

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

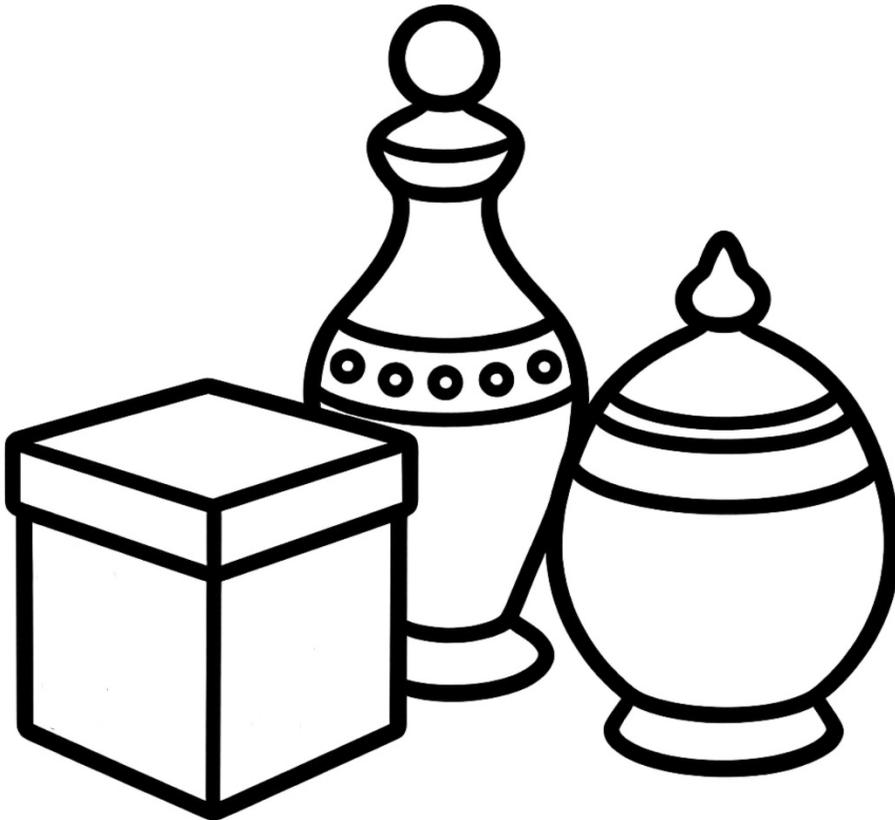
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

January 4, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

EPIPHANY of OUR LORD



The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- ☑ **Amen.**

- ☐ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. *(Revelation 22:1-2)*

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, holy and gracious God,
for you created the waters of the earth:
wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers,
including the Platte and the Missouri.

- ☑ **You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.
Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us.
You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.**

**Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism.
Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.</p> <p>2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.</p> | <p>3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.</p> <p>4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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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

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O God,

☛ on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (read responsively)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

☐ 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. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 218

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ℒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.</p> <p>2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.</p> | <p>3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.</p> <p>4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

℣ Let us confess together the faith of the Church.

☩ **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: ℣ Hear us, O God.

☩ **Your mercy is great.**

(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 Bob Wynard (father-in-law of Pr. Lucy Wynard)

Prayers this week: Ralph Morse, Grant Williams (father of Lynn Schneiderman)

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Nina Castro, Irving Collett, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Dale Grundman, Larry & Michele Hunzeker, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Sharon Miley, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliott, husband of Dannika Rees; 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, 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

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. You may use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mark Jones

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3

**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

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Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God of glory,
- ☑ **great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

L O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. ...
... The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

L O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. ...
... The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

L We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed ...

... Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks ...

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in song:

The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

L O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. ...
... The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

L Amen, and amen.

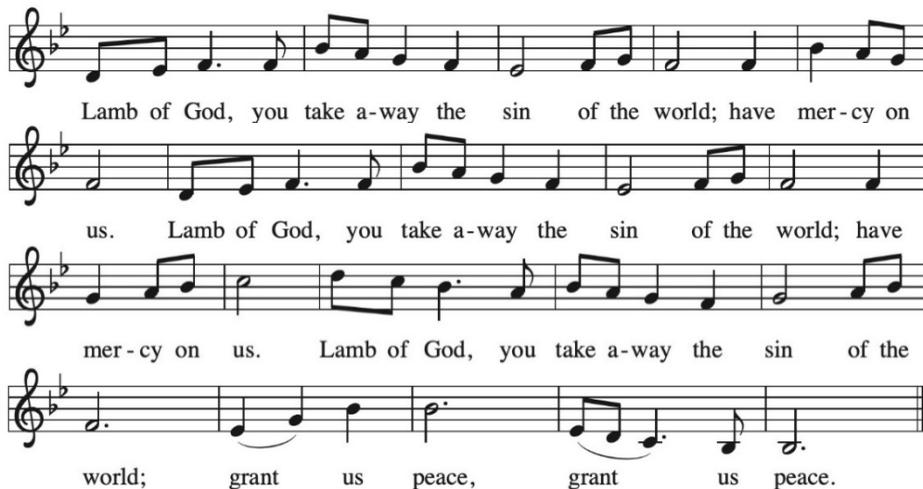
C **Amen, and amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all 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-against 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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- L** Come to the feast of joy!
- C** God is now in flesh appearing.

(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. If you cannot or choose not to receive the wine, know that the sacrament and God's promised forgiveness are complete in either element.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

1 Here would I feast up - on the bread of God,
2 Mine is the sin, but thine the righ - teous - ness;

here drink with thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
mine is the guilt, but thine the cleans - ing blood;

here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:

here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
thy blood, thy righ - teous - ness, O Lord my God.

3 Too soon we rise, the ves - sels dis - ap - pear;
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.

The bread and wine re - move, but thou art here,
near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889; tr. T. W. Speaks

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- Ⓛ Incarnate God,
- ☉ you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ☞ The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302 vs. 1-4

- 1** As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.
- 2** As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

- 3** As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.
- 4** Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Glory to God in the highest.
☛ And peace to God's people on earth.
☞ Go in peace. Embody God's redeeming grace.
☛ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons
Sheila Valquier	Youth Director
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 3 & 4, 2026

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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Gloria Erickson in honor and memory of loved ones.

New Altar Flower/Eternal Candle/TV Broadcast charts are up in the Narthex. Be sure to sign up for the date(s) you want to remember or honor someone or an event on.

Children's Choir Grades K-6

No Children's Choir this Sunday. Join us again in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms on January 11.

Kountze Café 9:30—11:00 AM

Continental breakfast this morning, but join us again next Sunday for a hot 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 Ages 2 years-6th Grade

No Sunday School will be held from December 14—January 4. Join us again on January 11.

Youth Forum Sundays, 10:15 AM Youth Center Grades 7-12

No Youth Forum from December 14—January 4. We'll be meeting again on January 11.

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 or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it 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 plates 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, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

Pledge Cards

It's not too late to bring your pledge cards back. Please put them in the designated box in the narthex or mail them back to the church office. Contact us with questions - we'd be happy to help. And THANK YOU for your generous gifts - they empower us, together, to do even more than we could imagine toward God's work in our community and around the world!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 4 Sunday

Epiphany
Homebound Communion
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe -
Continental Breakfast
10:10 AM Fellowship—No Sunday
School, Children's Choir

January 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 6 Tuesday

Epiphany of Our Lord
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.
Timothy
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

January 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Worship & Music
Committee

January 9 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 10 Saturday

9:30 AM Undecorate from
Christmas—Can you help?
5:00 PM Worship

January 11 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
10:15 AM New Member Class
12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Classes

St. Timothy's Lutheran (93rd & Dodge)

Wednesdays, 6-7:15 PM

We'll meet each Wednesday until Lent begins, with the exception of January 21 when we will take a "field trip" to St. Michael Lutheran Church (13232 Blondo) for a **Digital Safety for Middle Schoolers Workshop** from 6-7 PM. Please meet at St. Michael Lutheran Church (13232 Blondo) on January 21. **Confirmation families** - be sure to check your email for a more detailed schedule, updates on a Middle School Lock-In at Camp Carol Joy Holling, sign-ups for snacks, adult helpers, and more!

Youth Ice Skating Event

Saturday, January 17

3-6 PM

Riverfront Skate Ribbon

1109 Howards St.

We'll meet at the Riverfront Skate Ribbon at 3 PM and then at 4:30 PM, we'll walk to Zios in the Old Market for pizza and pickup there. Plan to come and bring a

friend! RSVP to Sheila at sheila@kmlchurch.org so we know how many to plan for.

Digital Safety Workshop for Parents on Sunday Sunday, January 25

6:00-7:00 PM

**St. Michael Lutheran Church (13232 Blondo)
Childcare provided**

This is for parents of youth of any age, and we'll have childcare provided so parents can focus on the presentation.

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6-12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

\$50 Deposit required for registration

Cost includes transportation, meals, and lodging.

Register ASAP by contacting Sheila Valquier.

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth in grades 8 through 12 and their adult leaders. In 2026, we will gather in Pittsburgh for service, learning, worship, fellowship, and



sheila@kmlchurch.org

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

opportunities to grow in faith while learning from our neighbors in Pennsylvania. We will work as a team to raise funds to offset the cost. Presence and participation at fundraising events required. Scholarships are available. Contact Sheila Valquier if you are interested.

KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 7- 12/week 2

\$50 Early Bird Savings Until January 31

Join friends and other familiar faces for fun, faith, and fellowship with other Lutherans from around the state. Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth if you register by the January 31 Early Bird Registration date. If you register after this date, you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 7 - 12, 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 payment on behalf of your youth.

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



<https://www.nlom.org/caroljoyholling/register/>

Calling all Artists and Makers!

Join us for an Art Show featuring members of our congregation. Enjoy charcuterie while viewing the talent on display. There will be a silent auction for all pieces of art, with the proceeds benefitting the Youth Group Mission Trip. If you are interested in donating your handiwork, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Behind the Scenes on Sunday Mornings

Church Media is looking for volunteers to help with sound, video, and computer graphics. No experience is needed—we provide hands-on training. If you're curious, stop by on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM and see how it all works. Try it and you might discover a role that's a perfect fit for you. Call the church office or

talk to Ron Brown if you think you might be interested.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are gloves, socks, and soup. 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. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.

Omaha Lutheran Campus Ministry Presents

Evensong—A Grand Choir Experience

Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction

Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, January 25

4:30 PM—chili feed & judging

6 PM—worship

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (1031 Sunset Trail) We have been invited to consider joining the choir. If any choir members would like to sing, please let Barb Carlsen know. Everyone else is invited to the chili feed and worship.

Attendance & Giving Thursday, Dec. 23—Wednesday, Dec. 31

Saturday: 32

Sunday: 9:00: 68 11:00: 63

Wednesday: 12:15: No Service

Total: 163

Streaming: 96

Christmas Eve: 4:00: 305; 7:00: 237; 11:00: 96

Christmas Day: 31

Total Christmas: 669

Pantry Guests Served: 446 (inc. 149 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$11,347.88 (Regular)

\$19,825.76 (Specials)

\$1,445.15 (Debt Reduction)

God's light shines through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	The joyful return of the exiles
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6	The glory of God shines on the people



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany observances.

	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	All shall bow down
	Ephesians 3:1-12	The gospel's promise for all
	Matthew 2:1-12	The wise men worship Jesus
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Thursday	Genesis 50:14-21	Joseph's promise to his brothers
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Visions from the Lord
Saturday	Psalm 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isaiah 60:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

Dear God, in Jesus you show your glory to the nations. Come, Holy Spirit, bless all the nations of the world with peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as the star shone over Bethlehem to reveal the presence of your Son, may this meal remind us that this food is a gift of your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ bring you peace and joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you were with someone from a different culture or religion? Tell about it.
- God used a star to lead the wise men to find Jesus, the Light of the World. What or who has God used to lead you to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:1-12.

People from another religion and another part of the ancient world used astrology to guide them to Jesus, and it worked. God wants the world to be blessed by the light of Christ that shines from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth. It is God's powerful light that has entered the darkness of fear. Not only is King Herod frightened by the message that a king has been born to the Jews, but so are all the people of Jerusalem. Even the people faithful to God's reign are fearful. A new day that brings astonishing news signals a change and is feared by all. We, ourselves, fear change, even if it has come to benefit us. The moment something new happens to us, we lose a sense of control. In this reading, the change is about God's rule, God's ways, and God's love that shines brightly into a darkened world. Thanks be to God for the light that breaks into the dark corners of our world and of our lives. It is the only light and only hope that really matters.

Discuss: When is a time that change was difficult for you? Where do you feel God was in that moment?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, bless us to see in you the one who takes our fears and worries and turns them into joy and gladness. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Epiphany Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you help or support someone who is going through dark times?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Epiphany is traditionally associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers. Light a candle to symbolize Christ. Go from room to room as a group.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, please bless this room and all that takes place here. Light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.**

After you have gone throughout your home, use chalk to write above your entrance door: 20+C+M+B+26 (It stands for the year 2026, the traditional names of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar given to the wise men, and also for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for "Christ, bless this home.")

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17