

# 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 25, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

*Take up  
your cross  
and follow  
me*



*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

## 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** Hear this 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** Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

**2** Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real.  
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

**4** Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2-4  
Text sts. 2-4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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

**P** O God,

**C** by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be the means of life for us. Help us to so glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

**W**hen Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 22:23-31** (read responsively)

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;**

**but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:13-25**

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

**T**he promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -

slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 8:31-38**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come.*

*Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ 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 Wynard*

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

ELW 798 vs. 1,2,5

**1** "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

**2** "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?

**5** Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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## 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: **P** Hear us, O God.

**G** 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)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Darlene White

**Prayers This Week:** Marie Kubat, 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

**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

*Take Up Your Cross*

by Lani Smith



(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

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

## PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

- ☐ 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

- P** 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:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. ...  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** With your holy ones of all times and places, ...  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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



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

**P** A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**C** 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.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*Around You, O Lord Jesus*

ELW 468

**1** Around you, O Lord Jesus,  
your own you gather still  
to share the feast you give us  
with grace our lives to fill.  
You say to us so lovingly,  
"Take, eat! This is my body!  
Take, drink! This is my blood!"

**2** We hear your invitation,  
and heed, O Lord, your call;  
your word of consolation  
is spoken here to all.  
It draws us to your loving heart;  
it brings to us your blessing,  
which never will depart.

**3** We are your own forever;  
until our final breath  
we will be true and never  
in joy, in grief, in death  
depart from you, for you are still  
among your people dwelling,  
as you have said you will.

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

*Christ Is the Life*

ACS 927



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive  
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning  
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing  
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the  
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to  
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as  
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all  
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing  
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y  
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor  
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise  
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from  
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

(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

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

**ELW 802 vs. 1-3**

**1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.**

**2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.**

**3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction,  
give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in  
shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die,  
there to live with you on high.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt.  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress..

### DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Share your bread.  
☞ Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠   ✠   ✠

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# 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 24 & 25, 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 given by Robert & Pat Ranney in memory of Pat's Sister

### 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:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

**Next Week:** Current Events

#### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

**Next Week:** Review of Lenten Theme

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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—  
Intergenerational Faith Formation

### 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

### March 1 Friday

Scholarship Application Deadline  
5:00 PM Pantry

### March 2 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### March 3 Sunday

Lent 3  
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  
11:30 AM Youth Gathering/Young  
Adult Gathering Meeting at  
Immanuel in Bellevue  
3:00 PM Bowling (gr 4-6)

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Wednesdays in Lent

#### "Created for Community"

Wednesdays, February 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.

#### Menu for February 28

Choice of lasagna soup or broccoli cheese soup  
Pulled pork sliders  
Dessert

### 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).

### 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.

### 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)

### **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>

### **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>

### **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.

### **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. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 28. Please see Kristin Boe or email [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) to register your child up for this class. You can also register at the Welcome Desk or on jotform at

<https://form.jotform.com/240464462505150>

### **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.

### **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, 2/15/2024—Wednesday, 2/21/2024**

**Saturday: 34**

**Sunday: 9:00: 135 11:00: 76**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 43 6:30: 59**

**Streaming: 46**

**Pantry Guests Served: 134 (inc. 29 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15**

**Offering:**

\$28,202.14 (Regular)      \$3,854.13 (Specials)

\$812.00 (Debt Reduction)

From despair to praise, God is with us.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Psalms 63	Comfort in God's power
Friday	Ezekiel 36:21-28	God will make God's people clean
Saturday	Psalms 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

From you [God] comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. Psalm 22:25-26a (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for bringing us into your kingdom that is like no other, a power and rule filled with love and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food, a gift of love that gives us strength to praise you for your faithfulness to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your life in Christ give you hope.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell about a time you or someone you know felt rejected or in despair.
- Do you believe that God can help us overcome pain? Explain.

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 22:23-31 and Mark 8:31-38.

Psalm 22 begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (v. 1). The psalmist, in verses 23-31, then utters praise with a new understanding of his/her life and identity in the presence of God. Jesus calls us to give up any self-identity that is not grounded in God through Jesus when he says, "let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34b). Psalm 22 expresses a similar point. We, ourselves, are not defined by our hurts, suffering, or disappointments, but by God. There is a move from despair to praise after recognizing that God has not left the psalmist (or us) in pain. What defines us is the God who delivers us and frees us through Christ. In Psalm 22, God's power and glory reaches the ends of the earth, even the dead and those unborn (vv. 29-31). Like the psalmist in Psalm 22, Peter in Mark 8:33 experiences rejection, but we know that one day he will join in the praise expressed at the end of this psalm. A life of praise to God and God's ways will change Peter just as it changed the psalmist and just as it changes us.

Discuss: How does God's power lead us from rejection to praise?

Pray: Life-changing God, help us to see your glory at work in the world and to trust that in Jesus Christ your kingdom has come to put an end to all evil and suffering. Amen.

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is going through a difficult time?

### 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. Light two candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross. Then pray: Dear God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22