

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 18, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT



*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C** Amen.

**P** Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Holy God,

**C** we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

**P** Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

**1** Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.

**2** Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.

**3** Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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## 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

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Holy God, heavenly Father,
- ☞ **in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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

**Genesis 9:8-17**

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him,<sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,<sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 25:1-10 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

**C**hrist also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**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 1:9-15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

**I**n those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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

When We Are Tested

ACS 922

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,  
fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,  
nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,  
food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

☛ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ Hear us, O God.

☛ **Your mercy is great.**

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

**Prayers This Week:** Kathy Englert, Sharon West, Allyson White, Bob Woodworth

**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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ 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

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

edited Carl Schalk

(stand)

#### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*

ELW 676 vs. 2 & 3



2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the  
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the



wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that  
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that



we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.  
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y●a heart.

### OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Jesus, you are the bread of life and host of this meal.
- ☑ Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. 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,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓟ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover  
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

☩ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- Ⓟ O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.

☩ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- Ⓟ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. ...  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☩ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- Ⓟ With your holy ones of all times and places, ...  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

☩ **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

☩ **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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
- ☑ We come to receive bread for the journey.

(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.*

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**1** I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**2** In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**3** When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

*Thy Holy Wings*

ELW 613

**1** Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

**2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

**3** Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

Text: African American spiritual

*(stand)***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Generous God,

**C** at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Cast Out, O Christ*

ACS 1016



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the  
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are  
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you  
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that  
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that  
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -  
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you  
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,  
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.  
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.  
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.  
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.  
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Share your bread.

- ☑ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✝ ✝ ✝



# Worship with us this Lenten Season!

## Wednesdays in Lent

12:15 PM    Lenten Worship

11:00 - Noon Lenten Lunch (free-will offering)

6:30 PM    Lenten Worship (in person and Livestream)

5:00 – 6:30 Lenten Dinner (free-will offering)





### 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 17 & 18, 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 in memory of Marvin Andersen by his family.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### Sunday School

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Congregational Meeting

**Next Week:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

#### Adult Forum

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

**Next Week:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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



### February 19 Monday

President's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

### 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  
Intergenerational Faith Formation  
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

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Wednesdays in Lent

#### "Created for Community"

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

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

Join us for a meal followed by Worship each Wednesday during Lent. Everyone is welcome.

### Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

#### Now through 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](mailto:jill@kmlchurch.org) or [jill@kountzecommons.org](mailto:jill@kountzecommons.org).

### 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](http://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](mailto: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>

## **Good News**

As we gear up for another edition of the *Good News*, we're reaching out to you for a little extra support in the collating department. And, we serve lunch! So, if you're up for a bit of teamwork and a whole lot of fun, join us in this delightful adventure of collating camaraderie. If you're able to lend a hand in this behind-the-scenes task, please call the church office to let us know. We usually put the *Good News* together sometime during the last week of the month from about 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM(ish). We'll get together for the March *Good News* on Wednesday, February 28. You can take part in the Lenten lunch and then Worship at 12:15 if you would like. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our church community in such a meaningful way.

## **ELCA Youth Gathering/Young Adult Gathering Meeting**

**March 3**

**11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

All participants attending the Gathering this summer will get together for an information, relationship-building, and lunch meeting. We will join with the group from Immanuel in Bellevue at their church (104 Galvin Rd. N). If you would like to donate toward the trip, please go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z45H/home> and click on Youth Mission Trip Sponsorships. Thank you for your support.

**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>

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

A monthly visit and sharing communion with one of our members is an opportunity for you to consider. We have members waiting to see you, hear the news of the church, and receive the gift of grace that we receive each week. If you are curious, please let the office know. You will find that bring this grace to another adds gifts to your spiritual walk as well.

## **Mark your Calendars for Movie Night!**

**Sunday, March 10**

High School, College, and Young Adults will be heading to the movies. Watch for the time and place. If you have ideas of movies that you would like to see, let Dannika Rees or Brooks Hinrichs know or contact the church office and we can pass it on.

## **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 the Fellowship Hall, or order online and send directly to the church. 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, 2/8/2024—Wednesday, 2/14/2024**

**Saturday:** 43

**Sunday: 9:00:** 176 **11:00:** 60

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 86 **6:30:** 120

**Streaming:** 61

**Pantry Guests Served:** 922 (inc. 317 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 26

**Offering:**

\$11,191.11 (Regular)

\$1,045.77 (Specials)

\$418.33 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus brings the good news of God's reign.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 9:8-17	God's promise to Noah
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:18-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Romans 14:13-23	Do not make someone stumble
Thursday	Psalms 16:5-11	Song of trust
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	Prayer for guidance
Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death



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#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."* **Mark 1:14-15 (NRSV)**

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you love what you have created; we thank you for your protection and that you come to bring us peace, joy, and love through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you remember the lowly and the hungry; we thank you for remembering us with your love and with this meal that gives us strength. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May the good news of Jesus give you joy.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How would you survive in the wilderness?
- How would you describe God's reign to someone?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 1:9-15.

It is easy to miss the power and drama of Jesus' message that now is the time for the kingdom of God. His message seems so brief. Yet, in Jesus, God's reign is taking on all other claims to power and glory. The arrest of John the Baptist calls attention to another kind of power, the kind that seeks to control and destroy. In a world ordered by inequalities, unfairness, and brutality, another power is needed that can take on such harmful ways. That power is seen in Jesus' ability to take on Satan's deceitful testing of him. We also see it in Jesus being protected from wild beasts that could otherwise cause harm. God's justice and mercy has always championed life, love, and peace. Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, now steps out of his baptismal waters with the power of God's Spirit and takes on all forms of evil and death. We are now called to join this kingdom by turning away from destructive powers and trusting this good and awesome news and kingdom that Jesus brings.

*Discuss:* How do you see God's kingdom in Jesus bringing you and the world good news?

*Pray:* **Merciful and loving God, give us courage to trust the power and presence of your reign of life, love, and peace through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son, 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 bring Jesus' message of love and peace to others?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Lay out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place seven votive candles or battery-operated votive candles in the shape of a cross on the cloth. Light one of the candles this first week in Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross. *Then pray:* **Dear God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and goodness that forgives and renews us in Christ. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38