

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

April 6, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from who no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your heart through faith.

C Amen.



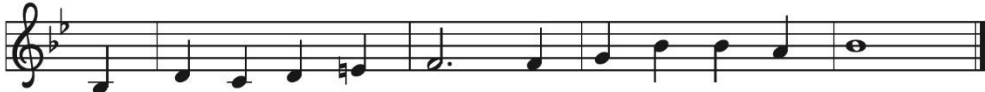
1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
 3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
 learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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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 a - bove, 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,



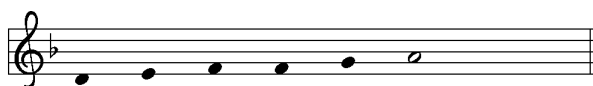
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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

P Creator God,

C you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (read responsively)

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

Paul writes: ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P Return to the Lord your God,

C for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 444

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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 Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685 vs. 1, 2, 6

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.</p> | <p>2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.</p> |
| <p>6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.</p> | |

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

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, in your mercy,
 G receive 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: Nancy Meyer

On-going Care: Sharon Ambler, Cheri Biggs, John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg Jessica Hannon, Julie Hoogestraat, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, Donna Reinig, David Samaria, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, Deb Woosley

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

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

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thee We Adore

arr. Ralph M. Johnson

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359 vs. 1-3



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

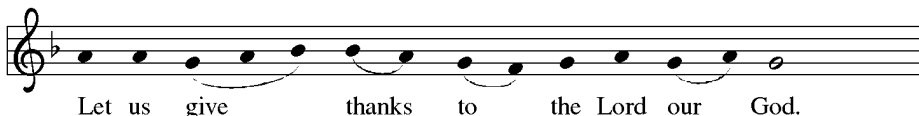
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OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious Provider,

C you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

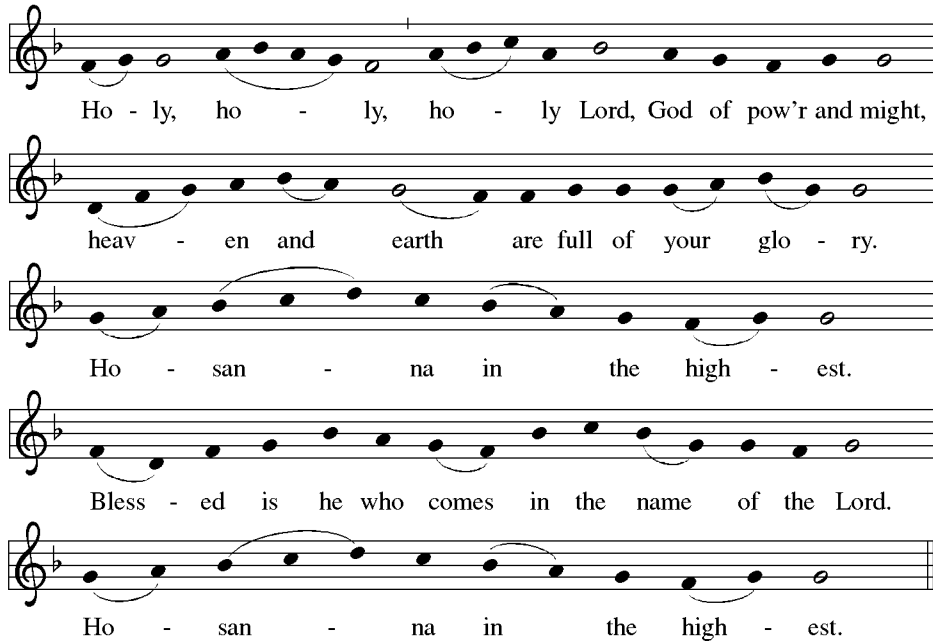


PREFACE FOR LENT

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

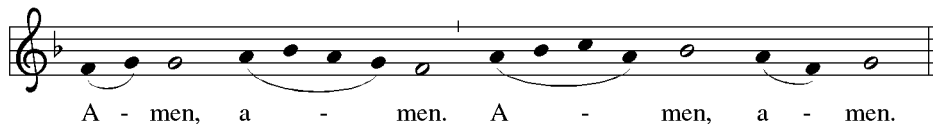
SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: ...
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** Therefore, O God, ... to share with us the great and promised feast.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, ... with all your saints in light.
- C** **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** Join our prayers with those of your servants ...
... almighty Father, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ All who are hungry, come!

☑ The feast of grace is spread.

(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 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

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

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In the Singing

ELW 466

1 In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,

Refrain

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

2 In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people, *Refrain*

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

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(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous Host,

G you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ☞ God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

ELW 833 vs. 1-4

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices
to praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
would then proclaim in grateful songs
to all, wherever I might be,
what great things God has done for me!</p> <p>2 Let ev'ry pow'r in me implanted
arise, keep silence now no more;
put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore!
O soul and body, join to raise
with heartfelt joy your maker's praise!</p> | <p>3 You forest leaves so green and tender
that dance for joy in summer air,
you meadow grasses, bright and slender,
you flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
you live to show forth praise alone.
Join me to make God's glory known!</p> <p>4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
that throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
come, share with me my heart's devotion,
help me to sing God's praises high!
My utmost pow'rs can never quite
declare the wonders of God's might!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658-1734; tr. composite
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
☛ 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 Slight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 5 & 6, 2025

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 165 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

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

Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries

of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

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



Today at Kountze Memorial

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. Thank you to our Children's Choir this morning for sharing their musical talents with us.

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.

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.

April 6: Jesus as “God from God” and “Of One Being” with the Father

April 13: Fellowship

First Communion Classes

Sundays, April 6 & 13 (attend one)

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

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2nd grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email her at Kristin@kmlchurch.org to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 6 Sunday

Lent 5
Homebound Communion
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM First Communion Class -
attend April 6 or 13

April 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship

April 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:00 AM WELCA Board (note time change)
11:00 AM Bobbie Powell Funeral
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 11 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 12 Saturday

9:00 AM NE Synod MS Gathering
(gr 5-9)
5:00 PM Worship

April 13 Sunday

Palm Sunday
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM Book Group
12:15 PM First Communion Class -
attend April 6 or 13

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Synod-wide Middle School Gathering Grades 5 - 9

Held at Kountze
Saturday, April 12

9:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Cost: \$45 and includes both lunch and dinner

Your student will join with other 5th - 9th graders from the Omaha and Lincoln area in a morning of learning, an afternoon of service, and an evening of worship. If cost is an obstacle, please let Pr. Lucy know. Learn more and register at :

<https://tinyurl.com/mwymhkat>



Sunday, May 18. Questions or planning to attend? Contact the church office (info@kmlchurch.org) or 402-341-7761. We look forward to connecting with you!

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing Sunday, May 4

9:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation no later than April 27. The photos may be brought to church or emailed to info@kmlchurch.org. Please be sure to have your names on the photos. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day for the graduates.

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates Sunday, May 4

If you are a graduate in this past year, please let us know by Tuesday, April 15. We need to know your name, who your parents are, where you are graduating from, major if applicable, and what will be next for you. On May 4 we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email info@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you. Cards of

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, April 13

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

***The Women* by Kristin Hannah**

Join us!

New Member Classes

April 27 & May 4

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be listed in the May Good News and in the Sunday Bulletin on May 4.

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>

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 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person

To help with fundraising for this trip, there are envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. 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!

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 of 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!

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. **The current needs this week for the pantry are cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.** You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Also, if you get cards, calendars, pens, etc. in the mail that are taking up room in your "junk drawer," you might consider donating those items to the pantry as well. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. You are welcome to volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. We are using a new sign up format, so please use the link or QR code to sign up (even if you are a regular volunteer or signed up on the old form) and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>



Menu for April 9 (Free-will offering)

Chicken Tortilla Soup

Beef Barley Soup

Assorted Wraps

Vegetarian Options Available

Assorted Bread Pudding

Everyone is welcome. Join us!

Attendance & Giving Thursday, March 27—Wednesday, April 2

Saturday: 26

Sunday: 9:00: 154 11:00: 64

Wednesday: 12:15: 98

Total: 342

Streaming: 59

Pantry Guests Served: 759 (inc. 225 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering:

\$29,954.18 (Regular) \$4,900.12 (Specials)

\$537.15 (Debt Reduction)

Mary shows extravagant love for Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany
Monday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord will prepare the way
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	Running toward the goal
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Thursday	2 Corinthians 2:14-17	We are the aroma of Christ
Friday	Isaiah 43:1-7	God promises restoration
Saturday	Psalms 126	A harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, through Christ you touch us with lavish love and care. Help us to respond with reverence and joy for all that you do for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of the harvest, we thank you for filling our bodies with food and our hearts with joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to be rich in love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How do you show your care and affection for someone else?
- How do you experience God's extravagant love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 12:1-8.

All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) mention the anointing of Jesus' feet by a woman. Only John names the woman as Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. It is another way John emphasizes the love relationship between Jesus and his disciples. Just as Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair, Jesus would wipe the disciples' feet with a towel (John 13:5). Both acts are meant as a sign of extravagant love. Even though Jesus' disciples will soon betray, deny, or abandon him before his crucifixion, his final entry into Jerusalem is preceded by this act of love. All real and intimate relationships experience difficulties. Following Jesus will be no different. What we see and remember with Mary's anointing, is that at the heart of our relationship to Jesus is a love that will not end.

Discuss: How do you express your love for Jesus?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, you gave everything you had to love us and save us from our sins; free us to show our love for you and our care for the world you love. Amen.**

SERVICE

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

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This fifth week in Lent we reflect on "*And do not bring us to the time of trial*" (v. 4b). Add this verse to verses 2a, 2b, 3, and 4a from the first, second, third, and fourth weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35