

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor

Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor

H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68131-3616

402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

January 21, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

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 to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
- C** **for 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.**
- P** Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
- C** **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.**
- P** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
 Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!</p> | <p>3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
 surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.</p> |
| <p>2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
 and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
 Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?</p> | <p>4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen sound from his people again.
 Gladly forever adore him!</p> |

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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

Leader

Lord have mer - cy on__ us, Lord have mer - cy on__ us

All

Lord have mer - cy on__ us, Lord have mer - cy on__ us

Christ have mer - cy on__ us, Christ have mer - cy on__ us

Lord have mer - cy on__ us, Lord have mer - cy on__ us.

GLORIA

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks.

We praise you for your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Almighty God,
☞ by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 62:5-12 (read responsively)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817 vs. 1-3

**1 You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

**2 You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working.**
Refrain

Refrain

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving.** *Refrain*

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
Spanish and English text © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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THE NICENE CREED

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God of grace,
 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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends Marilyn Hofeldt

Prayers This Week: Bruce Anderson, Judy Hamaker, Nita Mueller, Traci Stephens, Evelyn Sueper, Gary Westerman

On-going Care: Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Ellie Carlson, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Martha Eckmann, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Linda Peltz, Marce Picha, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Jim West, Darlene White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – 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, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, 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*— James Holzer, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks

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

Come Follow Me

by Martin & Raney

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250 vs. 1 & 2



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, Holy One,
- ☑ **for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

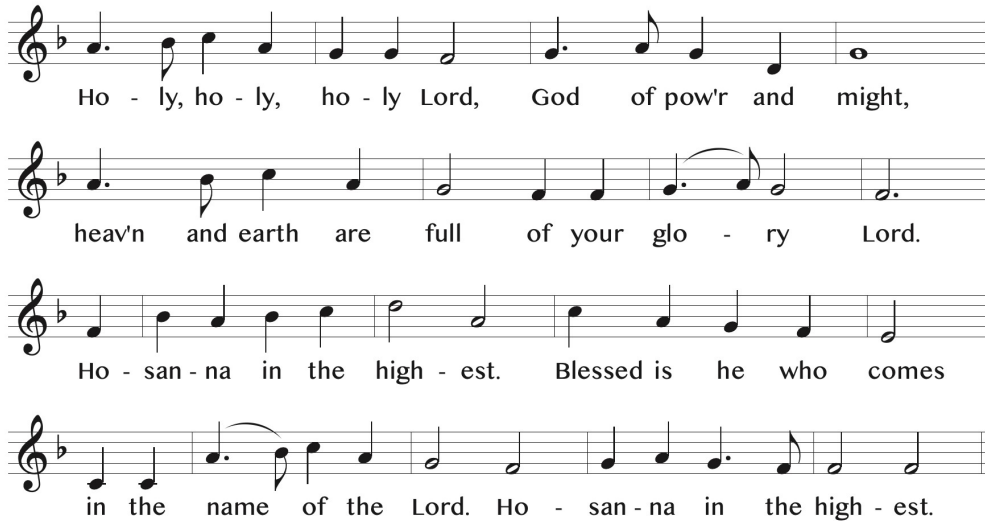
HOLY COMMUNION

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also 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.**

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come and see at Jesus' table,
C heaven and earth are joined as one.

(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

Around You, O Lord Jesus

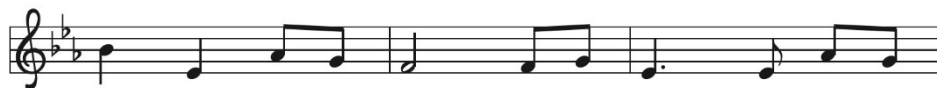
ELW 468

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Around you, O Lord Jesus,
your own you gather still
to share the feast you give us
with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
“Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!”</p> | <p>2 We hear your invitation,
and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation
is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing,
which never will depart.</p> |
| <p>3 We are your own forever;
until our final breath
we will be true and never
in joy, in grief, in death
depart from you, for you are still
among your people dwelling,
as you have said you will.</p> | |

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. composite
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



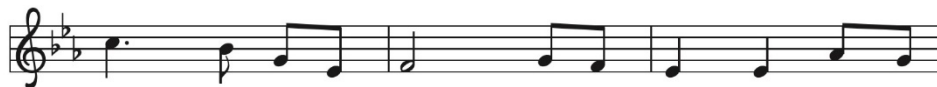
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



Refrain
 By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Giver of every gift,

☑ Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

**1 O God, my faithful God,
true fountain ever flowing,
without whom nothing is,
all perfect gifts bestowing:
give me a healthy frame,
and may I have within
a conscience free from blame,
a soul unstained by sin.**

**2 Give me the strength to do
with ready heart and willing
whatever you command,
my calling here fulfilling--
to do it when I ought,
with all my might--and bless
whatever I have wrought,
for you must give success.**

**3 Keep me from saying words
that later need recalling;
guard me, lest idle speech
may from my lips be falling;
but when, within my place,
I must and ought to speak,
then to my words give grace,
lest I offend the weak.**

**4 When dangers gather round,
oh, keep me calm and fearless;
help me to bear the cross
when life seems dark and cheerless;
help me, as you have taught,
to love both great and small,
and, by your Spirit's might,
to live at peace with all.**

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



Liturgy arranged by ©2022 Cynthia I. Gonzales, Ph.D., Music Director at FLC-San Marcos, TX.

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	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
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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

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

January 20 & 21, 2024

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 the 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. 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. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

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.



Today at Kountze Memorial

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.

New Member Class—Change of Date

January 21

10:15 AM

Due to inclement weather, the class for January 14 was postponed to this Sunday, January 21. At this time the date for the 2nd class has not been determined. That information will be available at the class this Sunday.

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-6

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Join the Adult Forum this Sunday

Next Week: Bible Study “Created to Be”

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Lutheranism in America: Charles Porterfield Krauth

This Week at Kountze Memorial

Monday #4 #7:00 AM

Epiphany 3

Dinners for Eight Sign-up Deadline

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-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

Monday #5 #9:00 AM

10:00 AM Pantry

Monday #6 #7:00 AM

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

12:30 PM Circle 3

Monday #7 #12:15 PM

Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

Monday #8 #1:00 PM

Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Monday #9 #5:00 PM

Pantry

7:00 PM High School Lock-In @

Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue (gr 9

-12) (7:00 PM-7:00 AM)

Monday #5 #5:00 PM

Worship

#

#

#

Monday #5 #7:00 AM

Epiphany 4

Annual Report Deadline

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-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

4:00 PM NeLCM - Evensong

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Photos

If you have any group photos from 2017 – 2021 and you would be willing to share with the church office, we would be most grateful. We want to make sure we have a photo of each of the Confirmation Classes of KMLC.

Dinners for 8

Consider signing up to join a dinners for 8 group in February, March, and April. It is a time when your group will have a meal together each month. This meal can take place in homes, in restaurants, or at the church. Or you may decide to attend a fish fry or another organization's fundraiser. It is up to your group. Please **sign up by today** at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office. You will be informed about the groups, so you can begin to find times and places to meet.

Annual Reports

Due January 28

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have it turned in to Debbie Bogue no later than January 28. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

High School Lock-In

with Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue

Friday, January 26

7:00 PM – 7:00 AM

All in High School are invited to join in the fun at a Lock-In taking place at Immanuel in Bellevue. It will provide a time for those going to the Youth Gathering to build relationships. All attending will share in bible study, games, and a time to get to know each other.

Bring your sleeping bag, as sleep will be part of the agenda, to make sure we get what we need to stay healthy. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow! RSVP to Pastor

Shari by Wednesday, January 24.

Evensong - A Grand Choir Experience

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry

Sunday, January 28

St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St)

4:00-7:00 PM

We have been invited to come and experience the warmth found when gathered together for worship, music, faith, and food. There are many ways to get involved to support this important ministry for young adults.

1. Volunteer to bring your favorite pot of Chili to represent us in the Chili Cook-off.
2. Put together a gift basket or give a week at a vacation home for the silent auction.
3. Join with other voices from around Omaha for the Grand Choir Experience.
4. Let the church office know how you can participate.

Everyone is welcome. Childcare is available. Free will offering to Omaha Campus Ministry is encouraged. Come and support this event and join in Holden Evening Prayer Worship! Use the following link to get involved through choir, chili cook-off, and silent auction.

<http://tinyurl.com/4be4k4bd>

Recovery Celebration Service

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th Street

February 7, 2024—please note date change

7:00 PM

Each year Trinity hosts a Recovery Eucharist for the Diocese of Nebraska commemorating Dr. Samuel Shoemaker who was the Episcopal priest advising Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. in developing the 12 Steps. All are welcome to attend.

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling!

Register by January 31 for Early Bird Pricing

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost if you register by January 31. If you register after this date, you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

In order for the church to pay the fee, choose

- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- Email a copy of the receipt to shari@kmlchurch.org

and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

Women's Lenten Retreat

Hear Us! Heal us! Send Us!

Saturday, February 24

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10

Join Spiritual Directors Lisa Kramme, Midland University Campus Ministry and Pastor David Pinkston, NE Synod Director of "Seeking the Spirit Within," for a time of learning spiritual practices to guide us through the Lent season. Lunch will be served. Sign up today to save your spot.

Scholarships

Deadline to Apply: March 1

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds 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 website at www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. **Applications are due on March 1, 2024.**

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 e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org

Television Ministry

Did you know Kountze has a Television production room? Well, we do, and the production crew would be glad to show you how everything works. If you have any

experience with computers, we can train you so you can be a part of this community ministry. High school youth, this is a great way to get your high school community service hours! Come and check it out.

Kountze Food Pantry

In January we will continue to need gloves, especially for adult men. As the coldest months of the year approach, these items will be needed most of all. You may leave them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall or consider ordering online and having them delivered directly to the Church. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission to "Feed the Poor in Christ's Name", please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, & TV Broadcast

The new sign-up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210.

Join Us in Spreading Joy: Offer a Ride to Church!

Are you looking for a simple yet impactful way to make a difference in someone's day? Consider sharing the gift of a ride to church! Your willingness to offer a ride even one or two weeks a month can brighten someone else's Sunday. Please call or email the church office to see if there's someone in your neighborhood or on your way to church that would like a ride. Open your heart and car doors to help others experience the joy of attending church.

ELCA Young Adult Gathering

Young Adults (19-25-year-olds)

July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans

An ELCA Young Adult Gathering will take place at the same time as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Each group will have separate daytime offerings followed by a joint Evening Program. As this is a new event, plans are still being made. We hope you will consider attending this event. Please contact Pr. Shari or the church office if you are interested in attending. For more info or to register, go to <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 1/11/2024 — Wednesday, 1/17/24

Services & Pantry cancelled due to inclement weather

Wednesday: 12:15: 3

Streaming: 49

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering: Not available at time of printing

Repentance turns us to the power of God's mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Live without anxiety
Wednesday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's ways are not our ways
Thursday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for forgiveness
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Paul's visions
Saturday	Psalms 62:5-12	God is powerful and kind
Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and mercy, help us to be open to the depth and breadth of your power of love that reaches others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you feed us with the life-giving power of this food, feed us with your love to care for others in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you find it hard to love certain people? Explain.
- What do you think about God showing love and mercy to people who upset you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and 4:1-4.

It is easy to get caught up in debates about whether or not Jonah was swallowed by a whale. We can miss the point—and the real miracle—of the whole book. Jonah ran away from God because God directed Jonah to preach repentance to the city of Nineveh. The great miracle in the book of Jonah is that Nineveh repented! The city was known as a corrupt, violent, and ungodly place. Jonah's harsh warning that the city would be overthrown in forty days brought the people—including the king—to repentance. Jonah was displeased about this outcome. He knew the steadfast love and mercy of God and did not want it to be given to Nineveh. Jonah didn't want God to love the people that Jonah didn't love at all. The message in the book of Jonah for us is to stop despising the people God loves. God's steadfast love is great. Even though we feel some do not deserve God's love and mercy, they may receive it anyway. Our call to repentance is the same kind of turning away from a world as we want it and be open to the power of God's kingdom to make all things new.

Discuss: When have you been surprised to see the power of God's love in the lives of those you felt were undeserving?

Pray: **God of abundant grace, help us to trust that your ways are not our ways and that your ways are filled with a love and mercy for all through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to extend God's love to someone you dislike?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We read about Jesus calling the first disciples in Mark 1:16-20. They were fishermen. The fish is an important Christian symbol. Each letter in the Greek spelling of the word "fish" (*IXTHUS*) begins a Greek word that stands for "Jesus Christ Son of God Savior." During the early church, it was dangerous to be a Christian in some parts of the Roman Empire. Believers developed a code to reveal their faith to others who were Christian. One person would draw on the ground the upper half of a fish symbol. If the other person was a Christian, they would recognize this and add a second curve line to complete the drawing of a fish. Draw a simple fish design. Place it in a visible place in your home as a reminder of your faith in Jesus.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28