

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

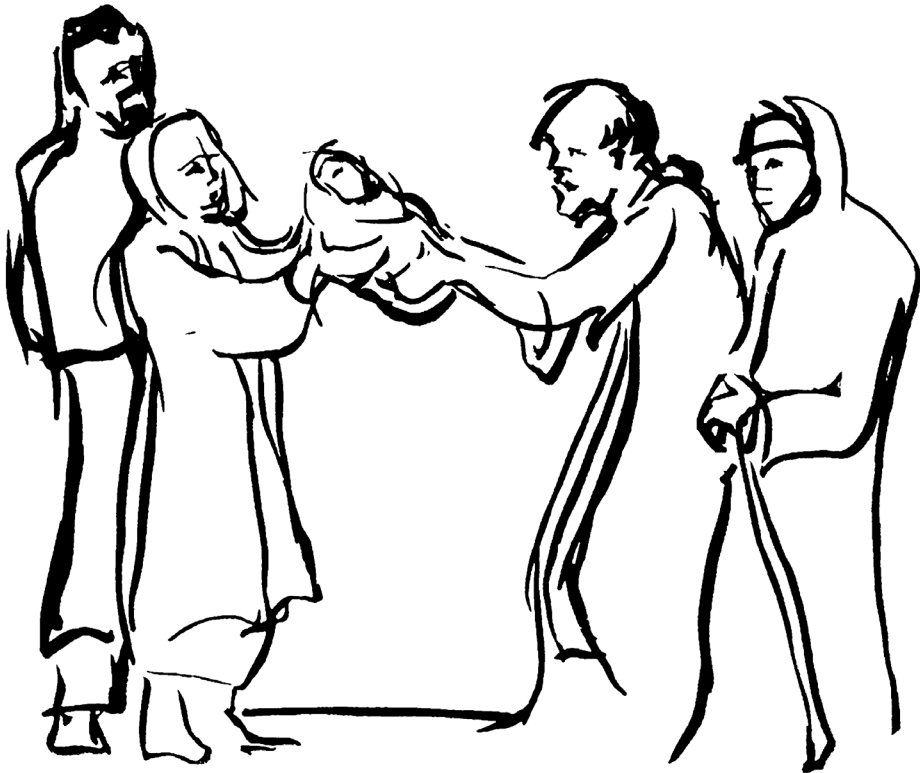
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

February 2, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

PRESENTATION of OUR LORD



The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

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.

1 In his temple now behold him,
see the long-expected Lord;
ancient prophets had foretold him,
God has sent the promised Word.
Now to praise him, his redeemed
shall break forth with one accord.

2 In the arms of her who bore him,
virgin pure, behold him lie,
while his aged saints adore him,
ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Lo, the incarnate God Most High!

3 Jesus, by your presentation,
when they blessed you, weak and poor,
make us see your great salvation,
seal us with your promise sure;
and present us, in your glory,
to your Father, cleansed and pure.

4 Prince and author of salvation,
be your boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to you be given
by the world you did redeem,
with the Father and the Spirit
God of majesty supreme!

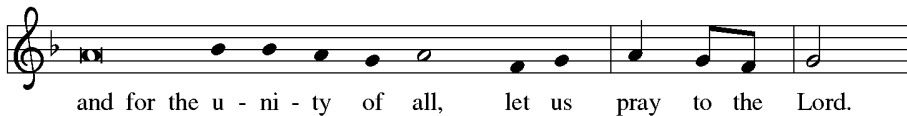
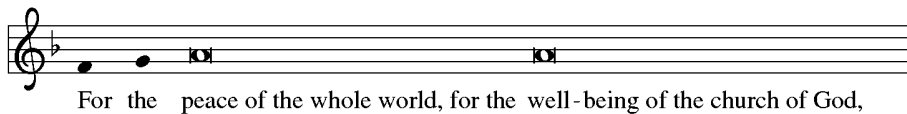
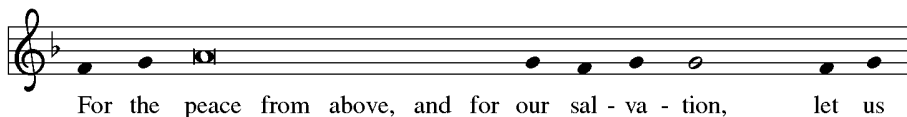
Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825-1903, alt.

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



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 and ever-living God,
- ☑ **your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 (choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)



How dear to me is your dwell - ing, O LORD.

- ¹ How dear to me | is your dwelling,
O | Lord of hosts!
- ² My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king | and my God.
- ⁴ Happy are they who dwell | in your house!
They will always be | praising you. *Refrain*
- ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.
- ⁶ Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.
- ⁷ They will climb from | height to height,
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.
- ⁸ Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer;
give ear, O | God of Jacob. *Refrain*
- ⁹ Behold our defend- | er, O God;
and look upon the face of | your anointed.
- ¹⁰ For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents | of the wicked.
- ¹¹ For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;
no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk | with integrity.
- ¹² O | Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their | trust in you! *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 226

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon 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

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.</p> <p>2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.</p> | <p>3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.</p> <p>4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

(sit)

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

- ☐ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

David Falke

Lauren Falke

Anders Freeland

Andrea Grundman & Lenny Renken

Jason Hage

Mathew Kudym

Blayke, Brayden, Cruz

Olive

Erick & Celsa Perez

Leslie Perez

Brad Rogers

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: Diana John, Jack Kubat, Debbie Robinson

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, Sandi Miller, 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

Light of the World

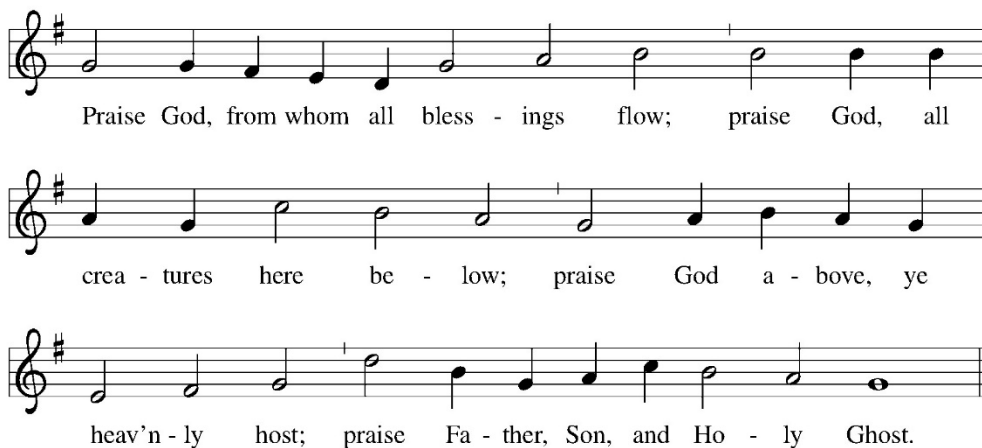
Anna Renard, *soloist*
words by J. Paul Williams
music by Joseph M. Martin

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885



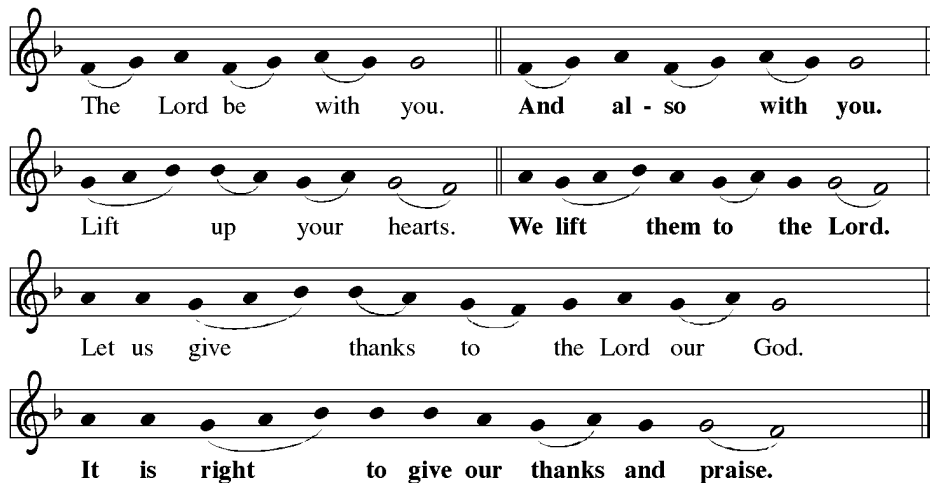
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

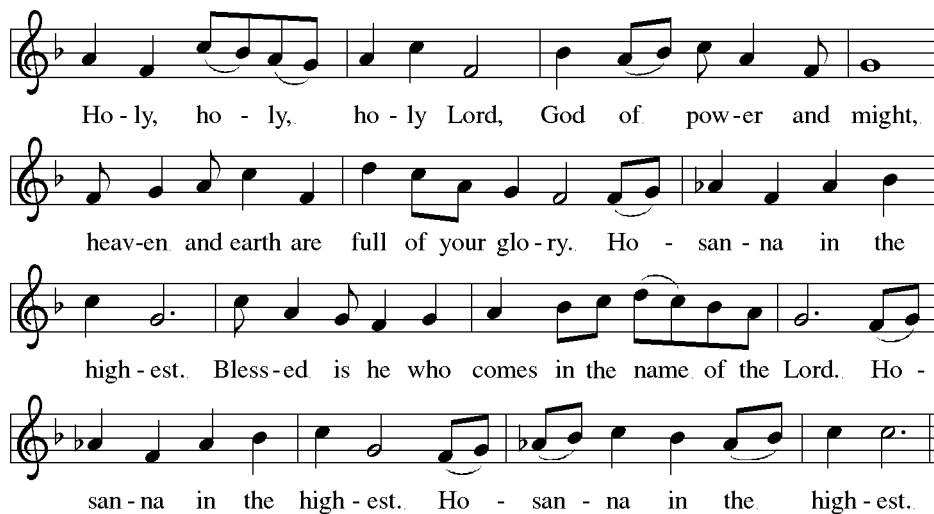


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

- ☐ 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

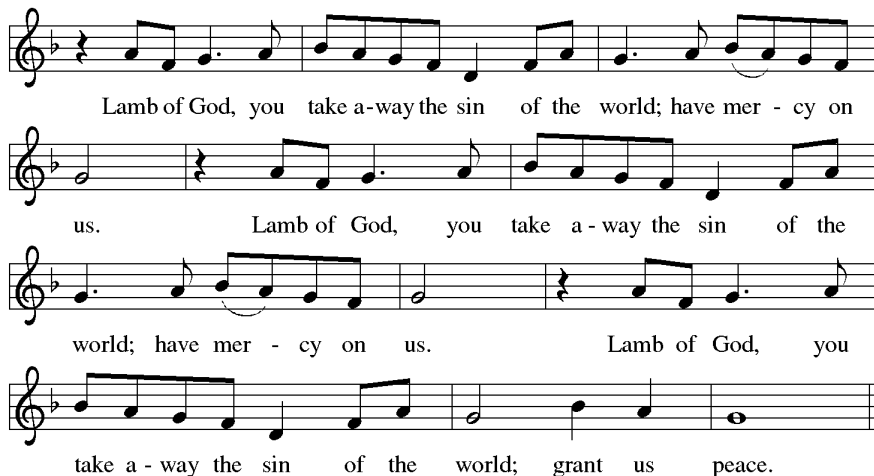
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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** I come with joy, a child of God,
 forgiven, loved, and free,
 the life of Jesus to recall
 in love laid down for me,
 in love laid down for me.
- 2** I come with Christians far and near
 to find, as all are fed,
 the new community of love
 in Christ's communion bread,
 in Christ's communion bread.
- 3** As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
 each proud division ends.
 The love that made us, makes us one,
 and strangers now are friends,
 and strangers now are friends.
- 4** The Spirit of the risen Christ,
 unseen, but ever near,
 is in such friendship better known,
 alive among us here,
 alive among us here.
- 5** Together met, together bound
 by all that God has done,
 we'll go with joy, to give the world
 the love that makes us one,
 the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
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O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

ELW 313

- 1** O Lord, now let your servant
 depart in heav'nly peace,
 for I have seen the glory
 of your redeeming grace:
 a light to lead the nations
 unto your holy hill,
 the glory of your people,
 your chosen Israel.
- 2** Then grant that I may follow
 your gleam, O glorious Light,
 till earthly shadows scatter,
 and faith is changed to sight;
 till raptured saints shall gather
 upon that shining shore,
 where Christ, the blessed daystar,
 shall light them evermore.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, 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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.</p> | <p>2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.</p> |
| <p>3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.</p> | |

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

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

February 1 & 2, 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

Eternal Candle and Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Steve & Diane O'Connor for the health and welfare of our family and friends.

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.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum Youth Center 10:10 AM Grades 7—12

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Forum hour.

- 2/2 Games & Get-to-know each other
- 2/9 Bible study

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: New Member Reception and What is “Candlemass”/Feast of the Presentation?

Next week: Budget Presentation

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 2 Sunday

Presentation of Our Lord
Homebound Communion
Receive New Members
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

February 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
7:30 PM Youth Committee

February 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5 PM Kountze 165th Anniversary Presentation
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

February 6 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 7 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 8 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 9 Sunday

Epiphany 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
12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Sunday School Needs Your Empty TP Rolls

We are saving toilet paper rolls for a Sunday School project. Please bring your empty rolls to the Sunday School office throughout the month of February. Thank you!

Kountze 165th Anniversary Presentation

Wednesday, February 5

5—7 PM

If you missed the 165th anniversary presentations during Adult Forum, now is your chance! Come for pizza and a repeat presentation. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or email the church office so we know how much pizza to order.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, February 6

2 PM

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first Thursday of the month for a time together playing cards. Bring a snack to share if you would like. All are welcome.

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, February 9

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

SACRED NATURE: *Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World* by Karen Armstrong

Please join us for a meaningful discussion and time to connect with fellow book lovers.

Ice Skating

Saturday, February 15

3—5 PM

Skate Ribbon

Heartland of America Park

7th 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.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, February 20

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Join us for the February men's lunch. We will be celebrating National Pig Day a week early, and you guessed it: we'll have pork on the menu. Who knows what else Jim will have cooked up, but it's sure to be a good time. Come hungry and please sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, February 18.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 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

KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Join your Kountze friends at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Spend the week making new friends, spending time in nature, and growing in faith through song, lessons, and testimonies. If you didn't register by the Early Bird registration date, you will need to pay the additional cost and Kountze Memorial will cover the rest of the registration for any Kountze Memorial child/youth. 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 the Early Bird payment on behalf of your youth.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below and follow the directions above:

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

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Pantry is still 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 23—Wednesday, January 29

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 161 11:00: 79

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 287

Streaming: 52

Pantry Guests Served: 1152 (inc. 407 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$14,263.27 (Regular) \$927.89 (Specials)

\$364.90 (Debt Reduction)

Love is at the heart of the Christian faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	The Lord chooses Jeremiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Wednesday	Luke 2:25-32	Simeon praises the Lord
Thursday	1 John 3:16-21	God is love
Friday	Amos 5:14-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalm 71:1-6	A prayer for God's protection
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus, that others may see in us our love and faith in you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for the needs of all people; we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have enough to eat through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What makes you feel loved?
- Can you be a person of Christian faith without love? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

This scripture reading responds to some misguided understandings about the Christian faith. Some think their knowledge and their understanding of God is better than others. Their faith is driven by the power of knowledge and a feeling of superiority. The Apostle Paul says that love is at the heart of the message and ministry of the followers of Jesus Christ. The love Paul lifts up *“does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth”* (v. 6). While some might boast of having spiritual powers that can move mountains or grasp deep mysteries, Paul states that love is the real measure of the Christian faith. Christian love lasts forever and shows compassion because it *“believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”* (v. 7). The love Paul preaches is not *“boastful or arrogant”* (v. 4b), but humbly seeks the good of others, recognizing that our knowledge, even our speaking on behalf of God is imperfect. Faith, hope, and love are all important, and because of our imperfect faith and hope, the greatest of the three is love.

Discuss: How has someone shown you God's love?

Pray: **Merciful God, thank you for loving us beyond anything we deserve. Guide us to love others as we have been loved through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show compassion and love to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On February 2nd each year the Christian church remembers Jesus' presentation at the temple forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-38). This festival is called *Candlemas*. It involves candlelight processions and the blessing and distribution of candles. Simeon's words referring to Jesus as *“a light to reveal God to the nations”* (v. 32) provide the biblical inspiration for this. The candles symbolize the purity of Christ. Light the candles that you will use in your home.

Say: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world. May the light of these candles remind us to shine for you so that others may see your love and grace through our actions and words. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30