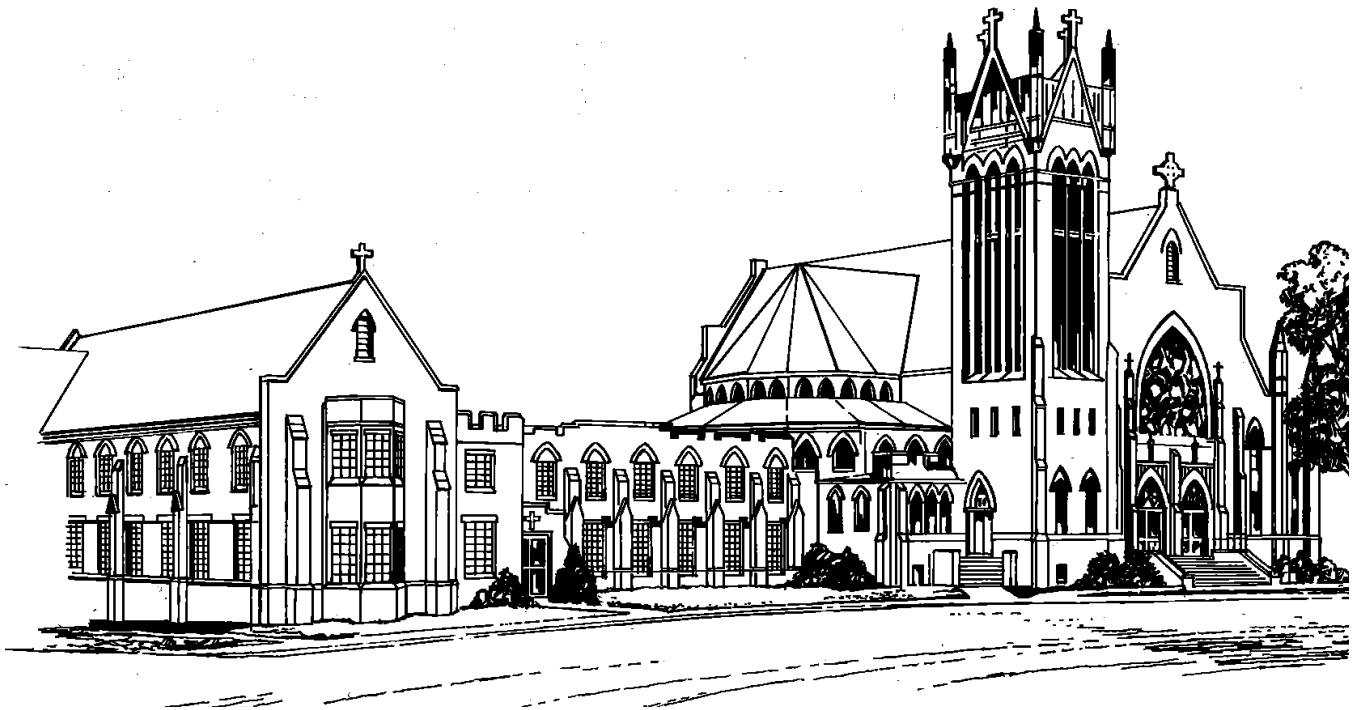


KOUNTZE
Memorial Lutheran Church

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 3, 2019

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AGENDA

Call to Order.....	Pastor Roynesdal
Prayer	Pastor Roynesdal
Adoption of the Agenda	
Approval of the Minutes of the August 2018 Meeting	
Presentation of Reports.....	Pastor Roynesdal
New Business	
Presentation of the Proposed Budget for 2019.....	Rick Kolkman
Adoption of the Proposed Budget.....	Pastor Roynesdal
Adjournment	



MINUTES

MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH August 26, 2018

I. **Call to Order and Prayer**

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church (KMLC) Senior Pastor Olaf Roynesdal called this special congregational meeting to order at 10:14 a.m., offering an opening prayer and laying out the brief agenda for the meeting, comprising election of new Council and Board members, a treasurer's report, and a vote on changes to the KMLC Constitution, per a request from the Nebraska Synod.

II. **Election**

Candidates for Council, Endowment Board and the deFreese Manor Board were presented. The vote to elect these candidates was made by acclamation.

The new Council members are:

Scott Henneman (incumbent)

Chad Picha (incumbent)

Michael Jensen

Ann Miller

The new deFreese Manor Board member is:

Michael Edris

The new Endowment Board members are:

Mark Fredrickson

David Klug

Liz Pemberton

Don Zinnecker

III. **Call of the Constitution Question**

Pr. Roynesdal presented the question of the Constitutional amendment as follows: "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."

After motion, seconding, and discussion, a ballot vote approved this question by a vote of 88 "yes" votes to four "no" votes.

IV. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the congregation, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Adam Klinker, Church Council Secretary

PASTORAL REPORTS

SENIOR PASTOR

PASTOR OLAF ROYNESDAL

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been quite a year! We continue to gather for worship and from worship to serve Jesus Christ in his world. Each of us does this daily in whatever vocation God has placed us in. Institutionally, we serve Jesus Christ through the Food Pantry and Healing Gift Free Clinic. When a neighbor heard that I was a Pastor at Kountze Memorial, the response was swift: **“they do a lot of good.”** I can’t think of a better compliment.

STAFF CHANGES: We bade farewell to Amanda Zasada, Laurie Askew, Sheri Rose and Pastor Moessner; we welcomed Sarah Jewell, Judi Boe, Steve Jacobson and Jim Smejkal; and we are in the process of calling an Associate Pastor.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL CHANGES: We are grateful for the service of Penny Hovendick, Terrie Larkowski, Jeff Senn and Matt Coufal. We welcomed Melissa Osentowski, Rick Kolkman, Michael Jensen, Ann Miller. We keep Don Burton and Family in our continued prayers as he fights back from a debilitating bout of the West Nile Virus.

FINANCES: Thanks to your generosity and some special gifts, we balanced our 2018 budget and will be presenting a balanced 2019 budget. Regrettably, we have had to reduce our Synod Benevolence but if funds are available our contribution can always be increased. A big concern must be the debt on the Kountze Commons as well as the debt we will incur on upcoming structural repairs (see next page). As mentioned in the Stewardship Brochure you received in November, the Kountze Commons is 65% paid for! That is quite an accomplishment. But the “excitement” over a new facility can fade quickly. We need to keep focused on eliminating our debt on our beautiful new facility.

TWO SEMINARIANS: Kaitlynne Larson (Iliff School of Theology) and Adam Klinker (Wartburg Seminary) began their studies this past September. Both have been approved for candidacy for Word and Sacrament Ministry in the ELCA. We have been able to support them financially and we do so as well with our prayers. We need to keep lifting up candidates for ordained ministry for the Church. Right now in our ELCA there is one person entering the ministry for five Pastors that are leaving (retirement, death, second career).

Looking ahead:

CALLING A NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR: We have almost completed the necessary paper work to call a new associate pastor. The council will appoint a call committee at its February meeting. Our goal is to call a pastor who, in addition to sharing pastoral duties with the rest of the pastoral staff, will lead and strengthen our youth ministry.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR: On March 2nd, 8:00pm at St. Cecilia’s Cathedral the National Lutheran Choir will be presenting the **Holy Spirit Mass** written to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Thanks to various donors we are able to present this concert admission free.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: we have contracted with *LifeTouch Directories* and will be taking pictures May 15-18, May 21-25, and May 28-June 1. An updated pictorial directory is the one of the best ways that we have to get to know each other.

STRUCTURAL REPAIRS: Many of you – or those you love – have had a hip or knee or something else replaced. For most, when that is done, you are almost “as good as new”! We discovered this past year that our old sanctuary building needs surgical attention. The joints behind the sanctuary ceiling have been shifting and need to be secured (cost ca **\$950,000**). Our beautiful stained glass windows need upkeep (cost ca **\$350,000**). We have future mechanical equipment (HVAC) costs of nearly **\$200,000**. It seems that every time we turn around something needs serious attention. Lest we forget, our sanctuary is 113 years old! All of these repairs are expensive and they are not covered by the Affordable Care Act. You authorized a \$1.5 million loan from the Mission Investment Fund and that has been approved.

VOLUNTEERS – Two things are so important to a vibrant ministry: 1) our financial generosity and 2) the time we offer to serve in our congregation. There are a host of service opportunities at Kountze Memorial: the food pantry and the clinic are the obvious ones. The many opportunities for assistance in worship (usher, lector, communion assistant) are also obvious ones. What is not so obvious are two areas that are so important: 1) **Sunday morning Breakfast** and 2) our **Television ministry**. Sunday morning is the primary time we gather as a congregation. The primary reason we gather is to worship. But before and after worship, we have opportunity for fellowship, and that fellowship takes place around a meal. Our Sunday morning breakfast provides an opportunity for us to sit and visit with each other, get to know each other and share concerns with one another. It takes a lot of work to feed so many people. Jim West has taken the lead in this ministry and we are so grateful to him and his crew for their work. More people are needed to help cook, serve and clean-up. Right now most volunteers serve one-a-month but more people are needed to keep this important ministry going.

Kountze Memorial has broadcast worship services since 1962. I am amazed at how many people in our community watch the broadcast, particularly those who are home-bound or in nursing homes. Someone recently told me that they don't dare visit their relative on Sunday morning at the nursing home because every TV in the place is tuned to our worship service! We have a faithful crew that has been producing the televised worship for quite some time. They are in need of help. If you are interested in participating in this important outreach ministry please speak with me, Ron Brown or Mike Bratcher. You need know nothing about TV production. You will be given excellent training.

It is my privilege to serve you as one of our Pastors. I am also privileged to work with an excellent staff. We continue to covet your prayers and support and together we will continue to embody Jesus Christ in the City of Omaha and beyond.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

PASTOR H. ASHLEY HALL, PH.D.

Word and Sacrament

I continue to preside on a regular basis on Sundays and Wednesdays, which I enjoy greatly and consider a profound privilege. I preach about once a month, which fits in well in light of other responsibilities as a full-time Associate Professor of Theology at Creighton University and the other aspects of my call portfolio. Baptisms, pastoral care, weddings, and funerals remain an active but limited part of my ministry among you.

Here are some of the areas of ministry that I oversee or relate to:

- *Adult Education, the Adult Forum, Heritage Series, and Christian Education*
- *New Member classes and integration*
- *Worship Training*
- *Baptism Seminar and First Communion classes*
- *Lenten Retreat (alternating years; next in 2020)*
- *coordinating Good Friday Seven Last Words Preachers*
- *Ecumenical Ascension Day Liturgy with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral*
- *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (with St. John's, Creighton)*
- *Combined Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's*
- *Altar Guild*
- *Lay Eucharistic Minister training*
- *With Pr. Moessner's departure, I took over coordinating our hosting of the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service (Nov 18). I am grateful for the help of Melissa Osentowski and Marcia Roynesdal for their coordination and leadership of the Youth Pizza Party beforehand, and to Clara Kidder for serving as my "assistant verger" during the service.*

Emergency Preparation

I helped to coordinate two events to help our members in emergency preparedness, especially for ushers and Sunday School teachers: a CPR Training with Sandi Vyhildal, RN and an Active Threat Training with OPD Officer Devin Crinklaw. The first was more educational than the second. We remain, however, committed to addressing issues of safety and preparedness.

Lutheran Campus Ministry (NeLCM) at Creighton University

We faced some transitions in our campus ministry in 2018. Several of our leaders graduated and word of our ministry did not filter in very well among the first-year students. Our attendance numbers at worship were much lower than in year's past; even after moving our worship to 7 pm to continue to mirror the Mass time available at St. John's. Moreover, fewer area clergy are able to assist, with the exception of the faithful cooperation of Fr. Steven King of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

While I am able and willing to lead worship and serve as a pastoral presence on campus, I cannot give the time and attention necessary to circulate among students at evening and weekend events to spread word of our ministry. Therefore, I have begun a conversation with the Office of Campus Ministry at Creighton about the feasibility of the University hiring a full- or part-time Protestant campus minister to serve on their staff. This person would coordinate Protestant opportunities among the University's many offering and organize student leadership. Ideally, this person would be a pastor/priest or deacon of the ELCA or Episcopal Church. This request is in process and, if successful, I hope it will begin in the fall of 2019.

Healing Gift Free Medical Clinic

In 2018, I resigned as Chairman of the Board of the Healing Gift Free Clinic; Steven Coufal is the new chair. I remain a member of the Clinic Board. A major development in 2018 was that the Clinic received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. The excellent work of the Clinic continues due to our volunteers and coordinator, Joyce Palmer.

Tri-Congregational Partnership

This year, we started a new series in cooperation with our "sister" congregations: Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and First Central Congregational UCC. Our three congregations are historical, located in the downtown/neartown area, offer traditional worship (within our respective traditions), and are facing the same question of what it means to preach the gospel in our urban setting. This summer, we had a three-part series on the "Gospel and the Kingdom," in which our members reflected on the various ministries we offer. The last session was dedicated to discerning ways we might serve together. There was much enthusiasm for this effort and we plan to continue such programs in the future.

Leave of Absence

In the spring of 2018 (Easter Term), I had the honor of being a Visiting Fellow of the Divinity Faculty of the University of Cambridge (England). Additionally, I was made a Visiting Bye-Fellow of Selwyn College. It was a wonderful and fruitful time of research in preparation for my upcoming sabbatical from Creighton University in the spring of 2019. I am most grateful for the prayers and support of the congregation, which afforded me this time away. During my sabbatical from Creighton (Spring 2019), I will be free of teaching and administrative duties at the University. I will continue my normal pastoral duties during this time. From late April through early July, I will be at the Archives of the Protestant Seminary in Wittenberg, Germany. I will resume my pastoral duties afterwards.

Synodical and Church-Wide Service

I continue to serve as an official delegate of the ELCA to Round XII of our bilateral dialogue with the U.S. Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops. I also serve Bishop Brian Maas as the Ecumenical Officer of the Nebraska Synod.

Conclusion

Thank you for your vision and dedication, which make my call so enriching and enjoyable!

VISITATION PASTOR

PASTOR INBA JOSHUA INBARASU, PH.D.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

Greetings to you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for extending me the call to continue to serve as your visitation pastor in 2018. I consider this as a great opportunity and privilege to be a part of our city-wide church with a world-wide ministry.

Pastoral care Visitation and Calls

I made various visits and calls in the hospitals, nursing homes, hospice centers, care centers, Rehab centers, Retirement centers, including members who are home bound. Pastoral care support and Eucharist ministry were provided to the members during these visits.

Funeral and Pastoral Care Support

Our members received pastoral support during the time of death of their loved ones. I have conducted as well as assisted in funeral services at the grave site, funeral homes, including Church, followed by grief support and follow-up visit to the family and friends.

Grief Support Seminars

Grief support seminars were offered to the members who have recently experienced the death of their loved ones, especially during the holiday times to cope up with the loss and grief. In addition to the general support, the participants received resources, including the book, "Good Grief" which was written by Rev. Granger Westberg, Lutheran Pastor and founder of Parish Nurse Movement.

deFreeze Manor

deFreeze Manor's residents had the privilege of worshipping in a special communion service. In addition to the Eucharistic services, residents were engaged in quality pastoral conversation and support.

Pastoral Support to Friends and Family Gathering

During the spring and fall seasons, pastoral support was extended to the friends and family members of the shut-in members, who gather for Holy Communion service.

Pastoral Support to the Stephen Ministers and Group

Stephen ministers/ leaders were rendered consultation support for their ministries during their regular monthly meetings. Participated in the Stephen Ministry International Leadership Training.

Word and Sacrament

I continue to assist or preside or preach on a regular basis during Wednesday's noon and evening services, Saturday, and Sunday worship services. Depending on the need, on few occasions, I assisted in helping with the Sacrament of Baptism and the Holy Communion.

Word and Service

Pastoral support was given to the services of social outreach ministries, Pantry and shared in the ministry of word and service with the wider church.

Synod Services

I continue to serve as the Board member in the Synod's Spiritual Direction Institute (Seeking the Spirit) through an invitation from the Bishop, and also continue to serve as a member in the Synod's Candidacy Committee.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the congregation especially last year for your support and prayers during my unexpected illness while I was commuting weekly between Alabama to Nebraska. I am doing very well by the grace of God, far better than I can ever imagine. I also express my heart felt gratitude for your prayers last year when I was nominated as one of the Bishop candidates for the Nebraska Synod. The discernment time, the process of going through the Synod Assembly Election process, and attending the Synod assembly were a great blessing. These experiences gave valuable insight, lessons to my ongoing ministry, and calling to be God's servant.

It is my hope and prayer to continue to share in these ministries by further enhancing our care ministries and providing support to our mission “worship, grow, and serve.” It is also my prayer for you as it is expressed in the scripture, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:3-6).

I remain grateful for your prayers and support.

God's Blessings,
Pr. Inba Joshua Inbarasu



SEMINARIAN REPORTS

ADAM KLINKER

Dearest Siblings in Christ,

Greetings, grace, and peace to you all! I have been remiss in sending to you my sincerest and utmost thanks for your continued support in my journey at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Many have expressed their encouragement and have asked after my experiences and I am so grateful for each and every one of you who have been so generous to ask. I feel incapable of giving a full answer except to say that the seminary education thus far has been eye-, heart-, and spirit-opening. And not one moment of it would have been possible without all that our God has wrought in your hearts and your faithful work here at Kountze.

In the summer, I completed an introductory course in New Testament Greek that has indeed opened to me the power of scripture and continues to unfold for me how God's work continues apace in our world and language. Greek continued into the fall semester with a course in New Testament Narratives—Gospels and Acts, and across the curriculum, where I took courses in worship, mission, church history to the Reformation, and a course titled Jesus Christ in Plural Worlds that serves as an introduction to systematic theology, which I will embark upon in the spring term. Also in the spring term, which begins with an intensive week in February, I will be taking courses in pastoral care, New Testament letters, formation for discipleship, basics in preaching, and a course on rural ministry. I greatly look forward to all these.

Part of Wartburg's curriculum each term also includes courses in spiritual practices and fieldwork. Some of you know that I am fulfilling the latter requirement through work at our Healing Gift Free Clinic, which has been a blessed spiritual boon for me. Getting to know the patients who look to us for care and who find respite and recuperation here has been perhaps the most touching element of the curriculum thus far. Learning from Pr. Hall and from Joyce Palmer has also been invaluable. I will continue in this capacity with the clinic in the spring.

Some of you have asked how I manage to attend a seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, while still living and working in Omaha. First, I must acknowledge my supremely understanding and sublimely grace-filled wife, JoDee, and my children, William, Henry, and Mary, who support me in this calling. They have seen a little less of Dad over the past few months, but they nonetheless provide me with such loving examples of support, care, and concern.

Practically speaking, I am on Wartburg's distributed learning program, which allows me to attend class via a live stream, which places me virtually in the classroom, on a screen, where I can see and interact with my fellow forty-odd classmates and the professor. It's truly a technological marvel and evidence that God works in myriad ways to propel God's mission.

Finally, I will be spending two weeks in Germany this January as part of Wartburg's J-Term. With fifteen of my compeers at Wartburg, along with a contingent from Luther Seminary, and two professors, we will spend our time in classes at Colleg Wittenberg in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, and tour sites that were central to Luther's life as a theologian and reformer. We will also study the life and legacy of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, including a stop at Buchenwald, the concentration camp where he was held for a time before his execution at the hands of the Nazi regime.

Once again, I want to thank all the faithful at Kountze for your support, including of the financial variety. I know your prayers are with me and I am humbled by all that you have done as God's faithful people. My profoundest thanks and prayers go also with you.

Peace in Christ,
Adam Klinker

KAITLYNNE LARSON

I am attending Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. Iliff strives to create a unique community by bringing together students who come from many distinct backgrounds and career fields. To give a better understanding of what this means one of my current classes includes: people who were raised in the Evangelical church, practicing Buddhists, a couple Agnostics, and then some of us traditionally raised Protestants. Further, the students vary in age from early 20s to mid-50s some coming straight from undergraduate studies and others coming from previous careers. The areas of interest also are very distinct as some people have a history working in education, health or the military, and others who have been in ministry for years. Everyone's diverse backgrounds bring a new perspective to the classroom that is challenging and educating me in ways that I never thought possible. It has enriched my education, and my life. Our first year class has become extremely close and is well known on campus by professors and staff for our weekly lunches and lively debates. I am so grateful to have found a group of people who understand and willing participate in this process as well. For me, being able to build relationships with other students was one of the main reasons I decided to do my education on-campus, and it has exceeded my expectations.

In the fall quarter I took three courses, which were Vocation and Orientation, Biblical Authority, and Intro. to Christian History. I also took an Inter-term course over winter break called Prophetic Leadership through Pastoral Engagement, which was taught by the United Methodist Bishop of the Mountain Sky Conference. Currently, during the winter quarter, I am taking four courses, which are Intro. to New Testament, Intro. to Hebrew Bible, Ethical Analysis and Advocacy, and Identity, Power, and Difference. I will take another four classes for the spring quarter as well as decide on a concentration to declare within the Masters of Divinity program.

I want to thank you all for supporting me in this process. At times, it can be a difficult process, but it is truly a blessing to know that I have such a wonderful congregation and group of people walking with me through it all. Thank you!



PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

KRISTIN BOE

The goal of Christian Education is provide the youngest members of Kountze with an understanding of the word of God through stories in the Bible, to build a community, and serve in God's name.

To help children understand the word of God, there is weekly Sunday School between services. We have made the transition to the Godly Play curriculum for students ages Kindergarten through 5th grade. Godly Play is a Montessori inspired way of learning that believes children have innate understanding of the mystery of God, but lack the religious language to describe their knowledge. It allows the students to explore their thoughts on lessons through creative play.

Nursery care is provided for those up to age 2. Preschool care and lessons are provided for children between age 2 and 5.

Marcia Roynesdal provides Middle School Christian Education that mirrors the Confirmation education the students are receiving.

For children up to grade 5, a weekly Children's sermon is provided during the 9:00 service. During this time, the gospel of the day is retold in an approachable way for kids. The story is reinforced through a game, song, or craft.

The Christian Education department provided opportunities to build relationships and community by hosting an Easter egg hunt, Game Night, a Thanksgiving Potluck, a pumpkin patch visit, and a Parent's Night Out.

Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha continues to be a valuable opportunity for the children of Kountze to give to the community. In addition to this week long summer event, a Day Camp through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries will be provided this summer. This will give the kids a chance to deepen their connection to God and the church.

The new year brings a new sense of excitement to the Christian Education Department. I look forward to continuing what we have found to be successful, as well as adding new elements to enhance the existing program.

Thank you for your support.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC

DONNA MOESSNER

¹⁶ *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.* ~Colossians 3:16

A year ago I wrote about the beginning of our Joyful Sounds Children's Choir which started in February 2018. This choir began with six children, and currently we have 13. They are very faithful in attendance. The congregation has experienced their music about once a month in worship at both services. And the congregation uses rare applause to show their appreciation and support. Our accompanist is Judy Boelts. We could not sing what we sing without her. She is a partner with me and I thank her from the bottom of my heart.

This Christmas we began teaching the program songs to our choir first, then added the Sunday School children during our opening. Our program, "A Very Special Night," was presented at 9 a.m. worship on December 16. Thirty-two children participated in this presentation. I thank Jim Smejkal for all his work with the staging and lighting of the set. Many thanks as well to Kristin Boe for her support, and costuming work. Thanks to Anita Morse and Becky Brusky who sing weekly with the preschoolers. Huge thanks to Pastor Olaf Roynesdal for portraying the shepherd father, and to Ann and Brian Hadfield with baby Winston who were Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. For behind the scenes support, I thank Barb Carlsen and Dulcinea Boesenberg. I am very grateful as well to the parents and grandparents who got their children to Sunday School and the Saturday rehearsals.

We invite any children, grades kindergarten through fifth to join our choir. We rehearse Sundays, 9-9:35 a.m. in the Joyful Sounds Studio upstairs in the Sunday School wing.
It is never too late to join.

Our short music and prayer Sunday School opening is a fun time with the children. Music is part of our Christian education. When children sing Christian songs they remember them. Reflecting on the song's message instills greater knowledge of God and understanding of spiritual truths.

I appreciate our congregation's dedication to Christian education and the musical enrichment for our children.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

During 2018, members of the Archive Committee continued to work on numerous projects. Among these were:

- Framing and hanging confirmation pictures (1914 – 1931) in the new archive room.
- Maintaining the history display case in the fellowship Hall display case.
- Providing the Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS) with a picture of Kountze's World War I Service Flag for their display on the 100th anniversary of the war.
- Conducted tours of Kountze Memorial for visitors from Tanzania and an Ollie the Trolley tour sponsored by the DCHS.
- Researched requests for records of family members and met with two families requesting information.
- Provide an article for the Good News newsletter on the 160th anniversary of Kountze Memorial.
- Chet Worm took Pastor Inba on a tour of Mette Blair's birthplace in Kimballton, Iowa. Mette, a registered nurse who was supported by Kountze, spent 40 years as a Missionary to India. The afternoon was spent touring the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. We will write an article on her life for the Kountze Newsletter.

The Archives received a gift of Volume I and II of the Barker Letters donated by Del Weber who was an Editor of the Letters.

This year our longtime committee chairman, John Davis, resigned and we want to thank him for his dedicated service in digitizing the Kountze Archives. We were also saddened by the passing of Pastor Lavern Larkowski who managed the scanning of Kountze newsletters dating back to the 1890's.

In 2019, we hope to add more volunteers interested in preserving our church history. Current committee members are Chet & Sara Worm, Bob & Carole Woodworth and Terrie Nesselrotte.

Chet Worm
Archives Committee Chairman

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The 20th Annual Neighborhood Gathering - June 24, 2018: Approximately 320 people turned out to break in the Kountze Common's Green space for the Annual Neighborhood Gathering. The new space exceeded everyone's expectations on its versatility and how it lends itself to holding large outdoor functions.

Kids enjoyed the Clowns, Bounce houses as well as the Fire Truck and Police Car that made a brief stop. Adults relaxed in the shade of the tents listening to the Jazz Band. Several visitors stopped to say Thank You for inviting us to the event, it is very rewarding knowing that we make such a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. A special Thank You to all that truly made the event happen we couldn't have done it without you!

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter Catholic Church – 11/22/18 – This meaningful and unique partnership between our two congregations continues to grow. Thanks to the many volunteers, we were able to serve a thanksgiving feast to hundreds in need and those missing family at Thanksgiving.

Advent/Lenten Meals – We served both Lunch and Dinners through the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday saw the highest numbers. During Advent season, dinners were served. Many thanks to all who helped put together and serve these meals during these most holy times.

Church Picnic at Vennelyst Park – Sunday, August 26th, 2018 : The Church picnic was another HUGE success this year. Thanks to all the hard work of the Congregational Activities, Social Ministry and Outreach Committee’s the annual Church Picnic was truly an exceptional event.

Fun and fellowship was had by young and old alike with lots of great food and good weather. The kids enjoyed the clowns, bounce houses, snow cones and bubbles. While the adults engaged in conversation and bingo, who can forget Sheri yelling out “Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner”?

We would also like to extend a special word of thanks to the following companies for helping make the Picnic a success: Optimized Systems for providing the fried chicken, W.J.E. Engineering for supplying the great bingo prizes and giveaways, S.E.I. (Security Equipment) for providing the Combo Castle bounce house and Prairie Mechanical for sponsoring the wild splash slip and slide. Thank you, Sheri Tipton, for doing such an awesome job at calling out the numbers and keeping us all entertained!

Intergenerational Game Night – Friday, March 2018– from 6:00 to 9:00 pm: For a fourth year in a row, families came together for a night of games and fellowship. Pizza and drinks (non-alcoholic of course) were served, and those who came brought snacks to share along with their favorite games. Prizes were given during the evening also. What a great time for young and old alike to spend time getting to know each other better.

Bellevue Berry Farm – October 21, 2:00 - 6:00 PM: Kountze Members and their families came out for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at the Bellevue Berry Farm for a cookout and to explore their pumpkin patch. KMLC provided the hot dogs, chips, beverages and s’mores. All who came had a wonderful time.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Brown & Sherri Labedz are the co-chairs

FOOD PANTRY

2018 Statistics:

	Total	Weekly Average
Individual Guests	16,163	368
Children	4,730	108
Disabled	397	9
Household	10,589	241
First Time Guests	1,636	37

In 2018, the pantry had an increase in first time guests and that number is anticipated to increase. Since Kountze Food Pantry allows guests to come every week they need to supplement their food budget (most other food pantries allow a monthly visit by one person per household address) and each adult over 18 years of age in a household can go through the pantries, Kountze Food Pantry is a welcomed place for numerous households.

Additional freezers (2) and refrigerator (1), now there are three of each, have expanded space so that food items can be ordered from the Food Bank for the Heartland and stored for future distribution. A \$7,000 grant has made it possible to purchase frozen meats which are less expensive than canned beef stew, chicken or tuna. An example, a 1.5 pound package of frozen breaded chicken pieces cost \$.25 where canned chicken or tuna costs \$.79/can and beef stew costs \$1.19/can. Appreciate that the Food Bank for the Heartland has been able to provide these types of savings.

A major portion of the canned foods and cereals are purchased at ALDI. The canned items, in most instances, are purchased at a 10 cent per can savings. ALDI canned items are somewhat healthier.

Fresh produce is always appreciated by the guests. During the summer and fall months, thanks to Chuck Campbell, the Kountze Memorial Garden crew, congregation members and pantry friends, the guests could choose cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, beets and orchard fruits.

Gratitude to all the volunteers who serve at Monday pantries, pick up ALDI orders, pick up bakery items at Hy-Vee stores and watch for sales and purchase foods. These individuals truly understand their responsibilities as servants to "feed the hungry in Christ's name."

Thank you to all who provide financial support as we continue to experience increased cost of food. That goes too for helping provide 300 reusable totes, fully cooked canned hams and quarts of shelf sustainable milk for the 310 holiday meal bags – Saint Michael Lutheran Church provided all of the canned corn and green beans, mashed potatoes, stuffing, canned cranberries, pineapple, fruit cocktail plus financial gifts for hams, milk and totes.

In partnership with Methodist Community Health Systems, monthly health emphases are provided at pantries. They have also provide flu vaccine shots, healthy food ideas and coupons, resources about various cancers and these month offerings will continue in 2019.

In Gratitude. . .

Joyce "JP" Palmer, Pantry Director

GLOBAL MISSION

This past year proved to be a year of continued global mission support in the form of prayer, communication, and financial support for our missionaries and also for people in need in Omaha and various parts of the world. Thanks to the generosity of Kountze members, the Global Missions Committee was able to achieve the following projects in 2018:

- Support of four missionaries: Rev. Chandran Paul Martin in India, Meghan Brown Saavedra in Mexico, Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson in Tanzania, Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan in Argentina. In July, the Global Mission Committee hosted Argentina missionary Krystle Moraska, husband Ignacio and 2 year old son. Krystal gave informative and moving sermons at all 3 of Kountze's services the weekend they were here. She also gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining her missionary work and the Youth Adults in Global Mission (YGAM) program she heads in Argentina and Uruguay. The committee and pastors also hosted a lunch for Krystal and family at the Upstream Brewery before they left.
- An on-going Sister Congregation relationship with the American Church in Berlin that lasted until the end of the Luther Decade in December 2017.
- Provided new support for the Wittenberg Center in Germany where Kountze has had members and pastors participate in programs and visit during the past several years. The Rev. Robert G. Moore, PHD and wife, Kathy visited Kountze last summer. The mission work and current construction at the Wittenberg Center is led by Rev Moore.
- Another generous year for alternative gifts for local and worldwide needs. This year \$11,578 was raised from Alternative Gifts. \$1245 was raised for the Kountze Food Pantry and \$1440 for the Healing Gift Free Clinic. Since 2004 when the program at Kountze began, Alternative Gifts has raised \$163,837 for those less fortunate in other parts of the world.
- Committee members Jonna Holland and Carol Stoltenberg spoke about their individual visits to Tanzania at a Sunday morning Forum in November.

Our overall goal for the coming year is to increase the awareness and participation of the congregation in Kountze's long tradition mission of being a Worldwide Church. Specifically, we will be working to accomplish the following:

1. Continuing our support for four missionaries around the world.
2. Redefining our relationship with the American Church in Berlin.
3. Continuing the Alternative Gift program.

4. Determining other goals for the committee in 2019.

Submitted by Carol Stoltenberg, Committee Chairperson
Scott Henneman, Church Council Liaison

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

The Kountze Media and Tech Committee oversees our TV ministry, audio-visual systems, church website, and social media pages, church computers, internet streaming and more.

Since 1962, our Sunday worship telecasts have been a meaningful and vital ministry to those in our community who cannot worship with us in person. We continue to broadcast live each Sunday on Cox Cable Channel 13. We also televise our 7 PM Christmas Eve service.

Every weekly live stream now has a consistent viewership base of 30 plus viewers.

We continue to look for additional sound and TV ministry volunteers, anyone interested please contact any of the committee members.

Our thanks to the members of the Media and Technology Committee: Mike Bratcher, Julie Bratcher, Brent Rasmussen, Chad Picha, as well as the TV ministry volunteers.

We look forward to continuing to use media and technology to enhance our worship, growth and service at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Ron Brown, Media and Tech Committee Chair

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee exists to deepen the spiritual life of our members, to invite and welcome guests, visitors, and neighbors with authentic and compassionate hospitality, and to gather us into an enriching faith community, so that our congregation can continue to grow and make lifelong disciples of Christ. In 2018, Kountze Memorial received around 40 new members including about 13 by baptism. We welcomed more than 500 known guests in worship. We also experienced a renaissance of our Sunday School programs that consistently attracted upwards of 40 children each week.

The committee has greatly benefited from the active work of Gloria Erickson, Ann Miller, and JoDee Klinker, who help with new member lunches and outreach to members who may not have been around in some time.

The committee hosted three new member sessions over the course of the year. The sessions are two classes led by the Rev. Ashley Hall and Rev. Olaf Roynesdal, introducing new members to Luther and Lutheranism, and the history and mission of Kountze. A welcome packet is provided to every new member that includes a ministry handbook, information on our children, youth, and family ministries, as well as stewardship, and a current Good News newsletter. Photographs are taken and included in a special insert in the monthly newsletter and added to the church directory.

During these classes, many shared that they were drawn to Kountze Memorial for a variety of reasons, including the traditional worship, music, hospitality, the church building, outreach ministries, children and youth ministries, and breakfasts. Most heard about Kountze Memorial through family or friends, our church website, and by driving by. Many new members also shared that they visited other Lutheran churches before Kountze and there were very few negatives when they visited us.

The Outreach Committee also coordinated our print ads for Christmas and Easter, and assisted with Lenten meals, the Neighborhood Gathering and Church Picnic.

Goals for 2019 include:

- Continue to connect with and encourage participation of our inactive members
- Manage the church website and social media so that it best meets our needs
- Further utilize the Welcome Center (Fellowship Hall) & Guest Info Center (Narthex), as well as capitalizing on the new building at KMLC.
- Design print and social media ads for Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, and more

If you are interested in helping with the Outreach Committee, please contact us. Committee members are needed to help with various projects and events.

Faithfully submitted,
Adam Klinker, Church Council Representative

PROPERTY

The Property Committee is responsible to maintain and or improve the Church's Physical Plant.

The Property Committee manages the Church Building only. Kountze Commons management company, CBRE/MEGA, manages Kountze Commons and the entire exterior Kountze Church/Kountze Commons Campus

Items that were accomplished are:

- Sanctuary Structural Repairs contract award and start of repairs
- Mechanical Penthouse roof joist support repairs
- Selecting the Conrad Schmitt Studio to repair the exterior Sanctuary lead glass window repairs
- Ongoing replacement, repairs and maintenance of equipment and physical plant

Items that will be addressed in 2019

- Completion of Sanctuary structural repairs
- Completion of Sanctuary decorative beams and trim repair
- Sanctuary lead glass windows and skylight dome repairs
- Tuck Pointing exterior masonry joints

With the addition of Jim Smejkal to the Church staff the cost of repairs and maintenance of the Church facility has been reduced as Jim has been capable and able to provide timely repairs and maintenance that has been previously provided by subcontractors.

Don and Søren Johnson have volunteered to provide masonry tuck pointing which results in saving the Church the expense of having this work provided by subcontractors

Paul Sum
Chairman, Property Committee

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church continues to be not only a place of worship for members and guests, but also a place that serves our community. Our outreach positively affects many lives. We continue to provide support through the Healing Clinic and the Food Pantry, with the help and generosity of countless people. These services truly impact those who are in need.

Our Eucharistic Ministry for those who are not able to regularly attend worship is growing with more volunteers. Those who serve bless those who are served. Fellowship comes in many forms at Kountze, including Bible studies,

quilting, the Men's Luncheons, Yesterdays Youth gatherings, delivering altar flowers, breakfast during the Forum time, and countless others.

Some of the highlights of the past year include the following:

Friends and Family Gathering

Members who are not always able to attend worship were invited for a lovely meal in the Link. Transportation was provided for those who needed it. Marlys Duin planned and prepared a wonderful meal which was served by both adult and youth volunteers. The tables were nicely decorated. It was inspiring to see members connect with friends that they are not able to see on a regular basis. At the end of the meal, on their way to a service with Holy Communion, our youth volunteers handed out a bag of homemade cookies for the guests to take home. Thanks to Barb Chrisman for baking all of them and Jean Johnson and Dayle Johnson for packaging them so nicely.

Neighborhood Gathering and Church Picnic

The Neighborhood Gathering continues to be a wonderful way for Kountze to reach out to our community. Again this requires countless volunteers. It was great to use our new outdoor space for a time of food, fun and music. The church picnic was well attended with good food, fellowship, and fun activities for the kiddos. Jim Smejkal is especially thanked for making these gatherings run smoothly.

Interfaith Service

Kountze was honored to once again host an Interfaith Service prior to Thanksgiving. The service is always inspiring and a great reminder of the ways that we are linked to believers of all faiths. Prior to the service Marcia Roynesdal, leaders of other churches and myself hosted a gathering for the youths of all churches involved. Although we had several activities planned, it ended up with the youths getting to know one another, playing games and enjoying a meal together. We took time out from the activities asking the kiddos to introduce themselves, name their place of worship and answer the question "How would you describe God?" Their answers were amazing. We then attended the service, and following, several of them returned to the youth room to finish a game of pool, grab another slice of pizza or just hang out for a while. There were many comments that "we need to keep doing this." First United Methodist Church is planning to host a youth gathering in March.

Middle School Lock In

Although the Lock In may fall under the category of Christian Education, I feel it is important to not exclude our youth when we think of social ministry. They are the future of our church. Marcia Roynesdal and I sponsored a Lock In following the Advent Hymn Service. Again, we had many activities planned, most of which we did not get to. Our youth and some of their friends shared food and fellowship. Later in the evening, some worked with Marcia baking and decorating cookies, while others worked with me making personalized tags for the bags of cookies that were handed out to food pantry guests. During the packaging time all the kiddos were in the kitchen, having a great time, and singing together. It was inspiring to say the least.

The ways we reach out to others, members, guests, our community, takes all of us. Some serve in big ways, some in small ways, but all service makes a difference. Thank you to all who serve.

Respectfully Submitted
Melissa Osentowski

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Through visits, phone calls, written communication, and prayer, Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to those in the KMLC congregation and the community who are experiencing the death of a loved one, health or aging issues, relationship changes, a time of crisis, or other difficulties.

Stephen Ministers have received instruction in listening, maintaining confidentiality, praying with and for others, and reflecting Christ's love and caring. They meet regularly for additional training and guidance and are devoted to our Christian caregiving mission and to the people who share their journeys with us.

Anyone who wants to find out more about meeting with a Stephen Minister or becoming a Stephen Minister themselves can contact one of the leaders or the church office. One of the activities planned for this year is an educational outreach program for those who are interested in learning more about Christian caregiving.

Donna Reinig and Diana Wendt—Leaders
Pastor Inbarasu—Advisor

STEWARDSHIP

2018 yielded \$745,470 in total offertory pledges. The Stewardship Committee is happy to report our congregation exceeded that pledge amount with a total 2018 offertory giving of \$815,397.49. Praise be to God!

YEAR	NUMBER	TOTAL	PER HOUSEHOLD
2018	271	\$745,470	\$2,750.81
2017	267	\$743,950	\$2,786.33
2016	328	\$778,100	\$2,372.26
2015	302	\$764,285	\$2,530.75
2014	281	\$756,287	\$2,691.41
2013	282	\$753,453	\$2,671.82

2019 Preview: Our Stewardship theme is: In this place ... I belong. The theme for this upcoming year reminds our congregation of its renewed commitment to the community - through Kountze Commons. The theme also emphasizes the different ways in which each person contributes to the church through their personal gifts, volunteer hours, and financial offerings, thus creating a church where we all belong.

YEAR	NUMBER	TOTAL	PER HOUSEHOLD
*2019	213	\$649,152	\$3,047.66

* Pledge cards are still coming in to the church office. These numbers are current as of 1/15/19.

Thank you to the generosity of all our parishioners. Specifically, thank you to all our volunteers who assisted with the mailings and handouts.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Miller

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Purpose - "A community of women created in the image of God to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world

KOUNTZE WOMEN OF THE ELCA activities included:

- 4 funeral lunches served by the circle members
- Magdalene Omaha/Thistle Lights in Omaha helps young girls who were abducted, Lutheran Home, Project Hope, the sewing group, Thank offering, Healing Clinic, Lutheran World Postage, Campus Ministry, UNL, Youth Emergency Services, Kountze Staff appreciation,

W/ELCA special offerings for 2018:

- Jan UNO Campus Ministry \$210
- Feb KMLC TV sponsorship \$250
- Mar Lutheran Home \$160
- April Kountze Sewing group \$200
- May Project Hope \$195
- June Healing Gift Clinic \$222

- July LWR postage for quilts \$241
- August LWR health and school kits \$123
- Sept Campus Ministry UNL \$200
- Oct Youth Emergency Services \$220
- Nov Kountze Food Pantry \$300
- Dec Thank Offering \$166

We sent 203 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Also sent were 16 personal Care Kits and 9 school kits. Quilts were given to several seniors graduating from High schools.

Kountze members belong to the Lutheran Women of Omaha, and churches take turns hosting. Kountze Hosted in November, and participated the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's Metro East Spring gathering.

We held our Christmas Tea on December 1. The weather was a little snowy and our scheduled entertainer lives in Lincoln and wasn't able to be here. The son-in-law of one of the attendees came and sang Christmas songs with us instead. A good time was had by all!

There are 3 circles that meet every month at different times and days. We would be happy if there is anyone who would like to join.

Linda Johnson, Coordinator
Chris Kendall, Treasurer

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Committee Members: Senior Pastor, Olaf Roynesdal, Director of Music and Fine Arts, Barb Carlsen, Director of Children's' Music, Donna Moessner, Director of Youth Choir, Janet Campbell, Director of Bell Choir, Danny Bos, and members at large, Jon Natvig, June Anderson, Jeff and Robin Perkins, Linda Johnson, Rev. Stephen Pera, and Deb Hinrichs. Committee membership changes to note are the resignation of Danny Bos, the temporary leave of absence by Stephen Pera, and the retirement of Linda Johnson.

The 2018 Worship and Music Committee (the committee), under the leadership of Senior Pastor, Olaf Roynesdal, focused on their goal to provide spiritual and meaningful worship to the congregation and guests of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Primary efforts included the scheduling and planning of weekly worship services. Each service requires the combined commitment and participation of the Altar Guild, Order of St. John, ushers, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, bell choir members, children's and youth choir members, and Kountze adult choir members. The committee would like to thank the members of each of these groups for their time and commitment, special gifts, and the contributions they make to the Kountze Memorial worship experience.

In addition to the traditional Saturday evening and Sunday morning services, the Committee planned and implemented mid-week services during Lent and Advent seasons, Holy Week services, as well as special services for Easter, Reformation, Candlelight Carol Service, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and other church holidays. Our noontime Lenten services featured meditations on the "5 Solas," while the evening services featured inner city congregational lay speakers sharing what it means to be Lutheran in an urban congregation. The Holden Evening Prayer format provided the liturgy for our mid-week Advent services. Pastor Roynesdal, Pastor Hall, and Pastor Inbarasu brought us 3 sermons at noon and at 6:30 PM. The mid-week Eucharist continues each Wednesday at 12:15 PM.

On May 10th Kountze Memorial joined Trinity Episcopal for the joint Ascension Day service. Adult choirs from both churches joined together to bring us the evening's anthem.

The Youth Choir, under the leadership of Janet Campbell, presented a spring concert entitled, "Lift Up Your Voice and With Us Sing." The program featured songs, instrumental music, and readings praising God for our beautiful creation.

Donna Moessner continues in her position as Director of Children's Music and is working in conjunction with the Christian Education Department to incorporate music into the teaching curriculum as well as directing the Children's Choir. Children, Kindergarten through grade 5, are invited to join the "Joyful Noise Choir," and participation has doubled since its creation.

Kountze Memorial hosted the 23rd annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 18th. Members from several congregations joined to provide special music for this service.

December 15th marked our 6th Candlelight Carol Service. This outstanding evening, organized by Janet Campbell along with the leaders of our other music groups, and special musical artists, provided us with an additional opportunity to experience all of the beauty of Advent and Christmas music and message. The continued success of this service can be measured by the continued strong attendance, enthusiastic participation of all music choirs and youth, and the positive feedback from all who attended. The Church Council helped host and serve an appetizer and dessert reception following this beautiful service.

During 2018, the Committee continued to support a third communion station when larger attendance is anticipated. Altar Guild and OSJ members conducted their own retreat/training sessions. Communion assistants are assisting with acolyte responsibilities at both Sunday services when the need arises. On April 15th, a commissioning service and luncheon were held for the OSJ. Pastor Ashley Hall continues to schedule and provide training for all those who assist with worship, including communion assistants, ushers, greeters, and lectors.

The Committee continues to endorse the printing of the Liturgy and Lessons in each week's bulletin in order to provide smooth and meaningful worship guidelines for members and guests. We believe this format continues to provide the clearest transition through all of the essential components of worship.

The Committee would like to recognize the many and outstanding contributions of Barb Carlsen, Mark Jones, David Gerard, Janet Campbell, Danny Bos and Donna Moessner for the ongoing talent they share with our church community.

We remain committed to providing a traditional-style worship service. Exploring ways to offer a more extensive and vibrant worship life will continue to be our primary goal as we continue to provide a worship atmosphere at each service that is spiritual, liturgical, and meaningful for all who attend.

Deb Hinrichs, Worship and Music Committee Member



BOARD REPORTS

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Endowment Fund (the Endowment) was established to extend and enhance the mission outreach of the church beyond and apart from the programs, ministries and work of the congregation that is normally supported through regular offerings and pledges. Capital improvements, community and Synodical ministries, national and global ministries, and Kountze media ministries are specific benevolence and outreach purposes of the Endowment.

The Board of Directors (the Board) is charged with the supervision, management, investment and administration of the Endowment. In pursuit of those duties, the Board has established an investment policy which it monitors with assistance from Cambridge Advisors, Inc.

Year end 2018 financials for the Endowment were not available in time for this report, however, as of November 30 total Endowment assets were \$14,693,361 with the largest individual asset being the investment in the Kountze Endowment True Vision, LLC (the "LLC") for \$9,139,344 (land and building). Debt associated with the LLC was \$3,655,189.

The Endowment's investment portfolio, excluding the investment in the LLC, was valued at \$4,563,023 as of December 31, 2018. The Board continues to utilize a broadly diversified portfolio implemented using very low cost exchange traded funds. The portfolio is allocated to US stocks, non-US stocks, US bonds, non-US bonds, real estate via the LLC, and cash. All investment strategies are passively managed. The weighted average annual investment management fee for the portfolio, excluding real estate, is approximately 0.07%, and is unchanged from the prior year.

For calendar year 2018 the investment portfolio of the Endowment returned -4.2%, net of investment fees, mirroring the custom benchmark return of -4.4%. As expected, our passive portfolio tracked the custom benchmark very closely. The Endowment's target asset allocation remained at 60% equity and 40% fixed income and cash. This asset allocation is expected to generate the long-term returns necessary to support our goals without taking undue risk.

The Board met six times in 2018 and approved grants consistent with our bylaws in the amount of \$169,530. A detailed listing of the grant recipients is provided below:

<u>2018 Grant Recipients</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands	\$5,000
Midland University	\$10,000
National Lutheran Choir	\$5,000
NE Synod, ELCA Missionary Support	\$10,000
Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$10,000
Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries – Carol Joy Holling	\$5,000
Lutheran Volunteer Corp	\$2,500
Table Grace Café	\$5,000
Wittenberg Center	\$5,000
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church	
- Media Ministry	\$21,401
- Rent for Clinic and Pantry	\$90,629
Total Disbursements	<u>\$169,530</u>

Given the illiquid nature of the LLC, the Board excludes its value from the annual calculation used to determine the funds available for distribution. For calendar year 2019 the Endowment has \$225,809 available for distribution, of which \$90,629 is earmarked for the payment of rent for the Church's Pantry and Clinic ministries.

There were two membership changes to the Endowment Fund during 2019. Dale Broekemeier's term expired in August and the Congregation appointed Mike Edris to fill the vacancy. Second, Bob Fonda's one-year term as the Council's representative to the Endowment Fund expired and Steve Jacobson, as Vice President of the Church Council, assumed the vacated seat. The Endowment officers for 2019 are as follows:

Chair: Micah Fannin (four-year term expires August 2019)

Vice-Chair: Gary Clatterbuck (four-year term expires August 2020)

Secretary: Sarah Penn (four-year term expires August 2021)

Endowment Fund's representative on the Management Board of KETV, LLC: Mike Edris (four-year term expires August 2022)

Council Representative & Treasurer: Steve Jacobson (one-year term expires August 2019)

deFREESE MANOR

deFreese Manor is run by the non-profit Kountze Memorial, Inc. The board is made up of members of Kountze and the church council. Our population is 78% over 70 years old with the average age is 74 ½ and men making up 36% of the community. Our mission is to serve those over 62 on a very limited income. We have a HUD Section 8 contract to assist with rents.

This year we have:

- Started reconditioning kitchen apartments beginning with our five ADA apartments. These were completed just before the new year. While three apartments were unoccupied during the renovations, two were completed while residents were gone over the holidays.
- Replaced the bench in front of the Manor with two new decorative metal benches that match the Kountze Commons tables and bench in the courtyard area.

In 2019 we plan replace our kitchens cabinets, flooring, appliances and bathroom vanities in 10 additional apartments.

We are looking for volunteers available to drive our bus on Tuesday mornings to the grocery store. No Commercial Driver's License is necessary.

Thank you for your continued support our mission working with seniors.

Financial figures from 2018 were:

INCOME:	
Rent	\$ 544,618
Interest & other revenue	5,200
SC Grant	26,889
Total Income	<u>\$ 576,707</u>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS:	
	<u>\$ 115,071</u>
EXPENSES:	
Administrative	\$ 102,825
Utilities	48,021
Operating & Maintenance	146,709
Taxes & Insurance	47,743
Mortgage, Int. & Ins	53,782
Service Coordinator	27,361
Depreciation	35,195
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 461,636</u>

ASSETS:	
Cash	\$ 12,687
Reserves	264,770
FIXED ASSETS:	
Land	129,000
Building	2,575,161
Equipment & Vehicles	733,315
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,850,194)
Net Property & Equip.	<u>587,282</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 864,739</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Mortgage Payable	\$ 1,597,361
Other Payables & Deposits	<u>34,854</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,632,215</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Unrestricted Net Assets	(774,271)
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	<u>6,795</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>(767,476)</u>

An audit report and a complete financial statement submitted to HUD will be available in the deFreese Manor office, 2669 Dodge, Omaha, NE 68131. Applications are available online or from the Manor's office upon request. Please feel free to call 402-345-0622 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the manor.

Respectfully Submitted:
 Scott Henneman, President
 Sharon West, Project Administrator

HEALING GIFT FREE CLINIC

The Healing Gift Free Clinic (HGFC) is now a 501(c)(3) qualified charity. Early in 2018, the congregation made it possible for Healing Gift Free Clinic to become a corporation rather than a LLC (Limited Liability Corporation solely owned by the congregation) and, following a detailed application process, the IRS provided a Letter of Determination as a qualified 501(c)(3) charity.

A dedicated group pursues applying for foundations grants and inviting individuals to financially support the operation of HGFC. Medications are a major expense of HGFC's annual operation cost as noted below. The Clinic Pharmacy volunteers continue to find ways to provide medications to HGFC patients at economical prices and they work with patients to qualify them for pharmaceutical companies' Patient Assistance Program (PAP) securing newer medications and have found programs the HGFC physicians can obtain free medication samples distributed from the Doctors' Sample Pharmacy.

Healing Gift Free Clinic continues with the same mission serving individuals who are undeserved or cannot afford primary health care. Statistics for 2018:

Patient Visits	1,594
Weeks of Clinic	48
Rx's Filled	9,729

Cost of Rx's	\$71,360.47
Average Weekly Patient Cost	\$ 34.36
Average Rx Cost	\$ 6.95
Average Cost Per Patient	\$ 44.04

This vital Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church outreach ministry is accomplished by 40- 50 weekly volunteers (physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, lay persons, medical students, nursing students, pharmacy students) every Thursday. Students come from Creighton University, UNO, Nursing College of St. Mary, Methodist Nursing School, Purdue Global Nursing School. Thursday clinics may look chaotic, but amazing health care is provided - it is a place where highly experience medical providers and current learners work together to heal mind, soul and spirit of the patients.

Adam Klinker, a long-distance Wartburg Seminary student, is serving as the HGFC Chaplain. He is supervised in this internship position by Rev. Dr. H. Ashley Hall. Thankful for his presence for both patients and the volunteers.

When HGFC moved into Kountze Commons space, the patient medical charts had to be changed. Because of opened mindedness of the HGFC board and volunteers, these charts are again being improved through extra hours by volunteers.

Healing Gift Free Clinic Board of Directors: Steve Coufal (Chair), Dr. Bob Fonda (Vice Chair), Ben Branigan, Larry Camenzind, Chaitri DeSai, Dr. Dave Felber, Dr. Jerry Fischer, Rev. Dr. H. Ashley Hall, Bryan Handlos (Legal Counsel), David Klug, Chris Morrow, Dr. Tyler Willson, and Jenna Woster.

Joyce C. Palmer, Clinic Coordinator
KMLC Urban Ministry Coordinator



PROPOSED BUDGET 2019

	<u>Budget 2018</u>		<u>Budget 2019</u>	
<u>Receipts</u>				
General Fund	\$ 841,000		\$ 960,204	
Special Services	\$ 18,000		\$ 25,000	
Loose Offering	\$ 26,500		\$ 12,000	
Investment Income	\$ 4,000		\$ 6,000	
Restricted Donations			\$ 5,000	
Other Donations	\$ 25,800		\$ 30,000	
Other Income			\$ 25,000	
Released from Restriction	\$ 24,900			
Released from Designation				
Reimb Pantry/Clinic	\$ 31,000			
Donations Collected for others				
Memorials				
Endowment Grants				
Kountze Commons				
In Kind				
Special Gifts to General Fund				
<u>Total Receipts</u>	\$ 971,200		\$ 1,063,204	
<u>Expenses</u>				
<i>Benevolence</i>				
Nebraska Synod	\$ 125,000		\$ 30,000	
Social Ministry				
Kountze Food Pantry				
Benson Area Refuge Task Force				
Healing Gift Free Clinic				
ELCA Alternative Gifts				
World Hunger				
Disaster Relief				
USA for UNHCR				
<i>Total</i>	\$ 125,000	11%	\$ 30,000	3%
<i>Christian Education</i>				
Children's Ministries	\$ 4,000		\$ 2,200	
Library/Media	\$ 750		\$ 750	
Adult Education	\$ 250		\$ 250	
Seasonal Gatherings	\$ 1,000			
Other Christian Education			\$ 1,000	
Nursery Supplies	\$ 100			
Camp Scholarships	\$ 300			
Devotional Literature	\$ 3,000		\$ 1,000	
<i>Total</i>	\$ 9,400	1%	\$ 5,200	0%

<i>Facility Costs</i>				
Organ	\$	2,000		\$ 2,000
Piano	\$	500		\$ 300
Handbell	\$	500		
Insurance	\$	26,000		\$ 24,000
Custodial Supplies	\$	7,000		\$ 5,000
Snow Removal	\$	20,000		\$ 25,000
Garbage	\$	2,500		\$ 3,250
Permits/Fees	\$	500		\$ 2,500
Repairs/Maintenance	\$	70,000		\$ 97,000
Lawn Care	\$	8,000		\$ 4,000
Utilities	\$	60,000		\$ 55,000
Going Green	\$	200		
HVAC Mgmt	\$	10,000		\$ 7,500
Property/Equipment	\$	10,000		\$ 16,000
Church Van	\$	500		\$ 500
Security Services	\$	3,500		\$ 3,500
Kountze Commons Debt				
Total	\$	221,200	19%	\$ 245,550 23%
<i>Compensation</i>				
Clergy	\$	252,367		\$ 230,400
Program	\$	44,920		\$ 90,620
Music	\$	63,100		\$ 59,160
Office/Custodial	\$	192,950		\$ 143,000
Taxes/Benefits	\$	144,419		\$ 145,241
Other PR Costs	\$	6,000		\$ 3,000
Total	\$	703,756	60%	\$ 671,421 63%
<i>Worship & Music</i>				
Adult Choir	\$	700		\$ 1,500
Handbell Choir				\$ -
Children's Choir	\$	250		\$ 250
MS/HS Choir	\$	200		\$ 200
Instrumentalists/Vocalist	\$	11,200		\$ 8,000
Altar Guild	\$	1,300		\$ 1,300
Copyright Fees	\$	850		\$ 1,200
Speakers/Pulpit Supply	\$	700		\$ 1,000
Worship Supplies	\$	1,200		\$ 1,500
Nursery Attendants	\$	800		
Other Worship	\$	1,600		\$ 500
Flowers & Candles	\$	4,500		\$ 1,200
Total	\$	23,300	2%	\$ 16,650 2%

Youth				
Youth Programs	\$ 3,500		\$ 1,100	
Conferences			\$ -	
Confirmation	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	
Youth Trip	\$ 4,000		\$ 7,200	
Scholarships				
Order of St John	\$ 500		\$ 300	
Total	\$ 9,500	1%	\$ 10,100	1%
Parish Life				
Stewardship	\$ 3,000		\$ 2,000	
Outreach/TV Ministry	\$ 675		\$ 2,200	
Cong Events/Act	\$ 8,000		\$ 3,300	
Food/Refreshments	\$ 30,000		\$ 24,250	
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 5,000		\$ 850	
Conferences	\$ 1,200		\$ 750	
Archives	\$ 300		\$ 300	
Caring Ministries	\$ 300		\$ 300	
Total	\$ 48,475	4%	\$ 33,950	3%
Office & Administration				
Postage	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000	
Office Supplies	\$ 7,500		\$ 10,000	
Off Envelopes	\$ 4,300		\$ 4,500	
Telephone	\$ 5,100		\$ 7,500	
Bank/Vanco Charges	\$ 4,000		\$ 3,000	
Computer Stuff	\$ 5,400		\$ 5,500	
Bank Courier	\$ 1,150			
Office Equip/Maint	\$ 5,150		\$ 5,500	
Investment Fees				
Fundraising				
Professional Fees				
Vehicle	\$ 120		\$ 500	
Other Office			\$ 6,000	
Total	\$ 38,720	3%	\$ 48,500	5%
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,179,351		\$ 1,061,371	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 971,200		\$ 1,063,204	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,179,351		\$ 1,061,371	
	\$ (208,151)		\$ 1,833	

DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds Collected and Due to Other Organizations

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Alternative Gifts	\$ 8,412	\$ 1,585
Capital Campaign	172,302	215,047
ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief	670	2,395
Healing Gift Free Clinic	26,767	31,141
Lutheran National Choir		16,430
Phase 2 - Debt Reduction		23,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 208,151	\$ 289,798

Council Designated Funds

Unrestricted	\$	\$ 128,911
	(19,606)	
Extraordinary Gifts	277,985	16,420
Memorials - Undesignated	15,090	20,139
Vehicle Replacement	13,297	13,297
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 286,766	\$ 178,767

Restricted Funds

Assistance	\$ 14,346	\$ 11,528
Global Mission	500	-
Caring/Health Ministries	253	253
Bible Fund	2,075	1,822
Endowment Grants	4,523	16,951
Heat Aid	730	547
Hymnals	1,578	1,578
Kountze Food Pantry	21,289	29,761
Media/TV Ministry	6,197	-
Special Music	45,489	34,179
Pastor's Discretionary	3,616	2,651
Property	146,055	206,518
Youth Trip	600	-
Scholarship Fund	184,034	163,017
Christian Education		252,605
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 431,285	\$ 721,410

Total Funds	\$ 926,202	\$ 1,189,975
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Cash & Investments	\$ 698,643	\$ 1,202,337
Due from Affiliates	271,827	-
Accounts Payable		
	(44,268)	(12,362)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets	\$ 926,202	\$ 1,189,975

KOUNTZE ENDOWMENT TRUE VISION, LLC

	2018	2017
Checking/Savings	\$ 729,196	\$ 645,192
Due From Church	\$ 27,911	\$ -
Due from Tenant for Improvements	\$ -	\$ 641,334
Building	\$ 5,319,890	\$ 7,470,029
Land	\$ 3,804,572	\$ 2,244,729
Accounts and Retainage Payable	\$ -	\$ (576,688)
Loan/Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ (4,957,519)
Advanced by Church	\$ -	\$ (260,000)
MIF Building Loan	\$ (3,637,508)	
Net Assets	<u>\$ 6,244,061</u>	<u>\$ 5,207,077</u>
Capital Campaign Contributions and Foundation Grants	\$ 1,498,377	\$ 1,926,308
Rent	\$ 205,017	\$ 44,696
Interest and Other Income	\$ 1,348	\$ 1,323
Property Maintenance and Utilities	\$ (122,361)	\$ (40,474)
Loan Interest	\$ (173,825)	\$ (35,534)
Depreciation	\$ (184,944)	
Bank Charges and Other	\$ -	\$ (58)
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,223,612</u>	<u>\$ 1,896,261</u>

The Kountze Commons Facility is complete and is a true testament of Kountze Church and Partners as being "In the City for Good"

The four tenants are up and running and the facility has a positive operating budget that is funded by Fifteen Year tenant leases with two Five Year renewable options

CBRE/MEGA is managing the facility and entire exterior Kountze campus

The Kountze Commons Board is now meeting on a quarterly basis in lieu of the monthly basis during the past

Board members are:

Paul Sum	President
Deborah Hinrichs	Secretary
Marylin Oldaker	Treasurer
Lynn Meyer	Board Member
Mike Edris	Bd. Member & Kountze Endowment Bd. Member

Kountze Commons is owned by Kountze Endowment

As of 12/31/2018 the \$5,500,000 Mission Investment Construction Loan principal has been reduced to \$3,637,508.26. With continued financial support this will be paid in full

The commitments for the 2019 Capital Campaign to date is \$240,000

Paul Sum
Kountze Endowment True Vision

MEMORIAL FUND

RECEIPTS

Music	\$ 190
Pantry	\$ 360
Other	\$ 5,320
Clinic	\$ 1,140

Total \$ 7,010

EXPENDITURES

As Designated \$ 3,089

INCREASE IN MEMORIAL FUND \$ 3,921

BEGINNING BALANCE \$ 16,218

ENDING BALANCE \$ 20,139

Undesignated memorial gifts are utilized at the direction of the Church Council for unbudgeted needs such as office and computer equipment.

CONGREGATIONAL TREND REPORT

Baptized Membership at end of 2017

Baptized Members received during 2018

- a. By Baptism: children (15 yrs. and younger)
- b. By Baptism: adults (15 yrs. and older)
- c. By affirmation of faith
- d. By transfer
- e. From other sources and statistical adjustments
- f. Total members received this year

Baptized Members removed during 2018

- a. By death
- b. By transfer
- c. For other reasons and statistical adjustment
- d. Total members removed this year

Baptized Membership, end of 2018

Total Confirmed Membership, end of 2018

Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2018

Average weekly worship attendance in 2018

	1964
12	
1	
10	
15	
2	
+	40
8	
8	
3	
-	19
=	1985

1453

10

440

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2650 FARNAM STREET
OMAHA, NE 68131

Phone: 402-341-7761
Fax: 402-341-4841
Email: info@kmlchurch.org
Web Page: <http://www.kmlchurch.org>

A City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2019

Steve Jacobson
Adam Klinker
Robin Perkins
Ashley Sum

TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2020

Don Burton
Bob Fonda
Rick Kolkman
Melissa Osentowski

TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2021

Scott Henneman
Ann Miller
Chad Picha
Michael Jensen

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal..... Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue..... Office Manager
Sarah Jewell Administrative Assistant
Steve Jacobson Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
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

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms 13
Marriages 7
Funerals 11

MEMBERSHIP

Children (Not Confirmed) 532
Confirmed 1453
Baptized 1985
Average Weekly Attendance 440

FINANCES

Total Receipts \$ 1,175,157
Total Expenditures \$ 1,108,009
ELCA/Synod Mission Support \$ 51,250
Other Benevolence \$ 95,664
In the City for Good Project \$ 1,573,990
Total Assets \$ 17,423,911

2018 ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSE

Actual 2018

Receipts

General Fund	\$	891,053
Special Services	\$	23,841
Loose Offering	\$	26,500
Investment Income	\$	2,479
Special Gifts	\$	150,000

Total **\$ 1,093,873**

Building Maintenance	\$	77,765
Special Gift	\$	40,000

Total **\$ 117,765**

Other Donations	\$	19,560
Alternate Gifts	\$	8,712
Other Income	\$	17,478
Youth Events	\$	10,817
Seminars	\$	460
Misc	\$	4,409

Total **\$ 61,436**

Memorials

General	\$	6,070
Clinic	\$	1,140
Pantry	\$	360
Music	\$	190

Total **\$ 7,760**

Grand Total Church Giving **\$ 1,280,834**

Capital Campaign

Pledges	\$	353,140
Outside Gifts	\$	1,120,372
Phase II	\$	23,200
Special Gifts	\$	100,000

Total **\$ 1,596,712**

Bequest - Christian Education **\$ 253,048**

Donations - ELCA **\$ 5,065**

Kitchen

Proceeds	\$	21,002
Expense	\$	30,633
Net	\$	(9,631)

Pantry

Proceeds	\$	69,723
Expense	\$	62,392
Net	\$	7,331

Clinic

Proceeds	\$	56,905
Expense	\$	40,417
Net	\$	16,488

Expenses

Benevolence	\$	51,250
Christian Education	\$	11,005
Worship & Music	\$	32,026
Youth	\$	24,389
Global Missions	\$	6,402
Outreach	\$	4,337
Congregational Activities	\$	5,396
Caring Ministries	\$	3,783
Compensation & Benefits	\$	676,641
Property	\$	279,733
Office	\$	51,668

Total **\$ 1,146,630**

Church Operating Income

Offerings	\$	1,093,873
Building Maintenance	\$	117,765
Other	\$	61,436
Memorials	\$	7,760
Subtotal	\$	1,280,834
Released from Restriction	\$	57,595
Endowment Grants	\$	67,784
Grand Total Church Operating	\$	1,406,213
Church Operating Expenses	\$	1,146,630 *
Net for 2018	\$	259,583

*Our expenses were met by three special gifts of 150,000 for church operating

Total Giving by Congregation

Church Income	\$	1,280,834
Capital Campaign	\$	476,340
Pantry	\$	69,723
Healing Gift Free Clinic	\$	56,905
Food & Refreshments	\$	21,002
Total	\$	1,904,804

Thank you for your generous support of the ministries of Kountze Memorial. Thank you to the Lundeen Family for a bequest of \$253,048 to assist in Christian Education. Earnings only are to be used.

With the sanctuary roof and several other facility needs, we need to continue to focus on stewardship to meet our needs for ministry and to maintain our church home!