

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

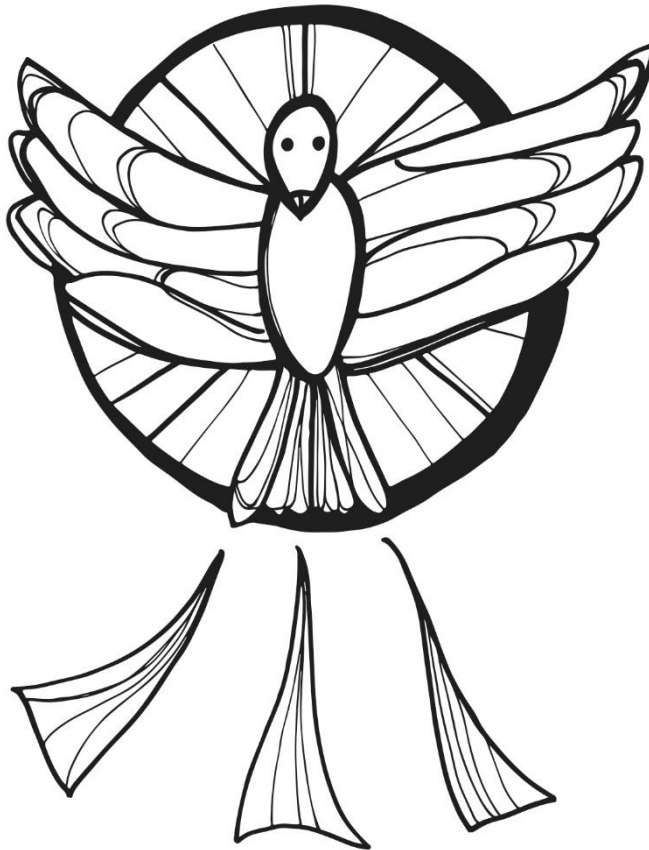
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

January 12, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

BAPTISM of OUR LORD



Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- C** Amen.
- P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- C** **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**
- P** Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
- C** **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.**
- P** Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove

ELW 578 vs. 1-3, 6

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Creator Spirit, heav'nly dove,
descend upon us from above;
with graces manifold restore
your creatures as they were before. | 3 In you, with graces sevenfold,
we God's almighty hand behold;
while you with tongues of fire proclaim
to all the world God's holy name. |
| 2 To you, the Comforter, we cry;
to you, the gift of God most high,
true fount of life, the fire of love,
the soul's anointing from above. | 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and you, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
your praise may be our endless song. |

Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. Composite

APOSTOLIC GREETING

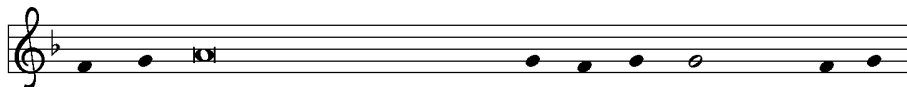
☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

KYRIE



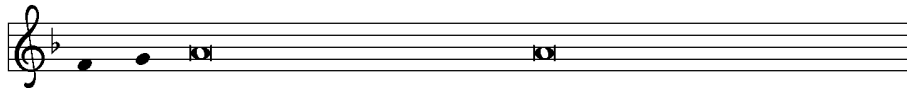
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



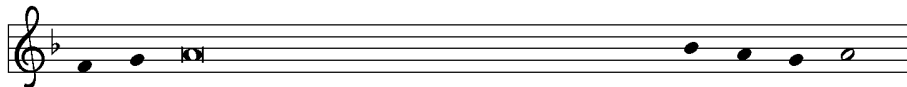
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Almighty God,

☞ you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 (choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

¹ Ascribe to the ¹ Lord, you gods,

ascribe to the Lord glo- ¹ ry and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory ¹ due God's name;

worship the Lord in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the Lord is a pow- ¹ erful voice;

the voice of the Lord is a ¹ voice of splendor. *Refrain*

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
⁶ the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.
⁷ The voice | of the Lord
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
⁸ The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. *Refrain*

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
¹¹ O Lord, give strength | to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is: Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter). The lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 242

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 6th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 who are not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. All children will return to the sanctuary in time to receive communion. There are Children's Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304

**1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.**

**2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,
God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.**

**3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all,
to give your life for all.**

**4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.**

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THE NICENE CREED

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

C **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,
 G hear our prayer.

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

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Thomas Wynn Hansen (1/11/2025)

Prayers this week: Linda Johnson, Orville & Julie Knapp, Roy Miller, Sandi Miller

On-going Care: Sharon Ambler, Cheri Biggs, John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Jessica Hannon, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Dayle Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Marie Kubat, Dwight Kurbis, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Myron Osentowski, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Samaria, Dorothy Stanzel, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, 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, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph 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* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G 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, Be Baptized

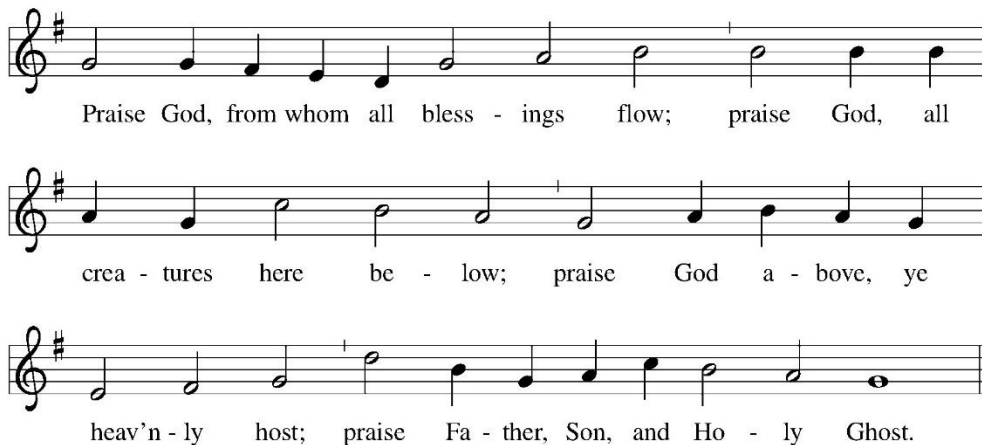
G. Alan Smith arr. Jack Schrader

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885



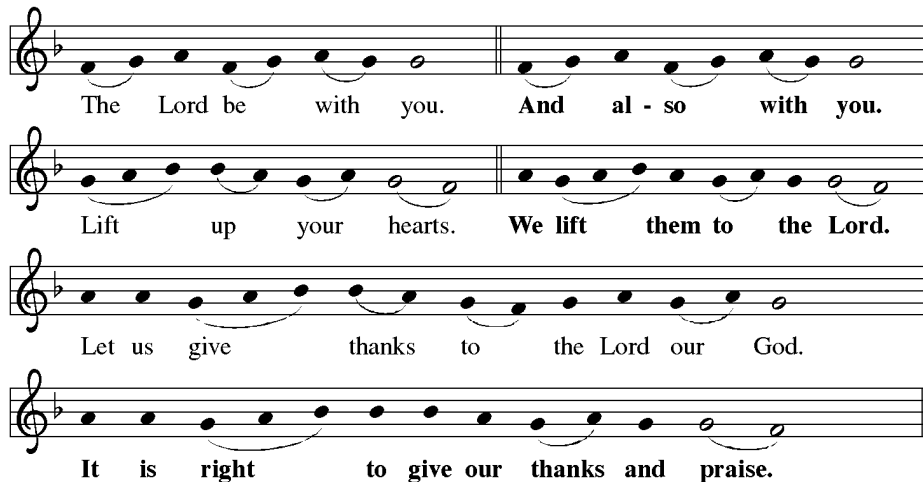
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God of grace,
- ☑ **your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

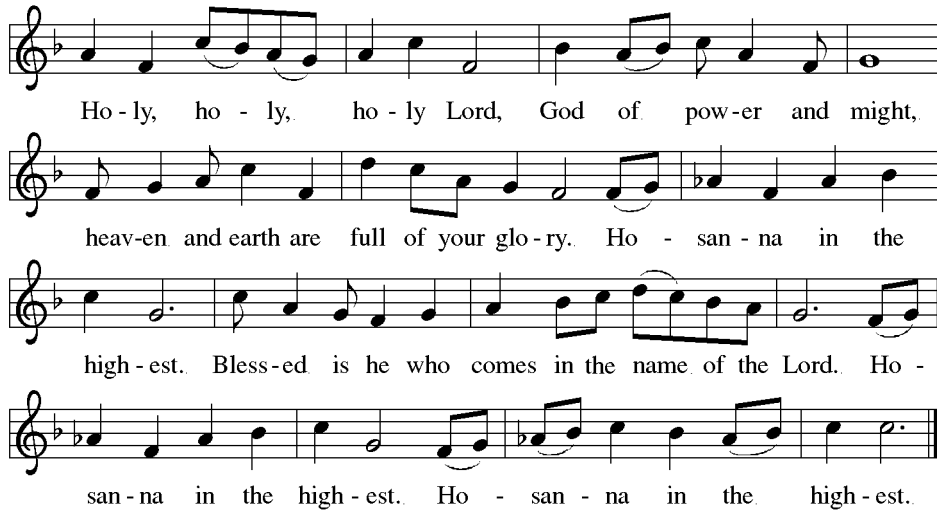


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

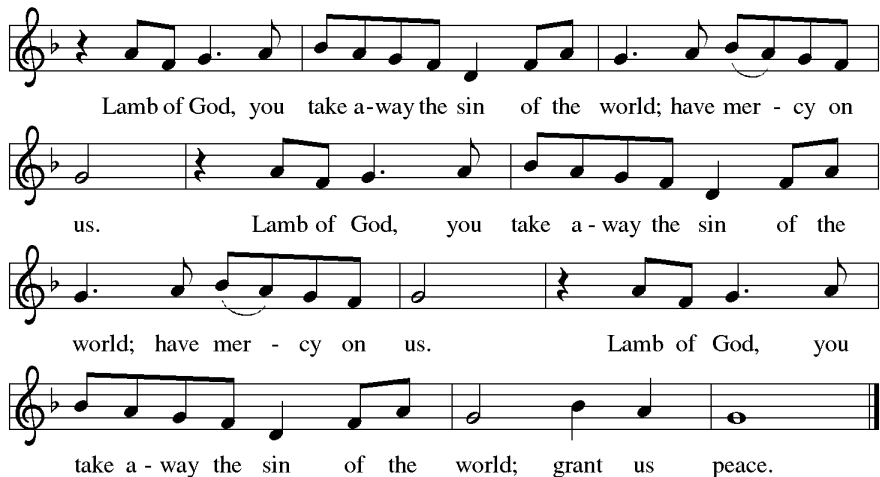
☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come, eat this meal of gladness.
- G** **The joy of the Lord is our strength.**

(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** Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.
- 2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.
- 3** Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

ELW 800

- 1** Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
- 2** I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.
- 3** Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
- 4** Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Nourishing God,

C **at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.**
- 2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

- 3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**
- 4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.**

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DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Live in hope.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✝ ✝ ✝

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KOUNTZE STAFF

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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 11 & 12, 2025

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 165 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.

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.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries

of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

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.

Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs while listening to the lessons of the day (the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall). If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with breakfast.

Youth Forum

Youth Center

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Join us in the Youth Center! Any adults interested in helping with Youth Forum, please contact Pr. Lucy.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

This week: Why Was Jesus Baptized?

Next week: Deacon Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod

New Member Classes

January 12 & 26

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, February 2. Questions or planning to attend? Contact the church office (402-341-7761 or debbie@kmlchurch.org. We look forward to connecting with you!

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, January 12

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Please join us for a lively discussion.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 12 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord

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

January 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

5:00 PM KCCOC Board

January 14 Tuesday

No Staff Meeting

January 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline

12:00 PM KETV Board

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

January 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 19 Sunday

Epiphany 2

Annual Reports Due

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Sunday School Volunteers Needed

If you would like to help assist and lead the preschool or elementary youth one Sunday each month, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. If you would like to help with Youth Forum, please contact Pr. Lucy.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 16

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Kick off the new year with good food and great company at our Men's Lunch! January's gathering promises hearty laughs and warm fellowship—no fancy theme, just the perfect chance to relax after the holiday rush. Stay tuned for menu details, and save the date! Jim's got us covered.

Annual Committee Reports

Due January 19

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have them turned in to Debbie Bogue in the office no later than January 19. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

Dinners for Eight(ish)

February, March, April

Sign up by Sunday, January 19

- Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight(ish).
- Meet each month for a meal in February, March, & April.
- Enjoy a meal and conversation with one another.
- Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
- Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Sunday, January 19.

See you around the table!

Pledge Cards

If you haven't turned your pledge card in yet, it's not too late. There are pledge cards in the back of the Narthex - ask an Usher - as well as at the Welcome Desk. We'd like to have all pledges turned in by January 19 if possible so we have that information for the Annual Report.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Evensong: A Grand Choir Experience!

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry

January 26

4:30-7:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

(322 N. Molley Street, Bennington)

This annual fundraising event to support NeLCM throughout the Omaha area. We are invited to enjoy and judge chili, bid in a virtual silent auction, and sing in the Evensong choir that will feature Holden Evening Prayer and a choir anthem. Use this link <https://tinyurl.com/5cc88mmr> to RSVP to attend the event. Donations to campus ministry can be made by clicking the donate link at www.nelcm.com.

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth if you register by the **January 31 Early Bird Registration** date. If you register after this date, you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 15—20, 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. 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 info@kmlchurch.org and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth. If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below:

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>

Youth Mission Trip

Kountze Memorial will join other high school youth and leaders from around the Nebraska Synod this summer on mission in Nashville. The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person
- We will fundraise to offset the cost to families
- Contact Pr. Lucy or Kristin Boe if you are interested!

Our youth are kicking-off the fundraising for this trip with an Envelope Tree. Just like last year, we ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Pantry is collecting gloves for men, women, and children. Men's large and extra-large gloves are especially in short supply. Also, we will accept and distribute new or like-new coats to our Pantry guests if they request them. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry", located in Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are located on the box. As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

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

Scholarships

G h d g d h # r # D s s o j # P d u f k # 4 #

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

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

Applications are due on March 1, 2025. 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, in person to the church office, or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 16

10:15 AM

Annual Report and 2025 Budget

KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Vacation Bible School

July 20-23

Ages 2 Years to Grade 5

5:15 PM: Family Dinner

6-8 PM: Class

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, January 2—Wednesday, January 8

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 81 11:00: 43

Wednesday: 12:15: 17 6:30: 0

Total: 171

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 907 (inc. 295 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$32,989.21 (Regular)

\$6,485.44 (Specials)

\$7,807.00 (Debt Reduction)

God calls us by name.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our baptismal life and feed us with your power to trust that we are loved by God now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food strengthen us to live in peace and faith through Christ Jesus our Lord, God's Beloved Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know that you are loved.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt abandoned or forgotten? What helped you overcome that feeling?
- The Scriptures tell us that you are God's beloved child. How does this message guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 43:1-7.

The point being made by Isaiah is that we are known by name. We are not forgotten, and we are loved by the creator and redeemer of all of life. From a Nazi concentration camp in World War II, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor, and theologian, wrote a poem entitled *Who Am I?* He explored his inner thoughts and how others might see him from prison and asked the fundamental question, "Who am I?" He gave us the foundational answer: "Whoever I am, Thou knows, O God, I am thine!" The text from Isaiah 43 is a wonderful one to read and use as a prayer during tough times like when we experience a serious illness, loss, or feel held captive to forces that work against us. God's love is eternal, and no life experience will separate us from the saving love of God. Jesus' baptism identifies him as God's unique Son, the Beloved (Luke 3:22). Through Jesus, our lives matter. Through our baptism, we are reminded of what Isaiah 43 passionately confesses: we are God's and never, ever abandoned or forgotten.

Discuss: How does knowing God's love is eternal and that you are never forgotten help during tough times?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope and peace through Jesus Christ. 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 God's love to someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Baptism happens in a community of faith with the support of others. In Acts 8:14-17, Peter and John supported the newly baptized. "The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit" (v. 15). Think about your own or someone else's baptism. By whom and in what ways are the baptized supported? Draw water drops on a sheet of paper. In each drop, write a way you can support someone who was recently baptized. Take a moment to think or talk about how and when you will show that person support.

Pray: **Lord God, in our baptism you call us by name. Thank you for your eternal love. Help us to support one another through our actions, words, and prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11