

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
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

February 5, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*stand*)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- C** Amen.
- P** Joined in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- P** We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
- C** for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, life-giving rivers – the Missouri and the Platte, Standing Bear and Cunningham Lakes. You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.
- P** Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

ELW 673

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.</p> <p>2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.</p> | <p>3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.</p> <p>4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Glo - ria_a Dios, glo - ria_a Dios,
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria_a Dios en los cie - los.
 glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,
 Peace be to you, peace be to me,

paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.
 peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite
 Music: Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
 Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GLORIA A DIOS
 Irregular

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Lord God,
- ☑ with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?


⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ^{9a}Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-10

(the organ will play the short melody, then all will join in singing the refrain. As we read the Psalm responsively, the  indicates where we will sing the refrain in unison)




Light shines in the dark - ness for the up - right.

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.** 


⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.** 

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

Jesus said: ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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 return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room, and Ms. Carlsen for Children's Choir.

SERMON

Pastor Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

ELW 553 vs 1&3

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Prayers This Week: Judy Ryan

On-going Care: Marvin Anderson, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Marge Grabow, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Kathy Preninger, Darlene White, Debra Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, 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; Katie Larson, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I am the Light of Nations"

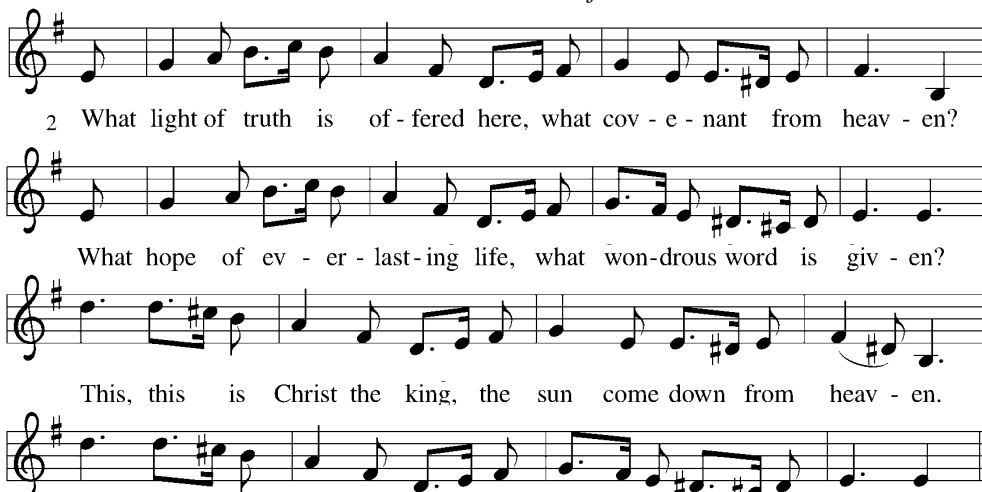
by Hal H. Hopson

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"What Feast of Love"

ELW 487 vs. 2



2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?

What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞ Liberating God,
- ☞ **you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, 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.
- 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: ...
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P** With this bread and cup ... We look with hope for his coming.
C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit ... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

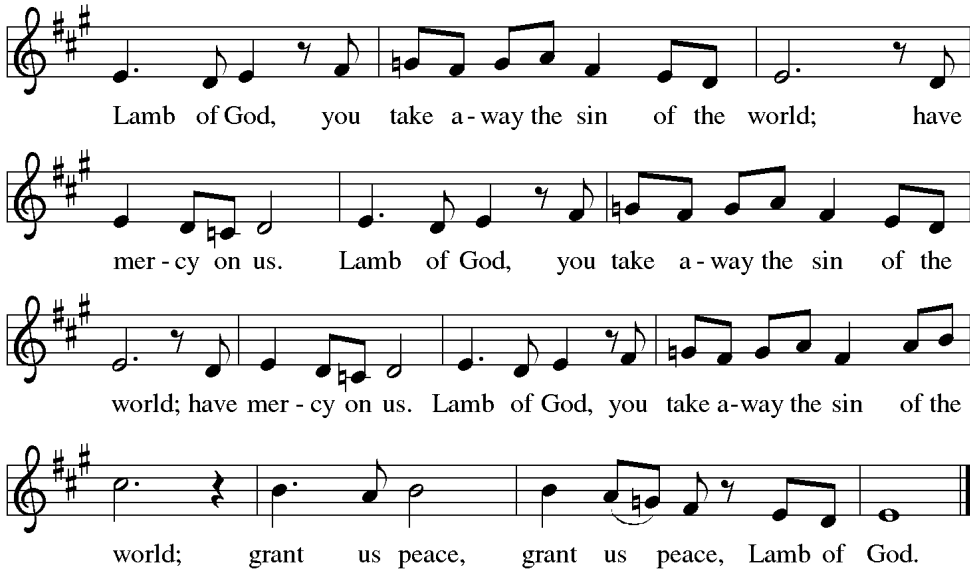
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and taste the joy of God!

C Amen.

(sit)

THE 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 who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"This Little Light of Mine"

ELW 677

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Text: African American spiritual

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Holy One,

C we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

✦ ✦ ✦
15

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 4 & 5, 2023

*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 worshipping, 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.*

Today at Kountze

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. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

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 8:45 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.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Bruce & Barb Nissen in honor of Barb's mom, Nita Mueller, for her 90th birthday; in gratitude for granddaughter, Mara's 5th birthday, given by Kimberly Grassmeyer

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

Sundays, 9:15 AM—(after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761. The children's choir will be singing on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19. We hope that all of our children can be here to sing. Thank you!

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).

Sunday School Service Project:

The Sunday School children will be making Valentine's Day cards for the residents of deFreese manor as the February Service project. Come creative and ready to brighten the day of our neighbors!

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

7th – 12th graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Time with Vicar Gretchen **Next week:** Congregational Meeting

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Presentation of 2023 Congregational Budget **Next Week:** Annual Meeting

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 5 Sunday

Epiphany 5

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

February 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

6:00 PM Executive Committee

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

February 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 11 Saturday

2:00 PM Building Use

5:00 PM Worship

February 12 Sunday

Epiphany 6

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum—Congregational Meeting

12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

6:00 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Lounge. This coming week we will share time with Vicar Gretchen in exploring an element of Discipleship. We will look at what it means to be a part of Community.

Pantry "Souper" Bowl

Now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 12

The Kountze Women of the ELCA are collecting soup and peanut butter. There is a large bin in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, February 14

12:00 Noon

Augustana Lutheran Church

For Info & Reservation call Faith at 402 734 4629

February Men's Lunch

Men's Lunch February 16

11:30 AM

Our speaker is from the Douglas County Historical Society, "'Omaha's AUTO-Biography'" is a look at our love affair with the motor car. From automobile production, to racing, to drive-in dining and movie theaters... we will hit all the stops" Invite a friend and RSVP by February 14.

Open My Heart, Lord

A Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat

Exploring Spiritual Practices:

Relational Prayer with Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp

Zentangle with Diane Harpster of dianeharpsterart.com

Body Prayer with Emily Wageman

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall

(enter west office door on Farnam or handicap entrance from west parking lot, by orange tower)

Saturday, February 18

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost is \$10 of the retreat

"Salad Luncheon provided" Supplies for all Spiritual

Practices provided " Childcare can be provided as requested " Diane Harpster Art will be able to purchase during the event. Join us as we spend time learning new faith practices that can be continued through the Season of Lent, as we take time to share our faith journeys as women of the church. Please register by Wednesday, February 8 to the church office, sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk, or email info@kmlchurch.org - Name, email, or phone number (only used to notify of event changes), and if you need child care.

**Bowling Down Barriers
Faith Formation Adventure
Sunday, February 19
2:45 - 5:00 PM
Grades 4 - 6**

**Maplewood Lanes
3030 N 101st St, Omaha**
Cost is \$20 (Includes pizza & bowling shoes - pay at door)
Call the church office or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org to register no later than **Sunday, February 12**. Come join the fun and meet youth from all across the Omaha Metro area.

Journey to Denver

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Registration is extended till **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer! Friends are welcome to join our group.

**The KMLC Scholarship Program
Application Deadline: March 1**

Funds are available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university, or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church web site at www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MARCH 1, 2023. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by email to info@kmlchurch.org

Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

2nd Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 2 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM

3rd Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

4th Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**

Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you are able to serve.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to e-mail Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

Kountze Pantry

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 22

Sunday: 9:00: 108 11:00:69

Wednesday: 12:15: 8 **Confirmation:** 7

Total: 214

Streaming: 85

Pantry Guests Served: 1,011 (inc. 333 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$13,250.32 (Regular)

\$4,264.82 (Specials)

\$843.99 (Debt Reduction)

The power of knowing Christ crucified.

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	1 Peter 4:12-16	Suffering as a Christian
Friday	James 1:2-8	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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When I [Paul] came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us your wisdom to see in the cross of Christ the path of love, humility, and service to others above all else. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us strength to care for the needs of others as you care for us each and every day. In the name of Jesus, our crucified Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you take delight in the wisdom of God through our crucified Lord Jesus Christ.

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

- What motivates people to show they are more powerful than others?
- How does God show wisdom and power through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

The Corinthian church was a divided church. Some thought they had superior wisdom or superior spiritual gifts. Paul rejects such claims by focusing on God's wisdom revealed through Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified and died a criminal's death at the hands of earthly powers. Those who believe they have superior wisdom and gifts totally miss the point and rely on human standards—human wisdom—not God's. Paul's own ministry demonstrates the wisdom of God that seems like foolishness to the world. Paul did not use impressive speech. He used the message of Christ crucified, a message made powerful by the Holy Spirit, not human rhetoric. To be truly "spiritual," and therefore a blessing to the church, one needs to be grounded in spiritual wisdom that understands the power of the cross. This power can look like weakness. The very standards the arrogant use to feel superior shows their dependence on the powers and wisdom of the current age, not the power and wisdom of God through Christ crucified.

Discuss: Being forgiven can look like weakness. How can it be a powerful gift to the life of the church?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see that in the death of Jesus your power is present to guide our daily lives and bring faith, hope, and love to all the world. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help people who feel put down by others?

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too! God is present in our daily lives. The home is where people are connected in intimate daily settings. Where we call home can be diverse. Matthew 5:15-16 reminds us that we don't hide the light of a lamp under a basket. We place it where "it gives light to all in the house." Jesus tells us we are the light of the world and invites us to shine our light so that others may see our good works and give glory to God. Light a candle each day this week. While you gaze at the light, think or talk about what "good works" (v. 16) you have done that day and how what you did gives glory to God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37