

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Eric Haitz, Deacon  
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2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

January 11, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

BAPTISM of OUR LORD



*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*



# 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><b>1</b> Crashing waters at creation,<br/>ordered by the Spirit's breath,<br/>first to witness day's beginning<br/>from the brightness of night's death:</p> <p><b>2</b> Parting water stood and trembled<br/>as the captives passed on through,<br/>washing off the chains of bondage—<br/>channel to a life made new.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Cleansing water once at Jordan<br/>closed around the one foretold,<br/>opened to reveal the glory<br/>ever new and ever old.</p> <p><b>4</b> Living water, never ending,<br/>quench the thirst and flood the soul.<br/>Wellspring, source of life eternal,<br/>drench our dryness, make us whole.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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### APOSTOLIC GREETING

- L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** 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 our Father,
- ☑ at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be children of God, and empower us all with your Spirit, through 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 42:1-9

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

**H**ere is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 29 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

## SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat alleluia*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 242*

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## **CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM**

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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, in the back of the entrance hall, available to those who prefer to stay with their families. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.*

## **SERMON**

*Pastor Wynard*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

**ELW 305**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> When Jesus came to Jordan<br/>to be baptized by John,<br/>he did not come for pardon<br/>but as the Sinless One.<br/>He came to share repentance<br/>with all who mourn their sins,<br/>to speak the vital sentence<br/>with which good news begins.</p> | <p><b>2</b> He came to share temptation,<br/>our utmost woe and loss,<br/>for us and our salvation<br/>to die upon the cross.<br/>So when the dove descended<br/>on him, the Son of Man,<br/>the hidden years had ended,<br/>the age of grace began.</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> Come, Holy Spirit, aid us<br/>to keep the vows we make;<br/>this very day invade us,<br/>and ev'ry bondage break.<br/>Come, give our lives direction,<br/>the gift we covet most:<br/>to share the resurrection<br/>that leads to Pentecost.</p>         |  |

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## 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: ℣ Merciful God,

☩ **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:** Claire Brubaker, Chris Jensen (brother of Tom Jensen), Ralph Morse, MaryAnn Webster (mother of Debbie Bogue)

**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, Grant Williams

**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

*Come, Be Baptized*

words and music by G. Alan Smith  
arr. by Jack Schrader

*(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.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
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#### OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God of majesty,
- ☑ **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

- ☐ 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.

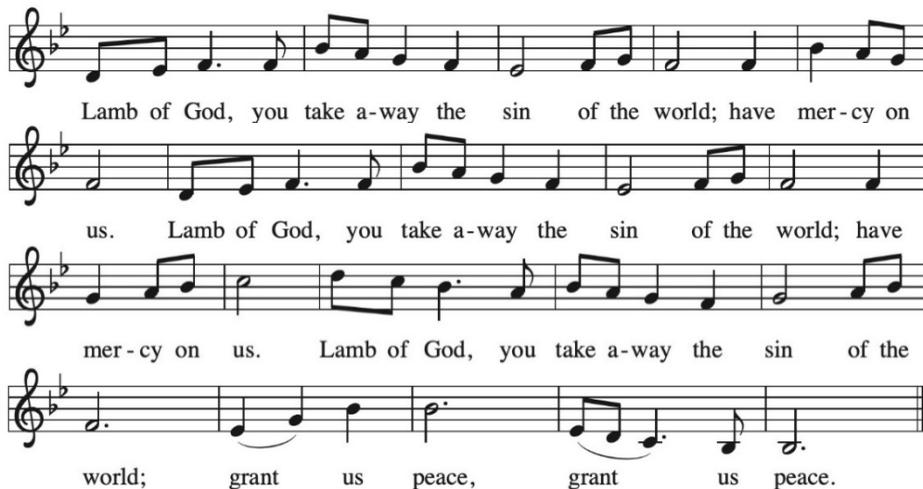
**C** **Amen, and amen.**

## 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 table; taste and see.

**C** Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

(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.*



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for  
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for  
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for  
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

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*Remember and Rejoice*

**ELW 454**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Remember and rejoice,<br/>renewed by floods of grace.<br/>We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,<br/>that time cannot erase.</b></p>    | <p><b>3 We pledge ourselves anew<br/>to flee the lures of hell,<br/>to cling to Christ's community,<br/>in justice, peace to dwell.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>2 In life, in death, we trust<br/>in God's most holy name,<br/>forever traced by water sign,<br/>and sealed by Spirit flame.</b></p> | <p><b>4 God, bless us by your grace;<br/>remind us of your care.<br/>Renewing Spirit, fill us now,<br/>inspire our work, our prayer.</b></p> |
| <p><b>5 Remember and rejoice,<br/>renewed by floods of grace.<br/>We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,<br/>that time cannot erase.</b></p>    |  |

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

☪ Radiant God,

☩ **we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

ELW 310 vs. 1, 2, 4

**1** Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

**2** Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
prophet, priest, and king supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in pow'r divine,  
changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

**4** Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee  
at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
☞ 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

January 10 & 11, 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 Erica Freeman in memory of her friend, Tina Hampton; given by David Falke

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Bettie Waldorf in memory of Bertha Munson

### Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

#### Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All 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 AM

#### Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. 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 the breakfast.

### 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*

### Youth Forum

**Sundays, 10:15 AM**

**Youth Center**

**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 breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

### Book Group

**Sunday, January 11**

**12:15 PM**

**Fellowship Lounge**

**The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon**

Join us!

### New Member Class

**Sundays, January 11 & 18**

**10:15 AM**

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us in the Fellowship Hall Lounge for our upcoming new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, January 25. We're excited to get to know you!

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### January 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### January 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### January 14 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

### January 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due

Good News Deadline

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

### January 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### January 17 Saturday

3:00 Grades 7-12 Ice Skating

5:00 PM Worship

### January 18 Sunday

Epiphany 2

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 Young Adult Outing

### January 19 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM Pantry Open

5:00 PM Clinic Board

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Classes

**St. Timothy's Lutheran (93<sup>rd</sup> & 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!

### Men's Lunch

**Thursday, January 15**

**11:30 AM**

**Suggested Donation: \$10.00**

Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 14. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're coming.

### Youth Ice Skating Event

**Grades 7—12**

**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.

### Kountze Young Adults (18-30s)

**Sunday, January 18**

**Site-1 Brewing Company**

**2566 Farnam St.**

**12:15 PM**

Young adults are invited to gather after the 11:00 AM worship service. We'll meet for food, conversation, and connection. Whether you're new or have joined us before, you're welcome to bring a friend and come as you are. All are welcome.



sheila@kmlchurch.org



eric@kmlchurch.org

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

### **MLK Day of Service Hunger Fight**

**Monday, January 19**

**1-3 or 3-5 PM**

**Courtyard by Marriott in Bellevue**

**3730 Raynor Pkwy**

160 volunteers will engage with the community to package 60,000 Taco Mac meals to feed hungry children and families here in Omaha. Use the QR code or link below for more information or to register to volunteer. Groups are welcome.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7skez3>



MLK Day of Service

### **Calling all Artists and Makers!**

**Friday, February 6**

**6—9 PM**

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](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org). Donations need to be turned in by Friday, January 30 so they can be displayed over the weekend.

### **Digital Safety Workshop for Parents**

**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 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.



sheila@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 flour, sugar, and body wash. 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/uau5ddd>

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



Pantry

### **KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling**

**June 7- 12/week 2**

**\$50 Early Bird Savings Until January 31**

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth registered by the January 31, the 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. In order for the church to pay the fee, choose:

- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- email a copy of the receipt to [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) and we will submit 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/>



Camp Registrations

### **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, January 1—Wednesday, January 7**

**Saturday: 26**

**Sunday: 9:00: 111 11:00: 56**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 9**

**Total: 202**

**Streaming: 54**

**Pantry Guests Served: 291 (inc. 99 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**

**Offering:**

\$3,310.00 (Regular) \$497.11 (Specials)

\$200.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Thursday	Matthew 2:13-23	Going to and return from Egypt
Friday	Acts 8:26-40	An Ethiopian is baptized
Saturday	Psalm 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God



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## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* **Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What do you know about your own baptism or recall about a baptism you have seen?
- How is God's love and approval at Jesus' baptism important to his future work?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus' baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus' baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is. Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets, not us. Jesus' presence announces God's ruling activity among Israel and the nations. Jesus' life fulfilled by the word of the prophets leads to his baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one. It is good to reflect on our own baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God's will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone.

*Discuss:* What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus, "My Son, the Beloved"?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what does it mean to serve others in Jesus' name?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God's family. Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person. *Say:* **You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42