

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

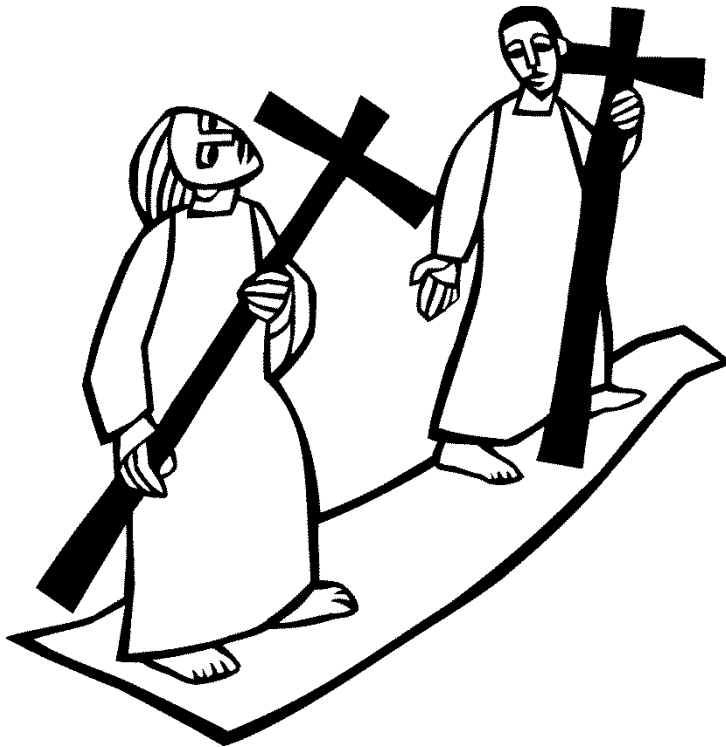
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

February 25, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT



What's your brand? *Businesses and corporations spend big money so that words and images convey a positive message, increasing their reputation (and their bottom line). Perhaps it is too simplistic to say that, in today's Gospel, Jesus challenges the brand of all who want to follow him. What words of his will we accept? Perhaps more importantly, what words of his will we ignore or, worse, interpret away? And, will we remember that, when he first said those words, the cross was neither a piece of jewelry nor a religious artifact?*

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.
- P** With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Merciful God,
- C** forgive us.
Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.
We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.
We were silent when we should have said something.
We acted when we knew better.
We were still when we know we should have moved.
For the wrong we have done,
for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P** People of God, look to ✠ Jesus Christ, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much, because God loved you so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338

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.

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord .



P 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.



P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save comfort and defend us gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

C by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

What's in a name?! We are in a key portion of the story telling how God is going to make the world right again. And in the middle, two names are changed and one name is revealed. Abram – exalted ancestor – becomes Abraham – ancestor of a multitude. It is less about personal honor and more about what comes as a result. The distinction between Sarai and Sarah is not so clear. Both mean princess. One theory is that the “ah” of the new name connects with the sacred name of God. Our term God is rather generic. The Bible offers more titles, each of which reveals another facet of the eternal. Here, Abraham learns this is El Shaddai, that is, God Almighty. See also El Elyon = God Most High, Genesis 14:22; El –roi = God hears, 16:13; El Olam = Everlasting God, 21:33; El-bethel = God of Bethel, 35:7.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:23-31 *(read responsively)*

²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face hidden from them;**

but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

The Apostle is writing to Christ-followers in the Imperial city of Rome. Different from his other letters, he did not know this congregation personally. Here we are listening to Paul, the Rabbi, dig into an ancient text and key concepts of the Jewish faith in which he was raised. Law is the Law of Moses, elaborated in the first five books of the Old Testament and summarized in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). Faith is much more than claiming to "believe" certain propositions or doctrines. Rather, faith means that in our waiting and in our acting we are trusting in God's preferred and promised future. Righteousness means that we are being made right – forgiven, reconciled, restored – because it is God's very character to make things right. Because he and others are experiencing transformed lives through the Cross of Jesus, Saint Paul finds new meaning in the ancient story told in our First Lesson.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

LENTEN VERSE

“Thy Word”

Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

Verse 1: When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

Verse 2: I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end

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P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

Just before this, Jesus had asked of his disciples, who do you say that I am? Peter had responded with a resounding declaration, that Jesus is the Messiah. Here, Jesus tries to tell these closest followers what a real Messiah does. We have to accept the fact that most of us probably would have reacted like Peter. No pain no gain is good for sports. But we want a god that gives us comfort with ease. What words of Jesus do I wish he had not said? In those words, what is Jesus saying to me?

[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ 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)

Illness: Steve Berney (son of Don & Gwen), Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Lavern Larkowski, Susan Muchmore, Alice Pickinpaugh, Gary Rodene, 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

“Above All” with “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Arnold B. Sherman

(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

- P** Merciful God,
C receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we will know the joy of the resurrection; through 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 musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- P** It is indeed right ...
...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

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are centered under the notes.



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** Return to God with all your heart.
☩ Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

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 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 you may then dip it in the wine.
Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(sit)

AGNUS DEI

“O Christ, Lamb of God”

ELW 196

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Blest Are They”

ELW 728

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

ELW 479

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Compassionate God,
C you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ Almighty God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, will indeed strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

HYMN

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

ELW 719

DISMISSAL

☞ Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

☞ **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

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Pam Johnson
	Dan Collett
	Scott Henneman
Lector	Robin Perkins
Ushers	Dick Nelson
	Donna Crouse
	Ralph Diggins
	Brad Madison
	Rodney Nord
	Dan Troxel
	Sharon West
	Dean Winther
	Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners
	Carole Meilahn
	Lois Sorensen
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Carly Cameron
	Rahn Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 PM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum
	Lowell Harms
Lector	Ashley Sum
Ushers	Norm Sack
	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer
	Hadley Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 24 & 25, 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:** Guest Speaker President Jodi Horner of Midland University
NEXT WEEK: The Ministry of Deacons with Jean Johnson

WHERE DO ALL THE FLOWERS GO? The leadership for our Altar Flower Delivery ministry has transitioned frequently over the past year due to a variety of reasons. The current structure is allowing the ministry to "limp along" but is not conducive to a flourishing ministry. We would like to hold a collective conversation to discuss its future—are there volunteers interested in helping to lead?—might the ministry take a new shape? To discuss these questions and more, please join Amanda Zasada (Administrative Assistant and current Altar Flower Delivery Coordinator) and Pastor Paul Moessner in the fellowship lounge on Sunday, February 25 at 10:10 AM. All past and current flower delivery volunteers are welcome, as well as those interested in possible future participation.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Grades K—5th grade. We meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio. Preschool (and grades K—5th that are not in choir) will continue with Kristin Boe for the Children's Sermon Lesson.

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

February 25 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Choir (K-5th gr)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Altar Flower Delivery Meeting
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

February 26 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 5:30 PM KETV Management Board
 7:00 PM Circle 3

February 28 Wednesday

11:15 AM Lenten Lunch
 12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Worship

March 1 Thursday

College Scholarship Deadline

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion

4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks

5:00 PM Worship

March 4 Sunday

Homebound Communion

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

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)

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

3:30 PM MS/HS Progressive Supper

8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

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.

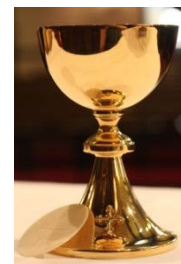
ATTENDANCE CARDS All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

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

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 Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet (no flowers during Lent). The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to help us beautify the altar by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held April 15 & 22 from 12—2 PM. 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 when you 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 1. Applications received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year.

MS/HS PROGRESSIVE SUPPER Sunday, March 4, 3:30 – 7:00 PM. Meet at the home of Pastor and Marcia Roynesdal, 1544 South 126th Street. (you may park in the driveway or on *their* side of the street). After appetizers and main course elsewhere, we will return to the Roynesdal's for dessert.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH We're back! Please join us on Tuesday, March 6. You won't want to miss out on our program this month. Our speaker is David Mayen. He will be sharing with us, the story of his life, as an African refugee. A delicious lunch will be served at noon. Cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, March 2. All ages are welcome! If you have any questions, call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Hope to see there!

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT – CROSS PURPOSES Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28; 10:30 AM. Led by Pastor Paul How do various images found in the Bible help us experience God's work on and through the Cross? Our study is based on two books: Making Sense of the Cross, by David Lose; What was God doing on the Cross? By Alister E. McGrath. (You need not purchase them, but they are a good read.)

BAPTISM SEMINAR Noon, Sunday, March 11. Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptismal liturgy. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Sunday, March 18, 12:00 PM. Communion is open to all baptized Christians. Those children who are already communing or those children interested in receiving Holy Communion are invited to a First Communion class. We will begin with lunch in the conference room followed by instruction in the Nave with Pastor Hall. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 PM. A good guide for determining when your children are ready to receive Communion is when they begin to ask about receiving it during the liturgy. Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING AND APPRECIATION LUNCHEON Mark your calendars for April 15. Commissioning will be held at the 11:00 AM Worship Service with a luncheon to follow at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for the luncheon. The OSJ Sponsors are hosting an appreciation luncheon for all current OSJ members, alums, and parents. Acolytes will take part in a special commissioning during the 11:00 AM worship service. Then, we will gather in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 PM for an appreciation luncheon and present the 2018 *Outstanding Acolyte Award*. A group photo will also be taken. Please plan to attend this event as we honor all those who serve in this very meaningful ministry. Make your reservations by calling or texting Jeff and Robin Perkins at 402-917-2461 by Sunday, April 8.

LENT AT KOUNTZE

Theme: Being Lutheran Together

February 28 - Grace Alone

March 7 - Scripture Alone

March 14 - To the Glory of God Alone

March 21 - The Gospel-Evangelical Alone

Lunch – 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM; Dinner - 6 -7 PM

Cost - Free-will Offering

Worship - 12:15 PM and 7 PM (child care at 7 PM)



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 55

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 208 11:00: 110

Midweek - Noon: 45 Evening: 60

Total: 478

Pantry Guests Served: President's Day – Office Closed

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 37

Offering:

\$19,564.52 (Regular) \$110.00 (Specials)

\$26,915.00 (In the City for Good)

Jesus teaches the way of the cross.

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise realized thru faith
Wednesday	Mark 9:30-37	The Son of Man betrayed
Thursday	Matthew 16:1-26	Taking up the cross
Friday	Mark 10:32-45	Jesus again predicts his death
Saturday	Psalm 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple

taking
faith
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any wants to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Mark 8:34 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us faith to trust the way of the cross that we may experience hope in the midst of our hurts and disappointments through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Thank you, God, for all you give; without your gifts we would not live. May we do more than sip and swallow. May we trust your Son and follow. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who gives life to the dead, give you faith and courage to follow Jesus. (Romans 4:17b)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you had all the power to do what you want, what would you want to do?
- Peter rejects Jesus' teaching that the Son of Man must suffer, be rejected, and die at the hands of those who hate him. How is this difficult for us to accept, even today?
- What does it mean to pick up your cross? How is it difficult to pick up your cross and follow Jesus?

Read: Mark 8:31-39.

Peter represents the world that prefers power and control. Jesus says that is the way humans think, not God. Our human tendency is to find answers and leaders that make things sound simple and easy. The cross of Christ shows the way of God that accepts suffering, rejection, and death as the way to life and hope. God's victory is hidden in defeat. God's glory is hidden in the cross. The good news of Jesus Christ is that God enters into our hurts and our sense of rejection and says we are healed, accepted, and saved through the cross of Christ. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection gives us the faith and strength to pick up our cross, that is, to lose our sense of control in our own lives for the sake of the gospel (vv. 34-35). Even then, our faith involves a lifelong journey to reject the message of Peter in favor of following Jesus. Pray for God to be with you and others in your hurts and disappointments to bring healing and new life, to make "all things new" (Romans 4:17b). Pray for the gift of faith to pick up your cross and follow Jesus.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

Research shows that often we do not tell our own stories of faith in God to those around us. Telling our faith stories is important to nurturing the faith in the church. Psalm 22:30-31 states that "future generations will be told about the Lord and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn." We are the people to tell the story to others that future generations may know of God's saving work. This is not simply the work of preachers on Sunday morning. Take time this week to tell your story of faith to family and friends around you.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22