

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

January 19, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- ☑ **Amen.**
  
- ☐ 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.
  
- ☑ **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.**
  
- ☐ 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.
  
- ☑ **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.**
  
- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **Amen.**

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!
- 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,  
here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.
- 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
let me keep thy gift divine;  
howsoe'er temptations thicken,  
may thy word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life,  
as my comfort in all strife.
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,  
let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee  
while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows;  
here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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

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

- ☐ Lord God, source of every blessing,
- ☑ **you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

*The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.*

**F**or Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. <sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in

you, and your land shall be married. <sup>5</sup> For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Ⓐ Word of God, Word of Life.

Ⓢ Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 36:5-10** (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)



We feast up - on the a-bun-dance of your house, O LORD.

<sup>5</sup> Your love, O Lord, reaches | to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness | to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like | the great deep;  
you save humankind and ani- | mals, O Lord. *Refrain*

<sup>7</sup> How priceless is your | love, O God!  
All people take refuge under the shadow | of your wings.

<sup>8</sup> They feast upon the abundance | of your house;  
you give them drink from the river of | your delights.

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the | well of life,  
and in your light | we see light.

<sup>10</sup> Continue your lovingkindness to | those who know you,  
and your favor to those who are | true of heart. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

*The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.*

**N**ow concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Ⓐ Word of God, Word of Life.

Ⓢ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 2:1-11**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 410*

*Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.*

**O**n the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**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

*Deacon Timothy Siburg*

Director for Evangelical Mission, Innovation & Stewardship for the Nebraska Synod

(rise in body or spirit)

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing, The Feast is Ready

ELW 531



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is  
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the  
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,  
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;  
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.  
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.  
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere. All rights reserved. ASCAP



## THE APOSTLES CREED

☞ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☞ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ God of grace,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

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

**Prayers this week:** Roy Miller, Sandi Miller, David Robinson, David Weaver; friend of Leigh and Vicki Freeman

**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, Orville & Julie Knapp, 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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

## MEAL

(sit)

### THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



### THE TABLE IS PREPARED

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

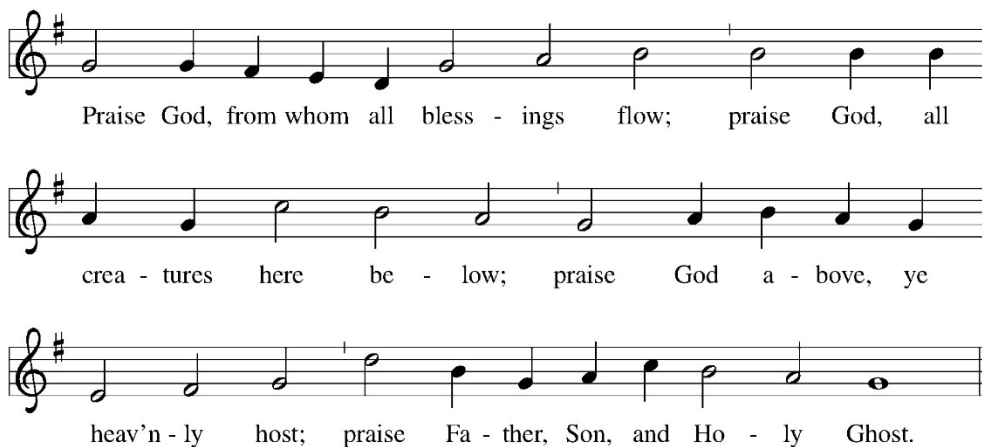
Allen Pote

(rise in body or spirit)

#### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW 885



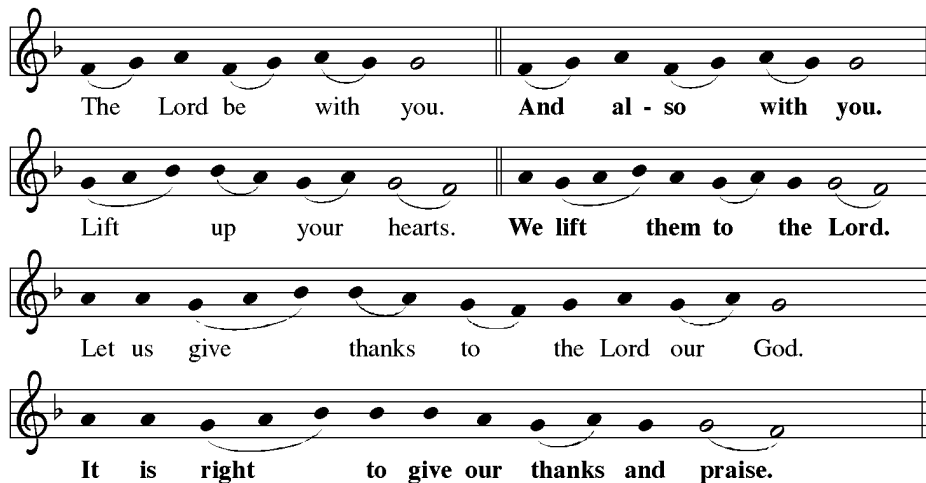
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

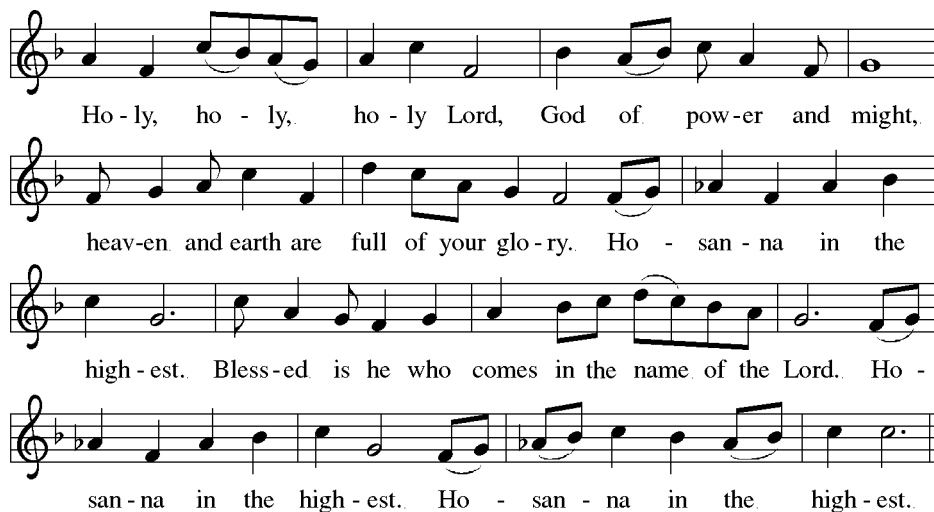


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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

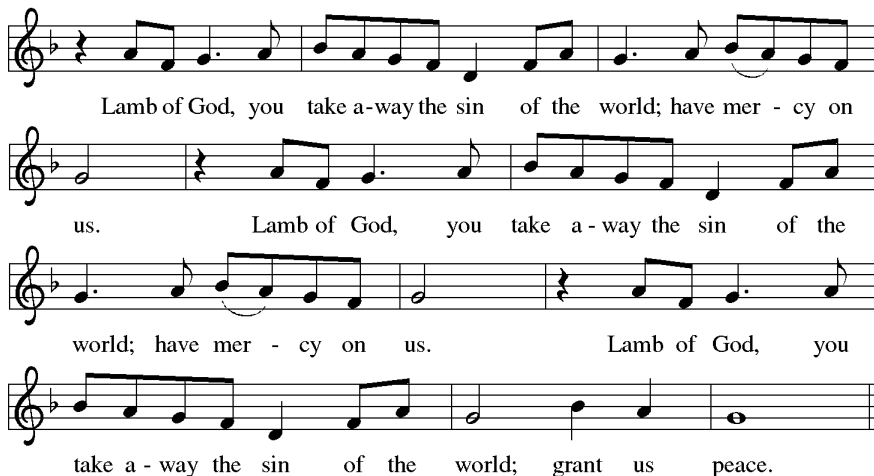
**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**C** **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** 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.
- 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.
- 3** Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiance divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

*Around You, O Lord Jesus*

ELW 468

- 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.*(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

*Go to the World*

ACS 991



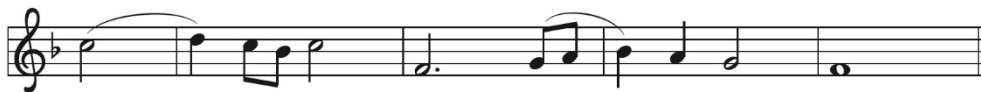
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

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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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

January 18 & 19, 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

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Joe & Patt Councill in honor of our grandson, Ty, being awarded his Eagle Scout in November.

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by the Kountze WELCA Circles

### Children's Choir

9:15 AM

#### K-6<sup>th</sup> 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-6<sup>th</sup> 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

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

### **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:** Deacon Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod

**Next week:** Rev Greg Berger, Assistant to the Bishop

### **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!

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## **This Week at Kountze Memorial**

### **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

### **January 20 Monday**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### **January 21 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### **January 22 Wednesday**

12:00 PM KETV Board

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### **January 23 Thursday**

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### **January 24 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

### **January 25 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

### **January 26 Sunday**

Epiphany 3

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

Continues

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## **For Your Calendar/News & Notes**

### **New Member Class Continues**

#### **January 26**

#### **10:15 AM**

We will welcome new members on Sunday, February 2. We look forward to connecting with you!

### **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](http://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:

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

- 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](mailto: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>

### Ice Skating

**Saturday, February 15**

**3-5 PM**

### Skate Ribbon

#### Heartland of America Park

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade through College-aged Young Adults

- Meet at 3 PM at the church or 3:15 PM at the Skate Ribbon at Heartland of America Park.
- Cost is free if you bring your own ice skates, or you can rent skates for \$5.
- Need to RSVP to church office or by signing up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center (in the Fellowship Hall). We will need an email address to send you a waiver form that must be filled out.

### 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!

### Scholarships

#### Deadline to Apply: March 1

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](http://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](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

### 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>



### 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 9—Wednesday, January 15**

**Saturday: 45**

**Sunday: 9:00: 167 11:00: 87**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 14 6:30: 0**

**Total: 313**

**Streaming:**

**Pantry Guests Served: 970 (inc. 326 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 10**

**Offering:**

\$47,699.61 (Regular) \$2,003.25 (Specials)

\$26,027.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus' ministry overflows with joy and love.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5	Jerusalem will be saved
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Psalms 16:7-11	Song of trust in God
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:10-13	Healing after punishment
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 36:5-10	Human sin and God's goodness
Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth



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#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. Isaiah 62:4 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you take delight in bringing us joy when we are discouraged; help us to use our abilities so that others may see Jesus as the source of your abundant goodness. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant care, we thank you for this food and all that you provide us, signs of your constant love for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May the God of abundant love give you joy.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What gives you joy?
- When has faith in Christ brought you hope in difficult times?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 2:1-11.

In the Gospel of John, the first sign of Jesus that pointed to his glory (his death and resurrection) is seen in water turned to wine. That moment leads us to a deep understanding of Jesus' entire ministry. It is about abundance that brings joy, not gloom and doom. The amount of wine Jesus provides from the water jars was excessive, and it tasted very good. Wine in the Bible was meant to gladden the heart. It was associated with a future divine banquet as well as daily hospitality and celebration. The sign of changing water into wine at a wedding feast introduces Jesus' ministry as overflowing with goodness, joy, and love. It turns our shame and embarrassment (like a bridegroom's shame for running out of wine) into simple delight without limits, without measure. It leads us to long for more of what Jesus has in store for us.

*Discuss:* When is a time that Jesus' overflowing joy and love made a difference in your life?

*Pray:* **God of love, give us joy in your presence that we may be a sign of your love to others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. 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 share God's overflowing love and joy with someone in need?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 we learn that all Christians are given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are given "for the common good" (v. 7). The larger world around us sees these personal gifts as something that emphasizes our own success. For Christians, our gifts are meant to serve others. Write a list of the gifts you feel you have or that others see in you. Take a moment to say each gift aloud. *Then pray:* **Dear God, thank you for the gifts I have been given. Help me to use them to serve others in your name. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21