

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 46, Issue 2

February, 2026

## FROM THE PASTOR

This year, Kountze Memorial will commemorate the Season of Lent with a series entitled "From Dust to Dawn: A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil." Our liturgy will use resources from the hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, "Thanksgiving for Light." Each week will highlight a particular theme; each theme, when taken together, proclaims the arc of salvation history, the joyful narrative of the Triune God's redeeming love for creation.

The Church's liturgical cycle of seasons and corresponding lectionary readings are attuned to the life and teachings of Jesus. In that cycle, Lent is a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) of intentional preparation for the Season of Easter. The liturgical season begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Easter Vigil. This reality informs our series title: we begin our commemoration of Lent with dust (Ash Wednesday) and ends with joyful anticipation at the dawn of a new and ever-lasting day (the Easter Vigil).

Lent is one of the oldest, formal seasons in the Church. In the early Church, most people became Christian as an adult. Those wishing to be baptized (the "catechumens"), entered into an intensive time of study and preparation (e.g., prayer and fasting) for the Sacrament of Baptism, which would mark the beginning of their journey of discipleship with Jesus Christ with the aid of the Holy Spirit. The clergy, the mentors of the catechumens (godparents/sponsors), and eventually the whole congregation were invited to fast in solidarity with the catechumens as a renewal of our own journey of discipleship.

Whereas today we offer baptisms on just about any given Sunday, in the early Church, baptisms were primarily offered at the Easter Vigil. This historical reality forged a thematic connection between Baptism, Lent, and the Vigil. Here, Christians gathered around a fire as new candles were lit. They processed into a darkened nave to hear throughout the night a series of readings from Scripture about God's work of salvation. Then, the catechumens would be baptized and the congregation would affirm their own baptisms. Immediately afterwards, the newly

baptized were led to the altar to witness for the first time the Eucharistic liturgy and to receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus from within the Body of Christ, the Church. This joyful celebration of being joined to Christ in Baptism and his holy Supper coincided with the rising of the sun and the first Easter proclamation: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Because the Easter Vigil encompasses so many essential elements of Word and Sacrament and so powerfully evokes the path of discipleship, it has been called "the queen" of the Church's liturgies.

Lent, then, is an annual opportunity for intentional reflection on the essence of our Christian faith: God's original blessing, the reality of human sin, and God's work to restore all things to that original blessing through the person and work of Jesus Christ. As we pray and proclaim in the Eucharistic preface for Lent, "you call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace."

So inspired, our schedule of readings is as follows (which echo several themes from the readings at the Easter Vigil):

**Ash Wednesday (February 18):**

Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ.

**Week One (February 25): Creation**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of life for us all. Just as the creator God forms the earth out of chaotic waters and shines light onto primeval darkness, so the resurrection of Christ pulls us from death through baptism into fruitful life with all the good earth and enlightens our life in Christ.

**Week Two (March 4): The Flood**

In the story of the flood, God re-creates the world by sending forty days of rain to destroy all that is evil. In the resurrection of Christ, God is making all things new, and

*Continued on page 6*

# ***WORSHIP with us...***

## **Worship Times**

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed and archived on our website ([www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda. During Advent and Lent these services are in the Sanctuary.



## **Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream**



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

## **Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast Charts**

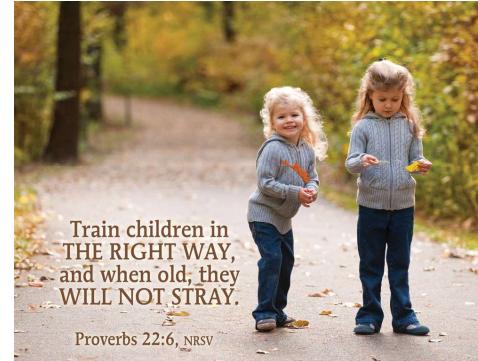
You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$220 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.

## **Children in Worship**

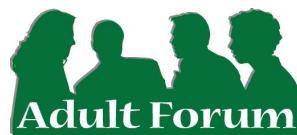
We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available. We also have a room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.



## **In this issue...**

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- Together in Mission
- Week at Camp
- Worship Workshops

# *GROW with us...*



**10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Adult Forum**

February 1: Preview of Lent  
February 8: Budget Preview  
February 15: Annual Meeting  
February 22: What is the Liturgy?

## **Wednesdays in Lent** *Ash Wednesday*

### **Wednesday, February 18**

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.



### **Wednesdays, February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25**

Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM (6:30 PM is livestreamed)  
Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon (free-will offering)  
Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM (free-will offering)

### **Please Remember**

- There is no Kountze Memorial parking in the lot on the South side of Farnam. That is apartment parking only.
- No parking Monday - Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM in the Methodist Clinic parking lot.

You may park in the deFreese Manor parking lot, at the meters (must pay), or in the West parking lot.



### **New Member Classes**

**April 12 & 19**

**10:15 AM**

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us 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, April 26.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org). We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.

**10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Guided Liturgy**

### **Worship Services February 28 & March 1**



Have you ever wondered why do we do the various things we do in worship? Where the words, actions, and traditions come from?

Join us the weekend of February 28-March 1 for a Guided Liturgy during our regular services in which we will move slowly & thoughtfully through our service to answer these and other questions. Our hope is to make your worship experience more meaningful and deepen your spiritual understanding of why we do what we do.

## **Worship Workshops**

### **Sunday, March 1**

**Noon-1:30 PM (light lunch included, please RSVP to the church office)**

### **Saturday, March 7**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

If you are a member of one of our weekend worship assisting teams - Ushers, Altar Guild, Lectors, Communion Servers, Media & TV, etc. - OR if you are interested in learning more about volunteering in worship, come to our Worship Workshop. We will spend time in these individual teams reviewing the very practical how-to's and updating you on any new/revised practices. **Note:** two time slots are offered - the same workshop will be offered at each, but you are welcome to come to both and go to different break-out groups.



## **Missionary News**

### **Rev. Dr. Chandran Martin**

**India**

### **Advent 2025 Newsletter**

Read the newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/mspvun28>



**Rev. Bridget Gautieri**  
**Wittenberg Center**  
**Fall 2025**

Read the Newsletter at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yy6bnkyp>  
(Look who's in the photo...)

# *SERVE with us...*

## Kountze Food Pantry



What if you had to choose between buying groceries, personal hygiene items or paying the electric bill? What would you choose? Unfortunately, this is a dilemma that many in our community are facing. What can you do to help?

We are so glad you asked!

You can support our Love

Thy Neighbor Food Pantry! The pantry offers food and beverages to all the guests that walk through the doors. When possible, personal hygiene items such as soap, body wash, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors and lotion are offered. You can help by donating financially or with products you purchase. The pantry is always in need of shelf stable items in addition to fresh produce.

If you have never been to the pantry stop by and take a tour or watch the smiles on the faces of the guests and volunteers. You can join the team by signing up to volunteer by using the link below or you can contact Toby Rees at 402-979-1425/ [toby@kmlchurch.org](mailto:toby@kmlchurch.org), or any of the Pantry Board members. Thank you for supporting our mission to feed the hungry.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

## Food Pantry Report

1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

### Income:

Grants	\$	-0-
Donations	\$	114,065.47
Memorials	\$	25.00
	\$	114,090.47

### Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	-0-
Regular Expenses		
Capital San. Supp.	\$	1,385.70
Family Fare	\$	717.25
MUD	\$	445.09
Other	\$	19,543.01
	\$	22,091.05

**Balance**      **\$ 91,999.42**

## Help Us Collate the March Good News

**Wednesday, February 25**

**9 AM**



Come be part of the crew that puts together the *Good News*! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it.

If you can join us, give the church office a call at 402-341-7761 by Monday, January 26. That way we can let you know if anything changes Jim & his Lenten Meal crew will be serving lunch. Thanks for helping us get the *Good News* out.

## Calling all Artists and Makers!

**Friday, February 6**

**6-9 PM**

*"He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—as artistic designers of every kind of craft". Exodus 35:35*



## Art Show

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. Come join the fun!

## 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.

# NEWS & Notes...



December 16, 2025

Council meeting began at 6:02 PM and adjourned at 8:27  
: 2 hours 25 min

## Old Business

Minutes approved. No amendments were necessary. Update on basement water leak: Will have a more thorough update later on. The dry system is what failed and we were able to turn on the wet system. Over the period of 20 years the pipe developed 2 pinholes causing low air sending alerts to the system. Water came out of 2 pinholes which were able to cut holes in the ceiling tiles. Approximately 100 gallons of water was extracted from the carpet. Dehumidifiers were installed to pull out 200 parts per million got it down to 104 in archives. Youth Center and Choir room are still wet as of the 16th. We were able to have the pipe replaced on the 16th and the system is up and running. The insurance company was called but we aren't currently planning on making a claim but are keeping them apprised of the issue. Our deductible is \$10,000. Guessing we'll be under this deductible amount since we're only paying for water extraction. Anticipating the cost will be about \$2,000.

Personnel Request - New facility support role of 30 hours a week to help with Jim's current role. Increasing activities has increased the load. Motion was approved to accept adding another staff position.

Chiller/Boilers/HVAC etc. - Our current chiller is approximately 22 years old and life expectancy for large equipment is generally around 25 years. Expected lead time is 16 to 18 weeks. Current mechanical quote is \$208,240.00. We will obtain another quote before going ahead. We are anticipating funds from the Endowment Fund to partially cover funds from 2025 budget. Will need to downsize the chiller as our current electrical will not support the current equivalent and we would only be losing a negligent amount of cooling. Council approved a grant request to be given to the Endowment Board.

## 2026 Annual Budget

- Financials for November - Total November was \$8,600 , YTD - \$75,000.
- We will not know what the cost of the health insurance will be until mid-January.
- We haven't had many pledge cards turned in yet, so it is uncertain what to expect.
- Compensation expense is a larger jump as we have added new positions that we did not have for all of 2025 but we are expecting to have for all of 2026.
- Adjustments were made as to what belongs in the custodial accounts, so there is a large jump in that line item. This is just a correction.
- Worship and Music - Motion to pre-authorize the Worship and Music up to \$6,000 for equipment maintenance of the hand bells was approved
- The budget is continuing to be worked on. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation on February 8.
- Discussions on using designated funds when possible and not simply using general fund.

## Staff reports

- Would like a 6-page ish booklet on visuals that tell the story of the year

## Committee & Board Reports

Jan 10 - Lent planning workshop.

- Membership - We need lay leadership. Please let us know if you are interested.
- Community Engagement -Nothing to report
- Worship and Music – Motion approved to spend money on maintenance of handbells. Trained 9 new acolytes.
- Finance - Nothing to report
- Memorials - is a new committee we want to update in the new year
- Facilities - Nothing to report
- Leadership - discussion on new personnel , potentially have another half day retreat to cover more things.



### Deadline to Apply: March 1

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

**Applications are due on March 1, 2026. 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)

### Camp Carol Joy Holling

### Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 6

A View West Shores

110 S. 243<sup>rd</sup> Street, Waterloo, NE

5:30 – 10 PM

Save the date for Camp Carol Joy Hollings gala. The night promises fun, auction bidding wars (both live & silent), fellowship with friends, and great food. Bring a friend or two or a table's worth. The more the merrier. This year the gala features a fun theme & new ticket option. Do you have items to donate for the auction? You can fill out the Auction Donation Form by using the link below or email Allison at [Abbatchford@NLOM.org](mailto:Abbatchford@NLOM.org). More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>



### Table Grace Gala

Friday, March 6

6 - 9 PM

Livestock Exchange Ballroom

4920 S 30<sup>th</sup> St

We are personally invited to attend the Table Grace Café Gala. See the invitation to the left.

You won't want to miss this event - there will be amazing food, great auction items to help raise money for those who need a hand up, and entertainment.

For more information, to purchase tickets, sponsorship packages, or to RSVP, use the QR Code or email [cindy@tablegracecafe.org](mailto:cindy@tablegracecafe.org).



### Pastors Article continued from page 1

in our baptism, we are cleansed and brought to new life.

### Week Three (March 11): Deliverance at the Red Sea

In this archetypal story, God vanquishes evil and liberates the oppressed. By the resurrection, God liberates us from slavery to sin and brings us through the waters of baptism to safety.

### Week Four (March 18): Salvation freely offered to all

In this reading from Isaiah, resurrection is like a free feast, baptism like water for the thirsty, God like rain on the earth.

### Week Five (March 25): Deliverance from the fiery furnace.

For each of us there will be a time when we are engulfed by fire. Because of the resurrection of Christ, we can be confident that the Son of God will be with us, no matter what or where the furnace.

This season of Lent, may we too, in solidarity with Christians around the world and in continuity with the living faith of prior generations, embrace the season with an intentional journey "from Dust to Dawn," confident in the promises we receive in our baptism through the prior (and everlasting) goodness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

### Pr. Hall

### Pastoral Acts

Dec. 16, 2025 - Jan. 15, 2026

#### Baptism:

Ivvie May Corona, December 28

#### Funerals:

Paul Carlson, January 3

## If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

## Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11:00 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

## Cards with Friends

Our Cards with Friends group is taking a cozy winter break. We look forward to gathering again in the spring for laughter, conversation, and a friendly game of cards. Until then, stay warm and stay in touch!



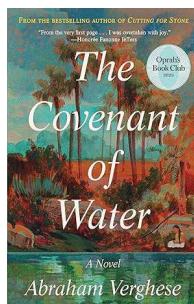
## KMLC Book Group

Sunday, February 8

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

*The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese



*The Covenant of Water* is a best selling novel published in 2023 that has become an American classic.

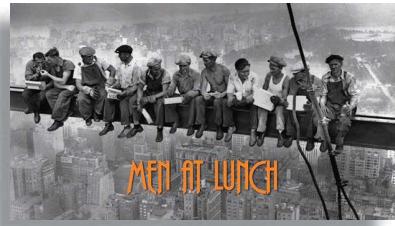
The main character, Big Ammach, is a 12 year old girl who becomes the wife of a 40 year old widower through an arranged marriage in 1900. The story covers generations of a Christian family for 70 years up to 1977, set in Kerala, South India. The family's "affliction" of a curse that results in death of members by drowning is a plot of the story. The family experiences many hardships and triumphs through the years, and the history, culture, and British medicine are part of the theme of the book. Water is a central feature of the novel as a symbol of life and death intertwined with love, loss, faith, medicine, and human conditions.

The author is a physician and based the novel on his mother's life in Southern India where his family lived. He completed a Master of Fine Arts from the Iowa Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa in 1991, after taking a break from treating AIDS patients. He is a Provostial professor of Medicine at Stanford University College of Medicine.

Join us to discuss this remarkable book.

## Men's Lunch

There will not be a Men's Lunch in March or April since that is during Lent and Jim will be busy in the kitchen on Wednesdays. Instead, join us for lunch, fellowship, and Worship on Wednesdays, February and March 18<sup>th</sup>.



Second Wednesday of each month  
9:00 AM



Our Sewing Group gets together each month to sew quilt tops, attach binding, and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Carol Joy Holling Camp auction, and our high school graduates.

Quilting expertise is not necessary—if you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt! Come join the group this month.

## Special Note of Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who donates sheets, cotton fabrics, and thread to the Sewing Group. Your generosity helps us continue making quilts throughout the year.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



## Sunay School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

The Sunday School hour begins with breakfast served in the upstairs Choir Room. The students take

their meal to their assigned classroom to enjoy. Our curriculum continues to follow the lectionary, providing easy talking points for families later in the week.



## Sunday School Volunteer Opportunities

We still need your help

supporting the youngest members of Kountze! Sign up to lead a class or assist the teachers. All lessons are scripted and supplies provided. Reach out to Kristin at Kristin@kmlchurch.org with any questions you may have about volunteering.

Easy sign up online!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4EA8A629A0F49-61294564-sunday#/>

## Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6

Join Barb Carlsen and friends for a joyful time of singing and sharing God's love through music! Children in grades K-6 are encouraged to come make music together each week as they learn songs of faith and praise.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.



## Confirmation Class

Confirmation Classes

St. Timothy's Lutheran (93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)

Resumes on January 7

Wednesdays, 6-7:15 PM

We'll meet each Wednesday until Lent begins.

**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!



Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to grab breakfast and a friend and go to the Youth Center each week during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

## First Communion Class

Sunday, March 15

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

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



## KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 7-12/week 2



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 registered by the January 31 Early Bird Registration date. If you registered 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 link below and follow the directions above:

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

## Summer Youth Mission Trip

July 6–12, 2026

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Early Bird Registration: \$750 until Dec. 31, 2025**

**Regular Registration: \$800 Jan. 1–April 1, 2026**

**\$50 Deposit required for registration**

**Cost includes transportation, meals, and lodging.**

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth in grades 8 through 12 (completed 2025-2026 school year) 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.

Spots are limited - register now by contacting Shelia Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org).

If you would like to help sponsor the trip, donations are welcome. There is a Valentine Tree at the top of the ramp to the Youth



Room where you can take a valentine and return it to the church office with your donation inside. Any donation is welcome and appreciated. Thank you for your support!

## Together In Mission

February 21, 2026 9 AM 2 PM

**It's TIM Time!**

**An Adult Faith Formation Opportunity to Equip Us for Accompaniment and Mission**

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).* We make it our prayer that siblings in Christ around the world will find strength and joy in knowing that we are of one body in Christ that is not confined or divided by individual institutions or leaders, religious traditions, cultures or denominations. On this Saturday, we will take time to engage one another with an openness to learning more about different cultures and experiences with the gospel of Jesus Christ right here in Omaha under the umbrella of the ELCA.

This event is hosted by St. Timothy's Lutheran Church for the Metropolitan + Lutheran Community, co-sponsored by **Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church**, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, and St. Michael Lutheran Church.

Featuring Drs. Winston and May Persaud, Wartburg Theological Seminary. Recent Retirees looking to "pivot" to learning with congregations across the church STARTING IN OMAHA!

Dr. Winston D. Persaud is Professor of Systematic Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. He is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland (Ph. D., 1980), Wartburg Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity, 1977), and the University of Guyana (BA, 1974). He is a native of Guyana, where he served his home congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, prior to joining the Wartburg faculty, in February 1984. His teaching and research focus on defining and confessing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a world of religious and non-religious alternatives. Dr. Persaud loves teaching

the Christian faith. He seeks to speak of God's justifying grace in and through Jesus Christ in a way that makes the technical language of Scripture and the Confessions connect with the questions people are asking.

Dr. May Burt Persaud—Instructor in Biblical Languages (Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek)—offers her extra-ordinary gifts for biblical languages to bless and prepare many students both at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and, for nearly forty years, at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Those who have been recipients of her pedagogical gifts are consistently astounded by the wisdom, insights, and depth of her ponderings.

### Schedule

**8:30 AM** Gather for morning Coffee or a spot of Tea

**9 AM** Welcome, Introductions,

**9:30 AM** Keynote by Dr. Winston Persaud, in Worship Center

**10:30 – 10:50 AM** Break/Travel

**11:00 - 11:45 AM** "Workshops" (capacity of 10 -15 people each) – selected as people walk in/register that day.

1. Dr. Winston Persaud – Talk About It

2. Pr. Amy Truhe – in the Footsteps of Jesus

3. Nile Lutheran Chapel: Pr. John Badeng

4. Mamban Worshipping Community: Barnaba Dyedi

5. Serving Hands of Hope: Pr. David Mayen

6. San Andreas Food Pantry and Ministry, Pr. Omar (tentative)

7. Lutheran Family Services (or Child Safety Team)

8. Seeking the Spirit Within (tentative)

**Noon** Lunch catered

**12:45 PM** Bible Study by Dr. May Burt Persaud: **Jesus is in the Room**, John 20:19-23

**1:30 PM** Closing Devotional/Worship featuring the Nuer Children's Choir from the Nile Lutheran Chapel?

# CALENDAR

• FEBRUARY •

## February 1 Sunday

Epiphany 4  
Homebound Communion  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
    Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

## February 2 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## February 4 Wednesday

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

## February 5 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## February 6 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## February 7 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## February 8 Sunday

Epiphany 5  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
    Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour  
12:15 PM Book Group

## February 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## February 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese  
    Manor  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.  
    Timothy

## February 12 Thursday

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

## February 13 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## February 14 Saturday

Valentine's Day

5:00 PM Worship

## February 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline  
Transfiguration 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  
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting



## February 16 Monday

President's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED  
10:00 AM Pantry Open

## February 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

## February 18 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday  
11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal  
6:30 PM Worship

## February 19 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

## February 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## February 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## February 22 Sunday

Lent 1

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

## February 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3  
7:30 PM Youth Committee

## February 25 Wednesday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly  
11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal  
6:30 PM Worship

## February 26 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## February 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## February 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

Schedule a time to  
meet with Pastor Lucy by  
following the link or QR  
Code.

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>





## Birthday Blessings

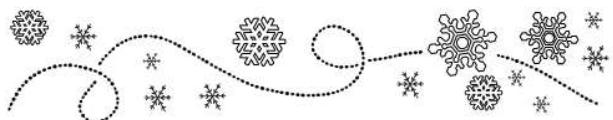
1. Rachel Adolf, Nien Bol, Barbara Carpenter, Matthew Friesner, Carol Hansen, Natalie Hansen, Christine Kilker
2. Kathleen Bailey, Jacob Rump
3. Pam Brown, Drue Councill, Tammy McLeod, Virginia Pretz, Mary Reichert, Amanda Taylor, Kristina Thacker
4. Xiaohui Gash, April Litwin, Ralph Morse, Hunter Seay, Elise Siffring
5. Patsy Allen, Fran Camenzind, Janet Campbell, Karen Jacobson, Jack Lawrence
6. Susan Coles, Bethany Gibson, Maggie Hiatt, Jaxson Winther
7. Cindy Coufal, Rhonda Pounds
8. Rachel Schramm
9. Vicki Ellwein, Gloria Erickson, Alesha Martin, Bruce Nissen, Deborah Strobel
10. Carly Cameron, Mason Crowell, Karen Gilliam, Jennifer Seay
11. Heidi Bird, Teresa Heil, Ryley McDowell, Mark Miller, Daphne Reed, Nicholas Rude
12. Amber Lawrence, Mackenzie Madsen
13. Theresa Gruber, Bryson Harp, Austin Heimes, Jennifer Jones, Kelli Lange, Mackenzie Miller, Kris Placzek, Eric Pycko
14. Mike Christensen, Janis Fochek, Kara Griger, Steven Olson, Eric Southard, Deb Virchow
15. Laura Anderson, Paul Bruch, Lisa Chmura, Calvin Leclair, Jonathan Wendt
16. Tonia Beck, Karen Buchholz, Madaline Christensen, Colton Diggins, Morgan Dodge, Shelby Pestel, Chad Picha
17. Jo Kayton, Riley Pleas
18. Bob Johnson, Ashley Quarles, Ardis Von Seggern, Rachel Storer
19. John Lynch, Cindy Pfetzer, Susan Puls, Maddie Rief
20. Lesley Akers, John Eggen, Kitsy Hagge
21. Kristin Ann Boe, Holly Carter, Samantha Diggins, Karla James, Galyn Langer, Phyllesha Larsen, David Muller
22. Austin Copeland, Kathy Englert, Danielle Fleming, Jacob Madison, Mary Owen, Jace Tams, Megan Thom
23. Stephen Sheftz
24. Mark Adams, Richert Dart, Benjamin Dey, Kathryn Harvey, Jim Hopkins, Thomas Waller
25. Nancy Anderson, Andrew Nord, Paul Revord, Jenni Toebben
26. Shelley Danenhauer, Juliana Durio, Hannah Earnhardt, Keelan Edwards, Amy Fredrickson, Suzanne Kotula, Nancy Martens, Patricia Scarpino
27. Hayley Clatterbuck, Jacque Johnson, Lori Senn
28. Kyle Frye, Mitchell Rudie, Erica Weigel
29. Rashelle Garrett



## Snow Days Just a Reminder This Winter



If Omaha Public Schools are closed or remote learning because of inclement weather, the church office will be closed and church activities will be cancelled unless otherwise announced.



## Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 10/1/2025 .....	\$687,339.45
Principal Payment, 11/1/2025.....	\$3,515.14
Interest Payment, 11/1/2025 .....	\$2,189.86
Balance, 11/1/2025 .....	\$683,824.31

## Finances: December, 2025

December      Year-to-Date

### Total General Fund

Income:	\$ 136,369.78	\$ 1,035,700.23
Expenses:		
Mission Support	\$ 5,833.33	\$ 69,999.92
Faith Formation	\$ 1,379.45	\$ 19,368.69
Facility Costs	\$ 26,814.46	\$ 208,512.93
Staff Compensation & Benefits	\$ 70,466.80	\$ 674,510.15
Worship & Music	\$ 4,279.50	\$ 46,742.17
Office & Administration	\$ 3,719.24	\$ 41,464.11
Membership	\$ 2,075.37	\$ 19,840.03
Finance	\$ -	\$ -
Leadership	\$ 241.50	\$ 4,074.51
Justice & Mercy Ministry	\$ -	\$ 97.74
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$ 114,809.65</b>	<b>\$ 1,084,610.25</b>
Total Net Income:	\$ 21,560.13	\$ (48,910.02)

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
2650 Farnam St  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
Phone: 402-341-7761  
Fax: 402-341-4841  
E-mail: [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)  
Web: [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

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Rev. Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Associate Pastor  
Dn. Eric Haitz, Deacon

## Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is  
televised live on Cox channel 13 and live  
streamed on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may  
watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our website  
at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### Due Sunday, February 1

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

