

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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April 8, 2023

10:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL



This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome new sisters and brothers at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

LIGHT

Jesus Christ, rising in glory, dispels all darkness.

LUCERNARIUM: BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

A blazing fire is prepared in the new courtyard and all are invited to gather around the fire before the liturgy starts. Each person will receive a candle and is invited to join the procession from the fire into the Nave. In the event of inclement weather, we invite you to gather in the Nave and the lighting of the new Paschal Candle will occur in the narthex. If you prefer to not join the procession for any reason, please take a candle and meet us in the Nave.

When the people are gathered, the clergy and the assisting ministers begin:

P In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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.

The pastor welcomes the assembly and gives thanks over the new fire.

P On this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her children, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. As we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, let us have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

Let us pray: O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, grant that by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure and hearts sincere, we may, by your grace, receive festivities of unending splendor; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

While the assisting minister holds the Paschal Candle, the pastor traces the inscription on it:

P Christ, yesterday and today ✠, the beginning and the ending. Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω); To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion; now and forever.

C Amen.

The individual candles of the assembly are lit from the paschal candle.

P The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL

The Paschal Candle leads the procession into the darkened nave. Along the way, the following acclamation is sung:

A The light of Christ!

C Thanks be to God.

(sit)

HYMN FOR THE VIGIL OF EASTER (*EXSULTET*)

The assembly gathers in the darkened nave. We ask that you gather in the pews on the west side. Once the assembly is in place, the Exsultet is proclaimed.

P The Lord be with.

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.

A Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven!

Exult, let Angel ministers of God exult!

Let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad; let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King!

Let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice;
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the people.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears,
Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt
And made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.
This is the night that with a pillar of fire you
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now,
throughout the world, sets Christian believers
apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!
O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed
completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault that earned so great,
so glorious a redeemer!

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes fault away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.
O truly blessed night, when things of heaven
are wed to those of earth, and divine to human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found burning by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns forever and ever.

✠ Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

℟ The Lord be with you.

✠ And also with you.

℟ O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth.
By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with
your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

✠ Amen.

WORD

The assembly gathers in the nave to hear the mighty works of God's creation and how God, in response to our human sin and limitation, reacts with devout love and singular purpose to heal and restore the human family. These readings speak of the whole arc of God's saving activity in human history, culminating in the Easter proclamation that will be God's final and ultimate act of salvation through self-giving love in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. Like a family gathered around a holiday table, it is a time to listen to our family story. We gather in darkness to hear again of God's love, who brings us out of darkness. We gather in darkness to remember why this night is so different from any other; to hear the resurrection promise in which the light of God's love now radiates throughout the whole world and for all time!

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Creation

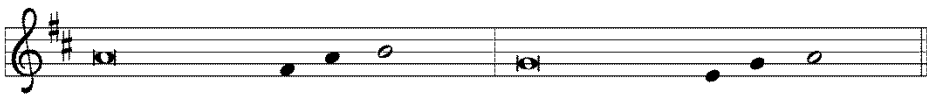
after the reading:

℟ Word of God, word of life.

✠ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

The psalm, which gives thanks for God’s creation, is sung following the reading; the assembly sings the portions in boldface.



¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the ¹ Lord is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
²Give thanks to the ¹ God of gods,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
³Give thanks to the ¹ Lord of lords,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
⁴who alone ¹ does great wonders,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
⁵who by wisdom ¹ made the heavens,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
⁶who spread out the earth up- ¹ on the waters,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
⁷who made ¹ the great lights—
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁸the sun to gov- ¹ ern the day,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
⁹the moon and the stars to gov- ¹ ern the night,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
²³who remembered us in our ¹ low estate,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
²⁴and rescued us ¹ from our enemies,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;
²⁵who gives food ¹ to all creatures,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
²⁶Give thanks to the ¹ God of heaven,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

silence
Prayer

SECOND READING

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

The Flood

after the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

silence
Prayer

THIRD READING

Genesis 22:1-18

Testing of Abraham

after the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

silence
Prayer

FOURTH READING

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Deliverance at the Red Sea

after the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Canticle of Moses and Miriam

Refrain (spoken): **I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed!**

Cantor: I will sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously,
the horse and its rider have been thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my savior. **(Refrain)**

You, O God, are my god and I will praise you;
the God of our forebears, and I will exalt you.
Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. **(Refrain)**

Who among the gods is like you, O Lord?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?
In your mercy you led forth the people you set free;
you guided them in your strength
to your holy habitation. **(Refrain)**

You will bring them in and plant them
on the mount that is your possession,
The place, O Lord, you have made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have prepared.
The Lord shall reign forever and ever. **(Refrain)**

silence

Prayer

FIFTH READING

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will create in you new hearts

after the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

silence

Prayer

SIXTH READING

Jonah 1:1–2:1

The deliverance of Jonah

after the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

silence

Prayer

SEVENTH READING

Romans 6:3-11

Death no longer holds dominion

after the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 12:2-6 (*read responsively*)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

silence

Prayer

(candles are extinguished.)

(stand)

PRAYER AT THE FONT

Paul proclaims that all of those who are baptized into Jesus' death through baptism will inherit the promise of Christ's resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). Thus, we return again and again to our baptism and the promises of God that sustain us in joy and in sorrow. On this sacred night, as we await the joyous proclamation of the empty tomb, we reaffirm our baptism as an act of faith, knowing that God's grace and transformative love have the last word!

P Let us humbly beseech the Lord our God.

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, as we recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption.

We give you thanks, O God, for you have created water and made it an instrument of mercy. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, so that this water may be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters of every time and every place, for we are united in one faith, one Lord, one Baptism, in the everlasting company of saints on earth and in heaven.

A **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

- P** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P** Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C** **I renounce them.**
- P** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C** **I renounce them.**
- P** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C** **I renounce them.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C** **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.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C** **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.**

(stand)

EASTER PROCLAMATION *(proclaimed 3 times)*

The assembly stands as we all rejoice at the return of our Easter word, "Alleluia!" as we greet the Gospel. After the proclamation, the Altar Guild will dress the altar, restoring the splendor and beauty of Easter to the house of the Lord.

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

During the Hymn of Praise, a thurible is prepared with incense. Since the first Temple of Jerusalem, incense has been used in worship. Luther himself retained it and encouraged its use, especially during the reading of the Gospel and in preparation for the Eucharist.



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



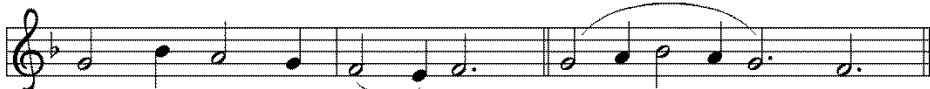
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
- C** Alleluia! Alleluia!
- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
- C** Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

John 20:1–18

John's Gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P The Gospel of our Lord!

C Praise to you, O Christ!

MEAL

(sit)

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

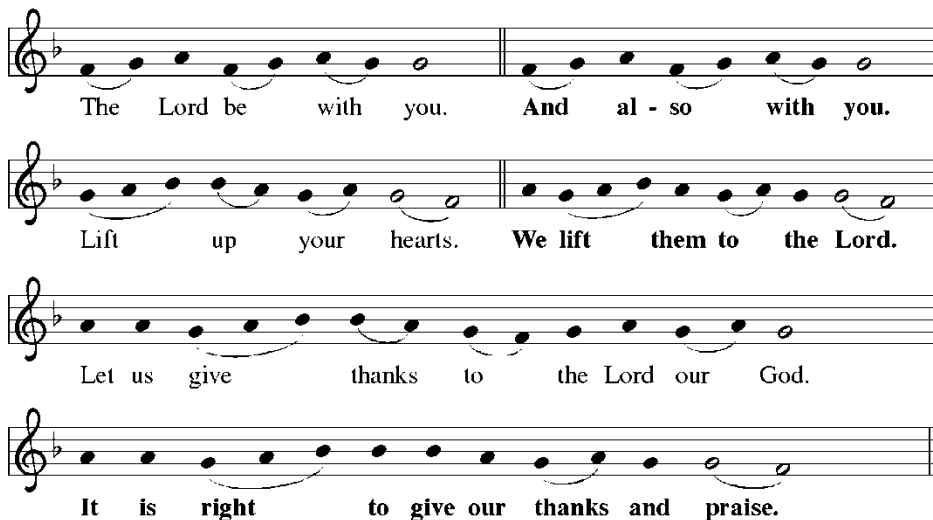
On this joyous occasion, incense is used at the altar in preparation of the Lord's Supper. "The use of incense has a long history in both Judaism and Christianity. Incense is mentioned frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Gospel, Zechariah is in the temple at the time of the incense offering (Luke 1) and the gifts the Magi offered to the Christ Child included frankincense and myrrh. In Second Corinthians the knowledge of Christ is compared to a fragrant odor (2:14-16). The vision of heaven in Revelation includes the elders holding bowls of incense, described as the prayers of the saints (Revelation 5:8). The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification, and the sweet smell suggests Christ's robe of righteousness that covers our sin. It also symbolizes the great cloud of witnesses (angels, apostles, martyrs, and saints) who join their prayers of praise and thanksgiving to ours around the everlasting throne of the Lamb of God. 'May our prayers arise before him as incense!'"

(stand)

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of glory,
C receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world. Bring all creation from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

This evening we use Luther's Eucharistic setting, which calls for the Words of Institution to be chanted. The overall effect is that from the Great Thanksgiving through the Lord's Prayer, the Church offers a unified, unbroken proclamation and prayers of praise and thanksgiving for God's sacramental grace.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER



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 - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from c - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

St. John Chrysostom

- ☐ Come, rich and poor together; let us celebrate this high festival.
Come, diligent and heedless; honor this feast.
Come, both you who have fasted and you who did not; rejoice together.
Come, the table is full; feast sumptuously.
Come, let no one go away hungry.
Come, enjoy the feast of faith; receive the riches of God's mercy.

☐ Amen.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

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.

HOLY COMMUNION IS SHARED

(stand)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Wellspring of joy,
- ☑ through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love will bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- ☑ Amen.

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

DISMISSAL

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Alleluia!

Easter Sunday, April 9

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link

8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast

9 & 11 AM Festival of the Resurrection

10:10 AMish Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9:00 AM service





Easter 2023

Lilies are given to the glory of God...

in memory of:

Marvin Andersengiven by Kay, Erik & Kathe Andersen
beloved son, Randy Anderson Szemplenski given by Dean & Darlene Anderson
Uncle Tom Sullivan, who we miss so much given by Brett, Jack, and Grandma Kathe Bailey
Grandma Jane Bailey, who we miss so much given by Brett, Jack, and Grandma Kathe Bailey
Grandma Marge Sullivan, who we miss so much given by Brett, Jack, and Grandma Kathe Bailey
my parentsgiven by Dean Bard
my loved onesgiven by Dean Bard
our loved ones given by Karen & Shirley Bonneau
our parents..... given by Dale & Tina Broekemeier
David & Lois Carlsen given by the Campbell & Carlsen families
Floyd & Alice Chase..... given by the Campbell & Carlsen families
Viggo & Viola Carlsen given by the Campbell & Carlsen families
Shauna..... given by Jerry, Jared, Tana Clanton
Bill Lepper and Dale & Jean Clatterbuckgiven by Gary & Debi Clatterbuck
Lawrence & Marion Cooke.....given by Warren Cooke
Ed & Betty Coufal given by The Coufal family
Myron & Louise Klug..... given by The Coufal family
Thelma & Joe Councill given by Joe Councill family
Marie & Ed Debus given by Joe Councill family
Jackie & Stephanie McCoy..... given by Joe Councill family
Pat & Lou Granneman given by Joe Councill family
Kathy Stauffer given by Joe Councill family
Vern McAleer given by Joe Councill family
Ellison family..... given by Robert Ellison
loved onesgiven by Gloria Erickson
Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike & family
Randall S. Fike..... given by Mary Jo Fike & family
John & Bernetta Johnson given by Mary Jo Fike & family
Sharon Fonda given by Bill Fonda
Eugene & Mildred Fonda..... given by Bill Fonda
parents Anne & Charles Forslund given by Christine Forslund
Tonya Burke.....given by Erica Freeman
our parents.....given by Leigh & Vicki Freeman
Mary Rose Gruber..... given by Mom & Dad
Dolores Gruber..... given by Tom & Theresa Gruber
Bob & Gayle Ringo given by Tom & Theresa Gruber
Joyce E. Hahngiven by Wayne A. Hahn & family
husband and father, George Pickinpaugh.....given by Alice Pickinpaugh, Steve & Carol Hansen
my dear sister, Elaine Drickeygiven by Carol Hansen & family
Jeff Helgenberger..... given by Cathy Helgenberger
Jean Holcombe, wife of Tom, mother of Lisa & Larrygiven by Tom Holcombe
Lorri & Tommy Enoughgiven by James Holzer & Tracy Saklar
Renae Wilder given by Gail Houghton
Gary Wilder given by Gail Houghton
Marjorie Conrad given by Gail Houghton
Faye Grave given by Gail Houghton
our parents..... given by Duane & Penny Hovendick
loved ones given by Duane & Penny Hovendick
Byron Woodhull, Janet Woodhull Young.....given by Karen & Steve Jacobson

Evelyn & Norris	given by Karen & Steve Jacobson
Brian Jacobson	given by Karen & Steve Jacobson
Gerald Klonglan.....	given by Jason Klonglan
loved ones	given by Tom Jensen, Ron Muchmore, The Luczynski's
Sandy Johnson	given by Curt Johnson Family
our beloved daughter-in-law, Renee Johnson	given by Ken & Linda Johnson
Gehard & Cecilla Moller, Albin & Lara Johnson	given by Ken & Linda Johnson
Marilyn & Jack Baker	given by Ken & Linda Johnson
Geri Laney & Carole Olson	given by Ken & Linda Johnson
Rev. Robert C. Johnson.....	given by Mary Ann Johnson
Wilma Wallin Sagers	given by her daughters
Roger & Ila Knutson.....	given by daughters, Sue Mollner, Jeff & Judy Knutson
Sheri Tipton	given by Kountze Friends
Joe Kubat	given by Jack Kubat
Catherine Zinn	given by Marie Kubat
Stan & Bernice Labeledz	given by son & daughter-in-law, Frank & Sherri Labeledz
Wayne & Sonn Simmonds.....	given by Terri, Sherri & Sandi
beloved brother, Peter Andrew	given by Ann Miller
beloved grandparents, Andy, Helen, Moe & Dorothy	given by Ann Miller
Lyle Nissen	given by Bruce & Barb Nissen
Richard Mueller	given by Bruce & Barb Nissen
Don & Jean Nippert	given by Kris & Marvin Olson
Marvin P Olson	given by Kris & Marvin Olson
Bill Green.....	given by Kris & Marvin Olson
Donna Olson	given by Steve Olson
Russ Olson	given by Steve Olson
Joe Olson.....	given by Steve Olson
Nicholas Simmonds	given by Dan & Barb Paris
Jim & Violet Simmonds.....	given by Dan & Barb Paris
Elmer Pfeiffer.....	given by Gary Pfeiffer family
Lorraine Beil Pfeiffer	given by Gary Pfeiffer family
Rick Picha	given by family
our grandparents.....	given by Amy & Nick Pignatore
Grandpa Wayne Bonhag	given by Theo & Silje Pignatore
our parents.....	given by Robert & Pat Ranney
Pat's sister.....	given by Robert & Pat Ranney
Lola Reed	given by family
Hannah Rief.....	given by her parents & siblings
Quintin Dewberry	given by The Rief family
Gary Rodene	given by his wife, Nancy
Marjean Sack	given by Norm Sack
Margaret Sack	given by Norm Sack
Barbara Saklar.....	given by Tracy Saklar & Kris Placzek family
Charles & Augusta Laushman	given by Tracy Saklar & Kris Placzek family
Joy Beavers	given by Tracy Saklar & Kris Placzek family
Chris & Nadine Saklar	given by Tracy Saklar & Kris Placzek family
David Penning.....	given by Amanda Plantz
Lee Sealer.....	given by Judy Sealer
Carrol Sanderson.....	given by The Sedlak family
Donna Hoel	given by The Sedlak family
Gene & Eleanor Shields.....	given by Tom & Michelle Shields
Clara & Leo Gardiner	given by daughter, LeClare Steffen
Arnold Steffen.....	given by wife, LeClare & family
Arthur Gersib, John & Elaine Studts	given by Pat & David Studts
George and Corky Boonstra.....	given by Paul Sum family
my father, Edward White	given by Allyson White
grandparents, Gifford & Alice Anderson, John & Margare White.....	given by Allyson White
our beloved sister, Kaye Bock	given by sisters, Vickie Wichert & Darlene Anderson
beloved husband, Don Wichert.....	given by wife, Vickie

Dick Sievers given by Dan & Karen Wolf
our parents..... given by Chet & Sara Worm
Randy, Warren, & Betty given by Alan & Jenna Woster
Janet & Joey..... given by Alan & Jenna Woster
Gigliotti Family.....given by Patty Gigliotti-Ellison

In honor of:

the amazing Kountze Volunteers given by Debbie Bogue and Sarah Jewell
Laurine Savine given by Karen & Shirley Bonneau
Kountze clergy & staff..... given by Dale & Tina Broekemeier
the Kountze Choir given by Barb Carlsen
our 61st wedding anniversary (4/8/2023) given by Charles & Kathy Cole
our grandchildren Joey, Jackson, Lilly & Ty Councillgiven by Patt & Joe Councill
Amanda Gillespie.....given by given by Patt & Joe Councill
our grandchildren given by Bob & Sandy Fonda
our children and grandchildrengiven by Leigh & Vicki Freeman
Kai, Ken, Markus, Henry, Sam & Ethan given by Grandpa & Grandma
loved onesgiven by Joan Jacobson-Trotter
our 4 children & 13 grandchildren given by Ken & Linda Johnson
Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein given by her sisters
Jesus, Our Savior given by Tom & Michelle Shields
my mother, Darlene White.....given by Allyson White

Love Offering:

Albert & Ilse Grage
Jill & Paul Gittler
The Johnson family



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

April 8 & 9, 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

Alleluia!

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.



Easter Breakfast

8:00 - 10:45 AM

Join us again next Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM for Sunday 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

All children are invited to the green space after the 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service to race for candy filled eggs.

No Children's Choir, Sunday School, Youth or Adult Forums on Easter Sunday

Instead, join us for Easter Breakfast and then back to our regular schedule on Sunday, April 16. Life in Christ Circus will be in the Link for Sunday School. Youth and Adult Forums will be Fellowship and a Reception for the new Confirmands.

Easter Lilies

If you paid for an Easter lily, and would like to take it home, you may pick it up after the 11:00 AM service today or next Sunday.

March/April Service Project

The Sunday School continues to collect items for the Nebraska Humane Society for the March service project. Items can be brought to church and left in front of the Sunday School office. A list of donations can be found on the Humane Society website and include standard items of food, treats, toys, blankets, and more. Items to be gathered also include many recyclable items such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, and plastic coffee containers.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 9 Sunday

Easter
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast
7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

April 10 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

April 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:30 PM Sewing Group, Lunch & "Quilter's on the Prairie"
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

April 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 14 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 15 Saturday

Good News Deadline
5:00 PM Worship

April 16 Sunday

Easter 2
Confirmation Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
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
12:15 PM Book Group @ Bookworm (note date change)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

An Afternoon of Playing Cards with Friends

Interest has been expressed for a gathering of people on a weekday afternoon to play cards together. If this is something that you would be interested in participating in, please sign up or call the church office and let us know what weekday afternoon is best for you.

KMLC Quilters & All Interested in Quilting

Wednesday, April 12

11:30 AM

Join us for quilting and then lunch together in the Fellowship Hall (provided) following the regular monthly quilting time. We will then head over to Gallery 1516 on Leavenworth for the "Modern Quilting on the Prairie" Exhibit. If you are able to join us, please sign up or call the church office by Monday, April 10.

Confirmation Celebration Dinner

Wednesday, April 12

6:00 PM

A dinner will take place in the Fellowship Hall to honor those Affirming their Baptismal Faith on Sunday, April 16 at the 9:00 AM Worship. Confirmands, Family Members, Baptismal Sponsors, Pastors, and Speakers from the church will gather together for a meal, sharing of faith stories, and rehearsal for Confirmation Day.

Omaha Young Adults Table Theology

Saturday, April 15

11:00 AM at Table Grace Cafe, 1611 1/2 Farnam

Young adults are welcome to join for brunch and discussion with others from across Omaha. RSVP to Greta at OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

A Day Without Shoes

April 16—May 7

WELCA will begin collecting new or used shoes for the Stephen Center (even unusable shoes can be collected for recycling) as their April service project. Please don't bring shoes before April 16, but beginning that weekend, a box will be in the narthex for your shoe donations.

Confirmation Day

Sunday, April 16

9:00 AM Worship

The following students will be Affirming their baptismal faith: Sheyenne Glasgow, Lilly Kassal, and Braxton Rees will come to the front of the Nave during this worship for the Rite of Confirmation. A reception time will include breakfast, cake, and a time to talk with and encourage these youth in their faith. Gift bags for cards will be on the welcome desk for those who would want to express their joy as these youth take this important step in faith this day.

Explore! Day Retreat

Grades 1 - 6

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Springs at Carol Joy Holling Camp

27416 Ranch Road, Ashland

Cost is \$25 for youth, includes lunch

Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

New Member Class

April 23 & 30

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you

plan to attend. Please plan to attend both classes.

Omaha Young Adults Trivia

April 25

7:00 PM

LOCAL Patio and Kitchen at Village Pointe

Young Adults are welcome to join the Omaha Lutheran Young Adults for trivia night! Talk to Greta for more info:

OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 27 (please note date change)

11:30 AM

(Rescheduled from our February snowstorm) 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"

Also please note it will be the 4th Thursday just for the month of April.

God. Tacos. Legos.

A Lego Faith Formation Experience

Friday, May 5

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Grades 4 - 6

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St, Omaha.)

Cost: \$5 per youth

Youth from across Omaha's Lutheran congregations will gather for fellowship, LEGOs and dinner! Friends are welcome! Register with Pastor Shari by Sunday, April 30, either in person, on sign-up sheet, or email at shari@kmlchurch.org Parents are welcome to stay for fellowship, a devotion, and tacos!

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

If you are a 2022/23 graduate, please let us know. We will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email shari@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you.

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, May 14

9:00 or 11:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Seniors, please submit to the above email, 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be in the May Good News and the Sunday Bulletin on May 7.

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9:00 or 11:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM.

Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Seniors, please submit to the above email, 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time.

Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be in the May Good News and the Sunday Bulletin on May 7.

Compline

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Service of Ancient Chant and Motets

Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM

Please join us for a special evening featuring the sacred service of Compline. Amidst the beauty of the candlelit sanctuary, the Schola Cantorum from Lincoln's First Plymouth Church will share a short service of meditative chants and hymns. The service of Compline has been sung for hundreds of years and offers singers and listeners a unique and special space for contemplation and communion with God.

Vacation Bible School

Welcomes all Superheros!

Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14

5:30 to 8:00 PM

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. Further details, including registration, will be coming soon. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time.

KMLC Camp Week

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 18 - 23

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

Invitation to Sponsor our Summer Youth Trip:

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th - 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Five youth have said yes to this journey. We are asking you during the month of April if you would give a gift to sponsor our youth on this trip. Any gift is appreciated and for your generosity you will receive thank you notes from participants and recognition at our Summer Youth Trip Sharing Event. We appreciate your consideration of how you might be a part of this ministry.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 38

Sunday: 9:00: 202 11:00: 111

Mon. & Tues: 12:15: 15

Total: 366

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: 894 (inc. 323 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 28

Jesus is alive!

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	The joyful return of exiles
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:14-20	We are a new creation
Friday	Genesis 2:4b-25	Creation of man and woman
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord's always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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*But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her. **John 20:17b-18 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, this is the day that you have made; let us rejoice in your steadfast love and the power of Christ's resurrection for all that you have made. In the name of the risen Christ, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Alleluia, Christ is risen. O Lord, we give you thanks for sustaining us with this food and with the power of Christ's resurrection for us and all the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you rejoice in the risen Lord.

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

- When was a time you were in disbelief and couldn't understand something that was happening?
- As we continue to grow and mature, how is the Christian faith an ongoing process of learning and growing?

Read: John 20:1-18.

The resurrection account, the first Easter Sunday story as recorded in the Gospel of John, is filled with misunderstandings. Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and thinks that someone has taken Jesus' body away. Two disciples come and see it as well. The disciple that Jesus loved (traditionally thought to be John, the author of the Gospel) believes, but believes what? The very next verse says *"as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead"* (v. 9). The disciples leave and go home! Mary, however, remains and talks to two angels. She does not seem awed by the encounter so it is likely she does not recognize them as angels. Then she sees Jesus and thinks he is the gardener. Finally, she hears Jesus call her by name. She then recognizes him and he sends her out to tell the disciples. Like Mary and the disciples, we, too, are on a journey of understanding what Jesus' resurrection means for us and the world. It is a life filled with new insights and awe that leads us to tell others what we have seen and heard.

Discuss: What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to grow in our faith and understanding that we may be filled with joy and be faithful witnesses to the power of Jesus' resurrection for the world you love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you share the good news of Christ's resurrection with others?

The Kindness Rock Project was a trend that began in 2015. Small, smooth stones are painted with messages of kindness and hidden for others to find. Bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season as a reminder that the stone was rolled away. Find or buy smooth stones, paint them, and write the words "Alleluia! Christ is Risen" on each one. Use those stones to bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season. Place the stones in locations where someone can easily find them.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31