

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

February 11, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism

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 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE

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,

☞ the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 50:1-6 (*read responsively*)

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(*stand*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

ELW 553

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

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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 of Gloria Houston

Prayers This Week: Kathy Englert, Linda Johnson, Sharon West

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, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Marce Picha, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Evelyn Sueper, 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.
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

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

(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.

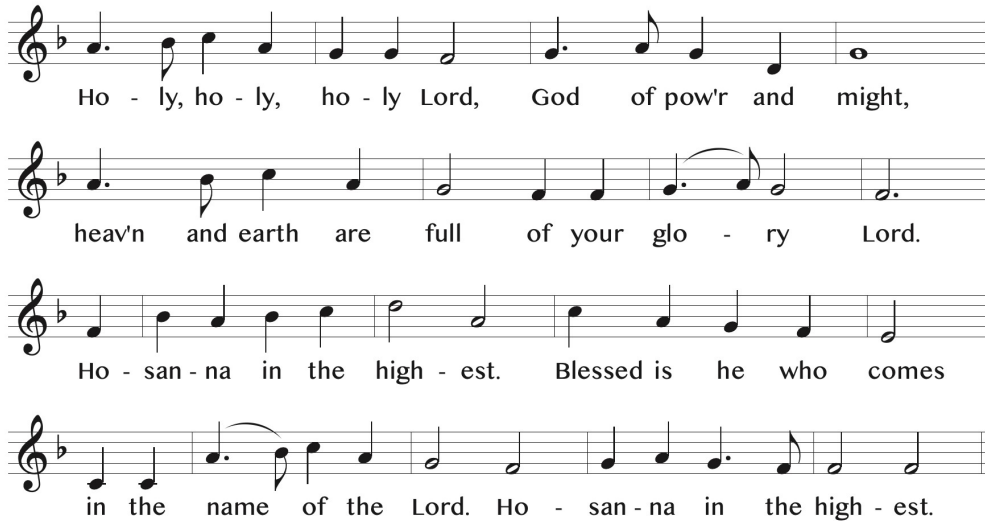
HOLY COMMUNION

- 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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and see at Jesus' table,

C heaven and earth are joined as one.

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

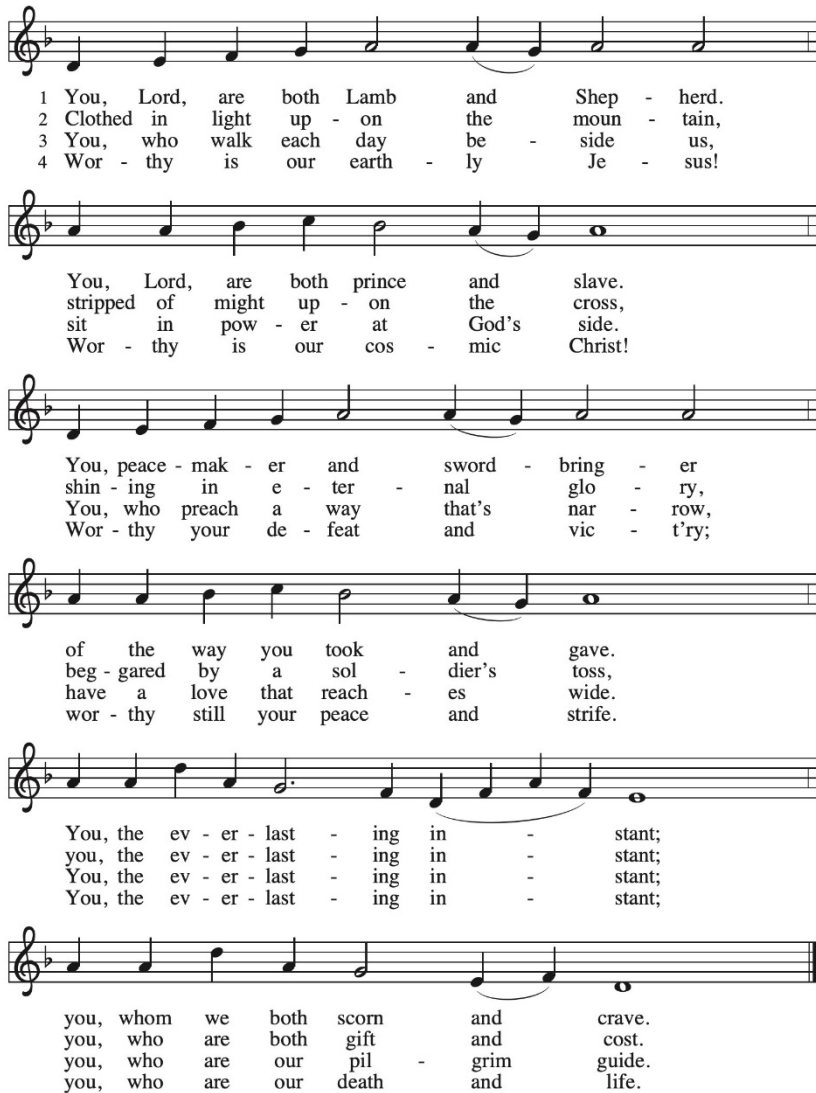
All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, 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

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

ACS 954



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!

You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.

You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.</p> <p>2 Alleluia you are sounding,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles still are we.</p> | <p>3 Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin shall flow.</p> <p>4 In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter
with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing
alleluia joyfully.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- [P]** Giver of every gift,
- [C]** 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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, 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**

February 10 & 11, 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Karen Bonneau in celebration of her baptismal anniversary.

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.

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: Games

Next Week: Congregational Meeting

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Budget Presentation

Next Week: Congregational Meeting

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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
10:10 AM 2024 Budget Presentation
11:30 AM Youth Gathering Lunch
@Immanuel in Bellevue
12:15 PM Book Group

February 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
5:00 PM KCCOC Board

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
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
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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)

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.

Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

February 14 - March 31

The Kountze Food Pantry will hold a spring food drive this Lenten season to show how we Love Thy Neighbor. The Love Thy 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. The Pantry is in need of unexpired, nonperishable foods in cans, boxes, and plastic jars (no glass jars please). Possible donations may include canned beans, meats (chicken or tuna), vegetables, fruits, and

soups/stews - pop-top cans are a plus, boxes of crackers, granola bars, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant potatoes, and plastic jars of peanut butter or pasta sauce. There are pantry drop off locations in the Fellowship Hall, the accessible entrance, and the Narthex. 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 Jill Conway at 402 -341-7761, ex. 222 or jill@kmlchurch.org or jill@kountzecommons.org.

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 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. Please RSVP to the church office by February 19. You may also register online at

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

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

UFO (Unfinished Objects) Retreats

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>

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>

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>

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to everyone who donated gloves to the Pantry. They came at the perfect time to coincide with the bitterly cold weather we experienced in January. We are once again requesting contributions of toothbrushes and toothpaste. One of our goals is to always provide oral health products, along with razors, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products. If you would like to donate, you may leave your gifts in the box marked "Food Pantry" in Fellowship Hall, or order online and send directly to the church at 2650 Farnam St 68131. Be sure to set delivery dates to Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, closed holidays. If you would like to advance the ministry, consider volunteering by signing up at the following link:

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



Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 2/1/2024—Wednesday, 2/7/2024

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 149 11:00: 75

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 278

Streaming: 44

Pantry Guests Served: 957 (inc. 300 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$18,519.91 (Regular)

\$3,262.42 (Specials)

\$495.60 (Debt Reduction)

Disciples humbly grow in their understanding of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah is taken into heaven
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Proclaiming Jesus as Lord
Wednesday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Thursday	Colossians 1:3-14	A prayer of thanks
Friday	Hebrews 5:11-14	Warning against turning away
Saturday	Psalms 50:1-6	God shines brightly
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" **Mark 9:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Awesome God, help us humbly to live a life that reflects your power and glory meant for us and all the world through Jesus Christ, your Beloved. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to see in this meal your power and glory that shines brightly; give us thankful hearts for this food provided for us by your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith in Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something you want to learn more about?
- What questions would you like to ask Jesus about his life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 9:2-9.

Transfiguration Sunday serves as a bridge between Epiphany and Lent. Epiphany includes many stories revealing who Jesus is through his teachings and miracles. Lent is the season that reflects on being a follower who is true to Jesus as Savior and Lord. The transfiguration story in Mark 9 comes amid three accounts of Jesus' suffering and death (Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, and 10:32-34). The transfiguration story ends by pointing to Jesus rising from the dead. On the mountain, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. This is a scene that perceives the end of history when Elijah and Moses were expected to return. It is a defining moment for Jesus. Peter, James, and John were terrified, and Peter spoke but did not really know what to say. The disciples were to be silent and listen to Jesus. When we think of Jesus' journey to the cross, we, too, as Jesus' disciples are asked to reflect, listen, and humbly grow in our understanding of who Jesus is as the Son of God and the Beloved.

Discuss: How do you think the transfiguration of Jesus made a difference for Peter, James, and John?

Pray: **Ever-present God, help us to see and trust that your saving work is with us so that we may not fear, complain, or forget your goodness to us through 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, how can you help someone grow in the Christian faith?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The church season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, February 14. There are 40 days in the season of Lent, a time to refocus our lives on God. One spiritual practice that Christians emphasize during Lent is prayer. Make this Lent a time of prayer for others. Use separate pieces of paper to write the name of a person you can pray for during Lent. Place these papers into a prayer box. Each day in Lent, pull out a slip of paper from the prayer box and ask God to care for and bless the person named. Add names to the box throughout Lent.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15