

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

March 6, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT



These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you:

we have not trusted your promises,

we have ignored your prophets in our own day,

we have squandered our inheritance of grace,

we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us against you.

Teach us to follow in your ways,

assure us again of your love,

and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love.

In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.

1 O God, who gives us life and breath,
 who shapes us in the womb,
 who guards our lives from birth to death,
 then leads us from the tomb:
 deliver us from fears that kill
 the life we have from you.
 Help us to know your Spirit still
 is making all things new.

2 O God, who calls your people out
 to venture and to dare,
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
 and find you even there:
 when we despair in wandering
 through wastes of empty lies,
 refresh us with the living spring
 of hope that never dies.

3 O God of covenant and law,
 revealed in cloud and flame,
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
 we dare not speak your name.
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you
 and will your people prove,
 as on our hearts you write anew
 the covenant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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 Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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



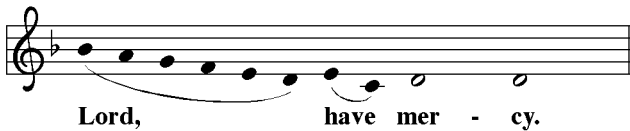
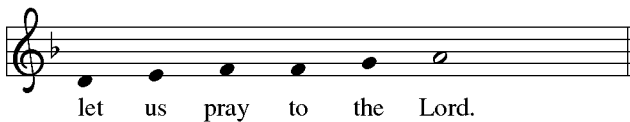
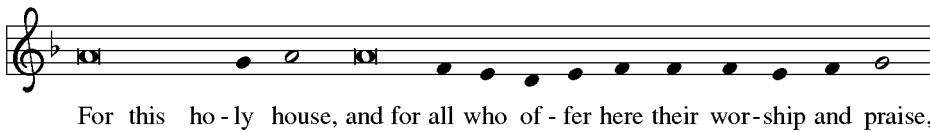
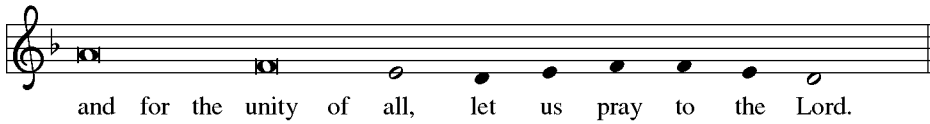
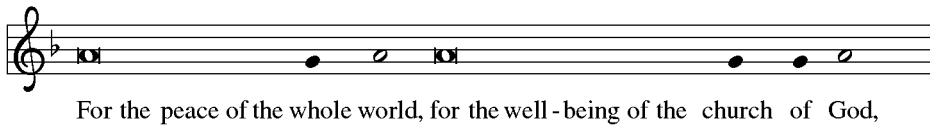
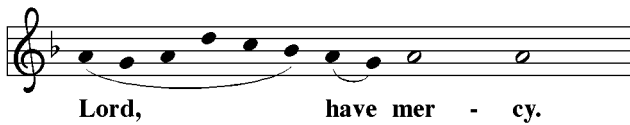
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



GLORIA



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
 au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
 name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
 sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
 liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
 ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
 ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
 God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God,

C you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life of you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

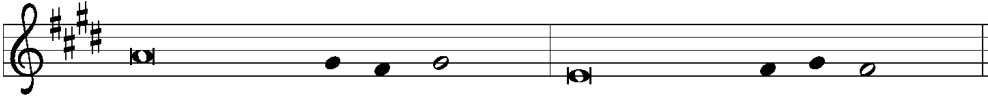
When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “*Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.*” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “*A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.*” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold print**)



¹You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

**²you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.” R**

⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

**¹⁰no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

**¹²Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

**¹⁴I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

**¹⁶With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation. R**

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

“T*he word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”*
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “*No one who believes in him will be put to shame.*” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

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

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "*If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.*" ⁴Jesus answered him, "*It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'*"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "*To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.*" ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "*It is written,*

*'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'*"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "*If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,* ¹⁰*for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'*

¹¹*and*

*'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'*"

¹²Jesus answered him, “*It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’*” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

☞ The Gospel of the 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 Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When We Are Tested”

ACS 922

- 1 When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**
- 2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**
- 3 When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow’r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**
- 4 When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Merciful God,
 C receive our prayer.

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Sheri Tipton

Illness: Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Janis Dagerman, sister of Richard Bock, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Marcie Lafleur, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online.

Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”

Paris/Larson

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Lord Jesus Think on Me”

ELW 599 vs 1&3



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Extravagant God,

☑ you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels. With the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is food and drink for the journey.

C We take and will be filled.

AGNUS DEI

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

(sit)

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You 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.

- 1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!
- 2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!
- 3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
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“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

ELW 326

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.
- 3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
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www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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**1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text: African American spiritual

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[P] Blessed Jesus,

[C] in the rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

[P] You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.</p> | <p>3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.</p> |
| <p>2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.</p> | <p>4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!</p> |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546;
tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin.
Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Mark Jones, *organist*

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

March 5 & 6, 2022

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a **"City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry"** and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 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.*

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. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 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 attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Our COVID Task Force met recently to review the latest information about the pandemic and how we should respond as a congregation. The good news is that case numbers are dropping, and hospitalizations and other indicators are moving in a good direction. Your pastors will continue to wear masks except when preaching or presiding at the Table. Our children and youth ministries will follow the procedures of Omaha Public Schools and so will continue to wear masks. Masks are optional for the rest of the congregation. You do not need to wear a mask but those of you wishing to do so have that option as well.

Children's Choir Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen is leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Sunday School Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—Exploring a Spiritual Practice - Prayer Labyrinth

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—The Call Process Overview - Pr. Griffith
Please join us in the Fellowship Hall

Devotions for Lent

Available to help you through the Lenten Journey that begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. You will find them located where our yearly devotionals are

located. *Grace Unbounded* is a pocket size devotion written by several pastors and is published through Augsburg Fortress/1517Media. *A Way in the Wilderness* is a weekly devotion by ELCA World Hunger and will challenge the way we reach out to people from around the world. There are limited and large print copies of this devotion. Both of these devotions follow the weekly lectionary of the church.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 6 Sunday

Lent 1
Homebound Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

March 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

March 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due
Wedding Rehearsal
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 11 Friday

3:00 PM Samuel & Hubbard Wedding
5:00 PM Pantry

March 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

March 13 Sunday

Lent 2
Daylight Saving Time
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM Book Group



Sunday School Talking Points

Focus: Jesus is lost and found.

Lent is the season in which we prepare for Easter. This lesson continues to help children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as the One who was lost and found. Today's lesson is found in Luke 2:41-52. Review this lesson with your children.

Questions to ponder: Have you ever been lost, or lost something important to you? How did it feel? What did you do in this situation? How can we know that Jesus is with us always? How can we trust in God when we don't always understand what his plan is?

March Service Project for the Youth of Kountze Kountze Food Pantry

Friday, March 18

5:00 or 5:30 until 8:00 PM

The youth and family service work for the month of March will be helping in the Kountze Pantry. For 20 years, the Pantry has served over 1700 guests each month. The mission of this great service is simple: feed anyone who comes through the door. Let's lend our hands to this amazing organization and help serve our community. RSVP at the church office by calling 402-341-7761.

Compline – A Lenten Offering
Held at Kountze Memorial Church
Sunday, March 27, 7:30 PM

Meditation and contemplation, folded in prayer, chant, and music are the essence of Compline – one of the monastic prayer services of the Christian Church, and the last religious observance (office) sung at the end of the day. The entire service will be sung, unaccompanied, by a small group of liturgical musicians (schola) from First-Plymouth Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, on behalf of the congregation. Compline provides worshipers the time and space for silence, meditation, and mystic communion with the Divine. We welcome you to join us for this half hour, unique time, set apart for prayerful worship. Please enter the sanctuary reverently, in silent prayer, through our 4 main doors at the front of the church.

First Communion
Sundays, March 27 & April 3
12:15 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. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 PM. The course is geared toward second graders but all ages are welcome; Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you for your donations of hats and gloves for our Pantry guests! Even in this mild weather they were greatly needed and appreciated. In March, we are in need of toilet paper and toothbrushes. As always, we need volunteers!

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer using the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Camp Carol Joy Holling

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 – 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)



Our Lenten Focus

Worship times each Wednesday of Lent are at 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Music will be provided at both service.

The following five weeks, For The Peace of the Whole World exploring our call to Just Peacemaking will be our theme. Each week we will consider a specific component in the formation of a just peace theology.

March 9 Creation

March 16 Living in Brokenness

March 23 Justice

March 30 Love Your Enemies

April 6 Peace

It is the hope you will consider gathering in community and worship for these times, to grow and deepen our faith, through the Lent season.

Lenten Meals

Lunch Served 11:00 – Noon

Supper served 5:30 – 6:30 PM

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert.

Meals are free will offering.

Menu for March 9

Choice of Chili or Chicken tortilla soup, assorted quesadillas

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 130 **11:00:** 57

Ash Wednesday: 12:15: 63 **6:30:** 92

Total: 378

Streaming: 80

Cox Cable: 201

Pantry Guests Served: 1622 (inc. 383 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$25,589.00 (Regular) \$1,754.03 (Specials)

\$1,195.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus conquers evil in the wilderness.

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

Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	A confession of faith
Tuesday	Romans 10:8b-13	Salvation is for all
Wednesday	1 Peter 3:8-22	Suffering for doing right
Thursday	1 Samuel 12:19-25	Samuel's farewell address
Friday	Romans 12:14-21	Marks of a Christian
Saturday	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	The Lord is my fortress
Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem



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When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. **Psalm 91:15 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us courage to trust in your power over all things that seek to destroy goodness and mercy, through Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food and for being with us during happy and sad times in our lives, through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the goodness of God guard you all the days of your life.

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

- What is something happening in the world that makes you sad?
- What is something happening in the world that makes you thankful?

Read: Luke 4:1-13.

The First Sunday in Lent always includes the temptation of Jesus. The challenge is to resist the temptation to make this biblical story about us. When we do, we vow to resist our own temptations, weaknesses, and shortcomings. It is not at all about us resisting temptations in life. The story is about Jesus and his identity as the one “*full of the Holy Spirit*.” It is about a testing of what it means for Jesus to be the Son of God. The good news is that in Jesus there is a power present willing to oppose evil, greed, selfishness, and misuse of power at all costs. That power is full of goodness, mercy, and God’s saving presence. The devil loses to Jesus in the temptation story only to return at “*an opportune time*,” that is, at Jesus’ betrayal, suffering, and death. One final time, the devil will lose again.

Discuss: What evil do you see or read about happening in the world that will not last forever?

Pray: **God of power and might, by the power of the Holy Spirit, give us the strength to trust in the one who conquers sin, death, and evil through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what actions can you take to help someone when there has been wrong-doing?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. Think about times during the day you can pray while doing daily activities. This week talk to God in prayer while washing the dishes or doing household chores. Set aside another time during the day or evening to light a candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17--4:1; Luke 13:31-35