



KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 37, Issue 1

January 2017



Happy New Year!

Dear Christian Friends,

There are joyful moments that abide with us. Pastor Moessner came into my office yesterday with a big smile. He had just visited one of our shut-in members who had watched the Sunday worship broadcast. The Children's Christmas Message was fresh in her mind. She shared her delight in cherubic children lustily singing familiar carols, young readers whose clear, well rehearsed verses made the printed bulletin almost unnecessary, a stage setting which framed the story so aptly. The experience lifted her spirits and made her day. It was a gift at Christmas to carry into the New Year.

I realized again that God's Spirit works through our efforts in many various ways to bring light and life to this world. When we are caught up in the hectic moments, the challenging circumstances, the all too mundane necessities of "putting it together," we believers can always remember that more is happening than meets the eye. Glimpsing the results of our labors is a matter of reflection

and discernment—discerning God's presence and power; God's love and grace in, with and under it all, be it a Christmas program or a gleaming new building.

That's the true gift of Christmas. We come to see that Emmanuel truly is God with us.

Peace and Joy in the New Year!

Dean W. Bard
Interim Senior Pastor

SEE, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW...

Perhaps you move from Christmas Day to New Year's Day by making resolutions. Perhaps you will see (even read) articles about the psychology of, or methods for, being successful. Realistic? Not too many? Just do it? Baby steps? ...and so forth. Reflecting on this transition from Christmas to New Year's Day, I wonder how we move from a holiday often steeped in traditions to the need to make resolutions about change.

I appreciated learning the Christmas traditions of Kountze and sharing stories of family and ethnic traditions. I learned how traditions here have evolved, the result of changes in the culture or

new participants. I also appreciate participating in the planning processes of this community of faith. As an organization responsible for the many resources people give, we are preparing a budget. This includes recognition of past accomplishments, of continuing tasks, and of new goals. More details about this work are in this newsletter. And, I join with you in prayers for the Call Committee as they listen to congregational hopes and to the Holy Spirit to discern the servant-leader God wants for Kountze's future.

Patrick Keifert, my doctoral advisor, puts it this way: What is our usable past for God's preferred and promised future? The words at the beginning of this article are spoken by Jesus in the book of Revelation [21:5]. In God's way of doing things, we do not start with a blank page. Jesus speaks these words about making new based on his birth in a livestock shelter, his work as a carpenter, his profound teaching, his merciful healing, his death, his resurrection. This is God's work, graciously making a broken world whole again.

Whether in your personal habits or your participation in this Congregation, whether you prefer to look back or look ahead, may you, in this New Year, live in God's grace that is both never-changing and ever new.

Pastor Paul Moessner

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29

10:10 AM

Fellowship Hall

Join us to approve the 2017
Church Budget

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 PM; Sundays at 9 AM and 11 AM:
- The 9 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is also available on our website.
- Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings.
- A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



Photo by Jake Madison

Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



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

church website. Go to 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.

Did You Miss a Service?

Worship services are also archived on our website, so you can watch them whenever you like. Special Note: A beautiful recording of the Candlelight Carol Sing is now available for viewing under Live Stream on our website

Sound Board & TV Ministry Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with sound at the 11 AM worship service as well as special services throughout the year. Training is provided and experience is not necessary. If you are interested, please contact Mike or Julie Bratcher in the TV studio (on the north side of the Youth Center) or call the church office at 402-341-7761.

2017 Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle Sign-up Now Available

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50.

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle each week in 2017. Donating altar flowers 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.

The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.



In this issue...

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GROW with us...

Faith in Action

Each month, we will highlight faith-formation ministries happening in the church. Send us your stories of Faith In Action and we'll share them with the congregation!

Advent Gathering



Hundreds were on hand on the first Sunday in Advent for our annual Advent Gathering. Families of all ages made crafts and ornaments, decorated Advent wreaths, purchased alternative gifts for those in need, and enjoyed a hot bowl of chili made by our own Ralph Diggins! It was a blessed day full of faith, fellowship, and fun! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended!

Christmas Program



Thank you to all the children, their parents/guardians, and Barb Carlsen for making this year's Children's Musical Offering one to remember!

January Adult Forum

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall
10:10-10:50 AM

- 1/1 New Year's Day (No Forum)
- 1/8 Building Update
- 1/15 Deacons in Christianity
- 1/21 Deacons in Lutheranism
- 1/29 Annual Meeting
- 2/5 Building Update

Heritage Series - Luther Reading Challenge Resumes January 25 - Wednesdays at 6 PM

In honor of the 500th anniversary (and taking a page from the Luther Reading Challenge; www.lutherreadingchallenge.org - which KMLC helped sponsor) we will introduce ourselves to the central texts of Luther and Lutheranism through the year. We will start with Luther's "Sermon on Indulgences and Grace" from 1518. All are welcome. Texts will be provided; many will come from the new Annotated Luther Series by Augsburg Fortress press (which our parish library owns). Please consider making a modest donation to the church to offset printing costs.

New Member Classes

Sunday, February 12 & 19, 12:00 -2:00 PM
Lunch and Childcare Provided

All of us at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church rejoice in the presence of guests and visitors each week! If you are interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial or in becoming a member of our faith community, we ask you to consider attending these classes (please plan to attend on both dates). We'll begin with a light lunch at noon. The classes last approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours and you will spend time with our pastors and staff learning more about our congregation and Lutheran heritage.

All new members will be received into the congregation on Sunday, February 26 at 9:00 AM, followed by a special reception at Adult Forum in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM.

If you would like to attend, we would appreciate you calling the church office at 402-341-7761 or sending us an email at info@kmlchurch.org by Sunday, February 5 so that we can plan for lunch. Please let us know if you have any allergy or dietary needs and if you will have a child/children in the nursery. Thanks!

SERVE with us...

Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound

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

We need two people each week to make deliveries. All ages are welcome to participate in this ministry – families, individuals, friends, etc. Typically, the time commitment is only three Sundays a year.

Please consider using the hours and minutes God has given you to help this ministry continue.

Contact the church office at 402- 341-7761 or via email at info@kmlchurch.org if you are interested in volunteering.



Thank You!

Candlelight Carol Sing

To all who participated in, helped prepare for or attended the 4th annual Candlelight Carol Sing on Saturday, December 17; a heartfelt THANK YOU for sharing your time, talents and support!! A beautiful recording of the service is available for viewing on our website.

The Social Ministry Committee

The committee thanks everyone who participated in the donation of gifts for Lutheran Family Service during the months of May through November. We received many wonderful gifts for the homes of our new refugees. Thank you again for all your help.

Advent Dinner and Holden Evening Prayer

Thank you to dinner volunteers Marlys Duin, Dean Winther, Jill Gittler, Sara Worm, Richard Bock, and Sandy Fonda for their help in cooking and serving our Advent Dinners this year. We also thank our confirmation students who served refreshments. In addition, we thank those who ushered, provided music, and set-up for Holden Evening prayer each week!

Training for New Acolytes and Crucifers

Sunday, February 5, 12:00 PM

Directly following Worship - in the Sanctuary



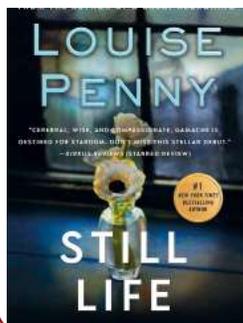
Interested youth, who would like to serve as acolytes and current acolytes interested in serving as crucifer,

should plan to attend this training. Crucifers and acolytes are needed for both 9AM and 11AM worship services.

The word "acolyte" means "companion" or "one who helps." As a member of OSJ, youth serve as companions to our pastors, by carrying the cross and torches in the processional, lighting candles on the altar, and assisting with Holy Communion.

Book Group Resumes

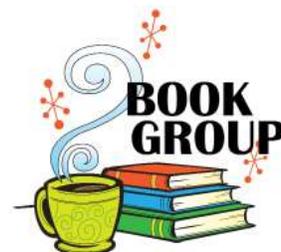
Sunday, January 8, 2017



Join us to discuss the book, *STILL LIFE*, by Louise Penny. A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel. A Chief Inspector Armand

Gamache of the Surete du Quebec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is

soon certain the Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter. Join us in a discussion of this mystery story.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

Look What's Coming Up!

Sunday School Teacher Luncheon

Sunday, January 29, 11:30 AM

All Sunday School teachers are invited, as well as those interested in teaching Sunday School. We will meet in the meeting room off the Fellowship Hall. During our time together we will preview the spring curriculum and discuss ideas for the spring. Please RSVP to Katie Larson at katie@kmlchurch.org or 402.341.7761 so we can plan accordingly.

Middle and High School Progressive Dinner

Sunday, March 5, 4 - 8 PM

A progressive dinner is when each course of the meal (appetizers, salad/soup, main course, and dessert) is served at a different home. All 6th - 12th graders are invited to come and/or host! Please contact Katie Larson (402-341-7761 or katie@kmlchurch.org) with questions or if you're willing to host a course.

Girls Bible Study

Sunday, January 22, 7 - 8:30 PM

For girls in grades 6 - 12. Please contact Katie Larson at katie@kmlchurch.org or 402.341.7761 for the location.

2017 Senior High Youth Summer Mission Trip

New Orleans, Louisiana

Saturday, July 15 to Sunday, July 23

Early-Bird Registration is due: 1/4

Late Registration is due: 2/1

While in New Orleans the youth will work with an organization called Kaleo Missions and local community partners to serve and learn about the community. This year they are also partnering with Lord of Love Lutheran Church. Kountze Memorial youth and Lord of Love youth will travel, stay, and work alongside one another. This will provide the youth with a chance to build relationships with youth from another local ELCA congregation during the trip.

During their stay in New Orleans, the youth will spend the week living and serving in the community of downtown New Orleans. Their work will focus on four areas: undereducated populations, youth and children, homelessness, and refugees and immigrants. Kaleo Missions strives to empower the people with whom they work. This

means that their service will have a strong focus on relationships and partnering with leadership and organizations that reside in the New Orleans community.

***Please be sure to turn in your deposit and registration form and release form at the same time.

COST: \$450 per person (\$100 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit will be due with your registration worksheet).

Our 2017 Summer Mission Trip will explore the rich and complex faith history of the New Orleans community. Please join us as we practice discipleship, peacemaking, and justice in Christ together in New Orleans. Whether this is your first trip with the youth of Kountze Memorial or one of many, know that you will be refreshed, uplifted, and more mindful of all that God's grace and love can offer you. Don't miss this fun and truly life-changing opportunity!

If you have any questions please contact Katie Larson at katie@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761.



Sunday School Calendar

Date Lesson

January

- 1 Christmas Break - No Sunday School**
- 8 Chosen as God's Children (Ephesians 1:3-14)
- 15 A Light to the Nations (Isaiah 42:1-9)
- 22 Annual Meeting - No Sunday School**
- 29 United in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

Confirmation Calendar

Date Lesson

January

- 4 Christmas Break (No Confirmation)**
- 11 Sacraments - Baptism Part 1
- 18 Sacraments - Baptism Part 2
- 25 Confirmation Service Evening

February

- 1 Sacraments - Communion Part 1

NEWS & Notes...

New Year's Greetings from the American Church in Berlin

Four years ago, in anticipation of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Kountze Memorial established a sister congregation relationship with the American Church in Berlin, Germany. At that time, our Endowment Fund pledged \$10,000 a year for five years to support their mission, a "thank offering" for our Reformation heritage. In recent years, two KMLC Lutherland Pilgrimage groups worshiped at ACB, Pastors Hall and Inbarasu have visited there, their Pastor, Steve Kienberger, spent a weekend with us, and ACB youth accompanied our youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. We have enjoyed an enriching relationship of mutual support.

At worship on Sunday, January 1, Travis Shaw, the choir director at ACB

since 2010, will bring greetings and thanks and sing two vocal solos.

Travis is a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and he studied music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. His college barbershop quartet, Waterstreet Junction, won the first ever Collegiate Quartet Competition in 1992. Consequently, they were offered a job singing in an American Musical Revue in the former East Berlin Friedrichstadt Palast theater in 1993, and he has been in Berlin since that time. Currently, he performs, conducts choirs, and teaches voice lessons.

Some of our friends from The American Church Berlin will be tuning in to share in our service January 1 via Live Stream on our website



Epiphany New Year Home Blessing

In German and Scandinavian countries, it is an old Christian custom to bless homes on Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany (or Three Kings Day).

The family gathers at the front door, where the year and C + M + B is written over the door or on the door. The letters are initials of the Latin phrase, "May Christ bless this house" (Christus Mansionem Benedicat). However, because the blessing occurs on Epiphany (the last day of Christmas marking the visit of the Magi to Jesus), children are given a small gift (usually candy) and told that the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) visited in the night, signed their initials, and left a present.

You can celebrate this blessing yourselves on this festival day to mark the end of the Christmas season and

the beginning of a new calendar year, whether you live alone or with a large family.

You can make this blessing as simple or as intricate as you like; including the liturgical greeting (e.g. "The Lord be with you..."), a song or carol, Prayer of the Day for Epiphany, sprinkling the door or each room with water, readings (e.g. Matthew 2:1-12 or the start of John's Gospel, 1:1-14), Lord's Prayer, and/or incense (frankincense, of course!).

The core of the house blessing simply involves taking chalk (of any color) and gathering at the main door. You may write on the door or above the door: 20 + C + M + B + 16. As you do so, you or another may say:

"The three Wise Men—Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar—followed the



star to God's Son who became human two thousand and sixteen years ago. Thanks be to God! May Christ bless this home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen."

Indeed, may the light of Christ enrich our homes and all the people who dwell within, giving us and the guests who come the light, warmth and peace of the Holy Trinity, whose love is everlasting!

If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized or would like a pastoral visit, please be sure to let the church office know, at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org. The pastors, eucharistic ministers or altar guild (flower deliveries) would be more than happy to call on you at any time. Thank you.

Blood Pressure Checks

Saturday, January 7, 4:30-5PM

Bride's Room near Sanctuary

Sunday, January 15, 10-11AM

Fellowship Lounge

Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge to parishioners on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.



High School Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Every Sunday, youth in grades 9-12 gather in the Youth Center (Lower level of the church) for Youth Forum, which features a mix of bible study, discussion, devotions, fun activities, guest speakers, games, music, and much more! Friends are welcome!

Upcoming Topics

- 1/1 NO YOUTH FORUM - Happy New Year
- 1/8 Epiphany Party
- 1/15 Guest Speaker
- 1/22 Guest Speaker
- 1/29 Tie-Dye T-shirts

KMLC College Scholarships Available

Deadline - 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 at www.kmlchurch.org.

Applications are due March 1. 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

deliver in person to the church office or by fax at 402-341-4841 or e-mail to ian@kmlchurch.org.

If you have any questions, contact Ian Hartfield in the church office at 402-341-7761.

From the Archives



The first picture is of the interior of our 2nd church building, built in 1885, and located on the northeast corner of 16th and Harney Streets. The total cost of construction was \$50,000. The building was torn down and sold prior to building our third and current church building at 26th and Farnam Streets.



The second picture is of the Kountze Choir in the balcony of the second church building, the earliest known photograph of our choir. This photograph was taken sometime between 1902 and 1904. The gold cross that adorns the chancel in our church today is partially visible in this photograph and was given in 1902.

Pastoral Acts

(November 16- December 15)

Baptisms:

Aliza Annette Haefele,
November 19, 2016

Weddings:

Ryan Reed/Molly Phelps,
November 26, 2016

Funerals:

Gary Lundeen,
November 28, 2016

Anne Forslund,
December 09, 2016

Council Notes

November 22, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM, followed by Devotions.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report Staff Reports: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Terrie Larkowski reported a budget deficit at the end of October of \$57,000 and hopefully to be improved with strong year-end giving. The 2017 budgeting process begins soon. Staff morale is improving with clearer division of labor and better support for the staff. Thanks for their exceptional service.

Media/TV: Approved increasing the Internet connection speed to improve broadcast quality. Approved purchase of three chairs and three headsets for broadcast staff.

Global Missions: Alternative Gifts will be available at the Sunday Adult Forums and on select Saturday evenings in Advent.

Property: Tuckpointing is underway on the education wing. An assessment of structural problems in the attic above the sanctuary is being made.

Stewardship: Thanks to everyone who served on the stewardship campaign committee. Initial results are encouraging, but many pledges are still needed.

Worship and Music: Preparations for the Children's Christmas Program on December 11 and the Candlelight Carol Service on December 17 are going well.

Call Process: Deb Hinrichs, Call Committee Chair, will report in the

December Good News and at the Adult Forum on December 11.

Healing Gift Free Clinic: The cost of prescription drugs has increased dramatically, necessitating increased efforts in fundraising.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM with the Lord's Prayer

December 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by Devotions.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report and Staff Reports: Minutes were approved. Treasurer Terrie Larkowski reported general giving down about \$23,000 compared to November 30, 2015. "In the City for Good" Capital Campaign has received about \$850,000 of the \$2 million pledged.

Pastor Bard hopes for more pledges at year-end. Final results will be known by January 17 when the proposed budget for 2017 will be finalized.

Pastor Moessner reflected on the nature of the interim pastor role and the joy he feels in serving Kountze Memorial and getting to know the congregation.

Pastor Hall shared that donations and grant receipts have improved the financial picture in the Healing Gift Free Clinic. He also reported on plans of the Nebraska Synod with which he is involved to observe the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017 and beyond.

Pastor Inbarasu shared his gratitude for being able to minister to members in times of illness and grief.

Worship and Music: Despite frightful weather, the beautiful December 17 Candlelight Carol Service was very well received. It is available for viewing on the church web site under live streaming. Wednesday Advent dinners and Holden Evening Prayer also were well attended and appreciated.

Personnel: Lauri Askew was hired as Staff Treasurer beginning January 15 for 24 hours per week.

Endowment Fund Board: Significant funds allocated to the church have been unused due to projects now deemed unnecessary or completed with excess funds. The council voted to return \$31,797.60 to the Endowment Fund.

Upstairs Renovations: Necessary renovations to accommodate the Methodist Community Clinic from February to August in the church were approved.

Grant Applications and Management: Council approved the services of O'Donnell, Ficenec, Will and Ferdig, LLP for financial functions related to grant applications and management on behalf of the Kountze Commons project. Grant awards have been encouraging.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Askew to Join KMLC Staff

The Personnel Committee and the Church Council have authorized the employment of Lauri Askew to serve as Staff Treasurer in the church office. Lauri is a Certified Public Accountant with a breadth of experience in accounting and financial management. She and her husband John are involved in agri-business

near Thurman, Iowa. They also are members of Kountze Memorial.

Lauri is a graduate of Oregon State University in Business Administration with emphasis in accounting. She has served both as a staff member and a partner-owner of the firm Miller, Shearer, Lashier & Co. in Shenandoah, Iowa. We are delighted to welcome

Lauri as a staff member at this exciting time in the life and mission of our congregation.



John & Lauri Askew

December, 2016 Kountze Commons Update

by Paul Sum, Owner's Representative



Farnam St. Parking is complete except for light pole installation. Bases were installed this past week by OPPD. Sod will be installed next spring due to weather. Kiewit is working with their electrical subcontractor to install temporary lighting to light up the sanctuary front entrance until completion of the west parking lot.

The church sign has been placed in its permanent location

Work has started on the building. Presently, footings are being installed and concrete walls will start being installed shortly. Underground plumbing installation will start within

the month. The Kountze Commons is still on track for completion by mid-August 2017.

Methodist will utilize the existing church clinic area Monday through Friday starting mid-February to mid-August. Some minor modifications to the existing clinic space will be made after the Christmas holidays to accommodate the Methodist Clinic. Cost proposals will be received within the week for this work. The Methodist Clinic is scheduled to be turned over to Methodist by mid-August.

Lutheran Family Services will be a tenant in the lower level. Discussion and negotiation of lease agreement is in its final stages and hopefully will be finalized next week. LFS will provide integrated health services with the Methodist Clinic. Design plans for the LFS offices are being finalized by Holland Basham Architects.

West Parking Lot work will start in the spring of 2017 and be completed

by mid-August.

In addition to the \$1 million grant previously awarded, we have received over \$250,000 in additional grants from local foundations in support of the Kountze Commons project.

Other Items of Interest

The temporary concrete patch has been installed in the lower west parking lot.

The exterior caulking has been completed. The west exterior stone has been waterproofed.

The remaining areas to be waterproofed will be completed weather permitting or next spring.

The preliminary and final inspection of the church structure by the structural engineer from Chicago has been completed and a report has just been submitted to the church detailing corrective measures to be taken. Review of the report and a plan of action will be developed and executed.

Save the Date:

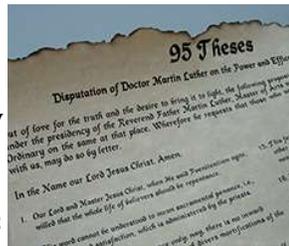
Metro-Omaha Commemoration of 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

On Sunday, October 29, 2 PM, the Nebraska Synod and Western Iowa Synod will hold a Festive Eucharist for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation at St. John's Roman Catholic parish (Creighton campus). Archbishop George Lucas has extended a gracious act of hospitality in allowing the Synod to worship at St. John's. Bishop Brian Maas will preside and Bishop Rodger Prois will preach.

More details to follow.

500th Anniversary Activities

The Synod's Refo500/Ecumenism Committee (of which Pr. Hall is co-chair) has coordinated several events to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and beyond. Such details should be on the Synod webpage (<http://nebraskasynod.org/>) by the time this newsletter goes to print.

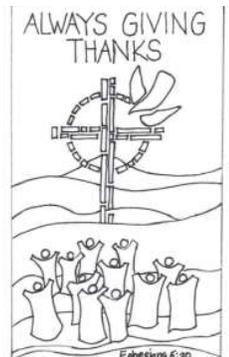


Stewardship Update

The entire stewardship team did a wonderful job with our emphasis this year including members who gave temple talks, wrote bulletin insert messages, assisted with meal events, provided a beautiful banner, posters and decorations and made sure that mailings were timely and attractive. Many thanks to the whole team.

The response has been positive. To date, we have almost as many pledges as we did last year, but our financial goals have not yet been achieved and we are expecting and needing more pledges to prepare an adequate 2017 budget. If you have not made a pledge for 2017, please do so. Pledge Forms are available at the usher's station at church and have been mailed.

This is a pivotal year in our congregation's life with the Kountze Commons project scheduled for completion and the expectation that a new senior pastor will be called. Our responsiveness to God's blessings and God's call is important for the mission that has been entrusted to us all. "Why? 'Cause We're Thankful!"



THANK YOU!

Calendar...

January

Sunday January 1, 2017

New Year's Day
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

Monday January 2

New Year's Day observed
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday January 3

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday January 4

Mission Trip Early Bird Regist. Due
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 5

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Saturday January 7

Homebound Communion
4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday January 8

Homebound Communion
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Moms "Frappy Hour"
10:10 AM deFreese Manor Board
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
12:00 PM Book Group

Monday January 9

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Call Committee

Tuesday January 10

Annual Meeting Reports Due
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday January 11

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Dinner
6:45 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 PM Closing Worship

Thursday January 12

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Saturday January 14

5:00 PM Worship

Sunday January 15

Good News Deadline
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:00 PM Blood Pressure Checks
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Moms "Frappy Hour"
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Monday January 16

Martin Luther King Day
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday January 17

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
5:00 PM Building Committee
5:30 PM Executive Committee
6:30 PM Church Council

Wednesday January 18

12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Communion @ deFreese Manor
5:30 PM KETV Management Board
5:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Dinner
6:45 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 PM Closing Worship

Thursday January 19

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

Saturday January 21

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday January 22

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Annual Meeting Preview
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Moms "Frappy Hour"
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
12:00 PM Annual Meeting Preview
7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study

Sunday January 22 (cont'd)

9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Monday January 23

10:00 AM Pantry

Tuesday January 24

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3

Wednesday January 25

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Heritage Series
6:00 PM Confirmation Service Evening
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday January 26

1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Saturday January 28

5:00 PM Worship

Sunday January 29

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Moms "Frappy Hour"
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
12:00 PM Sunday School Teacher Luncheon
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Monday January 30

10:00 AM Pantry
12:00 PM Endowment Board

Tuesday January 31

9:00 AM Staff Meeting



January Birthdays

1. Ruth Henneman, Mary Ann Johnson, Micheala Long, Par Ruach
2. Georgia Severson, Richard Stawniak, Joyce Templeton
3. Barbara Donelson, Barbara Rassfeld
4. David Eckstrom, Ilse Grage, Jason Hiatt, Laura Larsen, William Putnam, Jr., Kraig Schjodt, Donald Strazdas, Shawn Wheeler
5. Andrea Brown, Jeannie Sommer, Jessica Starkel
6. Lois Andresen, Alicia Coles, L. Thomas Holland, Dena Jacobsen, Breanne John, Judy Westerman
7. Brooke Tipton, Edward Camenzind, Audrey Nelson, Sally Nord, Michael Sommer
8. Marjorie Bock, Jean Holcombe, Christine Kendall, Malvina Stephens
9. Kay Andersen, Karen Bonneau, Juliet Knapp, Pamela Peterson, Jean Raber, Jonathan Taylor
10. Scott Jones, Judith Poffenbarger, Michelle Wulf
11. James Daugherty, Boyd Ervin, Michael Pfeilsticker, Vera Waterman
12. Bruce Anderson, Alma Bare, Deanna Edwards, Dante Jones, Alexandria Olson, Aaron Studts
13. Jane Bodnar, Dave Carlsen, Tana Clanton, Karen Fannin, Wayne Hahn, William Hayford, Donald Hirsh, Tina Larsen, Jeffrey Nelson, Justin Perkins, Robert Ringo, Chester Worm
14. Johnny Albers, Ryan Albright, Kenneth Freudenburg, Joslyn Hopkins, Richard Mayberry, Marilyn Van Bibber
15. Jonathan Martis, Dorothy Yeshnowski
16. Mary Syre
17. Joyce Aschenbrenner, William Christensen, Jr., Robert Penn
18. Pauline Brager, Jonna Holland, James Smejkal
19. Donald Darst, Christine Forslund, Randall Woster
20. Lori Cameron, Mary Hilkemann, Faith Klein, Terri Nesselrotte, Tiffany Stouffer
21. Lois Ernce, Sandra Johnsen, Melissa Johnson, Paul Lux, Marvin Olson, Tricia Ryder, Virginia Sarich
22. Kyle Adema, Chad Brown, James Cosgrove, Debra Davidson, Sarah Jerome, Peggy Duncan, Sarah Maaske
23. Steven Hinrichs, Doris Kusch, Katherine Roselius, Melanie Szymczak, Christian Wulf
24. Robin Johnsen, Mark Mahaffey
25. Sunshine Fonda, Alex Worley
26. Sharon West
27. Mark Hawkins, Carol Hyland, Karl Kjeldgaard
28. Dorothea Brown, Debra Clatterbuck, Shane Kuenning, Courtney Ziegler
29. Siany Edwards, Samantha Schueler
31. Mark Coles, Valery Copeland, Robert Hopkins

Yesterday's Youth

Because of possible weather complications, we will not meet in January or February. Please join us again on March 7.

Women's News

- There are 3 Kountze Women's Circles which meet on various days and times for Bible Study and fellowship. If you are interested in learning more, contact Carole at 402-339-2056.
- Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at Rejoice Lutheran Church on January 10, 2017. The program

will be presented by the Omaha Fire Department. The free will offering will be for the Ronald McDonald House.

- The circle service project for January will be Youth Emergency Services and for February the Kountze Sewing Group.
- The W-ELCA Board will not meet in January. The next meeting will be February 9, 2017.

KMLC Men's Luncheon Thursday, January 19, 11:30AM At Kountze Memorial

Cost: \$10

All Men of KMLC are invited. Please

RSVP to the church office or to Ian Hartfield by Wednesday, January 18 (402-341-7761 or ian@kmlchurch.org).

This Month: We'll welcome KMLC member Justin Perkins via Skype. Justin is serving in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Argentina and Uruguay. He will be with us to share about his wonderful and unique experiences serving in another country.

Next Month: Jim Newland, member of St. Michael Lutheran Church, will be with us to share about the process for making our new, wooden processional cross.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
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Omaha, NE 68131-3616

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E-mail: info@kmlchurch.org
Web: www.kmlchurch.org

Dean W. Bard, Interim Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul Moessner, Interim Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule:

Saturday at 5 PM
Sunday at 9 and 11 AM
Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox Cable Ch. 13 and
live streamed on our website.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Helping to make giving more convenient for those who do not carry cash or checks



As we prepare for a new year of mission and ministry, please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. Your

weekly or monthly gifts, as well as your capital campaign contributions can be made using a number of electronic giving options (below).

Simply Giving or Electronic Funds Transfer is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Online and Mobile Giving allows you to go to www.kmlchurch.org any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

Kiosk Giving allows you to make contributions or remit

payments by credit and debit card using the Giving Kiosk located at the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall. You can print receipts for your records or to place in the offering plate during worship.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider recurring and electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

Thank you for all you do to support our mission.

Simply Giving and Your 2017 Pledge

If you participate in making your offering through Simply Giving, and you made a change in your pledge for 2017; please notify Sheri Rose, our Financial Secretary, in writing so she can make that change for you.

If you aren't using Simply Giving but would like more information, please notify the church office and we'll get that information to you.