

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 45, Issue 2

February, 2025



February is the “Love” month, the month of Valentine’s Day, so I thought we might delve a little into the Synod’s year-long theme that was launched at Synod Assembly in June 2024: Cultivating Love. Each month you may notice in our newsletters and bulletins this focus fleshed out in different ways we can cultivate love. But the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to highlight one NOT covered – Cultivating Love through... Slowness. Deliberate, intentional slowness.

My January newsletter article started with the confession, “My brain is like my computer’s internet web browser – there are always a few dozen tabs open and some of them are making noise!” So know that my theme this month (as is frequently the case) is aimed particularly at ME. I know deep in my bones that love is more than emotion, more than affection or passion or what I often call in wedding sermons “warm fuzzy feelings”. Love is an action word – it’s behaviors, choices we make with our time, our abilities and efforts, our words, our money. And acts of love often nurture those warm fuzzy feelings. But one thing I learned in my 20’s – and have had to keep relearning since – is that one of the biggest obstacles to love is my own expectations. And especially my expectations about how fast things can and should happen.

We live in such a busy, busy society and world. I think we all recognize the way our society, largely with the Technological Revolution, has shifted to a 24-7 mentality that often expects immediacy, or as close to it as we can get. No longer do we have to check our messages on the answering machine when we get home – our phones are always with us. Some of us are available almost 24-7 for certain people and things in our lives. And while there are some great conveniences, there are some incredible costs as well. We are an exhausted culture too. And while “Social Media” means we have more “friends” and acquaintances than ever, we are deeply disconnected from one another. Like ships passing in the night...

As I thought about Cultivating Love, my mind wandered back to the 1990’s when I first moved to Belarus as young 22-year-old to work in Christian student ministry among college-aged youth. My landlord there was a Baptist pastor and a great mentor to our diverse, multi-national team. One of the things he said has stuck with me for all these years – I have quoted it to some of our seminarians recently, in fact – “What I wish you young people, especially you westerners coming as missionaries, could do is lengthen your expectations. You don’t need to lower them – but you do need to stretch them out. Meaningful ministry takes much longer than you think. And we need you not to burn out but stick it out for the long haul.” Essentially he was saying, “SLOW DOWN! Ministry is a marathon, not a sprint.”

That is true not just in ministry, but in all of our lives as disciples. Lofty goals and big dreams are wonderful – but slow down and don’t burn out. And how especially true it is in our relationships – with God, with our families, with our friends, with ourselves, with strangers among us?! Slow down, lengthen your expectations. It takes time to cultivate good and lasting things – and it’s worth it. So perhaps this winter – or, as we anticipate Lent coming in March – you might join me in remembering that slowness can be a gift, a great character trait. Look for things that you can let go of in order to create margin, time, space for cultivating love. Slow, deliberate, intentional love.



Much love to you all,

*Pastor Lucy*

# WORSHIP *with us...*

## Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed and archived on our website ([www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda. During Advent and Lent these services are in the Sanctuary.



Photo by Jake Madison

## Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

## Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast The New Sign-up are Available!

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

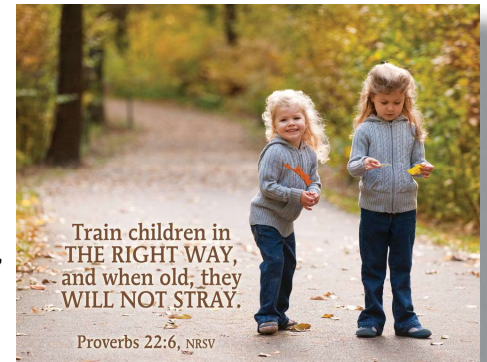
Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$220 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked "flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



## 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. We also have 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.



Train children in  
THE RIGHT WAY,  
and when old, they  
WILL NOT STRAY.

Proverbs 22:6, NRSV

## In this issue...

- Alternative Gifts
- Camp Week
- Cards with Friends
- Congregational Meeting
- First Communion Classes
- Heart of Camp Gala
- HGFC Anniversary Celebration
- High School Youth Trip
- KMLC Book Group
- Men's Lunch
- Scholarships
- Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars®
- Vacation Bible School
- Welcome New Members

# GROW with us...



10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

## Adult Forum

- Feb. 2: New Member Reception and What is "Candlemass"/Feast of the Presentation?
- Feb. 9: Budget Presentation
- Feb. 16: Congregational Meeting
- Feb. 23: Camp Carol Joy Holling (pending)



## Welcome New Members

We welcome new members on Sunday, February 2. Be sure to join them in the Fellowship Hall between services and introduce yourselves and welcome them into

our congregation.

If you are interested in exploring the potential of joining Kountze Memorial, please consider attending our next new member classes sometime this Spring. Watch the bulletin for more information. Please plan to attend both sessions. Contact the church office (402-341-7761 or [debbie@kmlchurch.org](mailto:debbie@kmlchurch.org)) if you have questions or would like to attend. We look forward to connecting with you!

## Carol Joy Holling 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 5

5 - 10 PM

A View West Shores

110 S 243<sup>rd</sup> St

Waterloo, NE



Join the camp to bring Faith: Alive! by celebrating the work done through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Your participation enables NLOM to provide opportunities to campers no matter their ability to pay for camp. All are welcome here, in these spaces where we live out our faith in ways that show everyone they belong and are unconditionally loved by God.

This will be an evening of fun, auction bidding wars, fellowship with friends, and great food. Bring a friend or two or a table's worth. The more the merrier. This year the gala features a fun theme & new ticket option.

To find out how to donate items for the silent auction, how to become a sponsor, to buy tickets, or any other information about the Gala, go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>

# CONGREGATIONAL

# MEEETTING

Sunday, February 16 | 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall

Annual Report and 2025 Budget

# SERVE with us...

## 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>

## Food Pantry Report (1/1/2023 - 12/31/2024)

### Income:

Grants	\$	-0-
Donations:	\$	73,804.67
Memorials	\$	<u>3,162.65</u>
	\$	76,967.32

### Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	355.44
Regular Expenses		
Aldi	\$	-0-
Costco	\$	3,230.67
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$	3,469.57
Hy-Vee	\$	-0-
Dollar Tree	\$	205.44
Family Fare	\$	6,581.88
Food Bank	\$	-0-
Walmart	\$	12,604.17
Sam's Club	\$	565.49
Other	\$	<u>6,943.82</u>
	\$	33,956.48

**Balance**                    \$    **42,655.40**

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alternative Gifts is a Success!

By Jonna Holland



At the start of Advent, we asked a simple question: "How can we focus on the true meaning of Christmas this year?" You responded with such generosity: \$8,675 worth of gifts were donated to serve those in need here at home and around the world through the Alternative Gift program. This year your generosity bought 580 chicks, 21 fruit trees, 24 hives of honeybees, 18 pigs, 32 goats, and 1 cow (thanks to the Sunday School "noisy offering"). Forty-five children around the world received school supplies, 15 orphans were fed, and so much more. Additionally, you supported our neighbors in need right here at home through your gifts to the pantry, the clinic, Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty and by contributing to the emergency fund for our Afghan Refugee Family. If we look back on all we've accomplished since the start of the Alternative Gifts program at Kountze in 2004, the numbers are even more astounding: over \$204,000 in gifts have been given. Thank you for your generosity, and thank you for sharing gifts that represent the true meaning of Christmas.



As mentioned during forum, Donna Moessner will be leading the Alternative Gift program moving forward. This year her innovation was bringing in Global Mamas – please see that article for more details. Thank you, Donna for agreeing to take the reins of Alternative Gifts at Kountze!

## Global Mamas: A New Alternative Gifts

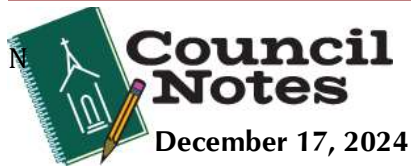
By Donna Moessner



Thank you dear congregation for your support of our new Alternative Gifts, fair trade organization, Global Mamas. Founded in 2003, people world-wide work together with the mission of creating prosperity for African women and their families in Ghana, West Africa. Our tables were filled with hand batiked textiles (home décor and accessories), recycled glass beads (jewelry and ornaments) and shea butter (shea butter cream and shea butter soap). All items are hand-crafted using traditional techniques. (I recommend you go to [GlobalMamas.org](http://GlobalMamas.org) to see them making these items.) Our sales totaled \$3,487 all of which goes to the Mamas.

*continued on page 4*

# NEWS & Notes...



The Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Wynard at 6:02 PM.

Lara McCormick led the devotions - Chapter 5 Faithful Innovations as a Way of Life for the Church, from the book, *Leading Faithful Innovation*.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

The November 19, 2024, Council meeting minutes were approved as amended. The minutes were amended to add Jacob Rump to those in attendance.

## **Old Business:**

Pastor Wynard informed the Council that a Call Committee had been formed. Tarna Kidder has agreed to chair this committee.

The Synod has received Kountze's MSP and has approved it.

Pastor Wynard also reported that on January 26, 2025, Pastor Greg Berger, assistant to the Bishop, will preach the sermon and lead the adult forum. Pastor Berger will provide information regarding the call process and answer any questions.

Tim Backora reported that the Stewardship Committee continues to collect pledge cards. The total number of cards received will be available in January.

## **Budget:**

Tim Backora shared a handout with the multiple budget and expense categories that are currently being used and where these categories are proposed to be reflected in Realm, the new software system, in 2025.

Training for the church staff on the Realm software will take place in January and February 2025. Training for some lay leaders may take place at a later date.

## **New Business:**

Pastor Wynard reported that new member classes will be held on January 12 and 26, 2025. Tina Broeckemeier, Jennifer Bunge, and Jerry Fischer will attend these sessions as Council representatives.

On February 2, 2025, the budget for 2025 will be made available to the congregation.

On February 9, 2025, the annual reports will be distributed.

On February 16, 2025, the annual congregational meeting will be held during the forum.

Committee reports are due January 12-19, 2025. Ministry area leaders will inform the committees in each area when

the reports are due. The reports are to be submitted to Debbie Bogue.

Pastor Wynard informed the Council that Joseph Daffer applied to Wartburg Seminary and was accepted. The Synod has asked Kountze whether we will provide prayer and support for him. The Council approved the motion for Pastor Wynard to fill out the Synod form demonstrating our support for Mr. Daffer.

This application led to a discussion about the support students receive from Kountze. It was decided that the Scholarship Committee would meet and bring a proposal to the Council.

## **Finance Committee Report:**

Tim Backora reported that the November donations were \$65,000 with expenses of \$91,000 for November 2024. For the year, the deficit is \$114,000.

Year-to-date expenses are \$977,000. The expenses are \$9,000 more than one year ago. However, one year ago our giving totaled \$867,000. In comparison, this year's general fund number is \$773,000.

Because of the deficit, many possible solutions were discussed. It was agreed that the church's present financial status should be further conveyed to the congregation.

## **Staff Reports:**

Pastor Wynard will be on vacation in January and will not attend the next Council meeting.

The Property Committee requested that the Council review the proposal for the Douglas Street electronic sign which will cost \$48,525. The Council approved the project and asked that the Property Committee forward the request to Endowment.

Sunday School attendance is up an average of 15 individuals.

All other staff reports were accepted.

On January 5, 2025, a youth mission trip talk will be led by Mia Valquier.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

I want to thank the Women of the ELCA who helped organize and sell the merchandise, especially Julie O'Doherty, Vicki Freeman, and Karen Jacobson. Look for Global Mamas next Advent.

## Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

By Jill Conway



New this year to Alternative Gifts was Omaha Bridges Out

of Poverty. Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is partnering with Omaha Bridges as a host site for classes in 2025. The mission of Omaha Bridges is to empower under-resourced families to change their lives by discovering and overcoming barriers to success. Omaha Bridges fulfills this mission by offering classes and mentoring to work with individuals toward a permanent solution for reducing poverty. Omaha Bridges offers the Getting Ahead curriculum, which teaches the development of soft skills, time management, problem solving, personal financial management, negotiation, abstract thinking, goal setting, and more. In addition to classes, Omaha Bridges offers Life Skills Coaches to mentor and provide continual support to graduates, helping them to achieve their personal goals by connecting them to necessary resources. Alternative Gifts raised an amazing \$807 to support this partnership.

## Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic (HGFC)

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

February 25, 2025!

Reception: 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Born from a mission at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, where it initially operated within Sunday school classrooms, the HGFC has evolved into an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit now housed at the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center.

This all-volunteer clinic, complete with a licensed pharmacy, provides free medical care to underserved individuals, emphasizing well-being for the body, mind, and spirit. HGFC's dedicated team of volunteer healthcare professionals offers a wide array of medical services for both acute and chronic conditions. All services, including prescribed medications, are provided at no cost. The clinic relies entirely on the generous contributions of time and expertise from its staff and medical volunteers.

HGFC invites the Kountze community to join in celebrating this milestone and consider supporting their continued mission of providing vital healthcare to those in need.



## Update on the Associate Pastor Call Committee



We have officially shifted in our process of calling a new Associate Pastor from the Transition Team stage to the Call Committee stage. The Transition Team was tasked with writing the Ministry Site Profile, including drawing upon input from as many members of the congregation as possible. This profile describes us as a congregation - where our mission and energy are focused at the moment, the trends we've seen in the last few years, and what we are looking for in a new rostered leader. The MSP has been completed and submitted and now we are ready to receive names of potential candidates and begin screening and interviewing. This is the job of the Call Committee (about half of whom were also a part of the Transition Team):

- Tarna Kidder, Chairperson
- Lara McCormick, Council Liaison
- Dulcinea Boesenberg
- Ann Hadfield
- Doug Heim
- Jeff Perkins
- Mia Valquier

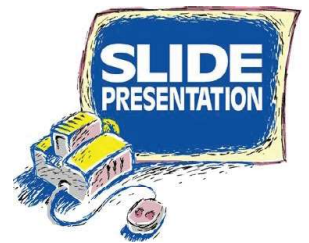
Pastor Lucy Wynard will also be an active part of screening and having conversations with the candidates. AND - we need YOUR help! Do you know of a Pastor or Deacon that you think might be a great fit for our Associate Pastor position? The Synod has a form for you to fill out and pass along. The Synod then takes the lead in contacting these potential candidates and asking them if they are willing to prayerfully consider Kountze Memorial for their next call. See attached or contact the church office for the form. (Please do not reach out directly to the rostered leader yourself - for confidentiality reasons and in order to care for one another as congregations and leaders in the church together, the Synod is best equipped to begin these conversations.)

## Kountze 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation

Wednesday, February 5

5-7 PM

If you missed the 165<sup>th</sup> 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.



## If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org).

## Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11:00 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

## Cards with Friends

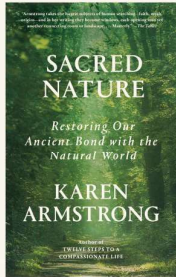
Thursday, February 6

2:00 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**

Karen Armstrong is a British religious historian who writes books on compassion and religion. She was a Roman Catholic nun for seven years before becoming an educator and author. She lives in London.

The book focuses on nature and how poets, world religions, scholars, and artists have shared their wisdom about nature in various forms. There is a connection between nature and the divine.

Armstrong provides some thought provoking ideas on how to slow down and reconnect to our natural world during these crucial times of climate change and the chaos in a turbulent world, so that we develop a proper relationship with others and our God.

The book concludes that by relating to nature with humility, empathy, compassion, and gratitude, it will bring a response of nature nurturing us.

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

## 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](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) by Tuesday, February 18.



## Pastoral Acts

December 16, 2024 - January 15, 2025

### Baptisms:

Thomas Wynn Hansen, January 11

### Funerals

Laurine Savine, December 19

## Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars®

Did you know that if you are a Thrivent member, you can direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds to a favorite nonprofit organization or cause?

For more information, go to:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

## Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 Years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Sunday School children, combined with Kara DiLorenzo's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class raised a total of \$599.25 for ELCA Good Gifts! This money provides support to ministries such as various farm animals and supplies for small farms, supplies for health care clinics, and ingredients for soup kitchens. Thank you to all who contributed.

**Reminder!** The Sunday School students are now receiving breakfast upstairs before beginning their lessons. Thank you to the kitchen volunteers and the Jensen family for providing the meal and service to the Sunday School kids.

**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!**



at Kristin@kmlchurch.org.

If you would like to help assist and lead the preschool or elementary youth one Sunday each month, please contact Kristin Boe



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.

## Children's Choir

Sundays, 9:15 AM

(following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6

Beginning January 12, 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.



## Confirmation Classes Continue

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

6 - 7:15 PM

We are focusing on learning more about the life of Jesus.

**Save the date:**

**President's Day weekend - Sunday, February 16-17**

**Confirmation Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp**

**Registration is coming soon!**



## Youth Forum

Sundays

10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

Youth Forum is back! You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Forum hour (10:15 AM.)

February Youth Forum schedule:

- 2/2 Games & Get-to-know each other
- 2/9 Bible study
- 2/16 Youth table in Forum - Congregational Mtg.
- 2/23 Mardi Gras!

## 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.



## First Communion Classes

Sundays, April 6 & 13

12:00 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email Kristin@kmlchurch.org to sign your





child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.



## 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](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) and we will submit the Early Bird payment on behalf of your youth.
- Join us for a Mission Trip Info Meeting on Sunday, January 5 at 10:15 AM in the Youth Center.

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>

## Vacation Bible School Held at Luther Memorial Church 1031 Sunset Trail

July 20-23

Ages 2 Years to Grade 5

5:15 PM: Family Dinner

6-8 PM: Class



This year, we are going on a "Road Trip with God". Our studies will be based off the Bible verse Joshua 1:9 - "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Join us as we discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together.

Registration for all our Travelers (students) and Navigators (volunteers) will be open soon. Can't wait to hit the road with you all!



## High School Youth Trip with the Nebraska ELCA

July 6-12

Nashville, Tennessee

Get registered for the 2024 Youth Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee. Youth completing grades 8 through 12 are invited to join the Nebraska Synod in traveling to Nashville for a week for faith formation, service, fellowship, and fun!

Contact Kristin Boe or Pastor Lucy for questions or to get registered. We look forward to hearing from you and completing this important service trip together.



## 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, 2024. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by e-mail to [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

# CALENDAR

♥♥ FEBRUARY

## February 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

## February 2 Sunday

Epiphany 4  
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

## February 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## February 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
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 5  
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

## February 10 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## February 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

## February 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## February 14 Friday

Valentine's Day  
5:00 PM Pantry

## February 15 Saturday

Good News Deadline  
5:00 PM Worship

## February 16 Sunday

Epiphany 6  
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  
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting



## February 17 Monday

President's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

## February 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

## February 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

## February 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

## February 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## February 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## February 23 Sunday

Epiphany 7

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 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3  
7:30 PM Youth Committee

## February 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

## February 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## February 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry



## Coming in March:

Beginning Ash Wednesday  
March 5

Wednesdays in Lent

Lenten Meals: 11:00 AM & 5:00 PM  
Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM

## Please Remember

- There is no Kountze Memorial parking in the lot on the South side of Farnam. That is apartment parking only.
- No parking Monday - Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM in the Methodist Clinic parking lot.

You may park in the deFreese Manor parking lot, at the meters (must pay), or in the West parking lot.

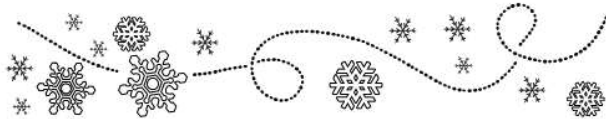
Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code to the right...

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>





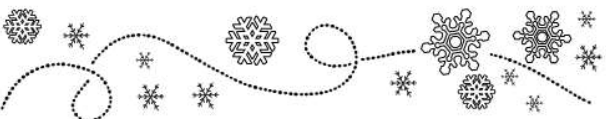
1. Nien Bol, Rachel Bruch, Barbara Carpenter, Matthew Friesner, Carol Hansen, Natalie Hansen, Christina Kilker
2. Kathleen Bailey, Jacob Rump
3. Pam Brown, Drue Councill, Tammy McLeod, Virginia Pretz, Mary Reichert, Amanda Taylor, Kristina Thacker
4. Xiaohui Gash, April Litwin, Ralph Morse, Hunter Seay, Elise Siffring
5. Patsy Allen, Fran Camenzind, Janet Campbell, Rebecca Hiatt, Karen Jacobson, Kevin Larkowski, Jack Lawrence
6. Susan Coles, Jill Conway, Bethany Gibson, Maggie Hiatt, Robert Powell, Nicholas Robinson, Jaxson Winther
7. Cindy Coufal, Rhonda Pounds
8. Karen Hardy, Rachel Schramm
9. Victoria Ellwein, Gloria Erickson, Dave Forrest, Alesha Martin, Jane Meyer, Bruce Nissen, Deborah Strobel
10. Carly Cameron, Mason Crowell, Karen Gilliam, Jennifer Seay
11. Teresa Heil, Ryley McDowell, Mark Miller, Daphne Reed, Nicholas Rude
12. Amber Lawrence, Mackenzie Madsen
13. Sam Garrett, Theresa Gruber, Bryson Harp, Austin Heimes, Jennifer Jones, Kelli Lange, Mackenzie Miller, Kris Placzek, Eric Pycko
14. Mike Christensen, Ryan Fleming, Janis Fochek, Kara Griger, Steven Olson, Eric Southard, Deb Virchow
15. Laura Anderson, Paul Bruch, Lisa Chmura, Lisa Hollowell, Calvin Leclair, Jonathan Wendt
16. Tonia Beck, Karen Buchholz, Madaline Christensen, Colton Diggins, Morgan Dodge, Shelby Pestel, Chad Picha
17. Jessica Kaasch, Jo Kayton, Riley Pleas
18. Bob Johnson, Ashley Quarles, Rachel Storer, Ardis Von Seggern
19. John Lynch, Cindy Pfetzer, Susan Puls, Maddie Rief
20. Lesley Akers, John Eggen, Kitsy Hagge
21. Kristin Ann Boe, Holly Carter, Samantha Diggins, Karla James, Galyn Langer, Phylleshia Larsen, David Muller
22. Austin Copeland, Kathy Englert, Danielle Fleming, Jacob Madison, Mary Owen, Jace Tams, Megan Thom
23. Stephen Sheftz, Elizabeth Winborn
24. Mark Adams, Richert Dart, Benjamin Dey, Kathryn Harvey, Jim Hopkins, Thomas Waller
25. Nancy Anderson, Andrew Nord, Paul Revord, Jenni Toebben
26. Shelley Danenhauer, Juliana Durio, Hannah Earnhardt, Keelan Edwards, Amy Fredrickson, Majken Fullner, Suzanne Kotula, Nancy Martens, Patricia Scarpino
27. Hayley Clatterbuck, Jacque Johnson, Lori Senn
28. Kyle Frye, Norm Herzog, Keith Norton, Mitchell Rudie, Erica Weigel
29. Rashelle Garrett



### Snow Days Just a Reminder This Winter



If Omaha Public Schools are closed or remote learning because of inclement weather, the church office will be closed and church activities will be cancelled unless otherwise announced.



### Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 12/1/2024 .....	\$777607.90
Principal Payment, 12/1/2024.....	\$3228.37
Interest Payment, 12/1/2024 .....	\$2476.63
Balance, 1/1/2025 .....	\$ 774,379.53

### Finances: December, 2024

	<i>December</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
<b>Total General Fund</b>		
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 12,7616.71</b>	<b>\$ 989,980.44</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission Support:	\$ 6,666.67	\$ 79,999.99
Christian Education:	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 6,865.51
Facility Costs:	\$ 18,166.22	\$ 182,499.48
Staff Compensation:	\$ 54,697.89	\$ 683,955.57
Worship & Music:	\$ 4,176.00	\$ 40,938.54
Parish Life:	\$ 2,815.75	\$ 30,261.33
Youth:	\$ - 0 -	\$ 1,536.06
Office & Administration:	<u>\$ 1,985.32</u>	<u>\$ 41,203.34</u>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 90,132.80</b>	<b>\$ 1,067,259.82</b>

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
2650 Farnam St  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
Phone: 402-341-7761  
Fax: 402-341-4841  
E-mail: [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)  
Web: [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Omaha NE 68131  
Permit 238

Rev. Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Associate Pastor

## Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is  
televised live on Cox channel 13 and live  
streamed on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may  
watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our website  
at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



When the time after Epiphany stretches to March, it gives time for added reflection about the stories of “ah-ha’s,” justice, and light that Jesus shares and the disciples witness. In this spirit, this month we are invited to ponder what new insights, wisdom, and questions God might be providing and calling us to see and dwell in. By extension then, we can also dig in and wonder about what such insights, wisdom, and questions we might be being called to share with our larger communities and world. Some of these might include hard but needed conversations. But in gathering together to have them, a new epiphany might just be sparked. And as we gather together, we might just sense God active and among us, calling us to sense and see something in new light, and to live forever changed as a beloved disciple and Child of God.

### Questions for Reflection:

- In what ways have you seen and experienced God cultivating epiphanies around you and for you? What did they feel like? What did you sense? What might you have imagined?
- How might God be inviting you to cultivate epiphanies? For yourself? For your faith community? For your larger community?
- What potentially harder conversations is God calling you to have? Whom will they be with? What might they be about?
- What sort of epiphanies have you had recently that have left an impact? What were they? How were you changed by them?