

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

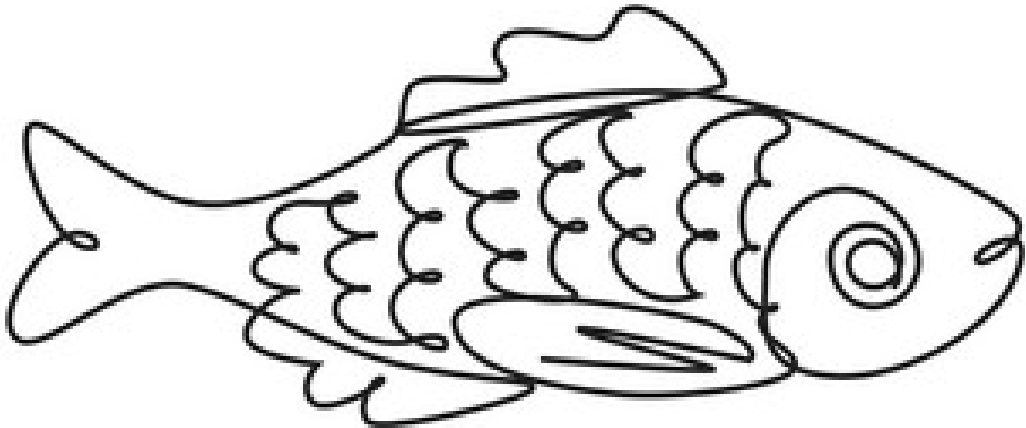
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 14, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in EASTER



*The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Look, here is water!
- C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

- P** Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

- C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

- P** At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Look, here is water!
- C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Swahili text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.  
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Holy and righteous God,
- ☑ **you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Acts 3:12-19**

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

**P**eter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 4

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, all may sing lines in **bold print**)



<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender <sup>1</sup> of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and <sup>1</sup> hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**You mortals, how long will you dishon- <sup>1</sup> or my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek <sup>1</sup> after lies?"**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders <sup>1</sup> for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me <sup>1</sup> when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and <sup>1</sup> do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence up- <sup>1</sup> on your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed <sup>1</sup> sacrifices,  
and put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, "Who will show us <sup>1</sup> any good?"  
Let the light of your face shine upon <sup>1</sup> us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness <sup>1</sup> in my heart,  
more than when grain and <sup>1</sup> wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie <sup>1</sup> down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me <sup>1</sup> rest secure.**

## SECOND READING

**1 John 3:1-7**

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

**S**ee what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## 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.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 24:36b-48**

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.”<sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.<sup>38</sup> He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?<sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

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

## SERMON

*Pastor Wynard*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*As We Gather at Your Table*

**ELW 522 vs 1 & 2**

**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.

**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.

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

**HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)**

see ELW pg 227

**THE NICENE CREED (9:00 AM)**

**☩** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.



**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response:    **P** God of grace,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

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

**Sympathy:** for the family and friends of Barb Pryor, grandmother of Sara Brown, Daughter-in-law of Ron and Pam Brown

**Thanksgiving:** for the baptism of Prin KhunDum Weigel, son of Erica Weigel (4/14/2024)

**Prayers This Week:** Albert Grage, Donna Moessner, Vinn Stephens, Joyce Wachal

**On-going Care:** Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Barb Carlson Shirley Dietrich, Martha Eckmann, 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, Gary Westerman, Deb Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston; Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens, and grandson of Vinn Stephens

**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; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

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

## **THE PEACE IS SHARED**

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

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Come, Peace of God*

by Eugene Butler

(rise in body or spirit)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Christ is Living*

ACS vs. 1 & 3



1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor-row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.  
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic-t'ry; sin has lost its poi-son sting.



Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev-'ry pow'r.  
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.



Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?  
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"



Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.  
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

### OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Risen One,

**C** you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## PREFACE FOR EASTER

### SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D, G). The melody features a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

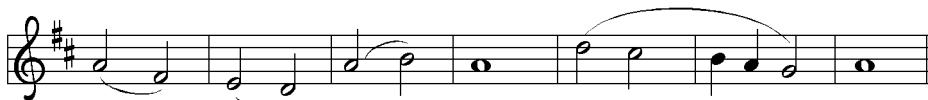
- ☐ Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

☐ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread ...  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☐ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

☐ **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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come and eat at God's table.

☑ The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

(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.*

- 1** Around you, O Lord Jesus,  
your own you gather still  
to share the feast you give us  
with grace our lives to fill.  
You say to us so lovingly,  
“Take, eat! This is my body!  
Take, drink! This is my blood!”
- 2** We hear your invitation,  
and heed, O Lord, your call;  
your word of consolation  
is spoken here to all.  
It draws us to your loving heart;  
it brings to us your blessing,  
which never will depart.
- 3** We are your own forever;  
until our final breath  
we will be true and never  
in joy, in grief, in death  
depart from you, for you are still  
among your people dwelling,  
as you have said you will.

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

*Come to the Table*

ELW 481

**Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942  
Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road,  
Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP).

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Shepherding God,  
**C** you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☛ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

☞ Almighty God:

The Source of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*O Living Bread from Heaven*

ELW 542 vs. 1-3

**1 O living Bread from heaven,  
how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
have filled my heart with rest.  
O wondrous food of blessing!  
O cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
in thankful song o'er flows.**

**2 My Savior, you have led me  
within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me  
with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given  
what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven,  
that now I shall not die.**

**3 You gave me all I wanted;  
this food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted  
the cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
the favor you have shown;  
and all my soul and spirit  
bow down before your throne.**

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## DISMISSAL

☞ Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

☛ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

✝   ✝   ✝

Mark Jones, *organ*

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## KOUNTZE STAFF

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



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 13 & 14, 2024

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.*

### 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

**Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle** are given to the glory of God in honor of Mary Martens from her family.

#### 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.

#### Easter Book Group Continues

**Sundays in April**

**12:30 PM**

**Place: KMLC/Kountze Commons Link**

We are 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. 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.

### Faith Formation

#### Children's Choir

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)**

**Grades K-6**

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### Sunday School

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

**This Week:** Spiritual Practices

**Next Week:** “Created to Be” Bible Study

### Adult Forum

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

**This Week:** The Creed: “He Died” and “On the Third Day Rose Again”

**Next Week:** The Creed: “He Ascended into Heaven”

### 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, May 5 (please note date change). Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### April 14 Sunday

Easter 3

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

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

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

5:00 PM Dress Up Mystery Dinner  
(grades 9 - Young Adult)

### April 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

5:00 PM KCCOC Board

### April 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### April 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's

### April 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

### April 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 20 Saturday

Barrett & Fleming Wedding

9:00 AM Explore! Day Retreat (gr. 1-6)

Camp CJH

5:00 PM Worship

### April 21 Sunday

Easter 4

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

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

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Classes Continue

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

### ELCA Social Statement Conversation and Official Hearing Engage in Conversation about the ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith Continues

Thursday, April 18, 7 - 8 PM (Zoom)

The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. For more information or register to attend by Zoom at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4tzk8vyy>

### Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

There isn't a program or menu planned at this time, but Jim never let's us down! Plan to join the guys for lunch and RSVP by Tuesday, April 16.

### Explore! Day Retreat

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Explore! gives children the perfect opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building out at CJH Camp. In addition to Bible study and worship, we will be experiencing many favorite camp activities together as we share in fun and fellowship. Every Explore! Day Retreat is different, so

first-time and long-time participants can both join in the fun as we focus on environmental education, fellowship, and faith! Cost: \$25 per camper. This cost includes meals and programming on Saturday. A tentative schedule and registration can be found at: <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

### **SHAREomaha Do Good Days April 24-27**

Use [SHAREomaha.org](https://www.shareomaha.org) to connect to volunteering opportunities that fit your passions, schedule, skills, and more. You don't have to wait to do good. Start exploring [volunteer opportunities](#) today so nonprofits know they can count on your support during Do Good Days. Volunteers have value — approximately \$32/hour. If you can't do good during Do Good Days, give good! [Give \\$32 to your favorite causes](#) here at [SHAREomaha.org](https://www.shareomaha.org); it is a one-stop shop for donating to multiple organizations at once.

### **Honoring All Graduates Sunday, April 28 9 or 11 AM**

**Reception: 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

If you have graduated in the past year or will graduate this spring, please let us know. On April 28 we will uplift the names of all who are celebrating a graduation during the year. Call the church office **by April 15** at 402-341-7761 or email [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org), so we can celebrate with you. A Quilt Blessing for high school graduates will take place on that date. There will also be a reception of Congratulations and Celebration in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. If you forget, we have some that you can write on at the Welcome Desk. A listing of all graduates will be in the May Good News and the Sunday bulletin on April 21 and 28.

### **High School Graduate Quilt Blessing Sunday, April 28 9 or 11 AM**

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place on April 28 from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos by **Friday, April 19** to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time to [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org).

### **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](mailto: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>

### **Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar with a Cajun Flair & Bingo Night Sunday, May 5**

**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Cost: Free-will Donation**

Support our youth and young adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. We'll play different forms of BINGO with prizes beginning at 5:15 PM. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend or two! Reservations are not necessary but will help with planning the meal. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you'll be attending.

### **Camp Firelight VBS**

**St. Timothy's Church ( 510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

Thank-you to everyone who donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for our guests at the Kountze Food Pantry. Our goal is to always have these items available along with soap and razors. In April, we are collecting disposable razors and shaving cream or foam. Currently the greatest and most urgent need is for volunteers. A small group of dedicated faithful are receiving, moving and restocking almost 10,000 lbs. of goods every Monday morning. If you or anyone you know can assist us in our mission of "Feeding the Poor, in Christ's Name", please sign up at the link below:

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

#### **Attendance & Giving**

**Thursday, 4/4/2024—Wednesday, 4/10/2024**

**Saturday: 30**

**Sunday: 9:00: 142 11:00: 76**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 14**

**Streaming: 44**

**Pantry Guests Served: 947 (inc. 345 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30**

**Offering:**

\$14,435.2 (Regular)      \$2,212.98 (Specials)

\$1,411.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus' resurrection brings peace and forgiveness.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Thursday	Acts 26:19-23	Paul tells of his preaching
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. Psalm 4:8 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for Jesus' resurrection that brings us peace and forgiveness of sins that we may go to bed each night trusting in your care. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food. Give food to those who do not have enough to eat and protection for those who do not feel safe, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May Christ our Lord give you peace and gladness.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- In what ways do you show hospitality to others?
- How does hospitality foster peace and forgiveness?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 24:36b-48.

The resurrection does not immediately clear up all our questions about faith and life. What does the resurrected body look like? What does the life of the church look like after Jesus' resurrection? Jesus comes as flesh and blood to speak, eat, and drink with his followers. The physical world matters. This is not a time to speculate about ghosts and life beyond earthly existence. The resurrection values God's creation. At least two important resurrection messages are present in this text. First, hospitality is shown by the sharing of life-giving food. Sustaining one another with food and community life goes on as a holy practice. Second, repentance and forgiveness of sins remains at the heart of the work of Jesus' followers. The resurrection celebrates life, community, peace, and forgiveness as essentials that will not be overcome by death, isolation, fear, or sin. Thanks be to God for the eternal power of God's reign shown to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

*Discuss:* What questions do you have about the resurrection and what it means for your life today?

*Pray:* **God of eternal life, give us confidence to breathe peace, joy, forgiveness, and new beginnings into all our relationships through Christ Jesus, our resurrected Lord and Savior. 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 show care for the physical needs of others this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There are times at night when we worry about something and can't sleep. Psalm 4 is a prayer for help. It is a prayer that reaches out with confidence in God's love and care. The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's presence in our lives. Bedtime prayers are daily rituals that can have a powerful influence in our lives. At bedtime this week, take a moment to think or talk about something that may be keeping you awake at night. *Pray:* **Dear Lord, be gracious to me, and hear my prayer that I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen.** (Psalm 4)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18