

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

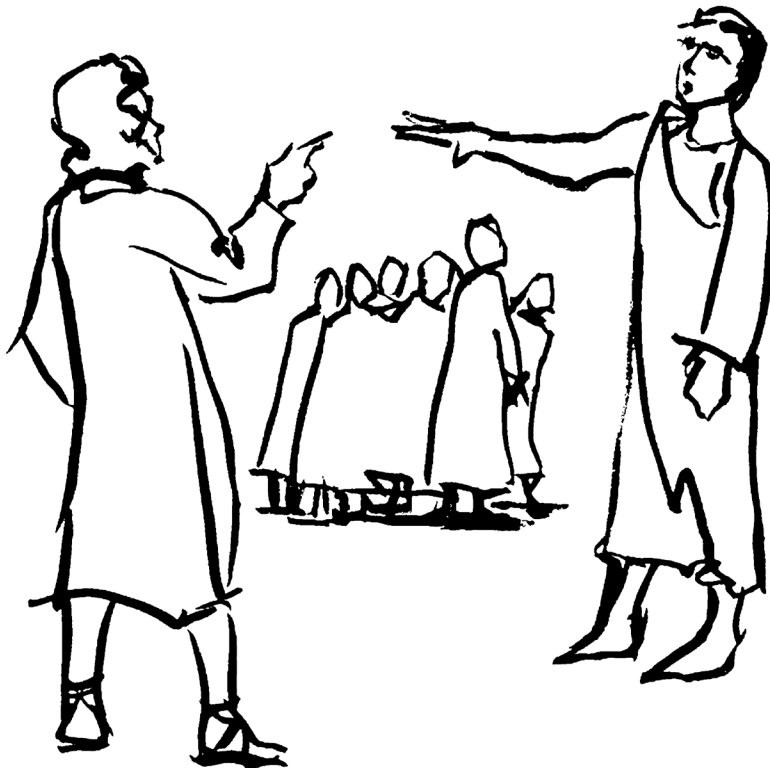
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

January 28, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

☑ **Amen.**

- ☐ 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,

- ☑ **for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling for life in which you took delight.**

- ☐ 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.

- ☑ **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.**

- ☐ To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 manifested by the star
 to the sages from afar,
 branch of royal David's stem
 in thy birth at Bethlehem:
 anthems be to thee addressed,
 God in flesh made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
 weakened body, fainting soul;
 manifest in valiant fight,
 quelling all the devil's might;
 manifest in gracious will,
 ever bringing good from ill:
 anthems be to thee addressed,
 God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
 present in thy holy word;
 grace to imitate thee now
 and be pure, as pure art thou;
 that we might become like thee
 at thy great epiphany,
 and may praise thee, ever blest,
 God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, 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

- P** Compassionate God,
C you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Moses said: ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have

said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 (*read responsively*)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off

if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare our hearts, our minds, our souls

To hear your word, to know your truth, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare our hearts, our minds, our souls'. The second staff contains the melody for 'To hear your word, to know your truth, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(sit)

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

☐ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*Scott & Elizabeth Busteed
Emmet*

Joseph & Patricia Daffer

Jennifer Hellwig

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.

P In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P *Sisters and brothers* in Christ: do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

May almighty God – Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit – who gave you the will to reaffirm your baptismal vows also give you the grace and the strength to uphold them.

P People of God: do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray: we give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

C Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God of grace,
C receive our prayer.

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

Prayers This Week: Bruce Anderson, Judy Hamaker, Evelyn Sueper

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

C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

by Carl Schalk

(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

- P** Blessed are you, Holy One,
C 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

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

PREFACE FOR 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

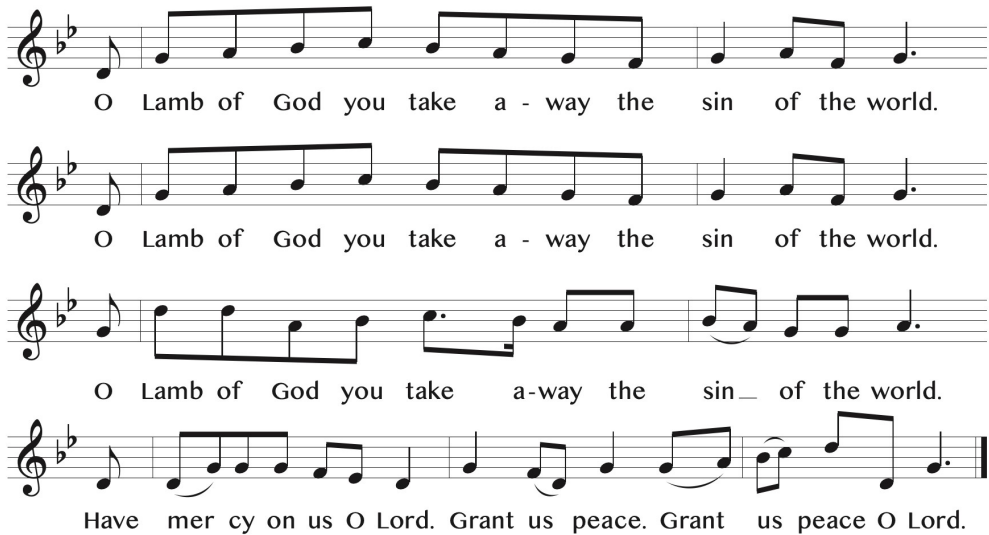
- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

- 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



O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a-way the sin_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us peace. Grant us peace O Lord.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Come and see at Jesus' table,
- ☒ 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.



1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be
 2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -
 3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and
 4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it



win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair
 gage my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern
 chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,
 an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain



give no sign that you are there, God to whom my
 how much more there is to learn, see a world be -
 to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be
 know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er



days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.
 com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.
 full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.
 on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020
 Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Refrain

**Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

Refrain

**2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.**

Refrain

**3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

Refrain

**4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.**

Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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.
- ☞ Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886 vs. 1-5

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!</p> <p>2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.</p> | <p>3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.</p> <p>4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.</p> |
| <p>5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!</p> | |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, 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 27 & 28, 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 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 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.

Welcome New Members

Sunday, January 28

A warm welcome to our newest members as they join Kountze Memorial! We are delighted to have them as part of our congregation. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves. Their names are in this weekend's bulletin insert. We look forward to growing together in faith and community.

Annual Reports

Due This Sunday, January 28

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.

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!

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

Grab your breakfast and meet each Sunday. Join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other .

This Week: Camp 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:** Reception of New Members and Camp Sunday

Next Week: Lutheranism in America: Charles Porterfield Krauth

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 29 Monday

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

January 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

January 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 31 Wednesday

CJH Camp Early Bird Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

February 1 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 2 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

February 3 Saturday

Campbell Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

February 4 Sunday

Epiphany 5

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-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

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.

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>

Luther College Nordic Choir Concert
Presbyterian Church of the Cross
1517 S 114th St, Omaha
Thursday, February 1
7:00 PM

Cost: \$20 or \$10 for Students

You may purchase your tickets at

<https://tickets.luther.edu/Online/seatSelect.asp>

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.

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>

Kountze Food Pantry

We 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>



Attendance & Giving **January 18 — January 24**

Saturday: 26

Sunday: 9:00: 113 11:00: 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 6

Total: 211

Streaming: 70

Pantry Guests Served: 1,119 (inc. 392 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering: January 11 — January 24

\$34,739.78 (Regular) \$4,426.82 (Specials)

\$4,426.82 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus shows his power over evil.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A new prophet like Moses
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Love builds up others
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Thursday	Luke 4:31-37	The man with the unclean spirit
Friday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise for God's wonderful works
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [worshippers] were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching-with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." **Mark 1:27 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, we thank you for being with us in the challenges of life; help us to live lives of praise to you through Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in your grace and mercy you remember us and feed us. We thank you for this meal and your faithfulness to all. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 111:4-7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of God protect you through Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or talk about a time you felt your life was out of control.
- Do you turn to God when life feels out of control? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:21-28.

It is revealing that in this reading in Mark, the first act of Jesus beyond teaching is an exorcism. What is doubly revealing is that in the Gospel of John, there are no exorcisms. For Mark, this act of Jesus is critical. A man with an unclean spirit was helpless in the face of powers he could not control. Sin, the human condition of brokenness and alienation from God, is the fundamental power that we cannot control. Whatever form it takes, an unclean spirit taps into a life that needs redemption. The unclean spirits of murder, adultery, false witness, racism, and more are examples of our readiness to thoughts and actions that destroy instead of give life. Jesus came to redeem us so that we may live lives of praise to God and love for all others. It is quite fitting that Jesus' first act is an exorcism. Jesus will do battle with myriad forms of human brokenness and win. This is Mark's way of describing the *"beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* (Mark 1:1).

Discuss: How would you describe the good news of Jesus for us?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we give you praise for your power that conquers evil for the sake of all that you have created through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who feels powerless over a specific situation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 2 is the Church festival day for the "Presentation of the Lord." The festival recalls that forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem. This festival is also known as "Candlemas" because of the tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the coming year. This is associated with Simeon's words about Jesus being *"a light to reveal God to the nations."* (Luke 2:32) Light a new candle to use this year as part of your devotions and pray: **Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a bright light in our lives. Bless us as we gather around this candle. May it remind us that Jesus is with us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39