

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

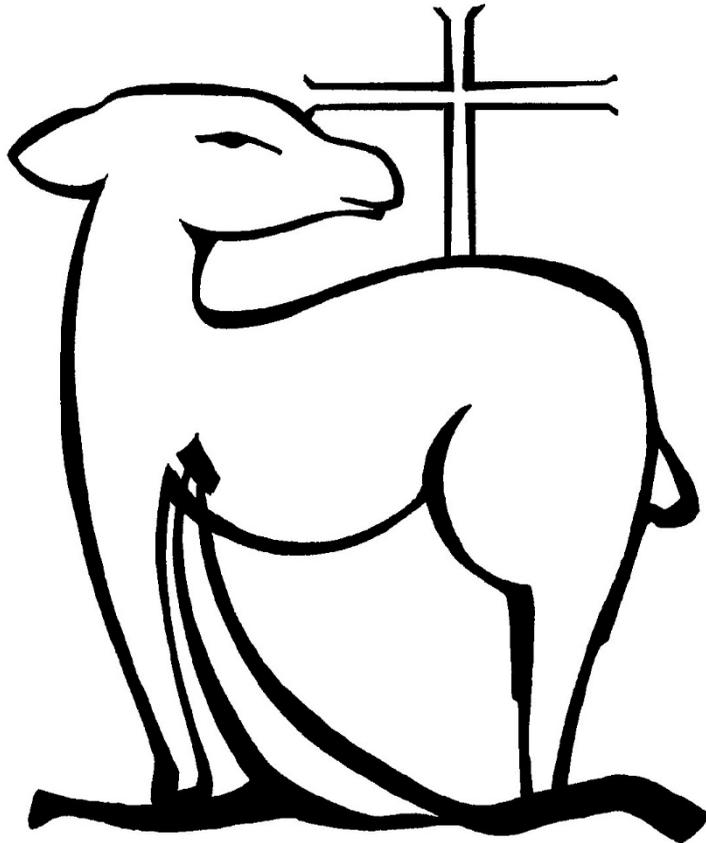
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Eric Haitz, Deacon  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

January 18, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ℒ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

☩ **Amen.**

- ℒ Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

- ℒ Mighty God, lover of justice,

☩ **you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

- ℒ The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

☩ **Amen.**

- 1 Creator Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
descend upon us from above;  
with graces manifold restore  
your creatures as they were before.
- 3 In you, with graces sevenfold,  
we God's almighty hand behold;  
while you with tongues of fire proclaim  
to all the world God's holy name.
- 4 Your light to ev'ry sense impart,  
and shed your love in ev'ry heart;  
your own unfailing might supply  
to strengthen our infirmity.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and you, of both, to be but one;  
that through the ages all along  
your praise may be our endless song.

Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. composite

## 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

- ☐ Holy God,
- ☑ our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

**L**isten to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord  
and my reward with my God."  
<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup> he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 40:1-11** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently upon the Lord,  
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust in the Lord!**

**They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared  
with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, “Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup> **‘I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep within me.’”**

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your  
deliverance;**

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

**SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**P**aul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,  
<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be  
saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their  
Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ  
Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as  
the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you  
wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may  
be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the  
partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

📖 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. John.

🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 1:29-42**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 246*

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”<sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

📖 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.*

*(rise in body or spirit)***HYMN OF THE DAY***Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak***ELW 676 vs. 2 & 3**

- 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead  
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;  
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed  
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**
- 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing our words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, 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:    **L** Merciful God,  
                  **C** 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:** Chris Jensen (brother of Tom Jensen)

**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, Ralph Morse, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, MaryAnn Webster, 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

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

## MEAL

*(sit)*

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. 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**     *I Am Light, I Am Life, I Am Love*     words and music by Mary McDonald

*(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.

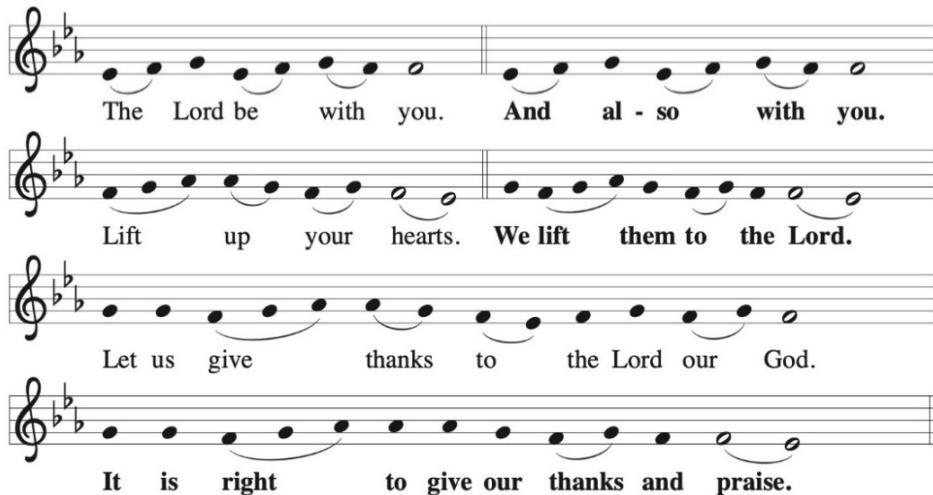
**3** For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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.

## PREFACE

- Ⓛ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



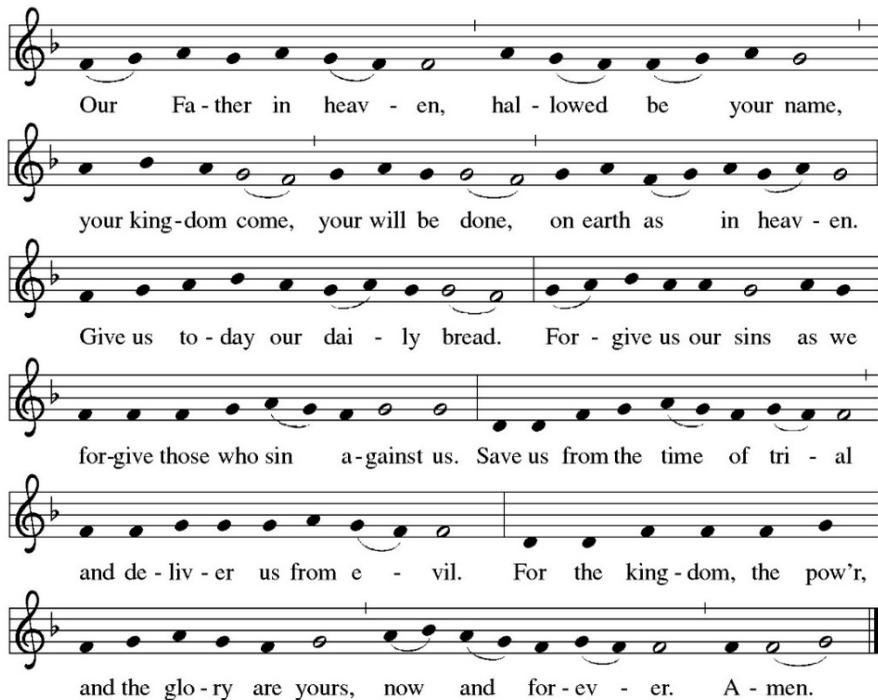
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓔ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. ...  
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Ⓒ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓔ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, ...  
... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
- Ⓒ **Amen.**

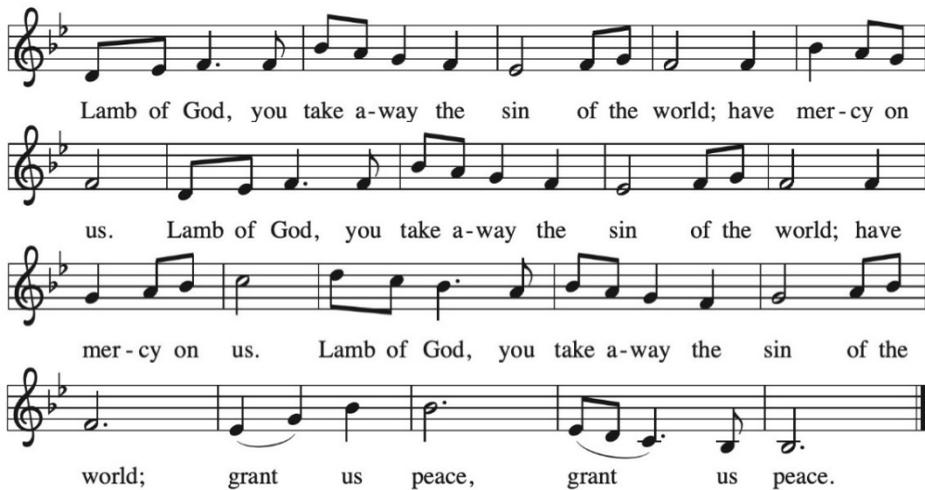
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ 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 - 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, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come to the table; taste and see.

☑ 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.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

### Here Would I Feast

ACS 964

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

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**
- 2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.**
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.**
- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**L** Radiant God,

**C** 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

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW 685 vs. 1-3, 6

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Take my life, that I may be<br/>consecrated, Lord, to thee;<br/>take my moments and my days;<br/>let them flow in ceaseless praise.</p> <p><b>2</b> Take my hands and let them move<br/>at the impulse of thy love;<br/>take my feet and let them be<br/>swift and beautiful for thee.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Take my voice and let me sing<br/>always, only, for my King;<br/>take my lips and let them be<br/>filled with messages from thee.</p> <p><b>6</b> Take my love; my Lord, I pour<br/>at thy feet its treasure store;<br/>take myself, and I will be<br/>ever, only, all for thee.</p> |
|--|--|

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

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
☛ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

† † †

## 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 Slaughter	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 17 & 18, 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

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

### New Member Class Continues

**Sunday, January 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. New members will be received during worship on

Sunday, January 25. We're excited to get to know you!

### 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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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 Café - 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

### January 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### January 21 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.

Michael—Digital Safety Workshop

### January 22 Thursday

12:00 PM Circle 4 Potluck (note time change)

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### January 23 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### January 24 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### January 25 Sunday

Epiphany 3

Receive New Members

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

4:30 PM Evensong Chili Feed &

Judging (see page 3) Luther

Memorial Lutheran Church

6:00 PM Evensong Worship w/Grand

Choir

6:00 PM Digital Safety for Parents

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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>

### Confirmation Event

**Digital Safety for Middle Schoolers Workshop**

**St. Michael Lutheran Church**

**(13232 Blondo)**

**Wednesday, January 21**

**6-7 PM**

Please meet **AT** St. Michael Lutheran Church. **Confirmation families** - All are welcome at 5:30 PM for a chili and cinnamon roll supper.



MLK Day of Service

### 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.**



sheila@kmlchurch.org

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.

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

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**

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. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12. 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/>

### **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.

### **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 fresh carrots, deodorant, and chili. 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



Camp Registrations

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.

### **Annual Committee Reports Due Sunday, February 1**

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have them turned in to Debbie Bogue in the office no later than February 1. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

### **Scholarships**

G h d g d h # r # D s s o # P d u f k # #

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

**Applications are due on March 1, 2024. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by e-mail to [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Thursday, January 8—Wednesday, January 14**

**Saturday:** 33

**Sunday: 9:00:** 136 **11:00:** 85

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 11

**Total:** 265

**Streaming:** 56

**Pantry Guests Served:** 422 (inc. 125 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 21

**Offering:**

\$48,098.19 (Regular) \$3,997.27 (Specials)

\$50,817.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Faith is formed through trusted relationships.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God
Monday	Isaiah 49:1-7	The servant's mission
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Wednesday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel
Thursday	Psalms 46	God is our mighty fortress
Friday	John 9:1-34	The man born blind receives his sight
Saturday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are they who trust the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples



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## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*He [Jesus] said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **John 1:39 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help me and all people to see Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, let me see in this meal a gift of love, part of your wondrous deeds that are so many they cannot be counted. Amen. (Psalm 40:5)

### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What words would you use to describe someone with whom you have a trusted relationship?
- John the Baptist, Andrew, and Philip helped others see Jesus. How can trusted relationships help others see Jesus?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 1:29-46.

Having a relationship with Jesus often involves a trusted relationship with others. John the Baptist twice tells people that Jesus is the Lamb of God. After the second announcement, two of John's disciples follow Jesus. They want a relationship to Jesus so they ask where he is staying. Jesus immediately invites them to where he is dwelling. The result is that Andrew (one of the two disciples of John) goes and gets his brother Simon (Cephas or Peter). Then Philip is brought into the inner circle of disciples. Interestingly, he is from the same hometown as Andrew and Peter. These were likely neighborhood boys who knew each other growing up and had a trusted relationship. Then Philip goes and gets his friend Nathaniel. Philip's invitation includes the same words Jesus used earlier: "Come and see" (vv. 39 and 46).

*Discuss:* We often see Jesus through others with whom we have a trusted relationship. Who has helped you see Jesus?

*Pray:* **Dear Jesus, may we help others to see you through our invitation, our care, and our living faith. 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 invite someone to come and see Jesus?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When John the Baptist saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" While we cannot physically see Jesus, there are signs of his life all around us. Cut out the shape of a lamb from a large sheet of white paper. Talk or think about ways you have seen or experienced the presence of Jesus during the day. Write your thoughts on your lamb. Take a moment to read through them. *Pray:* **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23