

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

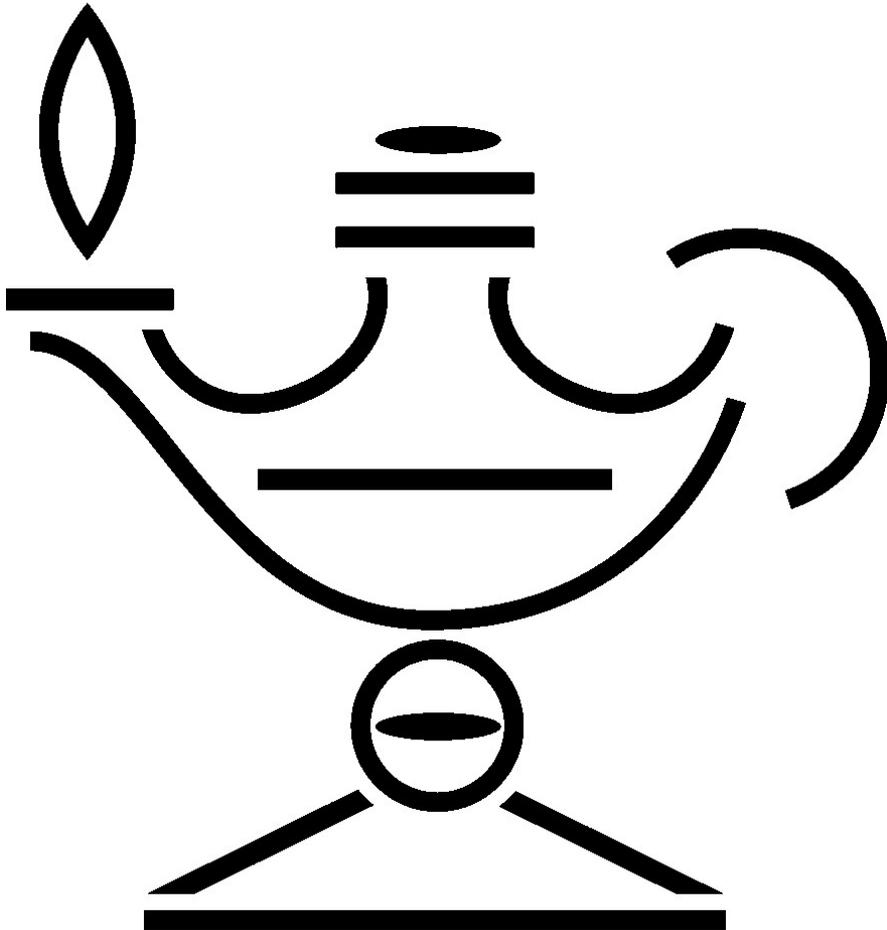
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Eric Haitz, Deacon  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

February 8, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

# 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 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,  
with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
God's new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### 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

- ☐ Lord God,
- ☑ with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

**S**hout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 112:1-10 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

- <sup>6</sup> For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
- <sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- <sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

**W**hen I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

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

℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:13-20**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 268*

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

Jesus said: <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

℣ 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**

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

**ELW 553 vs. 1 & 3**

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**3 Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**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:** Ashley Dyer (granddaughter of Judy Westerman), Liberti Oswalt (friend of Danielle Fleming)

**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, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Sharon Miley, Ralph Morse, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Grant Williams

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* –Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees & Takao Elliott, daughter & son-in-law of Eric & 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:** *Seminarrians* – 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

*This Little Light of Mine*

arr. by Joel Raney

*(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.

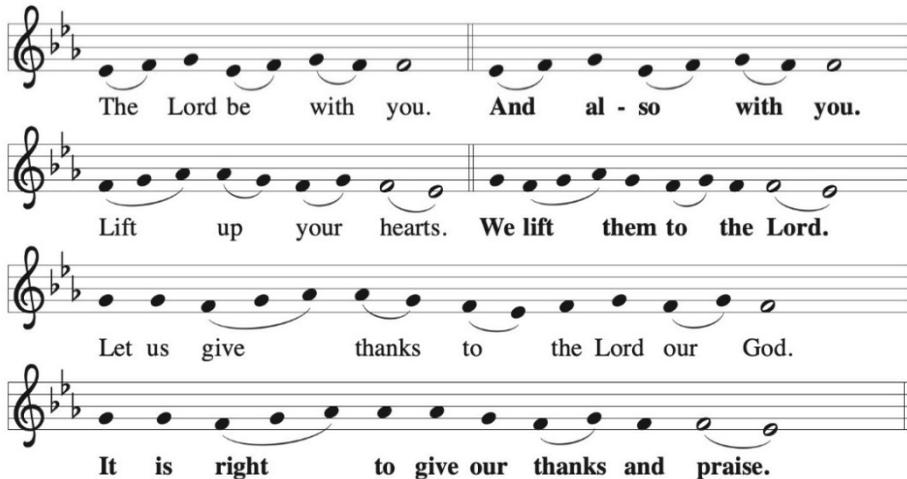
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**L** God of majesty,

**C** 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

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

## SANCTUS



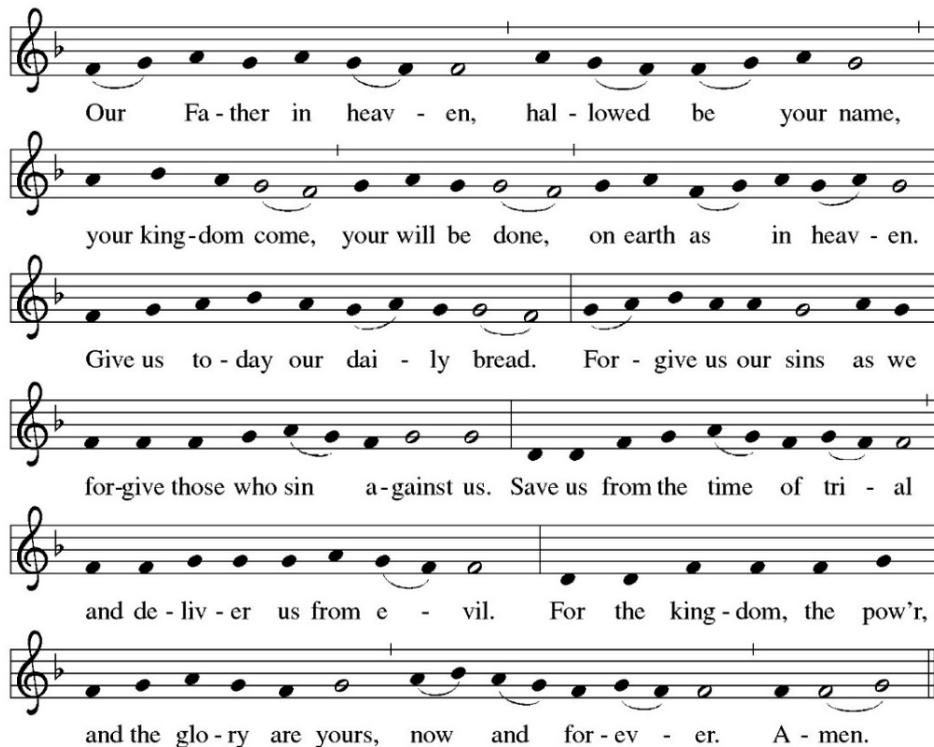
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -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

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ℒ 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.**
- ℒ 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.**

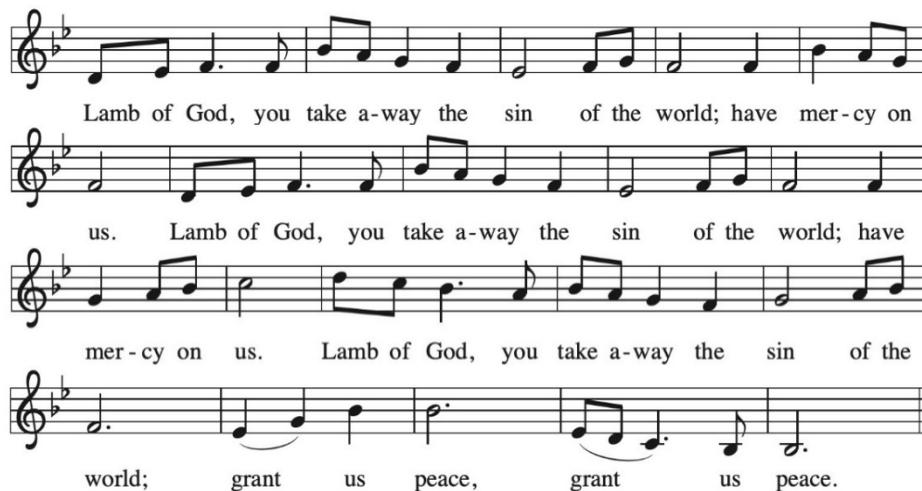
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ 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

**L** Come to the table; taste and see.

**G** 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

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

**ELW 712**

**1 Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**2 Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.**

**3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.**

**4 Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984  
Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

- 1 Let justice flow like streams  
of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life,  
abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on  
as others' cares we heed,  
an ever-flowing stream of faith  
translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,  
define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade  
this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926  
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

*(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

*We Are Marching in the Light*

ELW 866

- 1 We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.
- 2 We are praying in the light of God, ...
- 3 We are singing in the light of God, ...
- 4 We are marching in the light of God, ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984  
Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

† † †

From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible, ©2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828.

## 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	Facility & Events Director
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
Dan Collett	Facility Assistant
Louis Flake	Night Manager
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)

February 7 & 8, 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

### 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>



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in celebration of Thomas Jensen's birthday given by his family

### 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, fellowship, and conversation. All are welcome—bring your appetite! 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.

## 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.

February 8: Budget Preview

February 15: Annual Meeting

---

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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 Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:10 AM Budget Preview

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

Council Reports Due

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 Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:10 AM Congregational Meeting

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Scholarships

#### 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)

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are deodorant, cornmeal, and flour. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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

### 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.



Pantry

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

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. 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!

### KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

**June 7- 12/week 2**

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth if you didn't register by the January 31 Early Bird Registration 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. Call/email the church on instructions so we can pay the early bird cost. Instructions are also in the weekly e-news.

### Table Grace Café Gala

**Friday, March 6  
6 - 9 PM**

**Livestock Exchange Ballroom  
4920 S 30<sup>th</sup> St**



Table Grace Gala

We are personally invited to attend the Table Grace Café Gala. 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).

### Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala

**Saturday, April 11**

**A View West Shores**

**110 S. 243<sup>rd</sup> Street, Waterloo, NE  
5:30 - 10 PM**



CJH Gala

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 QR Code below or email Allison at [Ablatchford@NLom.org](mailto:Ablatchford@NLom.org). More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to <https://www.nlom.org/gala/>

### Streetcar/Roadwork Update

On Monday, February 9, 28<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed between Farnam and Douglas to build a new water main and construct the bridge abutments. Farnam will be closed at 26<sup>th</sup> Street, with access limited to local businesses only for those heading west. This closure is anticipated to open in approximately three months. Please use only the Douglas Street entrance/exit if possible because they want to deter traffic from going past 26<sup>th</sup> Street as much as possible. Some of the parking meters in front of the church will be unbagged and usable. Meters will be enforced and must be paid for as usual unless you have a valid accessible license plate or placard.

**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

Sunday, February 15 | 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall  
Annual Report and 2026 Budget

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**  
Ash Wednesday, February 18  
Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

**DUST TO DAWN:**  
A LENTEN JOURNEY TO THE EASTER VIGIL

- **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)

**Attendance & Giving**  
**Thursday, January 29—Wednesday, February 4**

**Saturday: 27**  
**Sunday: 9:00: 139 11:00: 72**  
**Wednesday: 12:15: 11**  
**Total: 249**  
**Streaming: 61**  
**Pantry Guests Served: 427 (inc. 132 children)**  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**  
**Offering:**  
\$38,978.43 (Regular) \$5,399.89 (Specials)  
\$8,592.00 (Debt Reduction)

*The power of knowing Christ crucified.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:15-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:18-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life  
as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with trust in God.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Being forgiven can look like weakness. How is Jesus' death on the cross a powerful gift to the life of the church?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "*Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*" because it is "*the power of God and the wisdom of God*" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need.

*Discuss:* How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?

*Pray:* **God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus calls his followers the "*salt of the earth and the light of the world*" (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home, give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: "***Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.***" (Matthew 5:16)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9