

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 44, Issue 2

February, 2024



FROM THE PASTOR

It seems we are just barely out of the Christmas season and yet Lent is right around the corner. This year Lent begins on Valentines Day - Wednesday, February 14. Which is just one reason it feels appropriate that **this year our Lenten theme will be "Created for Community"**. As I write this, the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is not far past. MLK was all about the Beloved Community – he preached about it throughout his too-short life and it was the vision that compelled him to keep pushing us forward as a nation towards a society in which everyone flourished together, a world where poverty, hatred, and abuse were deliberately laid aside in favor of love. This Lent, in our Wednesday midweek services, we will be guided by the gospel of Mark to reflect on what it means to live into the Beloved Community Jesus ushers us into – a Kingdom in which we are in community with our siblings in Christ, with the world, with our neighbors on the margins, with all of creation, and with God our Creator.

For centuries Christians have used the season of Lent as a time to take up extra spiritual practices, or disciplines. Those words can be intimidating, and the practice of Lenten disciplines can be easily misunderstood. The disciplines of Lent are NOT a second chance at our New Year's resolutions, for example. You or I may well need to be resolved to eat better, clean out the clutter from our closets, or use kinder, gentler language when we're frustrated - but those disciplines in and of themselves have nothing to do with Lent practices. Lent is also NOT about making ourselves more spiritual - adding extra bible readings or prayers. If anything, **Lent is a time when we are reminded that no matter how "spiritual" we are in our habits, we are still sinners in need of a Savior. No amount of trying harder will make us more acceptable to God!** That is the bad news...

The Good News is, of course, the Good News of Easter – that God has sent a Savior and because of Jesus, we are acceptable to God – not by our own spiritual practices or good hearts, but by Jesus's obedient life and death. AND, even better news, we are rescued from all the brokenness

and evil in the world and in ourselves, even the evil of death, because of Jesus's resurrection! ~~At least~~... oops – not yet! **So, why do any Lenten "disciplines" at all?** The practices we pick up in Lent are all about clearing out space, time, consciousness in our busy, routine, cluttered, noisy lives for us to become closer to God, and to see our lives, our world, our neighbors through God's eyes. To practice being more who God created us to be. Together. So that we are more ready, not to be accepted by God – that's a done deal already – but to live in communion with God, to live in relationship with the world in God's way. I sometimes phrase it this way – **Lent gets us ready for the party!** Lent prepares us to be God's people who party God's way at the great Feast of the Kingdom – the celebration of Easter. And that party is all about that Beloved Community we were created from the beginning to be part of. So as you pick out a Lenten practice this year, think about something that will lead you deeper into that identity. And join us as we learn and journey together at Kountze.

Have a Blessed Lent!

Pastor Lucy

Wednesdays in Lent "Created for Community"

Wednesdays, February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20

- Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM (6:30 PM is livestreamed)
- Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon (free-will offering)
- Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM (free-will offering)



WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

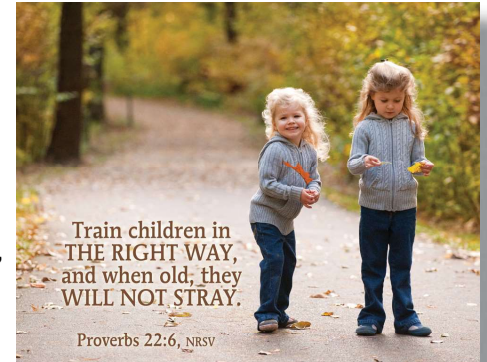
Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked "flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



Children in Worship

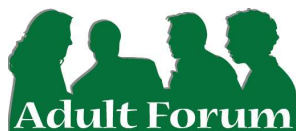
We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available. We also have a room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.



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- Recovery Celebration Service
- Scholarships
- Women's Lenten Retreat
- Young Adult Gathering

GROW with us...



10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

- February 4: Lutheranism in America: C.F.W. Walther and Charles Porterfield Krauth
February 11: Budget Presentation
February 18: Congregational Meeting
February 25: TBD



New Member Classes

April 14 & 21

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday,

April 28. Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office - we look forward to connecting with you!

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.

Please consider attending. More information can be found at <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering> Please let one of the Pastors know if you are interested so we can help you make connections for your trip. Madeline O'Kane is the primary leader for those from Kountze Memorial and Immanuel in Bellevue.

come grow with us!



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14

Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM

Lenten Meal:

Lunch: 11:00 AM

Dinner: 5:00 PM

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.



This year, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday coincide, creating a unique opportunity to celebrate love and spirituality together. We encourage all members to bring their valentine to lunch or dinner before joining us for Ash Wednesday worship. It's a special day to cherish both love and faith, and we look forward to sharing this meaningful experience with our community. Join us for a heartwarming meal and a soulful start to the season of Lent.

If you would like to help Jim and Crew in the kitchen for any of the Lenten meals - lunch and/or dinner - please contact Jim Smejkal in the church office or at jim@kmlchurch.org. No experience necessary.

11th Annual Heart of Camp Gala

April 6, 2024

A View West Shores

We are invited to the eleventh annual Heart of Camp Gala to bring Faith: Alive! by celebrating the work done through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Your participation and generosity at this year's Gala will enable NLOM to provide opportunities to campers no matter where they are in life. All are welcome here, in these places where we live out faith in ways that show everyone they belong and are unconditionally loved by God.

Mark your calendar! Registrations will open on February 1, and RSVPs are due by March 15.

For auction, sponsor, and ticket information go to:

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



SERVE with us...

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>

Food Pantry Report (1/1/2023 -12/31/2023)

Income:

Grants	\$	2,775.00
Donations:	\$	62,179.66
Memorials	\$	23,955.61
	\$	89,910.27

Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	6,422.13
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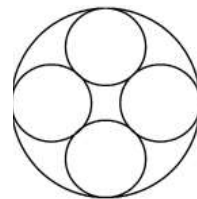
Regular Expenses

Aldi	\$	-
Costco	\$	2,173.62
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$	-
Hy-Vee	\$	-
Dollar Tree	\$	105.71
Family Fare	\$	16,893.97
Food Bank	\$	-
Walmart	\$	2,623.44
Sam's Club	\$	918.81
Other	\$	2,134.35
	\$	31,272.03

Balance \$ **57,638.24**

Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

The Kountze Food Pantry will hold a spring food drive this Lenten season to show how we Love Thy Neighbor. The drive will go from February 14 to March 31. The Pantry is in need of unexpired, nonperishable foods in cans, boxes, and plastic jars. Please no glass jars. Pop-top cans—whether for veggies, meat or fruit—are a plus. Possible donations may include canned beans, meats (chicken or tuna), vegetables, fruits, and soups/stews; boxes of crackers, granola bars, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant potatoes; and plastic jars of peanut butter or pasta sauce.



The church has pantry drop off locations in the Fellowship Hall, the accessible entrance, and the Narthex.

The Love They Neighbor food drive is also to honor Wayne Simmonds and the generosity of Sherri Labedz and Terri Gogetap, who named the pantry Love Thy Neighbor to honor their father. Sherri, Terri, and their father, Wayne, have been faithful and generous members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Wayne loved the Kountze Food Pantry and made it a priority to volunteer at this very special ministry to help "the least of these" in our community.

Please encourage your fellow parishioners, family, friends, coworkers, and social circles to help in this wonderful cause! We would love the support from clubs and troops as well.

Questions or need to arrange a delivery of food? Please contact me at 402-341-7761, ex. 222 or jill@kmlchurch.org or jill@kountzecommons.org.

With gratitude,

Jill Conway
Executive Director
Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center

Sunday Breakfast

We are so thankful for the good work of members that provide our breakfast each Sunday morning. If you would be willing to be the point person for this ministry, a back up shopper, a member of the 3rd Sunday team, part of the 5th Sunday team (2 people) or clean up group for the 2nd Sunday team (3 people), breakfast where paper products are used at both, please let Pastor Shari know. She can also answer any questions you may have. There is also a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk. Your consideration for joining this important ministry is appreciated.



NEWS & Notes...



December 19, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:09 PM.

The minutes were adopted and approved from November's council meeting.

Finance: Financial Report received. November numbers show a negative balance YTD of \$48,000, however we were in a better position than last year which at this time last year was over \$100,000 negative. Motion made - and passed unanimously - to move \$500,000 from the money held in savings from the DeFrease Manor Fund to a CD with Dundee Bank. A second Motion was made - and passed unanimously - moving \$300,000 from the M. Bock estate into a CD with Dundee Bank for a term of 3 months.

Staff Reports: Accepted by council. Sunday School to begin January 14, 2024. Pastor Wynard discussed looking at the new Associate Pastor position and keeping an open mind for what the position is called (i.e. Associate Pastor v. Lay Minister) and what the position may entail. Pastor Duminy noted a lessened support on the Advent Tree - goal was \$4,500.

Old Business: Servant Keeper Access was discussed. (Prior to the present discussion, the council noted multiple

prior discussions regarding whether the Executive Director of Kountze Commons should be granted access to such information) Discussion held regarding weather with assigned confidentiality agreement and fiduciary obligations if it was appropriate that the executive director now be granted permission. Discussion then held whether it should ultimately be up to the Senior Pastor to decide who ultimately makes the decision. During the conversation a motion was made - unanimously approved - to allow Servant Keeper Access to Pastor Wynard and Executive Director Jill Conway.

Discussions regarding smoke-free campus continued until next meeting.

Council Retreats & Next steps: continue review and discussion on purpose statements and creating an editable version to complete by each committee.

New Business: Attracting new/younger congregants. Topic tabled until next meeting.

Lara McCormick made a motion to allow a girl scout troop to meet at Kountze.

Calendar notes: Motion made - unanimously passed - to push our Annual Meeting to Feb. 18 (from the originally scheduled Feb. 11 date). This, the budget forum will now be moved to Feb. 11.

Council adjourned at 8:03 PM.

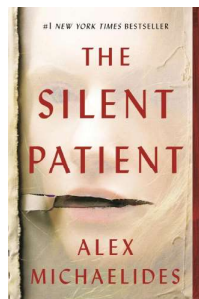


Cards with Friends

Thursday, February 1

2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.



KMLC Book Group

Sunday, February 11

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

Alex Michaelides was born and raised in Cyprus and lives in London. He was a screenwriter and this is his first novel. The novel is based on the Greek myth of Alcantis, who refused to speak after she was reunited with her husband.

This is a suspenseful story about Alicia Berenson who shot her husband 5 times in the face and then refused to speak again. She was admitted to a psychiatric facility in London, where psychotherapist, Theo Faber, works with Alicia to try to get her to speak and uncover the mystery of her husband's murder. The ending of the book is a twist no one anticipates and the seasoned suspense reader is shocked. The mystery of Agatha Christie and suspense of Alfred Hitchcock are revealed in the ending.

Men's Lunch

In February, there won't be a Men's Lunch, but there's a tentative plan to gather in March with the delightful possibility of corned beef and cabbage. Given the busy season of Lenten Meals, we'll give Chef Jim a touch of flexibility to our plans. Stay tuned for updates, and let's look forward to a potential March Men's Lunch!



Women's Lenten Retreat

Hear Us! Heal us! Send Us!

Saturday, February 24, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10 (Pay at the Door)

Join Spiritual Directors Lisa Kramme, Midland University Campus Ministry
Pastor David Pinkston, NE Synod Director of "Seeking the Spirit Within"
for a time of learning spiritual practices to guide us through Lent.

Lunch will be served Sign up today to save your spot.

Bring a friend Please RSVP to the church office by February 19.

You may also register online by using the following QR code.



You may also register online at

<https://form.jotform.com/232905425173050>

If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11:00 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

Pastoral Acts

(December 16 - January 15, 2023)

Funerals:

Gary Pospisil, December 17, 2023
Cathy Mileger, December 21, 2023



March 17 - 19, 2024
 April 21 - 23, 2024
 July 7 - 9, 2024
 September 22 - 24, 2024
 October 20 - 22, 2024
 December 6 - 8, 2024
 Carol Joy Holling Camp

These retreats are for crafters of any kind. Bring your own projects and use this time away to get caught up or do new projects! It's a great time to meet new friends, learn new skills, and be inspired by others' creativity.

These retreats fill up fast - there's a wait list for March - so be sure to sign up early! Register online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/5ymm67rp>

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>



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.

Lenten Word Search

The words in the puzzle may be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward, or backward.
 Circle discovered words and cross them off the list when you've found them.

M	B	I	B	L	E	A	B	J	C	S	S	E	L	B	D
F	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	E	F	F
A	S	U	G	G	H	D	I	S	J	F	C	K	L	O	M
S	H	N	N	O	A	P	U	U	Q	O	R	R	S	O	F
T	E	T	U	D	V	R	W	S	X	R	I	Y	G	T	O
I	S	L	Y	Z	Y	A	D	B	T	T	F	A	O	W	R
N	C	D	P	E	F	T	N	E	L	Y	I	D	O	A	G
G	S	S	O	R	C	G	H	H	N	D	C	N	D	S	I
I	J	H	C	R	U	H	C	U	K	A	E	U	F	H	V
L	A	S	T	S	U	P	P	E	R	Y	L	S	R	I	E
H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	M	N	S	O	M	I	N	N
P	Q	V	E	A	S	T	E	R	R	W	D	L	D	G	E
T	U	T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	A	A	V	S
W	V	I	G	I	L	X	R	E	Y	A	R	P	Y	Y	S
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	Z	A	D	G
C	M	K	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	P	Y	S	D

Ash Wednesday

Ashes

Bible

Bless

Church

Cross

Disciples

Dust

Easter

Fasting

Foot Washing

Forgiveness

Forty Days

Garden

Good Friday

Holy Week

Jesus

Last Supper

Lent

Love

Maundy Thursday

Palm Sunday

Prayer

Purple

Resurrection

Sacrifice

Temptation

Vigil

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



Sunday School

Ages 2 yr-6th grade
Sundays, 10:10 AM

As we move into February, the Sunday School children will finish up their rotational lessons on The Lord's Prayer, before moving into the season of Lent and focusing on Jesus' Journey to the Cross.

The children are receiving take home papers that we encourage you to discuss with your child during the week. Often, fun activities are included to strengthen what they learn at church.

Children's Choir

Sundays, 9:10 AM
(following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)
2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room
Grades K-6

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



Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Grades 1-6

Trailhead at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Our Explore! Day Retreats for elementary students are a chance for young campers to get out and enjoy camp in one compact and fun day. If your child is missing camp or has never been to camp, Explore! gives them the perfect opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building out at CJH Camp. In addition to Bible study and worship, we will be experiencing many favorite camp activities together as we share in fun and fellowship.

Every Explore! Day Retreat is different, so first-time and long-time participants can both join in the fun as we focus on environmental education, fellowship, and faith! Cost: \$25 per camper. This cost includes meals and programming on Saturday.

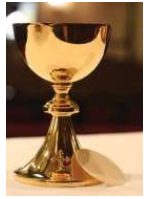
A tentative schedule and registration can be found at:
<https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

First Communion Classes

Sundays, March 17 & 24

12:00 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2nd grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email Kristin@kmlchurch.org to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 28.



Confirmation Program

Wednesday, February 7

6:00 PM

We will meet one time in February, on the 7th at 6:00 PM at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church for confirmation class. The rest of the month we will be back at Kountze Memorial for Ash Wednesday and Lenten Worship.



March 8-9, 2024

8:00 PM - 8:00 AM

Grades 6-8

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Carol Joy Holling Camp is hosting yet another Middle School Lock-in this Spring! Join in the fun of night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God. This lock-in provides the chance for youth attending Summer Camp, and/or Confirmation Camp the opportunity to begin diving into God's grace and growing in faith. Youth that is just wishing to spend time with friends, learn more about God, and have a fun time will also find a meaningful message at this lock-in and an experience they can take with them for the rest of their lives. Cost: \$35 per camper and includes lodging, meals, and programming from 8:00 PM on Friday through 8:00 AM on Saturday.

A tentative schedule and registration can be found at:
<https://www.cjhcenter.org/lock-in>

Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

10:10 AM

Grab your breakfast and meet each Sunday at 10:10 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other with the following activities:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| February 4 | Current Events |
| February 11 | Spiritual Practices |
| February 18 | Created to Be Bible Study |
| February 24 | Games |





March 22-23, 2024

8:00 PM - 8:00 AM

Grades 9-12

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Come join in the fun of all-night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God. The Lock-In also serves as a preview to our 2024 Summer Camp theme. This event provides the chance for youth attending summer camp the opportunity to begin diving into God's grace and growing in faith. Youth that are just wishing to spend time with friends, learn more about God, and have a fun time will also find a meaningful message at this Lock-In and an experience they can take with them the rest of their lives. Cost: \$35 per camper. This cost includes lodging, meals and programming from Friday night to Saturday morning.

A tentative schedule and registration can be found at:
<https://www.cjhcenter.org/lock-in>

2024 Summer Youth Trip ELCA Youth Gathering

Be sure to mark your calendars for other NOLA awareness events where we will be uplifting the culture of New Orleans:

March 31 Easter Breakfast
May 12 Beignet Breakfast



Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling!



If you didn't get a chance to register for camp by the Early Bird pricing deadline (January 31), Kountze Memorial will still cover the cost of the Early Bird pricing, but 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

We will then submit the Early Bird portion of the payment on behalf of your youth. You'll need to mail in your portion. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to

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

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



36th Annual Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Carol Joy Holling Camp

The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Bring your friends and families!

Quilts in the past have auctioned for anywhere between \$25 and \$20,000. Lance Larsen, a professional auctioneer from Cordova, Neb., is volunteering his time to auction the quilts. Select quilts will be available through the Silent Auction. Bidding will open for the Silent Auction Friday, July 26 at 9:00 AM and close Saturday, July 27 at 1:30 PM. Live Auction bidding will start at 9:30 AM. Although this is an outdoor event, pets are not allowed.

Quilt donations can be delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp between June 1 and July 19. (Please submit in a plastic bag with donation form that can found on www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction)

Silent Auction on Qtego: The silent auction will be online and will open Friday, July 26 at 9:00 AM.



Carol Joy Holling Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

Quilt Auction

CALENDAR

February

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

February 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.
Timothy
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

February 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 9 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 10 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 11 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord
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
(Budget Presentation)
12:15 PM Book Group

February 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 14 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday



Valentine's Day

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese
Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

February 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due
Good News Deadline
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

February 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 17 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 18 Sunday

Lent 1
Congregational Meeting
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
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting



February 19 Monday

President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED (No Pantry)

February 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

February 21 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

February 22 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 23 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 24 Saturday

10:00 AM Women's Lenten Retreat
5:00 PM Worship

February 25 Sunday

Lent 2
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

February 26 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3

February 28 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

February 29 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic



1. Nien Bol, Rachel Bruch, Barbara Carpenter, Matthew Friesner, Natalie Hansen, Carol Hansen,
2. Kathleen Bailey, Jacob Rump
3. Pam Brown, Tammy McLeod, Amanda Taylor, Kristina Thacker, Drue Councill
4. April Litwin, Ralph Morse, Hunter Seay
5. Patsy Allen, Fran Camenzind, Janet Campbell, Gloria Houston, Karen Jacobson, Kevin Larkowski, Jack Lawrence
6. Susan Coles, Bethany Gibson, Maggie Hiatt, Jaxson Winther
7. Cindy Coufal, Rhonda Pounds
8. Karen Hardy
9. Gloria Erickson, Bruce Nissen, Deborah Strobel, Alesha Martin, Jane Meyer
10. Karen Gilliam, Mason Crowell, Jennifer Seay, Carly Cameron
11. Teresa Heil, Mark Miller, Daphne Reed, Jerry Van Bibber
13. Theresa Gruber, Austin Heimes, Jennifer Jones, Kelli Lange, Kris Placzek, Mackenzie Miller
14. Mike Christensen, Janis Fochek, Kara Griger, Steven Olson, Deb Virchow
15. Laura Anderson, Paul Bruch, Lisa Chmura, Calvin LeClair
16. Madaline Christensen, Tonia Kinish, Shelby Pestel, Chad Picha, Colton Diggins, Karen Buchholz
17. Jessica Kaasch, Jo Kayton, Riley Pleas
18. Walter Furjanic, Bob Johnson, Ardis Von Seggern, Ashley Quarles
19. John Lynch, Cindy Pfetzer, Susan Puls, Maddie Rief
20. Lesley Akers, John Eggen, Kitsy Hagge
21. Kristin Boe, Holly Carter, Karla James, David Muller
22. Danielle Barrett, Austin Copeland, Kathy Englert, Jacob Madison, Mary Owen, Jace Tams, Megan Thom
23. Stephen Sheftz
24. Mark Adams, Benjamin Dey, Kathryn Harvey, Jim Hopkins, Thomas Waller,
25. Nancy Anderson, Paul Revord, Jenni Toebben,
26. Shelley Danenhauer, Amy Fredrickson, Suzanne Kotula, Nancy Martens, Patricia Scarpino, Hannah Earnhardt, Juliana Durio, Keelan Edwards
27. Jacque Johnson
28. Kyle Frye, Mitchell Rudie, Erica Weigel, Norm Herzog
29. Rashelle Garrett

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 12/1/2023	\$1,823,288.99
Principal Payment, 1/1/2024	\$7,663.88
Interest Payment, 1/1/2024	\$5,807.05
Balance, 1/1/2024	\$1,815,625.11

Finances: December, 2023

	<i>December</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 125,787.31	\$ 1,066,373.51
Expenses:		
Mission Support:	\$ 17,223.00	\$ 77,500.00
Christian Education:	\$ 1,133.23	\$ 7,156.74
Facility Costs:	\$ 25,406.93	\$ 213,170.92
Staff Compensation:	\$ 59,513.23	\$ 644,100.97
Worship & Music:	\$ 5,470.71	\$ 41,826.42
Parish Life:	\$ 1,549.21	\$ 26,942.02
Youth:	\$ 400.00	\$ 10,655.96
Office & Administration:	\$ 3,245.73	\$ 54,701.71
Total Expenses:	\$ 113,942.04	\$ 1,102,594.90

Kaitlynne's Newsletter

Bogotá, Colombia - January 2024



Katie Larson, one of Kountze Memorial's Seminararians, is continuing her internship in Columbia. Use the link below to read her January newsletter.

<http://tinyurl.com/mrw7u2vb>

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
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Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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Organization
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PAID
Omaha NE 68131
Permit 238

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

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox channel 13
and live streamed on our website at
<https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our
website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GO AND...HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Conversation is an exchange involving active listening as well as taking turns sharing ideas and stories. It can be easy for us to fall into monologuing, lecturing, or tuning out especially when we think we know the answers. As a result, we often avoid having difficult conversations. Faith-filled disciples are called to be honest and engage with each other in Christ-like love.

Questions to Consider:

- What is your prayer as you consider engaging in a hard conversation?
- When was a time you had a hard conversation? What did it feel like? What did you learn from it?
- What is The conversation that you need to GO have and with whom?

Prayer: Engaging God, who is not afraid of any conversation, give me the words, wisdom, and heart to join in difficult conversations. Amen.

Suggested Song: Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

Learn More at nebraskasynod.org/go-and/

Ready, Set, Go! In the Great Commission, Jesus calls us to GO. We are taking those words to heart.

In June the Nebraska Synod embarked on a year-long focus to “Go and...”. We invite you to be part of this call to GO! and lean in as God’s people called, gathered, and sent to “Go and...”.

Together, all 90,000 members of the ELCA Nebraska Synod will be focused on responding to Christ’s sending in the Great Commission, to Go and..., and to really live out the joy and hope.