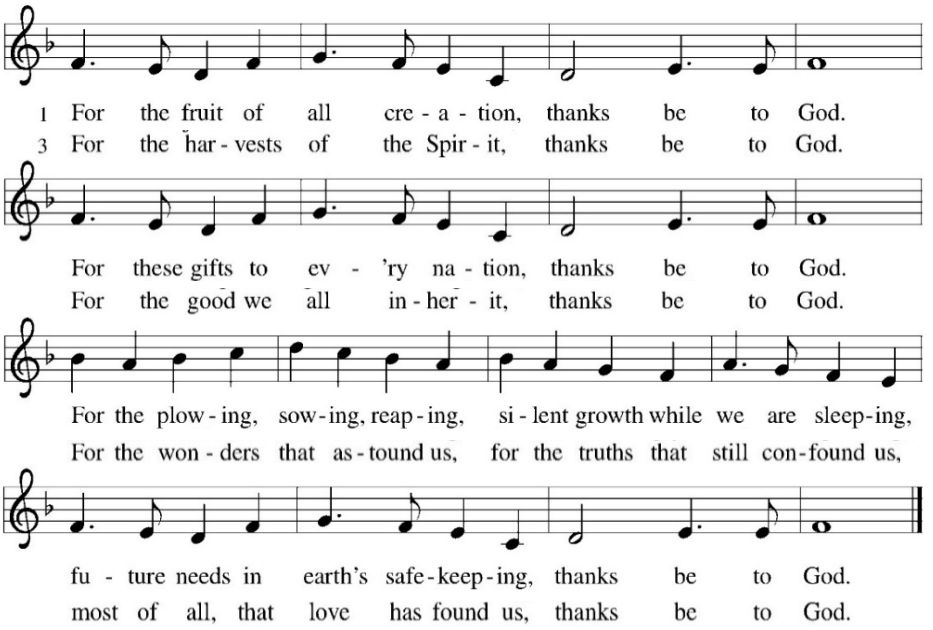
We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your 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 *Keep Your Lamps!* arr. by Andre Thomas

(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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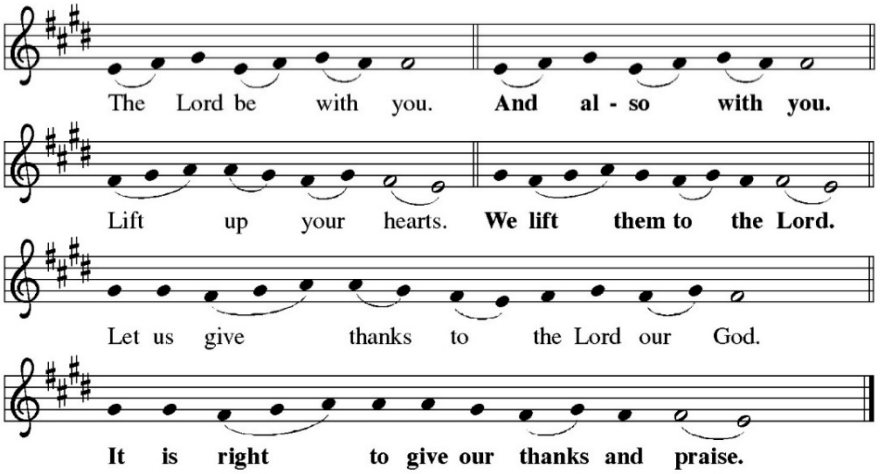
OFFERING PRAYER

L Eternal God,

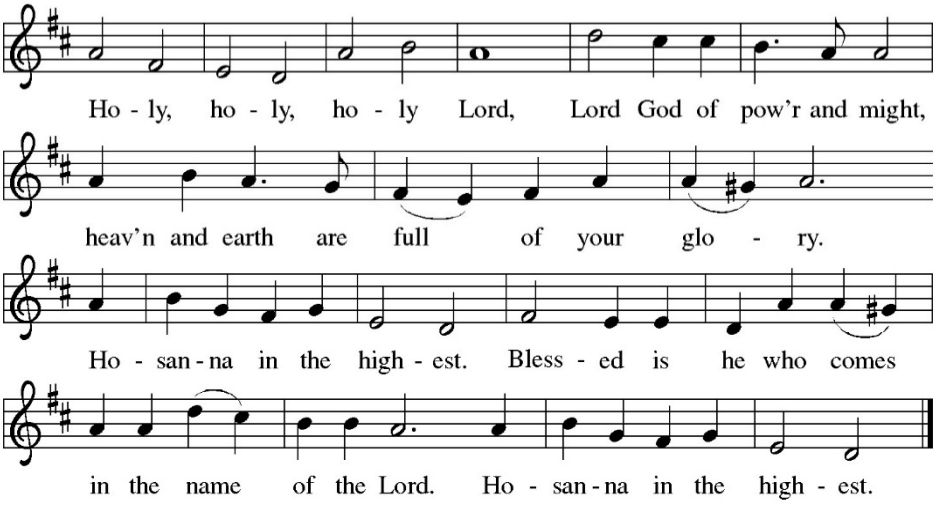
C **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until all the hungry world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVNG



PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



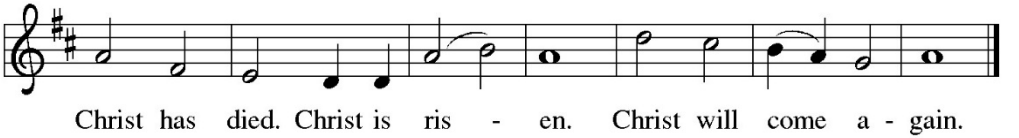
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

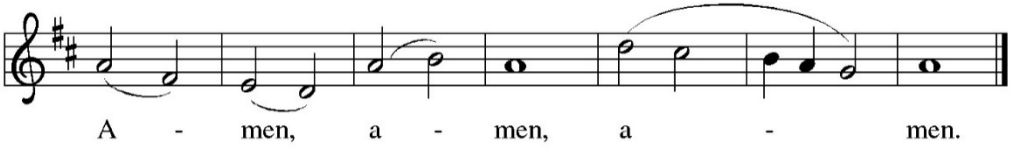
In the night in which he was betrayed, …
… Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

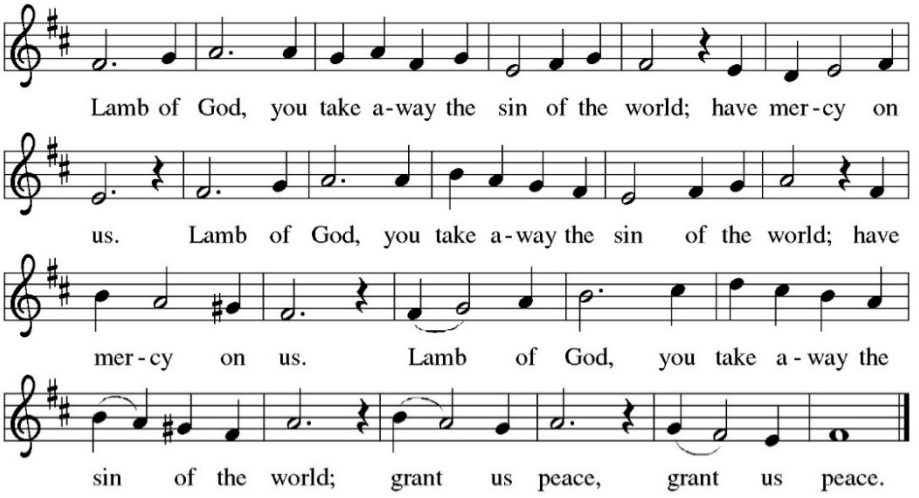
C **In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.**

(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*



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HYMNS DURING COMMUNION *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* **ELW 488**

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

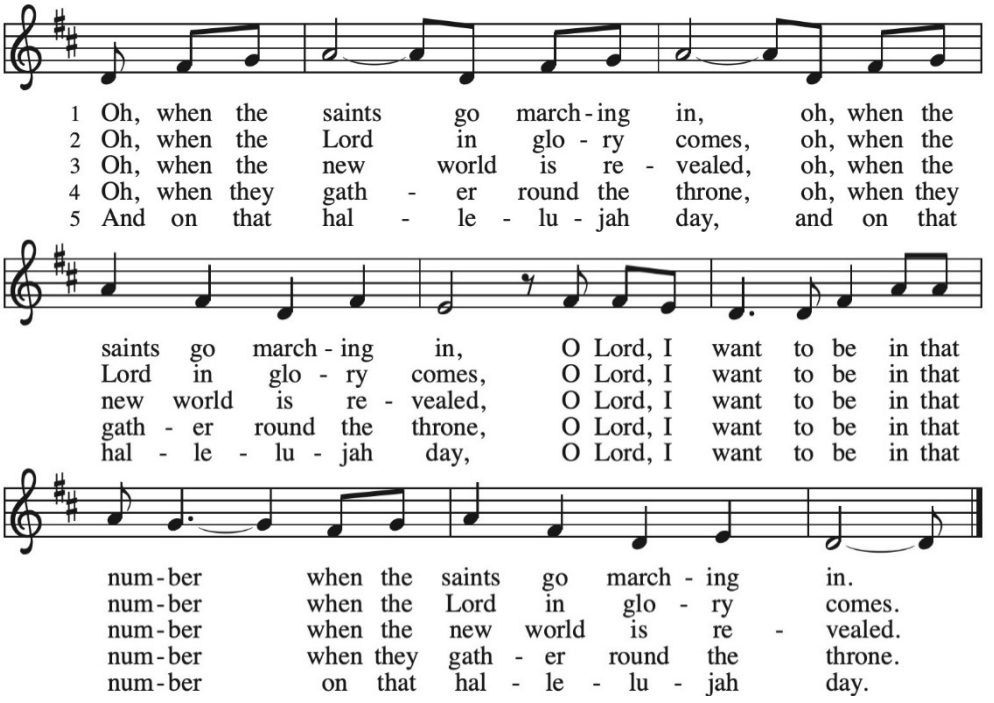
2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."

3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.

4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In **ACS 950**



Text: African American spiritual

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Holy God,

C **in this meal we have received your never-ending mercy. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

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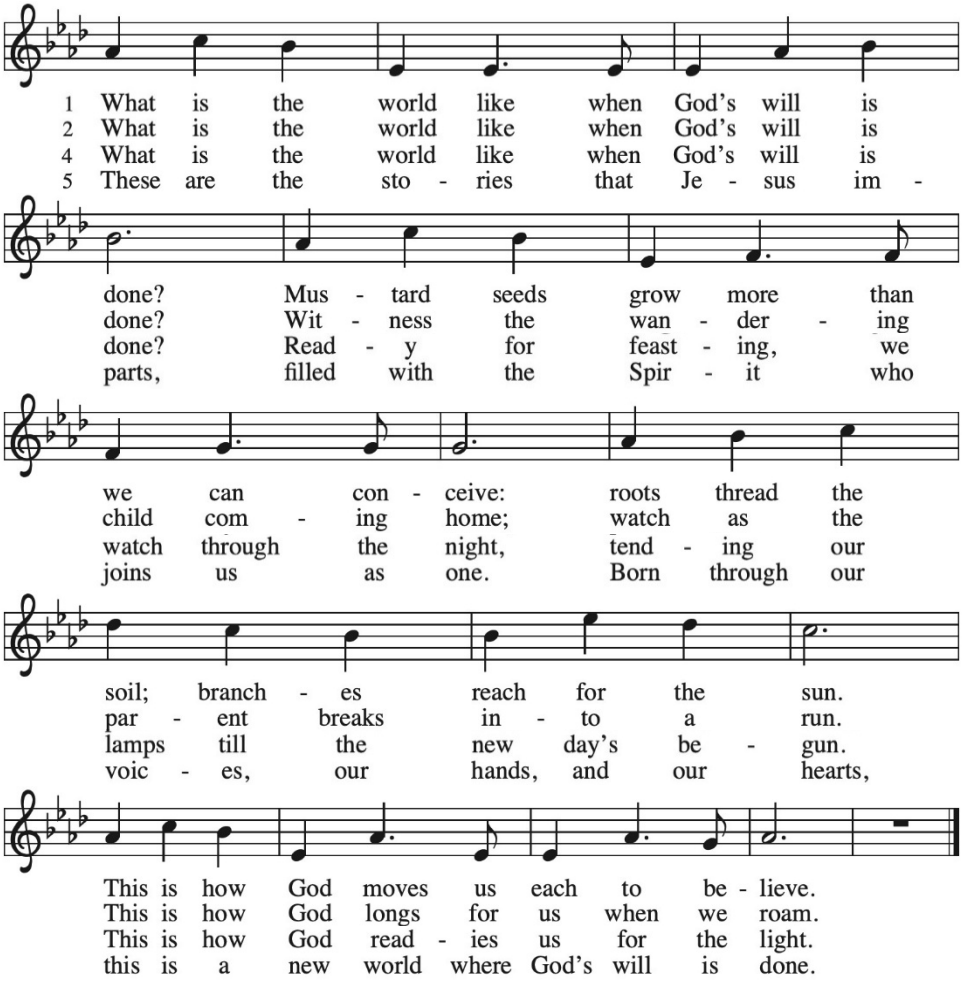
SENDING

BLESSING

℣ The holy Trinity, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN *What Is the World Like* **ACS 1047**



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979
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DISMISSAL

℣ Go out in joy. Encourage one another.

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

November 7 & 8, 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/pastorlucy/45min

Today at Kountze Memorial

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: This 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.
November 8: My Omaha Discussion
November 15: Stewardship & Budget Update

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!.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 8 Sunday
Pentecost 24
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
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM Book Group
12:15 PM OSJ Training

November 9 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry
4:30 PM Personnel Committee

November 10 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 11 Wednesday
Veterans Day
9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

November 12 Thursday
Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 13 Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

November 14 Saturday
10:00 AM Women's Gathering - Meet Me at the Manger
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Evening at the Manger

November 15 Sunday
Pentecost 25
Good News Deadline
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
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
5:00 PM Youth - Friendsgiving

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Worship & Music Committee
Meeting Thursday, November 12
6:30 PM

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.

Youth Friendsgiving Dinner
Sunday November 15
5 - 8 PM
Get ready for a night of food, friends, and fast-paced fun at our upcoming Youth Progressive Dinner! This isn't your average sit-down meal—we will be traveling to different host homes for each course of the night, delicious appetizers, a filling main course, and wrapping things up with an epic dessert. Make sure to bring your appetite, and your energy, because you won't want to miss a single stop on this unforgettable night! RSVP to Sheila (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to join.

Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 19
11:30 AM
Guys, do you have a winning chili recipe—or just love a good bowl of chili and great fellowship? Join us for our 7th Annual Men's Chili Cookoff! Sign up at the Welcome Desk, call the church office, or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, November 17 and let us know if you're coming and if you'll be entering a pot of chili or attending as a taster.
Cost:
Chili entrants: Free
Tasters: Suggested donation is a new stuffed animal or toy to be given as Christmas gifts to children served by the Kountze Food Pantry.

Cornbread and dessert will be provided. Come sample the entries, vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and friendly competition! Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis. Will Deacon's Delight be the winner two years in a row?

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!

Advent Alternative Gifts Market
Sundays, November 22 thru December 13
9:30 - 11:30 AM
Saturday, December 12, 6 PM
Give gifts that make a difference! Support communities around the world through ELCA Good Gifts, or make monetary gifts to our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic. Shop beautiful, handcrafted fair-trade gifts from Global Mamas artisans in Ghana, including batik home goods, bags, and recycled-glass ornaments. Share the joy of giving while supporting neighbors near and far!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Decorate for Advent
Sunday, November 22
12 PM
You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Young Adults Thanksgiving (20's & 30's)
Sunday, November 22
12:15 - 1:30 PM
Join us for a special Thanksgiving gathering! We'll share a potluck lunch, enjoy some favorite board games, and spend time connecting and celebrating our growing community. Bring a dish to share and come ready for good food, fun, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 22
Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha
6 - 7 PM
Youth Service Project
5-6 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. David McGinness, Youth Director at Countryside, would like to invite all youth, 6-12th grades, to participate in a Pizza & Service night before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service. The youth will be making Walker Bags for Together Omaha. Walker Bags are 1-gallon ziploc bags full of essentials such as water, granola bars, snacks, hand warmers, and soap that Together's Street Outreach team takes out every day to visit our unhoused neighbors. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to let her know if you - and maybe a friend - will be attending.

National Youth Gathering
Registration is Open
Youth Participants and Adult Leaders!
Youth entering 9th grade through those graduating in spring 2027, as well as young adults, are eligible to participate! The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering is on the horizon, and now is the time to start planning! If you've ever been, you know what a formational experience the gathering is! This incredible opportunity brings young people together from across the ELCA for faith, fellowship, worship, service, and an unforgettable experience of being part of a larger church community. Contact Sheila Valquier — sheila@kmlchurch.org or Deacon Eric Haitz — eric@kmlchurch.org for more information. Share this info. with families and young people who might be interested in joining us for this amazing experience.

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

Pantry

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.

Do you have Halloween costumes that you don't want to store until next year in hopes they will be worn again? Or costumes that didn't get worn this year? Did you see a costume on clearance the last time you were shopping at the store? Kountze Commons is accepting costumes now to prepare for our "BOO-tique" next year. Children, adult and pet costumes are appreciated! Also, thanks for making our first "BOO-tique" this year a success! Questions or need assistance with your donation call Toby at 402-979-1425 or toby@kountzecommons.org.



December 2, 9, 16
11 AM & 5 PM Advent Meals
12:15 & 6:30 PM Advent Worship

December 12
9 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
5 PM Candlelight Carol Service (Prelude 4:40 PM)

December 13
9 AM Children's Christmas Program
3 PM Tuba Christmas Concert

December 24
4, 7, 11 PM Worship

December 25
10 AM Worship

Attendance & Giving
Thursday, October 29—Wednesday, November 4

Saturday: 21
Sunday: **9:00**: 128 **11:00**: 67
Wednesday: 12:15: 9
Total: 225
Streaming: 46
Pantry Guests Served: 712 (inc. 246 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13
Offering:
$9,966.54 (Regular) $1,168.74 (Specials)
$197.00 (Debt Reduction)

Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Joshua 24:14-28	The tribes renew the covenant
Thursday	Psalm 78:1-8	Tell the children God's word
Friday	Luke 21:29-38	Be always on the watch
Saturday	Psalm 70	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" **Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Has there ever been a time you felt you were not ready for something? What happened?
- How does your Christian faith call you to a sense of urgency and readiness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish bridesmaids and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (Matthew 26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable of the bridesmaids, the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in sight. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. Unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30