

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

January 14, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



"Our thoughts and prayers are with..." That seems to be our society's "liturgical response" to tragedy: a person's accident, disease, death; or a large group affected by a hurricane or mass shooting. Yet how do we understand prayer? How do we practice prayer? Is it Listen Lord, for I have something to say! We do see this in the Psalms, such as 80:1-2 or 109. Or, is our prayer life, first of all, as Samuel learns in today's first reading: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. How will our attitude about prayer affect our personal behavior? ... our corporate policies and actions?

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

[C] Amen.

[P] Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

[P] Loving God,

**[C] we confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.**

Forgive us for the times

we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those closest to us;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have thought more about ourselves than others;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

[P] Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✠ Jesus Christ our Savior.

[C] Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"As with Gladness Men of Old"
Verses 1-4

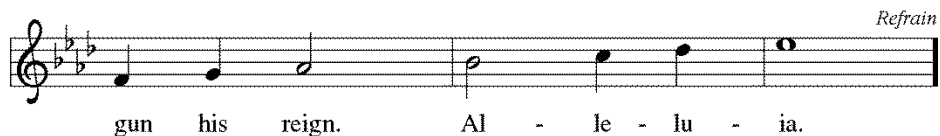
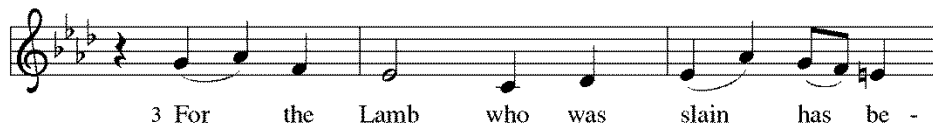
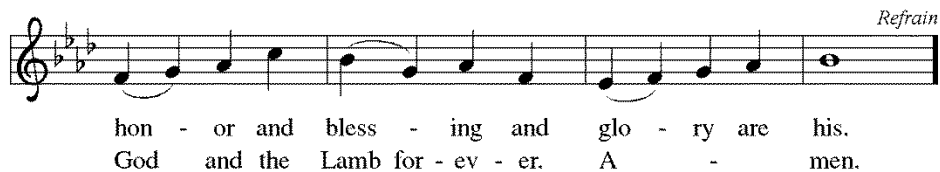
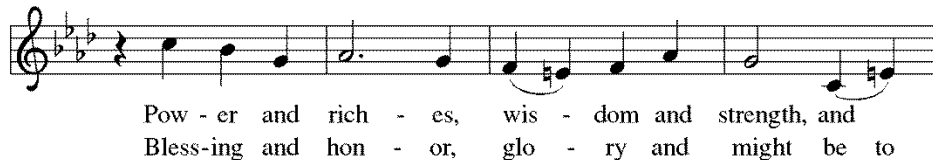
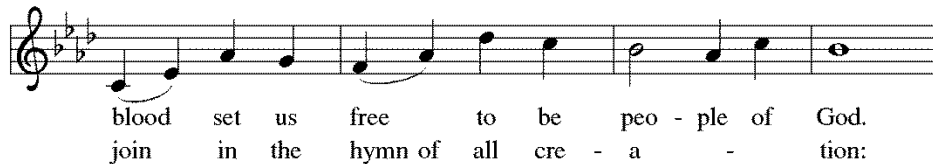
ELW 302

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

[C] And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
C most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10

In the sweep of the Bible's story of God's action to make the world right again, we are at a pivotal point, marked by a miraculous birth. (Compare 1 Samuel 1,2 and Luke 1:26-38, 46-55.) The people chosen for God's saving purpose (Genesis 12:1-3) have experienced God's liberating power and have experienced God's generosity in the Promised Land. (See Exodus 14, 15 and Deuteronomy 6:1-9.) But our constant preference to go our own ways has, once again, created chaos and suffering. That is described in the book of Judges. The God who is ever faithful now will provide a prophet/leader. How will he respond to God's call?

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

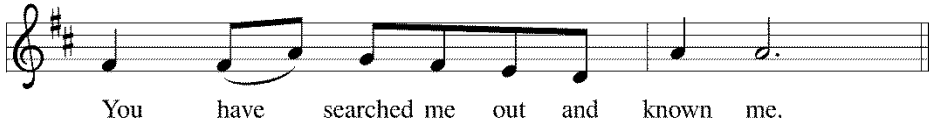
²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

A The word of the Lord.




C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18



Psalm 139:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

- ¹Lord, you have searched me out;
O Lord, you have known me.
- ²You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- ³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether. 
- ⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- ¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well. 
- ¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in
your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be.
- ¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. 

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

What matters to the God who created matter? First Church Corinth included an eclectic bunch of folks in a cosmopolitan city, coming from many diverse philosophies, religions, and moralities. How is the Body of Christ to be formed, to act? As these early Christ-followers had very limited control over their lives, the Apostle addresses their personal morality. If we have more power, as in a democracy, how do St. Paul's words apply to us?


“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

A The word of the Lord.

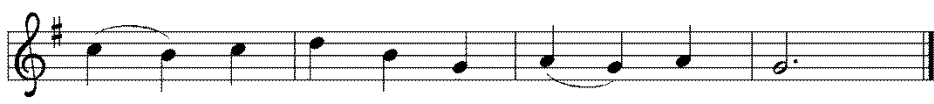
G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

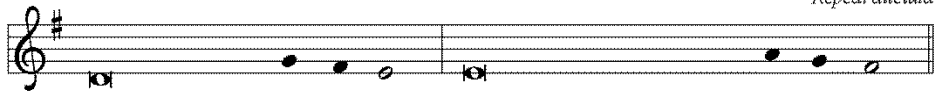


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

Epiphany is the missionary season of the Church year. We read how Jesus moves out to build the kingdom of God, calling followers to share in the work. Here we see Jesus working through relationships and through questions. What questions would I ask of Jesus? When do questions about the faith come from skepticism? ...from honest inquiry? Can both nourish faith?

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!”⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

P The Gospel of our Lord

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Be Glorified”

ELW 744

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

☞ 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.

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

Belle Rose Clanton

(see page 227)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ Lord, in your mercy,
☞ hear our prayer.

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

Thanksgiving: For the baptism of Belle Rose Clanton, daughter of Jared & Tana; for the birth of Emory William Anderson, son of Nolan & Laura

Illness: Marvin Andersen, Lois Carlsen, Jr Green (husband of Marvel), Eunice Grunberg, Susan Muchmore, Bill Pemberton, Sheri Tipton, Ed White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

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 use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

by Matthew Armstrong

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Merciful God,
- ☑ receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

- ☞** 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

- P** We who are many are one body,
☞ for we all partake of the one bread. We come to be filled with light and life.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”
“Here I Am, Lord”

(sing 3x) **ELW 814**
ELW 574

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** O Morning Star, fair and bright,
☞ you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

☐ The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

☑ Amen.

HYMN

“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”

ELW 676

DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Director of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst. Steve Jacobson

Lector Pamela Johnson
Ushers Joe Councill
Jim Comfort
Jan Falk
John Georgeson
Jeff Perkins
Fred Wachal
Dave Forrest

Greeters Darlene Anderson
Lennea Davis
Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer Keelan Edwards
Acolytes Kaitlyn Munquia
Anthony Bonacci

SUNDAY, 11:00 PM

Comm. Asst. Deb Hinrichs
Lowell Harms
Lector June Anderson
Ushers Dudley Syre
Adam Klinker
Linda Hoagland
Julie O'Doherty
Monica Albers
Greeters Peggy Johnson
Myrna Carter
Crucifer Lily O'Kane
Acolytes Abby Rigas
Nicole Campbell



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 13 & 14, 2018

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 nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us on Sundays for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger. If you're able to help set up, prep/cook, and/or clean up after breakfast on Sunday mornings, please talk to Jim, or let the church office know. We would appreciate your help! Thanks.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Review of Congregational Constitutional Changes **NEXT WEEK:** Preview of 2018 Budget

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, please attend the class this Sunday and next, January 14th & 21st from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHOIR rehearsal in the Adult Choir room each Sunday from 11—11:40 AM. Come and sing!

Annual Meeting
Sunday January 28, 2018
10:10 AM

January 14 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:30 PM Executive Committee
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
 12:00 PM Book Group
 12:00 PM New Member Class
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

January 15 Monday

Good News Deadline
 Martin Luther King, Jr.
 OFFICE CLOSED
 6:00 PM Clinic Board

January 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:30 PM Church Council

January 17 Wednesday

10:30 AM Augsburg Confession Class
 12:15 PM Worship
 5:00 PM Communion @ deFreese Manor

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Confirmation
 6:30 AM Augsburg Confession Class
 7:00 PM Worship
 7:30 PM Closing Worship

January 18 Thursday

Council Reports Due
 11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 7:00 PM Circle 5

January 20 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:00 PM Worship

January 21 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
 12:00 PM New Member Class
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU

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 not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet 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 is available from 9 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 plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held January 14th & 21st from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare.

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 card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE The 2018 sign-up sheets are available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50.



SIMPLY GIVING UPDATE FOR 2018 PLEDGE If you have made a change to your pledge for 2018 and your offerings are made through Simply Giving, please be sure to contact the office to allow us to make that change. You may notify Lauri Askew (402-341-7761 or lauri@kmlchurch.org).

PASTOR'S CLASS Pastor Olaf Roynesdal is teaching a class on the Augsburg Confession (the Confessio Augustana) which is the foundational doctrinal document of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The six-week class continues to meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM thorough February 7th.

A CHURCH CONSTITUTION? The Church is both spiritual and material/physical. As the Body of Christ, we are to be God's physical presence in the world and we are to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. A church constitution is one way the Spirit helps us overcome human limitations. Your Council recommends revisions to our congregation's constitution. To see what is there, including the revisions, come to the **Adult Forum next Sunday, January 14th**. You may also review the old and the revised documents at www.kmlchurch.org, under "About us." You may also obtain a paper copy by contacting the Office.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, January 18th, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial – Cost \$10. Jeff Senn will tell of his work with the brand new Hope Lodge, part of the work of the American Cancer Society. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 16th, to the church office or Pastor Paul (402-341-7761 or paul@kmlchurch.org).

CONGREGATIONAL GAME NIGHT Saturday, January 27th, 5:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Monopoly, Jenga, Scrabble, Catchphrase, Gin Rummy....what's your game? We will have them all! Join us for conversation, community, and a little competition at the Congregational Game Night. Pizza, salad, and beverages will be provided. Bring a dessert or snack to share. Have a fun me? Bring that as well! All ages welcome. RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 26th.

CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP Register your child/children for summer camp by January 31 and get \$50 off! First-time campers get 50% off if you register for week 1, 2 or 6 (go to <http://caroljoyholling.org/registration> to register and first-timers use coupon code half off). Sending more than one child to camp? Receive an additional \$25 discount for each child of the same family attending a full-week or mini session.

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING Saturday, February 10th, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Join us for training of Communion Assistants, Lectors, Greeters and Ushers. All current servers and those who wish to serve in the future are encouraged to attend. Please call the church office to register.

KMLC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarship are funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up after the first of the year in the Church Office, or downloaded at www.kmlchurch.org. Applications are due March 1st. Applications received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year.

BED & COUCH NEEDED Sharon West has someone moving into deFreese Manor that needs a bed and a couch. If you have either of those and would like to part with them, please call Sharon West (402-345.0622). Thanks.

Annual Meeting

Sunday January 28, 2018

10:10 AM

Fellowship Hall

*Annual Report, Constitution,
2018 Budget*

Saturday Attendance: 61

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 209 11:00: 105

Midweek - Noon: 6 **Evening:** 22

Total: 403

Pantry Guests Served: 315

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 35

Offering:

\$13,972.00 (Regular) \$3,507.47 (Specials)

\$1,782.00 (In the City for Good)

We are all called to be God's servants.

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

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God with your body
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Genesis 28:10-17	God blesses Jacob
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Called to be saints
Saturday	Psalms 139	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls disciples

taking
faith
home

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O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. **Psalm 139:1-2 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, Son of God, you have searched me and known me. Thank you for calling me to follow you as a beloved child of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who knows when you sit down and when you rise

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What does it mean to you to be called by God?
- When have you sensed God calling you to be a servant of God's love?
- Psalm 139 speaks of a God who knows us and cares for us very intimately. What does it mean to you to have a God who cares for you and knows you so personally?

Read: 1 Samuel 3:9-10.

It is easy to accept that pastors have a call from God, but we all have a call from God, one that begins in baptism. Eli tells Samuel to listen to God's call to Samuel. Philip tells Nathanael to "come and see" (John 1:46). Psalm 139 gives praise to God who knows and cares for the psalmist quite personally (verses 1-3). When do you sense the call and care of God? Who helps you listen to and recognize God in your life? Pray the following prayer:

Pray: Dear God, you have called me by name and send me out into your world to do your work and will each day. Help me to hear your voice and to do your will for the sake of Christ who has come to bring salvation to all. Amen.

When Jesus called Philip to follow him, Philip wanted to share the good news of Jesus with his friend Nathanael. It is an example of faith that is formed through, personal, trusted relationships. Identify a personal friend or family member to share the love and hope that Jesus brings. It can be someone who is already Christian and who could use the encouragement of your own faith practice. Fellow Christians also need the affirmation of faith that others can bring. Consider using portions of *Taking Faith Home* with that person to initiate conversation and prayer.

Psalm 139 offers one of the most personal and intimate expressions of God's care and presence for one's life in the Bible. Like the Apostle Paul states in Romans 8:38-39, nothing can separate us from God's love. Read Psalm 139 slowly several times and select a verse to reflect on during the week, one that perhaps has special meaning for your current circumstances. Memorize and pray the verse during the week.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12