

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

February 12, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

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 in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- [P]** We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
- [C]** **for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, life-giving rivers. You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.**
- [P]** Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- [C]** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"As We Gather at Your Table"

ELW 522

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.</p> | <p>2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.</p> |
| <p>3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.</p> | |

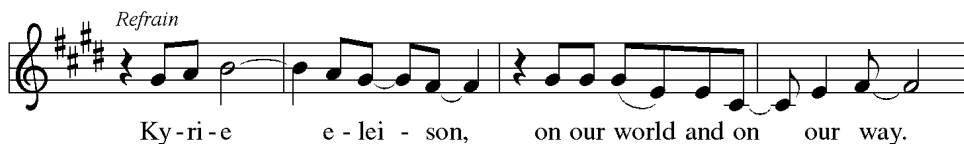
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company,
Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

☑ And also with you.

KYRIE



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the

2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for

hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,

we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Glo - ria_a Dios, glo - ria_a Dios,
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria_a Dios en los cie - los.
glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,
Peace be to you, peace be to me,

paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite
Music: Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GLORIA A DIOS
Irregular

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Lord God,
- C** the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

Moses said to the people: ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:1-8

(the organ will play the short melody, then all will join in singing the refrain. As we read the Psalm responsively, the 📖 indicates where we will sing the refrain in unison)



Hap - py are they who fol - low the teach-ing of the LORD.

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

²**Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

⁴**You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them. 📖**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

⁶**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸**I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me. 📖**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-26

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

Jesus said to the disciples: ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

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 Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let All Things Now Living”

ELW 881

**1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and
praise!"**

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

THE APOSTLES' CREED



- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **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:  Merciful God,
  **receive our prayer.**

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

Prayers This Week: Toby Rees, Joyce Wachal



On-going Care: Marvin Andersen, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Marge Grabow, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Kathy Preninger, Darlene White, Debra Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, 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, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, 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*— Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

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

“Draw Me Nearer”

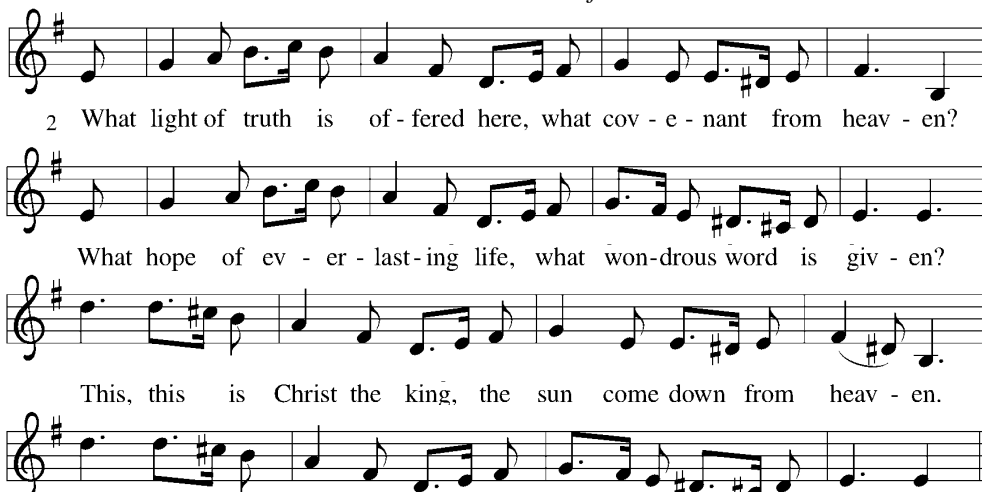
Gregg Sewell-Crosby

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487 vs. 2



2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?

What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞ Liberating God,
- ☞ **you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, 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.
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, 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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and taste the joy of God!

C Amen.

(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

"One Bread, One Body"

ELW 496

Refrain

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord. | 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. <i>Refrain</i> | 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. <i>Refrain</i> |

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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**1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
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www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Holy One,

☞ we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

☩ ☩ ☩

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 11 & 12, 2023

*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 Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.*

Today at Kountze

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God 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.

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

Sundays, 9:15 AM—(after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761. The children's choir will be singing on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19. We hope that all of our children can be here to sing. Thank you!

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Sunday School Focus:

In class, we will begin learning about Jesus' journey toward the cross as we prepare for Easter. The first lesson will focus on the birth and growth of Jesus.

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

7th – 12th graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Congregational Meeting
Next week: Bible Study

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.

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, *continued*

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Congregational Meeting **Next Week:** Lenten Preview



Pantry "Souper" Bowl

Now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 12

The Kountze Women of the ELCA are collecting soup and peanut butter. There is a large bin in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!

Bowling Down Barriers

Faith Formation Adventure

Sunday, February 19

2:45 - 5:00 PM

Grades 4 - 6

Maplewood Lanes

3030 N 101st St, Omaha

Cost is \$20 (Includes pizza & bowling shoes - pay at door)

Call the church office or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org to register no later than **Sunday, February 12**. Come join the fun and meet youth from all across the Omaha Metro area.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 12 Sunday

Epiphany 6

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-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum—Congregational Meeting

12:15 PM Book Group

February 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

February 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

February 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 19 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

February 20 Monday

President's Day

OFFICE CLOSED

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

6:00 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Lounge. This coming week we will share time with Vicar Gretchen in exploring an element of Discipleship. We will look at what it means to be a part of Community.

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, February 14

12:00 Noon

Augustana Lutheran Church

For Info & Reservation call Faith at 402 734 4629

February Men's Lunch
Men's Lunch February 16
11:30 AM

Our speaker is from the Douglas County Historical Society, "Omaha's AUTO-Biography" is a look at our love affair with the motor car. From automobile production, to racing, to drive-in dining and movie theaters... we will hit all the stops" Invite a friend and RSVP by February 14.

Open My Heart, Lord
A Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat
Exploring Spiritual Practices:

Relational Prayer with Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp
Zentangle with Diane Harpster of dianeharpsterart.com
Body Prayer with Emily Wageman

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
(enter west office door on Farnam or handicap entrance from west parking lot, by orange tower)

Saturday, February 18

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost is \$10 day of the retreat

"Salad Luncheon provided" Supplies for all Spiritual Practices provided " Childcare can be provided as requested " Diane Harpster Art will be able to purchase during the event. Join us as we spend time learning new faith practices that can be continued through the Season of Lent, as we take time to share our faith journeys as women of the church. Please register by Wednesday, February 8 to the church office, sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk, or email info@kmlchurch.org - Name, email, or phone number (only used to notify of event changes), and if you need child care.

Journey to Denver

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th - 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Registration is extended until **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer! Friends are welcome to join our group.

The KMLC Scholarship Program
Application Deadline: March 1

Funds are 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 web site at www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MARCH 1, 2023. **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 email to info@kmlchurch.org

Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

2nd Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 2 people to clean up from 10:45 - 11:30 AM

3rd Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 - 11:30 AM

4th Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**

Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you are able to serve.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to e-mail Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

Kountze Pantry

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22
Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM
Lenten Meal:
Lunch: 11:00 AM
Dinner: 5:00 PM

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 29

Sunday: 9:00: 148 11:00:75

Wednesday: 12:15: 9 **Confirmation:** 6

Total: 261

Streaming: 54

Cox Cable: 212

Pantry Guests Served: 902 (inc. 262 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$24,874.83 (Regular)

\$1,767.66 (Specials)

\$1,283.56 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus comes to bring reconciliation.

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Working together for God
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Thursday	Genesis 33:1-17	Jacob and Esau meet
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalms 119:1-8	The law of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-19	Transfiguration of Jesus



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So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you have shown us the way to love and mercy; help us to share your love and power of reconciliation with all through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a gift of life that sustains us during the good times and the difficult times through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God bless you with long life and happiness.

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

- What do you do when a personal relationship is not going well?
- How does your faith help you when you are struggling in a relationship?

Read: Matthew 5:21-37.

When Jesus is teaching here, he can sound like he is undermining the law and substituting other rules to live by. However, what he is doing is not rejecting the law, but intensifying its intended outcome. The law is to preserve life for one's neighbor, one's community, and oneself. The commandments give a baseline of how to care for one another, but Jesus says, "You can do more." We are not to stop caring for our neighbor until reconciliation and understanding between one another happens. Life without fear, intimidation, or destruction is the goal for all relationships. Jesus is particularly hard on men. The patriarchal system of his day made it easy for men to abandon a woman and take another. To that Jesus says, "No!" Jesus seeks personal and public relationships that are life-giving, just as God's law is intended to be life-giving (Deuteronomy 30:16).

Discuss: Where in society or in your own relationships do you see a need for God's reconciling power?

Pray: **Life-giving God, help us to treasure the gift of life and relationships so that we may seek ways not to harm people but to nurture one another through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve others in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help restore a broken relationship?

Passing the peace is a Christian practice used in worship since the early church to experience the reconciling power of God in Christ. Historically, it is offered prior to Holy Communion in recognition of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:23-24). However, sharing God's peace is meant for more than just a worship service. The peace of God, forgiveness, and acceptance of one another is part of our daily lives. Greet others daily with the peace of the Lord. As a reminder, before meals this week light a candle and say: **The peace of the Lord be with you.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9