

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

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

January 14, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** 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,
- C** **for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**
- P** 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.
- C** **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.**
- P** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE

Leader

Lord have mer - cy on_ us, Lord have mer - cy on_ us

All

Lord have mer - cy on_ us, Lord have mer - cy on_ us

Christ have mer - cy on_ us, Christ have mer - cy on_ us

Lord have mer - cy on_ us, Lord have mer - cy on_ us.

GLORIA



Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks.

We praise you for your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer,
- ☑ **for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 (read responsively)

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus

answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🕊 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 Wynard

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Borning Cry

ELW 732 vs. 1,3,4

**1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."**

**3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."**

**4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."**

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

THE NICENE CREED

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

☑ **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,
 C receive our prayer.

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends Marilyn Hofeldt

Prayers This Week: Martha Eckmann, Judy Hamaker, Nita Mueller, Traci Stephens, Evelyn Sueper, Gary Westerman

On-going Care: Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Ellie Carlson, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Linda Peltz, Marce Picha, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Jim West, Darlene White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*— James Holzer, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lord is My Light

by Craig Courtney

(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

- ☐ Blessed are you, Holy One,
- ☑ **for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open the heavens 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

- ☐ 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,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: ...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P** With this bread and cup ...
We look with hope for his coming.

- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit ...
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** All praise and glory are yours, ...
one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

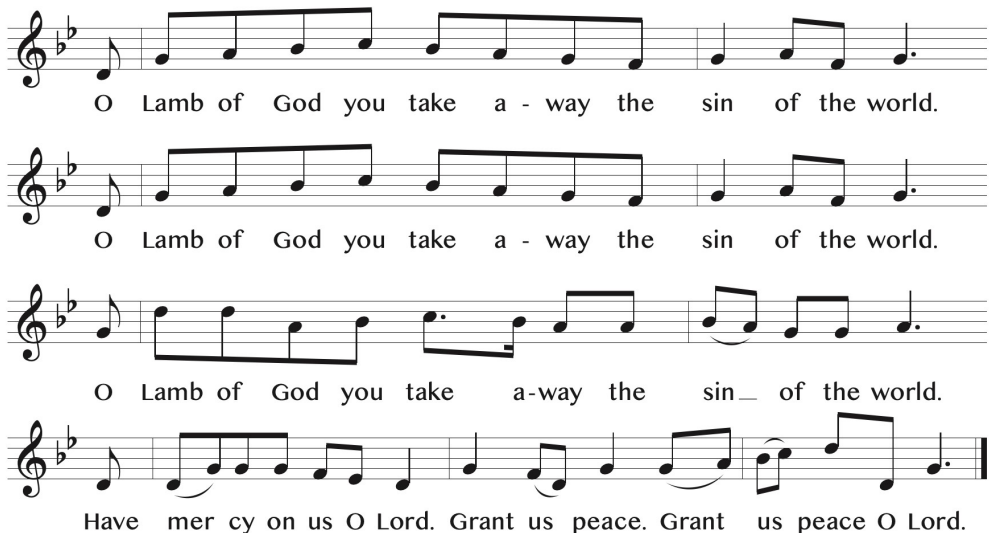
- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



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

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

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Come and see at Jesus' table,
- ☑ **heaven and earth are joined as one.**

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

- 1 **O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**
- 2 **We taste you, ever-living bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead;
our thirsting souls from you we fill.**
- 3 **For you our restless spirits yearn,
where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**
- 4 **O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

- 1 **Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 **Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 **Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐** Giver of every gift,
- ☑** **Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

ELW 696 vs. 1,2,4,5

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":
- 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

Liturgy arranged by ©2022 Cynthia I. Gonzales, Ph.D., Music Director at FLC-San Marcos, TX.

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 13 & 14, 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 worshiping, 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

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.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Barb Chrisman in memory of her brother, Bill Booton.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Neal & Ardis Von Seggern in memory of Rev. Tom & Jean Holcombe and Rev. Lavern & Marilyn Larkowski

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

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Current Events

Next Week: Bible Study "Created to Be"

Adult Forum

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

Next week: Lutheranism in America: Charles Porterfield Krauth

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

New Member Class

January 14 & 21

10:15 AM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, we ask you to consider attending our New Member Class that begins this Sunday. Childcare is available. Please plan on attending both classes. New members will be received on Sunday, January 28.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 14 Sunday

Epiphany 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

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group

Mlqxd| #8# rggd|#

Martin Luther King, Jr.

OFFICE CLOSED

Good News Deadline

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

Mlqxd| #9#vchvgd|#

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

Mlqxd| # :# hgqhvvd|#

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

Mlqxd| # ; #vkxvvd|#

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

Mlqxd| # <#rvgd|#

Jan. 19 - Jan. 21 High School Retreat

(9-12) @ Camp CJH

5:00 PM Pantry

Mlqxd| #53#vdxvvd|#

5:00 PM Worship

Mlqxd| #54#vqvd|#

Epiphany 3

Dinners for Eight Sign-up Deadline

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Photos

If you have any group photos from 2017 – 2021 and you would be willing to share with the church office, we would be most grateful. We want to make sure we have a photo of each of the Confirmation Classes of KMLC.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 18

11:30 AM

Join us for lunch and a short documentary on Offutt AFB

"Startcom 9/11: A Different Doomsday" Please RSVP by

Tuesday, January 16. We hope you'll plan to be here.

(Don't tell anybody, but that's Jim's birthday. Shhhh!)

High School Retreat for Grades 9-12

Carol Joy Holling Camp

January 19-21, 2024

Theme: (un)Equal

Come and join us as we dive into this past summer's theme, "UnEqual". Along with the lessons we will learn about God's

love, we will also be experiencing some favorite camp activities, God's creation, and of course, fellowship! Cost

\$100 per camper. This cost includes lodging, meals, and programming on Friday through Sunday. Register by

January 17 at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>

Dinners for 8

Consider signing up to join a dinners for 8 group in February, March, and April. It is a time when your group will have a meal together each month. This meal can take place in homes, in restaurants, or at the church. Or you may decide to attend a fish fry or another organization's fundraiser. It is up to your group. Please **sign up by January 21** at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office. You will be informed about the groups, so you can begin to find times and places to meet.

Annual Reports

Due January 28

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have it turned in to Debbie Bogue no later than January 28. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

High School Lock-In with Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue

Friday, January 26

7:00 PM – 7:00 AM

All in High School are invited to join in the fun at a Lock-In taking place at Immanuel in Bellevue. It will provide a time

for those going to the Youth Gathering to build relationships. All attending will share in bible study, games, and a time to get to know each other.

Bring your sleeping bag, as sleep will be part of the agenda, to make sure we get what we need to stay healthy. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow! RSVP to Pastor Shari by Wednesday, January 24.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Recovery Communion Service January 31, 2024

7:00 PM

Each year Trinity hosts a Recovery Eucharist for the Diocese of Nebraska commemorating Dr. Samuel Shoemaker who was the Episcopal priest advising Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. in developing the 12 Steps. All are welcome to attend.

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling! Register by January 31 for Early Bird Pricing

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost if you register by January 31. If you register after this date, you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

In order for the church to pay the fee, choose

- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- Email a copy of the receipt to shari@kmlchurch.org

and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to

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

Hear Us! Heal us! Send Us!

Saturday, February 24

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10

Join Spiritual Directors Lisa Kramme, Midland University Campus Ministry and David Pinkston, NE Synod Director of "Seeking the Spirit Within" for a time of learning spiritual practices to guide us through the Lent season. Lunch will be served. Sign up today to save your spot.

Scholarships

Deadline to Apply: March 1

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. **Applications are due on March 1, 2024. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org

Television Ministry

Did you know Kountze has a Television production room? Well, we do, and the production crew would be glad to show you how everything works. If you have any experience with computers, we can train you so you can be a part of this community ministry. High school youth, this is a great way to get your high school community service hours! Come and check it out.

Kountze Food Pantry

In January we will continue to need gloves, especially for adult men. As the coldest months of the year approach, these items will be needed most of all. You may leave them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall or consider ordering online and having them delivered directly to the Church. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission to "Feed the Poor in Christ's Name", please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, & TV Broadcast

The new sign-up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 1/4/2024 — Wednesday, 1/10/24

Saturday: 50

Sunday: 9:00: 113 11:00: 65

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 248

Streaming: 90

Pantry Guests Served: 531 (inc. 172 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering: Not available at time of printing.

Trusted relationships help people follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Ephesians 6:1-4	Nurturing faith at home
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Timothy's faith through family
Friday	2 John 1:12-13	Nurturing faith by relationships
Saturday	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." John 1:45 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Nurturing God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through others that we may have confidence and joy as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food you care for our lives and our physical wellbeing; we thank you for the many ways you show your love for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy as a follower of Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is someone you trust and why do you put your trust in that person?
- Who has helped you as a follower of Jesus? What was it about this person that encouraged you in your Christian life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:35-51.

Beginning with the wise men from the East and Jesus' baptism, Epiphany is the season that focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. In John 1 it is the followers of Jesus who do some of that revealing. Jesus "found" Philip and brings him into the fold of followers. Just as Jesus "found" Philip, now Philip finds Nathanael (vv. 43, 45). Philip is described as someone from Bethsaida, the same hometown as Andrew and Peter who were just added to Jesus' followers. It is likely they had been neighborhood boys, familiar with one another. These are examples of faith formed through personal relationships. First, it was John the Baptist pointing to Jesus that drew in Andrew, and then Andrew "found" Peter and brought in his brother. Now Philip is added to the group, and he goes and gets his friend Nathanael. Nathanael is a skeptic. Philip simply suggests with a note of confidence that Nathanael should find out for himself. Nathanael then has his own experience of being "found" by Jesus and he, too, is drawn in.

Discuss: How do you speak about Jesus to others?

Pray: **Faithful God, we thank you for those you have placed in our lives to help us in our life's journey as a follower of Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, as a follower of Jesus, how can you encourage someone in their faith?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 speaks poetically about the intimate relationship that God has with us. We are fully and utterly known by God and God's love for us. Take time to read Psalm 139:1-6 and 13-18. Think about the personal relationship you have with God. How has that relationship been enriched by others who have nurtured you in the Christian faith over the years? Consider writing a card thanking one or more people for their care for you in your Christian faith.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20