

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

March 4, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT



The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

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

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

ELW 337

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.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

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 Holy God,

C through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“This Is the Day”

Les Garrett
Kountze Children’s Choir

(sit)

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

God spoke all these words:
²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 *(read responsively)*

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands,**

**and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**⁸The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."* ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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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☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☞ Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, *“Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!”* ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, *“Zeal for your house will consume me.”* ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, *“What sign can you show us for doing this?”* ¹⁹Jesus answered them, *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* ²⁰The Jews then said, *“This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”* ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

☞ The Gospel of our Lord

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

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 Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

ELW 772

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: Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Lavern Larkowski, Susan Muchmore, Alice Pickinpough, 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

“Come, Come Unto Me”

Ken Dosso

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186

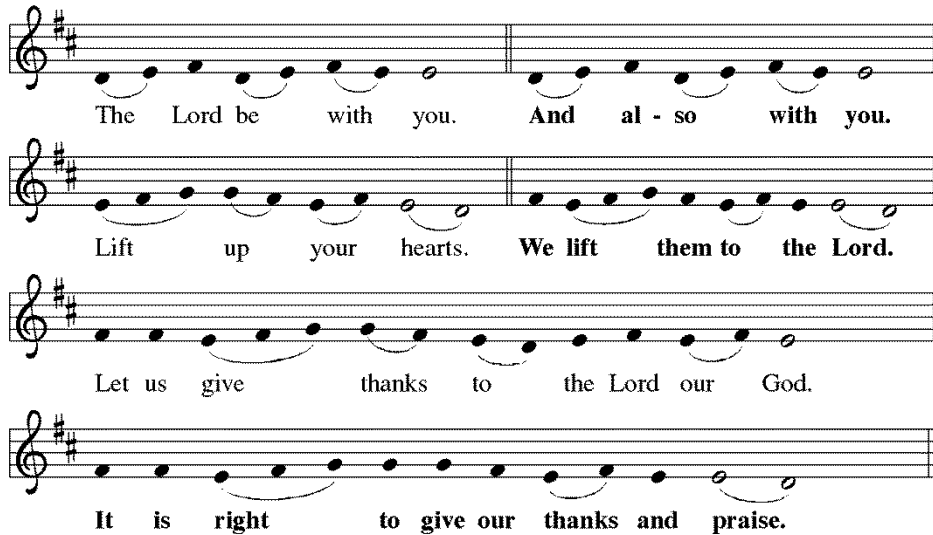
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.

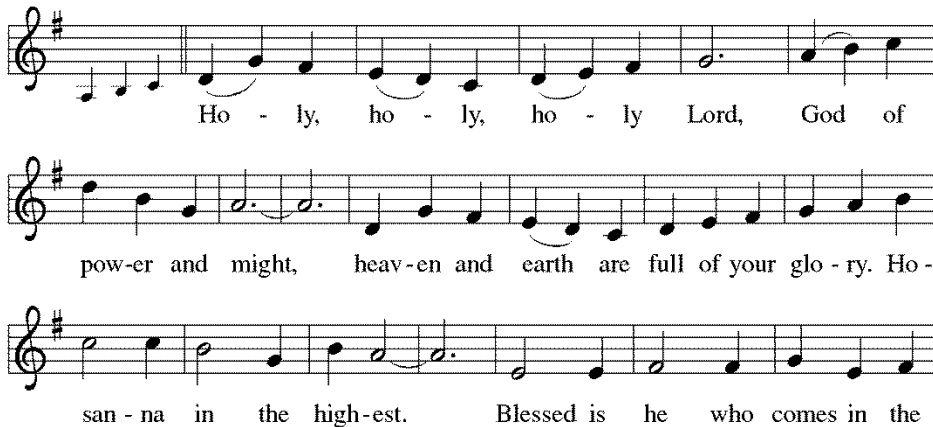
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The 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 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

“I Am the Bread of Life”
“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW 485

ELW 324

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- P** May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, 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.
- G** Amen.

HYMN

"Praise the Lord! O Heavens"

ELW 823

DISMISSAL

- P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✝ ✝ ✝

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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
	Theresa Gruber

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Susie Henry
	Scott Henneman
	Lorie Groenjes
Lector	Danny Bos
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Ted Kaasch
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Marcy Madison
Greeters	Sharon Anderson
	Bev Troxel
	Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Bailey Gittler
Acolytes	Clara Kidder
	Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 PM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
	Norm Sack
Lector	Bruce Anderson
Ushers	Adam Klinker
	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
	Rosemary Tessin
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Tyler Johnston
	Charlie Campbell



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 3 & 4, 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:** *The Ministry of Deacons with Jean Johnson* **NEXT WEEK:** *Review of Constitution changes*

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of Russell Bonneau by Karen and Shirley.

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.

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL 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.

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)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Choir (K-5th gr)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Personnel Committee

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)

March 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

March 7 Wednesday

10:30 AM Bible Study *Cross Purposes*

11:15 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Worship

8:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

March 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board Meeting

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 10 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

March 11 Sunday

Daylight Savings--spring ahead 1 hour

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 Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

12:00 PM Baptism Seminar

12:00 PM Book Group

12:15 PM Family & Friends Planning Session

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.



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 in March, 10:30 AM. Led by Pastor Paul. Don't ignore the horror involved! 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.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday March 18, 10:10 AM

To Consider the Following Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Constitution of Kountze Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church (the "Constitution"), the amendments to the Constitution as proposed by the Church Council and presented to the congregation for consideration at this meeting (the "Amended and Restated Constitution") be, and they hereby are, approved; that the Amended and Restated Constitution be brought before the congregation for ratification at the next regular meeting of the congregation; and that upon ratification the Amended and Restated Constitution shall become effective within 120 days from the date of receipt of notice of the amendments by the ELCA Nebraska Synod as required by Chapter 18 of the Constitution.

LENT AT KOUNTZE

Theme: Being Lutheran Together

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: 17

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 201 11:00: 102

Midweek - Noon: 51 **Evening:** 64

Total: 435

Pantry Guests Served: 358

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$50,768.00 (Regular) \$618.00 (Specials)

\$17,638.46 (In the City for Good)

Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God.

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

Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple
Monday	Exodus 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Christ crucified
Wednesday	Matthew 22:34-40	The greatest commandment
Thursday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Friday	Romans 13:8-10	Love for one another
Saturday	Psalms 19	God as creator and giver of the law
Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world



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For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. **1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God so wise and strong, help us to worship you alone and to follow your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, with all we say, do, and think. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For all we eat and all we wear, for daily bread and loving care, we thank you, God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and whose weakness is stronger than human strength give life to your soul and joy to your heart. (Psalm 19:7-8)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you show others that you care for them?
- The Ten Commandments are simple—but not easy—ways to care for others and honor God. Pick one of the Commandments and talk about how it helps you care for your neighbor and honor God?
- God shows love for us through the cross of Christ. How is that a surprising way to show us God's love?

Read: Exodus 20:1-17.

The Ten Commandments tell us how God wants us to live and care for our neighbor. Look at the Ten Commandments, two at a time. Talk about them with others. Pray for God's help to care for others through them. Use them to serve others this week. Consider memorizing the Commandments.

Monday: I am the Lord your God: you shall have not other gods. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Tuesday: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother.

Wednesday: You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery.

Thursday: You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Friday: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his manservant or his maidservant or his cattle or anything that is your neighbor's.

Pray: **"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."** (Psalm 19:14)

The Ten Commandments identify Christian vocation, how we live a faithful and loving life as a follower of Jesus. List the work, study, worship, and play activities you do each week and identify which of the Ten Commandments that effort obeys (or disobeys).

In the cleansing of the temple (John 2:13-22) Jesus spoke of his body as the temple. The church would learn that wherever people worship Jesus, there is the dwelling place of God. This includes your own home. Mark out a place where you dwell to be a special place of worship to pray, meditate, and even sing hymns to God. Go to that place and read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and pray: **Dear Jesus, help me to receive and trust the message of the cross that is the power and wisdom of God. Help me to honor this space to know and remember that you are with me to love you and care for others. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.**

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