

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 9, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and

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 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,
- 3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE



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

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

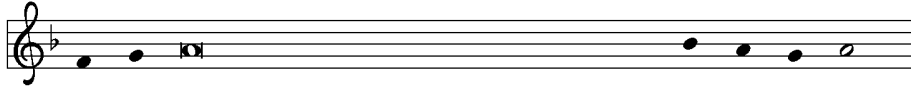
pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

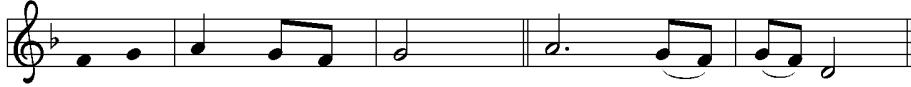
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty and ever-living God,
 - ☑ increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and so that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."⁷ But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 71:1-6 (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)



From my moth - er's womb you have been my strength.

¹ In you, O Lord, have I | taken refuge;
let me never be | put to shame.

² In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;
incline your ear to | me and save me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;
you are my crag | and my stronghold.

⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor. *Refrain*

⁵ For you are my hope, | O Lord God,
my confidence since | I was young.

⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have | been my strength;
my praise shall be al- | ways of you. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but

when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

🎵 Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 252

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 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.

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Who Gives Us Life

ACS 1086



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e-nant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a-byss of doubt and find you e-ven there:
 your might-y deeds e-voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de-liv-er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan-der-ing through wastes of emp-ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo-ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir-it still is mak-ing all things new.
 re-fresh us with the liv-ing spring of hope that nev-er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a-new the cov-e-nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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THE APOSTLES CREED

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

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

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Diana John, Dwight Kurbis, and Patricia Muller

Prayers this week: Sandi Miller, 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, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Myron Osentowski, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Samaria, Dorothy Stanzel, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenburg Center, Germany; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come

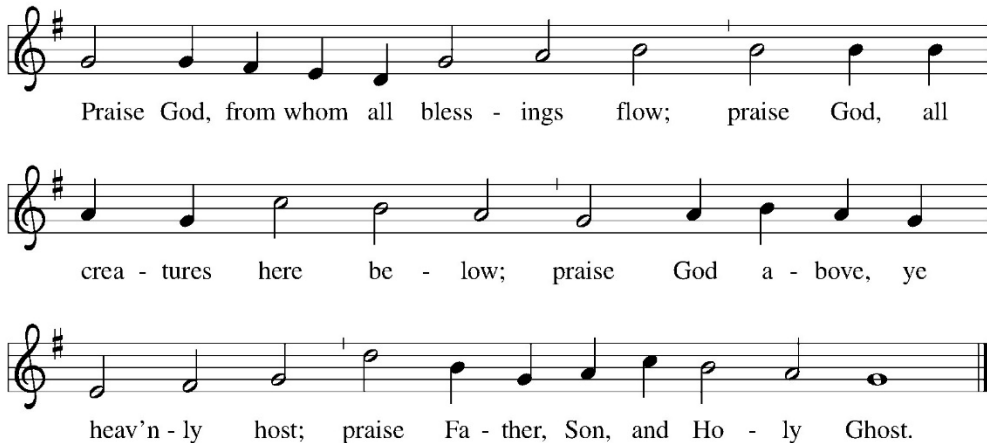
Mary McDonald
arr. by John Purifoy

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885



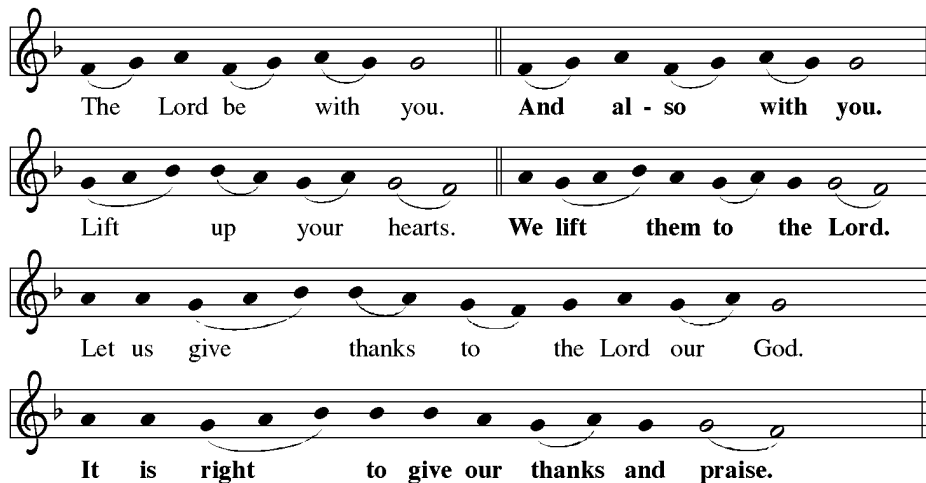
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

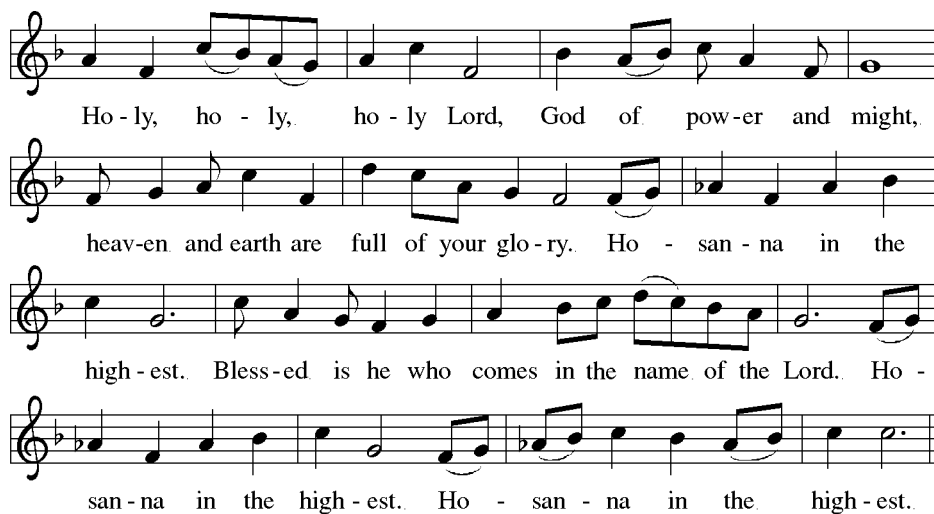


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

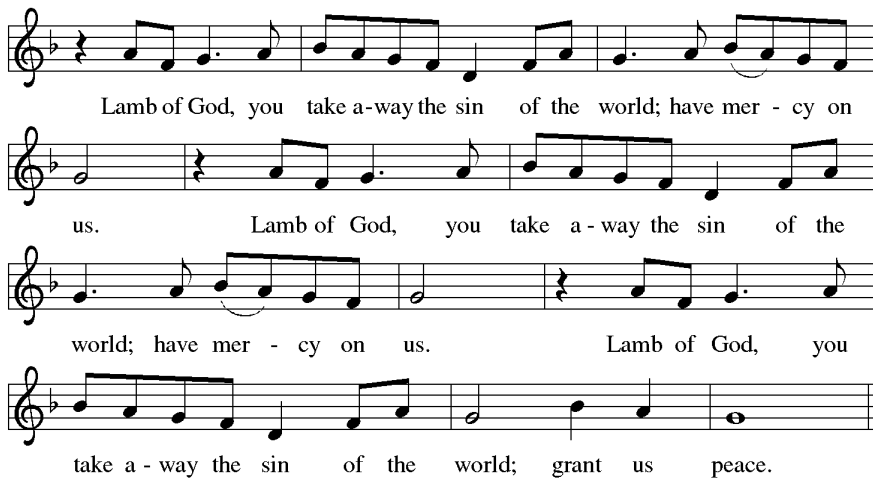
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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** He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred,
a pulse of being stirred.
- 2** He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart,
of night within the heart.
- 3** He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home,
a voice to call us home.
- 4** He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving name,
for ev'ry child of earth,
for ev'ry child of earth.
- 5** He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord,
our Savior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
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Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

ELW 644

- 1** Although I speak with angel's tongue,
my faith, my knowledge all surpass,
but have no love, my gifts are vain
as clanging gong or blaring brass.
- 2** For love is patient, love is kind,
and never vain with boasting pride;
love bears all things, all things endures.
All things must end; love will abide.
- 3** For now we peer at darkened glass;
our visions end; our tongues all cease.
In part we know, in part now see:
then we will see love face to face.
- 4** The gifts are many, the Body one,
and into one are all baptized.
Beloved, share one heart, one mind,
one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b.1951
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

(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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631 vs. 1, 2, 4

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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>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

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

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402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 8 & 9, 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 Karen & Steve Jacobson in memory of their dear friend, Debby Engler

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Pat's sister given by Robert & Pat Ranney

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 Faith Formation hour.

- 2/9 Bible study
- 2/16 Youth table in Forum - Congregational Mtg.

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: Budget Presentation

Next week: Congregational Meeting

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

February 10 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry

February 11 Tuesday

- 10:00 AM Patricia Muller Funeral
- 12:30 PM 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
- 3:00 PM Ice Skating (gr 7—Young Adult)
- 5:00 PM Worship

February 16 Sunday

- Epiphany 6
- Confirmation Retreat
- 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—Congregational Meeting

February 17 Monday

- Office Closed
- No Pantry

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!

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.

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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!

Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic 15th Anniversary Celebration Tuesday, February 25 Reception: 4:30— 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.

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>



**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 30—Wednesday, February 5

**Saturday: 29
Sunday: 9:00: 163 11:00: 81
Wednesday: 12:15: 5
Total: 278
Streaming: 59
Pantry Guests Served: 894 (inc. 279 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12
Offering:
\$12,435.64 (Regular) \$2,204.10 (Specials)
\$297.00 (Debt Reduction)**

Jesus calls his first followers.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-13	The call of Isaiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The call of Paul
Wednesday	Psalm 36	Human sin and God's goodness
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Deuteronomy 7:6-11	The Lord's chosen people
Saturday	Psalm 138	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:10b-11 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to tell others of your mercy at work in the world that they may know of your loving power through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthen for thy service be. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with grace and mercy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How do you describe your daily routine?
- How would you respond if Jesus asked you to leave your home and daily routine to follow him?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 5:1-11.

Jesus calling Simon Peter, James, and John to follow him is part of a miracle story. The first scene, if not a miracle, is at least surprising: a first-century crowd pressing in on Jesus who was a rather unknown traveling speaker at the time. The more recognizable miracle is the catch of fish, an unbelievable amount of fish for those who had just fished all night without catching a thing. Next, Simon Peter, aware of Jesus' holiness and his own unworthiness, is afraid of being close to Jesus. However, Jesus changes Simon Peter's fears by giving him a new calling for his life to be a disciple. Now, Simon Peter will help more people get close to Jesus. Finally, Simon Peter, James, and John leave their prior life's work to follow Jesus, leaving all else behind. From beginning to end, the story contains the miraculous work of God. This story tells us to expect the unexpected grace and mercy that Jesus brings to us and the entire world.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's unexpected grace and mercy?

Pray: **Almighty God, your presence in our lives is full of grace and mercy; help us to extend that grace and mercy to all through Christ Jesus, our 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 care for others with God's surprising mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah was involved in worship when he received his call as a prophet. The word worship comes from the Old English word "worthship". We worship not only to praise God for God's worthiness but also to receive our own worthiness as those loved and sent by God into the world. God uses ordinary people like Isaiah and the disciples to do extraordinary work. In what ways do you feel called and sent into the world to serve God? Make a list of talents and gifts you have and think about how they can be used to serve God.

Pray: **Generous God, you call us by name and send us out to tell of your extravagant love for us. Give us the faith, strength, and courage to be your followers. In Jesus' name, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26