

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

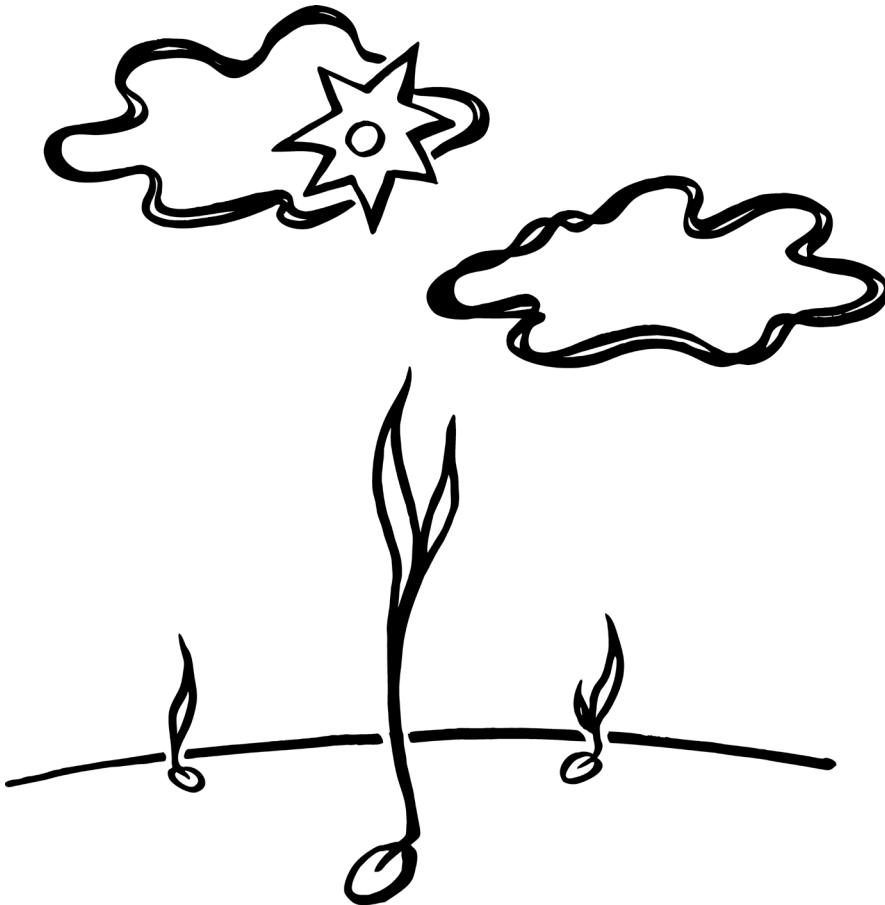
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

March 17, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the 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** 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 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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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

P O God,

C with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:9-16 (*read responsively*)

⁹How shall the young keep their way clean?

By keeping to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you;**

let me not stray from your commandments.

¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart,

that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD;**

instruct me in your statutes.

¹³With my lips I recite

all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees**

than in all manner of riches.

¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments

and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes;**

I will not forget your word.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.”

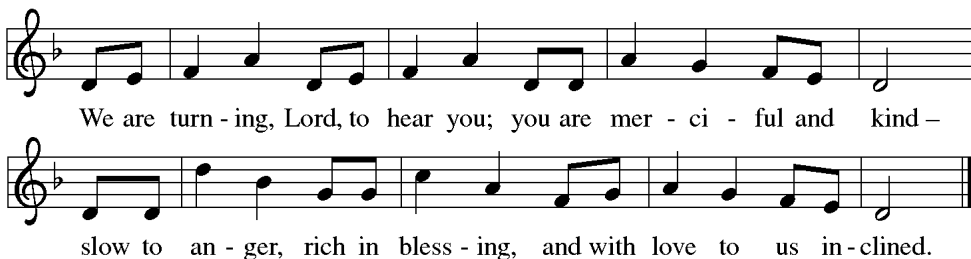
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

[L] Word of God, Word of Life.

[C] 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. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328 vs. 1-3

1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.

2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.

3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.

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: Barb Carlsen, Myrna Carter, Martha Eckmann, Bob Fleming, Bob Woodworth

On-going Care: Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Marce Picha, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Evelyn Sueper, Gary Westerman, 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

Answer to the Call


Mary McDonald

(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

- 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

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
 lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
 quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
 Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
 Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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(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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW 545

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.</p> | <p>2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.</p> |
| <p>3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.</p> | |

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

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)

Palm Sunday, March 23 & 24

5 PM, 9 & 11 AM Eucharist with Palm Procession and Passion Reading

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 25, 26, & 27

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

Maundy Thursday, March 28

11 AM	Lunch (free-will offering)
12:15 PM	Worship
5 PM	Dinner (free-will offering)
6:30 PM	Worship & First Communion (Nursery care is available for children ages infant – 4 years in the nursery located near the Fellowship Hall. Please ask an Usher for directions.)



Good Friday, March 29

12-3 PM	Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir
6:30 PM	Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery)

Holy Saturday, March 30

10 PM	Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist) (There will be no 5:00 PM Saturday service)
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Easter Sunday, March 31

7:30 AM	Festival of the Resurrection in the Link
8 - 10:45 AM	Easter Breakfast
9 & 11:00 AM	Festival of the Resurrection
10 AMish	Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9 AM service



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

March 16 & 17, 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

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 Amy Pignatore on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

Grab your breakfast and meet each Sunday. Join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other.

This Week: "Created to Be" Bible Study

Next Week: Games

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Council Structure & Goals, cont'd.

Next Week: Fellowship (Palm Sunday) & Blessing & Sending of James Holzer

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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 to register your child for this class.

Johann Sebastian Bach Birthday Concert and Reception

Sunday, March 17

3 PM

St. Cecilia Cathedral

Free admission

We have been invited...Celebrate JS Bach's birthday and the 20th anniversary of the Martin Pasi organ with a concert presented by Cathedral Arts Project and the St. Cecilia Institute featuring Nathan Laube, one of the world's elite organ performers and pedagogues. A "Meet the Artist" and Bach Birthday Reception will follow the concert in the Cultural

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 17 Sunday

Lent 5

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

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

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:15 PM First Communion Class

March 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

March 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

March 20 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

March 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

March 22 Friday

Mar 22 - Mar 23 High School Retreat (9
-12) @ Camp CJH

5:00 PM Pantry

Wedding Rehearsal

March 23 Saturday

Lundgren & Peterson Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

March 24 Sunday

Palm Sunday

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

12:15 PM First Communion Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Wednesdays in Lent

"Created for Community"

Wednesdays, 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 March 20

Choice of Vegetable Barley Soup or
Ham and Bean Soup
Assorted Wraps
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 Goetap, who named the pantry Love Thy Neighbor to honor their father. Sherri, Terri, and their father, Wayne, have been faithful and generous members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Wayne loved the Kountze Food

Pantry and made it a priority to volunteer at this very special ministry to help "the least of these" in our community. The Pantry is in need of unexpired, nonperishable foods in cans, boxes, and plastic jars (no glass jars please). Possible donations may include canned beans, meats (chicken or tuna), vegetables, fruits, and soups/stews - pop-top cans are a plus, boxes of crackers, granola bars, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant potatoes, and plastic jars of peanut butter or pasta sauce. There are pantry drop off locations in the Fellowship Hall, the accessible entrance, and the Narthex. Please encourage your fellow parishioners, family, friends, coworkers, and social circles to help in this wonderful cause! We would love the support from clubs and troops as well. Questions or need to arrange a delivery of food? Please contact Jill Conway at 402-341-7761, ex. 222 or:

jill@kmlchurch.org or jill@kountzecommons.org.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, March 21

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

Join us in the link for a post St. Patrick's Day celebration

with corned beef, cabbage, and baby potatoes. The desert may not be the only thing green! Wear green and bring your favorite Irish jokes to share. Please sign up at the welcome desk, call the church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your seat by Tuesday, March 19.

Lenten Potluck

Saturday, March 23

6:00 PM (after Worship)

Bring a dish to share and join us after Worship for a Lenten potluck.

Easter Book Group

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

1:00 PM

Place TBD

Pastor Lucy & Mia Valquier, together with the youth and young adults of Kountze, would like to invite you to an Easter Book Group. We will be reading & discussing the book *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Ross Murray. The group will meet on **Sunday afternoons in April** (possibly at a coffee/brunch spot!). Please find a copy of the book for yourself or let Pastor Lucy know if you need help finding/purchasing a copy. The church has a couple of copies that can be borrowed. Ross Murray was the featured speaker at the annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly last fall. He is an ordained deacon in the ELCA, vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute, and the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk, email or call the church office, or online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/232355457100044>

Middle School Gathering 2.0

My Story is Your Story is Christ's Story is Our Story

April 13, 2024

Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln, NE

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

A Synod-wide day of service for middle school youth (5th-9th grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) The cost for this retreat will be covered. **Let the church office know by March 31 if you would like to be registered to attend this event.**

New Member Classes

April 14 & 21

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, April 28. Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

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.

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling

If you didn't get a chance to register for camp by the Early Bird pricing deadline (January 31), Kountze Memorial will still cover the cost of the Early Bird pricing, but you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

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

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

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

Camp Firelight VBS

St. Timothy's Church (510 N 93rd St)

July 8-11

5:15 PM: Family Dinner

6—8 PM: Class

Have an adventure with God this summer! Make plans now to attend VBS. Registration is open now to register for VBS youth and volunteers. Sign up with the following link:

<https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Volunteer opportunities include kitchen clean up, teachers, assistants, and more. We would love to see you there!

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 3/7/2024—Wednesday, 3/13/2024

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 130 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 37 6:30: 64

Streaming: 53

Pantry Guests Served: 943 (inc. 357 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$24,132.58 (Regular)

\$3,227.66 (Specials)

\$392.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus is revealed to the whole world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as a high priest
Wednesday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Thursday	Numbers 12:1-9	Aaron, Miriam, and Moses
Friday	Acts 7:54-60	The stoning of Stephen
Saturday	Psalm 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [some Greeks] came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." John 12:21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, may your power and glory be seen in Jesus' death and resurrection that all the world may know of the depth of your care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food that we may be given strength and courage to follow you all the days of our lives through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you see and hear of God's love for you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is a famous person you would like to see? Why?
- Where and how do you see Jesus in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 12:20-33.

Greeks, that is, non-Jews and people who represent the larger world beyond Galilee and Judea, want to see Jesus. This is an example of John 3:16, "*for God so loved the world.*" Now is the time for Jesus as the Son of Man to be revealed to the whole world in glory. What does that reveal look like? The answer is death and resurrection described through a grain of wheat that must die in order to rise and bear fruit (v. 24). We, too, want to see Jesus and would love to hear a heavenly voice that points to Jesus among us. What we do see and hear is a community of faith that follows Jesus into the world. Through the work of Philip, Andrew, and all others who serve and follow Jesus, the message of his death and resurrection reaches the whole world.

Discuss: How do we as followers of Jesus make him known through our lives?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to see Jesus in the world and be seen and heard as his followers who serve him and give our all for the sake of your love for the world. 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 others experience the love and mercy of God?

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 five 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 Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you through your cross and empty tomb. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1--15:47