

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 19, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD



Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

11:00 AM

“This Little Light of Mine”

arr. Joel Raney

Kountze Adult & Children’s Choir

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One, source of our renewal,

C **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.”
God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✠ Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW 318

1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.

2 Alleluia you are sounding,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles still are we.

3 Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin shall flow.

4 In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter
with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing
alleluia joyfully.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

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

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



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,



Refrain

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

- ☐ Lord God,
- ☑ in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2

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



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

¹Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

²**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?**

³“Let us break their yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

⁴**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision. **R****

⁵Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶**“As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**


⁷Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession. **R****

⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

¹⁰**And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

¹²**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!** 


SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

 Word of God, Word of Life.


 **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.

 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

ELW 553

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.</p> | <p>2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.</p> |
| <p>3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.</p> | |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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: **P** Merciful God,
 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 of Marvin Andersen; to the family and friends of Lucille Krisor, mother of Kirk Krisor

Prayers This Week: John & Jane Bodnar, Toby Rees, Joyce Wachal

On-going Care: 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

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 9:00 AM

“This Little Light of Mine”

arr. Joel Raney

Kountze Adult & Children’s Choir

11:00 AM

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715 vs 1-2, 5

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

**2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

Refrain

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Text © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Feast of Love”

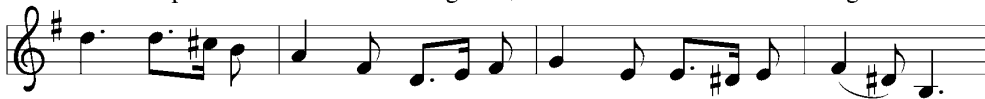
ELW 487 vs. 2



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.

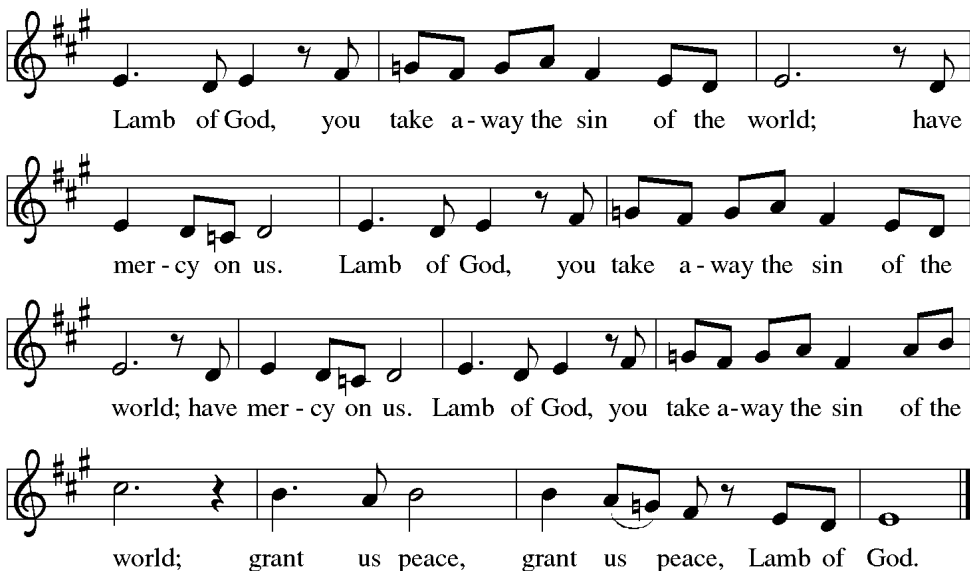
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- 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

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW 838

**1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677;
tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
 2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
 3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
 4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
 O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
 O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
 O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020
 Music: ANCIENT BEAUTY, Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Holy One,

C 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

"In Thee Is Gladness"

ELW 867

1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,
thou the true redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou
bakest.
Who trusts thee surely has built securely
and stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining,
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever: Alleluia!

2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,
not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses;
he can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of his glory
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,
love him and praise him and still shall raise
him
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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 18 & 19, 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 Mary Jo Fike and Family, in honor of Kelley Renae.

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 continue to move toward the Mystery of Easter by learning about Jesus as the one who was lost and then found.

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*

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

7th – 12th graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 0:50

AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Bible Study **Next week:** Fun and Games

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Lenten Preview **Next Week:** Music of the Lutheran Tradition

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

February 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

February 22 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:30 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

February 23 Thursday

12:00 PM Circle 4 Potluck

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 26 Sunday

Lent 1

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

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-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 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Bible Study

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

Table Theology

Sunday, February 26

6:00 PM

Beacon Hills in Aksarben

RSVP to OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

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

Middle School Lock-In

Grades 6 -8

Friday, March 10, 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 11, 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35 per Camper

Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/lock-in>

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.

Quilts & Kits Headed to Turkey

Lutheran World Relief has created a special video that shows faith in action as their warehouse team prepares a shipment of LWR Mission Quilts, Personal Care Kits and Baby Kits to be delivered to Turkey. They extend deep gratitude to the quilters and kit-makers. Because of the commitment to making quilts and kits year-round, Lutheran World Relief is sending these valuable resources and bringing hope to our neighbors who have lost everything. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR0BE75v4J4>

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 Lunch/Dinner Menu

Hot Chicken Salad Casserole
Roll
Cottage Cheese with Peach Half
Dessert

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 32

Sunday: 9:00: 167 11:00:64

Wednesday: 12:15: 0 Confirmation: 40

Total: 267

Streaming: 45

Cox Cable:

Pantry Guests Served: 1118 (inc. 311 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$16,730.00 (Regular) \$2,759.66 (Specials)

\$592.00 (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