



# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 37, Issue 2

February 2017

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Christian Friends,

We are moving rapidly into the new Church Year and already, it is time to begin thinking about Lent! Can you believe it?

This year, the Nebraska Synod is asking its congregations to use a curriculum resource which was developed and adopted by the Nebraska Synod Assembly in 2015, expressly for 2017. It is entitled **WE ARE CHURCH**, and it is an excellent emphasis. Through observing it, we will be united in prayer with Lutheran congregations from the panhandle to the Missouri River.

The materials are based on an important sentence found in the Nicene Creed which we often confess on festival Sundays. "We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church." That affirmation is broken down into five themes for the five weeks of Lent: I. We Are Church, II. We Are One in Christ, III. We Are Holy, IV. We Are Catholic, V. We Are Apostolic.

Each week, one of our pastors will preach on the scripture lessons which accompany these themes. Wednesday Services will be Evening Prayer from our green worship book (reprinted in bulletin form, of course, for the convenience of worshippers). I am grateful that members of our choir and worship teams will help introduce this beautiful service to us.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, with the Imposition of Ashes with Eucharist, as is our custom. A simple lunch at 11:15 AM will precede the service at 12:15 PM, and supper at

6:00 PM will precede the service at 7:00 PM. On each of the subsequent Lenten Wednesdays the schedule will be the same.

My sense is that this emphasis is particularly fitting now as we strengthen our sense of identity, moving toward an expanded mission in a wonderful new facility. Grounding and focus are so important, namely our grounding in Jesus Christ, the true Vine, and our focus on what it is to be Christ's faithful followers, members of his Body on earth.

Lenten devotional materials which are based on Martin Luther's works, in commemoration of the 2017 Reformation anniversary, also will be available.

May God continue to bless our ministries as we move into God's future and our own!

Peace and All Good Things,  
Dean W. Bard  
Interim Senior Pastor

## Dear TV Ministry Crew,

Thank you for your great service. I knew your work has value. This includes long time members who can no longer attend worship and persons who first participated in Kountze through the broadcast.



I continue to hear more and more of the lives you touch and the ripple effect. I know people who, when their worship service was canceled due to ice, could still "come" to Kountze. I heard of someone for whom this Christmas was personally difficult and just could not go on Christmas Eve. Yet through the rebroadcast on Christmas Day, the sermon on hopes and fears brought hope. And the image from the Memorial Church in Berlin was passed along to still another, spreading hope even further. My son-in-law sent me a great picture (forgive me for lapsing into my grandparent mode) of my grandchildren in front of their laptop, sharing the Word.

I see your "family ministry" as experienced adults help youth gain experience. And I watch the high quality results of your technical and artistic work. Thank you for helping fulfill Jesus' words about "to the ends of the earth." [Acts 1:8]

Pastor Paul Moessner

## Lent at Kountze

### Theme: *We Are Church*

**March 1** - Ash Wednesday

**March 8** - We Are Church

**March 15** - We Are One in Christ

**March 22** - We Are Holy

**March 29** - We Are Catholic

**April 5** - We Are Apostolic

**April 13** (Maundy Thursday)

**Lunch** - 11:15 - 12 PM

**Dinner** - 6 - 7 PM

**Worship** - 12:15 PM and 7 PM

**Cost** - Free-will Offering



# 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](http://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](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.

## Did You Miss a Service?

Worship services are also archived on our website, so you can watch them whenever you like. You can also view the previous service before it is archived by clicking the blank screen and then “ustream” in the corner.

## 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.

## Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle Sign-up

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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- Adult Forum
- Adult Baptism Seminar
- Heritage Series Resumes
- New Member Classes
- Acolyte/Crucifer Training
- Book Group
- Children, Youth & Family
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- Stewardship Update
- College Scholarship Applications
- OSJ Commissioning & Banquet

# 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!

## CHRISTMAS AT KOUNTZE MEMORIAL



Christmas at Kountze Memorial is always a joyous and festive occasion and this year was no exception. Over 1,100 worshiped with us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and everyone was blessed by the presence of and gifts shared by our talented musicians and vocalists,

communion assistants, acolytes, ushers, greeters, TV and sound volunteers, bulletin stuffers, altar guild members, and so many others. We are thankful to all those who worshiped with us and celebrated the gifts of word and sacrament in this blessed season!

## February Adult Forum

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

- 2/5 Building Update and focus on Social Ministry
- 2/12 Urban Ministry Profile with Joyce Palmer
- 1/15 Linda Reimer with the Omaha Street School
- 2/26 Deacons in Lutheranism

## 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](http://www.lutherreadingchallenge.org) - which KMLC helped sponsor) we will introduce ourselves to the central texts of Luther and Lutheranism through the year. Our first "series" will run in the Lounge at 6 pm on Wednesdays through February 22. We will then resume after Easter. 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



## Adult Baptism Seminar



If you are an adult who has not been baptized and would like to receive Holy Communion as a regular member of the Church, you are welcome to a small and brief seminar with Pr. Hall at Noon on Sunday, March 12 in the office conference room. This will be an opportunity to discuss the meaning of baptism and its place in the communal life of the Church. To register, please contact Pr. Hall at [pastorhall@kmlchurch.org](mailto:pastorhall@kmlchurch.org) or by calling the church office.

## Pastoral Acts (December 16 - January 15)

### Funerals:

Luthea Root  
December 19, 2016

Mildred Schmidt  
January 14, 2017

## Training for New Acolytes and Crucifers

Sunday, February 5, 12:00 PM

Directly following Worship - in the Sanctuary

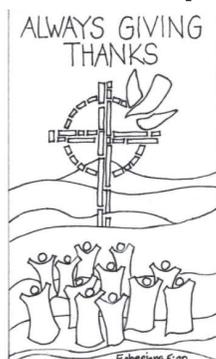


Interested youth, who would like to serve as acolytes and current acolytes interested in serving as crucifer,

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.

## Stewardship Campaign



Kountze held our stewardship campaign for 2017 in October and November of 2016. We had a number of talented volunteers who did an excellent job for our campaign. Volunteers prepared and presented Temple Talks, wrote bulletin inserts, and prepared and served delicious dinners.

The response from the congregation was tremendous. We had our largest number of pledges in many years and

the largest dollar amount since 2011. Thank you to all our members for the great response!

Year	Number of pledges	Amount pledged
2010	312	\$756,727
2011	303	\$794,298
2012	272	\$708,741
2013	282	\$753,453
2014	281	\$756,287
2015	302	\$764,285
2016	328	\$778,100

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

## Look What's Coming Up!

### Girls Bible Study

**Sunday, February 12, 7 - 8:30 PM**

For girls in grades 6 - 12. Please contact the church office (info@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761) for the location.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to come and/or host! Please contact the church office (info@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761) with questions or if you're willing to host a course.

### 2017 Senior High Youth Summer Mission Trip

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Saturday, July 15 to Sunday, July 23**

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.

The cost of the trip is \$450 per person. Below please find the payment schedule.

- **Wednesday, February 1:** Late Registration; \$150 non-refundable deposit due along with a Registration Form, and Kaleo Mission Release
- **Sunday, February 5:** \$150 payment due.
- **Sunday, March 5:** \$150 payment due.
- **Sunday, April 2:** Last payment of \$50 due along with any uncollected forms.

If you have any questions please contact the church office (info@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761).



### Sunday School Calendar

**Date Lesson**

#### February

5 The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)  
12 Worship and Justice (Isaiah 58:1-12)  
19 Life with God (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)  
26 Glory on the Mountain (Exodus 24:12-18)

#### March

5 Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7)

### Confirmation Calendar

**Date Lesson**

#### February

1 Sacraments - Communion Part 1  
8 Sacraments - Communion Part 2  
15 Confirmation Service Evening  
22 Last Day of Confirmation - End of Year Bash!

# NEWS & Notes...

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## **Katie Larson's Letter to the Congregation**

To the congregation of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church,

After much prayer and consideration, it is with a great heaviness of heart that I formally announce my resignation as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. I believe God is calling me into a new and unfolding chapter of life, and as a part of this calling I have accepted a position as a Community Organizer at the Heartland Workers Center in South Omaha. I can truly say I was not seeking this call, but God has placed before me the opportunity to pursue my passions of working with the Latino/a community.

The members of Kountze Memorial have been nothing, but open and welcoming to me during my time here. I was blessed to work alongside you all in ministry, and it has been a joy to work with the members of this congregation over the past three years. I want to thank you for allowing me to work with your families and to be a part of your lives. Many of you have opened your hearts to me and for that I am forever grateful.

Just as much as I have enjoyed working with the members of Kountze Memorial, I have also been honored to work with the staff. They are exceptional and I am blessed to have called them not only my colleagues, but also my friends.

Thanks to Kountze Memorial's leadership and unfaltering commitment to my future, I have gained invaluable experience in leadership, ministry, discipleship and life.

God's Peace,  
Katie Larson

## **Kristin Boe to Serve as Interim Coordinator of Christian Education**

Kristin Boe, a long-time member of KMLC, has agreed to serve as interim coordinator of Christian Education with a focus primarily on the Sunday school. Kristin served in this interim position in 2012 and 2013, and we are delighted to welcome her back beginning February 1. Kristin is an experienced leader who will keep our ministry moving forward until permanent staffing decisions are made, together with the new senior pastor. Please welcome Kristin to our staff and her new responsibilities. We are grateful for her willingness to serve!

## **Pr. Bard's Letter to Katie**

Dear Katie,

As you move to a new vocational calling, I want to thank you on behalf of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for your ministry here during a pivotal time in the history of our mission. Let me share these pictures from my mind.

Beginning with recent memory, you, together with other staff, the children and volunteers brought us a truly memorable children's Christmas message on December 11.

The Advent Gathering two weeks earlier launched our seasonal observance with many crafts and loads of good cheer.

The inspiring report about the Youth Mission Trip last summer at the Adult Forum was a lift for us all.

A Fellowship Hall filled to the brim on the last day of Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha (LYSO) was a tribute not only to your ability to work with the youth leaders from many congregations but also your contacts near and far which supplied service project opportunities for the young people.

In addition, your work with the Sunday school, the Girls' Bible Study, Confirmation Instruction, and the nursery all have been excellent contributions to our mission.

The list could go on.

I am very grateful to you, Katie, and pray that God will bless you abundantly as you move to a new calling. I hope that your leadership experiences here contribute to a lifetime of service for others wherever you go and however you may serve.

Gratefully and in Christ's peace,  
Dean Bard

### **KMLC Men's Luncheon**

**Thursday, February 16, 11:30 AM**

**At Kountze Memorial**

**Cost: \$10**

All Men of KMLC are invited. Please RSVP to the church office or to Ian Hartfield by Wednesday, February 15 (402-341-7761 or [ian@kmlchurch.org](mailto:ian@kmlchurch.org)).

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

## 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](mailto: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, February 4 7, 4:30-5PM**

**Bride's Room near Sanctuary**

**Sunday, February 19, 10-11AM**

**Fellowship Lounge**

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

### Yesterday's Youth

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

### Women's News

- There are three circles that meet on various days and times for Bible study and hospitality - if interested in joining, contact Carole at 402-339-2056.
- Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at Kountze on Tuesday, February 14 at noon. The program will be Black History Month.
- The circle project will be the Kountze Sewing Circle.
- The next board meeting will be February 9 at 9:30 AM.



### 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

- 2/5 Tie-Dye T-shirts  
(rescheduled from January 29)
- 2/12 Valentine's Day Card making  
for deFreese Manor
- 2/19 Preview of Lent
- 2/26 Transfiguration of our Lord

### 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](http://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](mailto:ian@kmlchurch.org).

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

### Save the Date: Order of Saint John Commissioning and Banquet



**March 26**

**Commissioning: 11 AM**

**Luncheon: 12:30 PM**

**Cost: Free**

All current OSJ members, alums, parents, and sponsors will gather for a very special celebration. Acolytes will take part in a special commissioning during worship at 11AM and then gather in Fellowship Hall for a luncheon at 12:30PM where we'll recognize all graduating and current members for their years of service, announce and install OSJ officers for 2017-2018, and award the 2017 Outstanding Acolyte Award.

Attire is semi-formal. A group photo will also be taken.

Please plan to attend this event as we honor all those who participate in this very meaningful ministry.

Make your reservations with the church office, 341-7761 or [ian@kmlchurch.org](mailto:ian@kmlchurch.org) BY SUNDAY, MARCH 19.

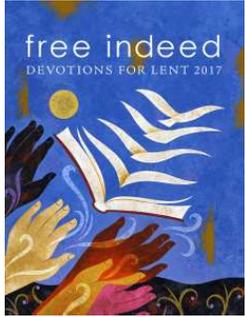
## Free Indeed Lenten Devotionals

Available in Fellowship Hall

Pocket Sized: \$2

Large Print: \$5

Please make checks payable to  
Kountze Memorial



Published by Augsburg Fortress, this beautiful, full-color devotional takes you through Lent with daily readings from Martin Luther's

Small Catechism. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, reflection, and prayer. Free Indeed invites you to reflect on Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith during the Lenten season, and within the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

### About the Authors

Javier (Jay) Alanís is executive director of the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, a program of Wartburg Seminary and Lutheran

School of Theology at Chicago.

Jennifer Baker-Trinity, Associate in Ministry in the ELCA, writes and leads assembly song in the Susquehanna Valley of Central Pennsylvania.

Anne Edison-Albright is a pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Philip Ruge-Jones is a theology professor, a frequent contributor to Augsburg Adult Bible Studies, and a biblical storyteller.

Rozella Haydée White is the Houston City Director for Mission Year. She is trying to live a meaningful life and wants to help others do the same.

## Lenten Meals

**Wednesdays:** March 1 (Ash Wednesday), 8, 15, 22, 29,  
April 5 and 13 (Maundy Thursday)

**Lunch:** 11:15 - 12 PM

**Dinner:** 6 - 7 PM

**Worship:** 12:15 PM and 7 PM

**Cost:** Free-will Offering

All KMLC children, youth, friends, and families are invited to join us for lunch and/or dinner Wednesdays during Lent. The family-friendly menu each week will consist of soups, sandwiches, salad, and arrive prior to dinner to help serve refreshments.

If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen during Lent for lunch, dinner, or both, please contact Ian

Hartfield, Director of Congregational Life in the church office at 402-341-7761 or via email at [ian@kmlchurch.org](mailto:ian@kmlchurch.org). Volunteers are needed for all meals.

Bring your family and celebrate your Lenten journey at Kountze Memorial this year!

## Lenten Retreat with Br. James Dowd

Please save the date for our biennial Lenten retreat on Saturday, April 8 with Br. James Dowd. The topic will be the connection between contemplative prayer and social action.

Br. Dowd is a monk in residence at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. He is a popular speaker and preacher. We will start with Matins (Morning Prayer) at 8:15 AM and then a program from 9 AM to Noon in two sessions.

More details will follow. All are welcome. Please register by calling the church office.

## Creighton Retreat Options

As the season of Lent approaches, Christians are invited to become more intentional in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, reflection, and reconciliation. It can be hard to find the time and the space but this, however, in our busy lives. Yet, there are some local resources. Creighton University's Christian Spirituality Program invites you to contemplate, relax, revel, and enjoy God's working in your life and to participate in a silent, eight day, individually directed, Ignatian Retreat at a lovely quiet setting in western Iowa on the banks of the East Nishnabotna River at the

Creighton University Retreat Center. Three retreats are available in 2017 to fit your schedule:

March 6 - 15;

June 1 - 10; &

July 31 - August 9

Transportation to and from the retreat house is available from the Creighton campus for anyone who does not want to drive. Contact Colleen Hastings at [csp@creighton.edu](mailto:csp@creighton.edu) or call 402 280-2303 for more information and to register. Pr. Hall is also available for any questions you might have.

## Council Notes

January 17, 2017

Council notes were not available at the time of this printing. They will be in the March Good News.

## December, 2016 Kountze Commons Update

by Paul Sum, Owner's Representative



Adult Forum Update, January 2017

by Paul Sum, Owner's

Representative for the property

Farnam St. Parking is complete and the meters are installed and active.

Landscaping and lighting will be completed in the Spring. Kiewit will utilize their barricades to block off the non-paved areas. Sand must be used on the sidewalks and paving in lieu of ice melt due to the new concrete. Watch your step!

Work continues on the new building. Footings have been completed and structural concrete walls are being formed and poured. Structural concrete wall construction will continue through January and be completed the first part of February.

Pre-cast walls and structural steel framework will follow and be completed April 1. Below grade plumbing will be deferred until next spring when the subgrade is thawed out.

Food Pantry, Clinic, and Church staff personnel have been and will be meeting to determine the furniture, fixtures, and equipment needed for the new facility. Last week, volunteers moved office furniture donated by Wiese Research from their facility to temporary storage at All Makes Office Equipment to be used in Kountze Commons. Thanks to Dr. Jerry Fischer for obtaining this donation, Joyce Palmer for coordinating the operation and good neighbor All Makes for storing it until the project is complete.

Methodist Clinic minor renovation work has started on the second floor clinic area. The work will be completed the first week in February. Methodist will start occupying the area February 15 and open for business at the end of February.

Lutheran Family Services will be a

tenant in the lower level. Discussion and negotiation of lease agreement is in its final stages and continues (in the hands of the lawyers). LFS will provide integrated health services with the Methodist Clinic. The design plan for the LFS offices has been prepared by Holland Basham Architects. The cost for the tenant finishes will be paid for by LFS.

West Parking Lot work will start in the spring of 2017 and be completed by mid-August.

### Other Items of Interest

A plan of action will be developed and executed to address the structural issues above the Sanctuary after receipt of the engineer's report which will contain an outline for structural modifications.

The modifications will be done in the sanctuary attic area, which should not affect the aesthetics of the sanctuary.

We continue to receive grants and are in touch with other foundations for additional funding grants in support of the Kountze Commons project.

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## A Note from Justin Perkins

### Young Adults in Global Mission

¡Feliz 2017!

The end of 2016 brought with it plenty of new challenges, new people, celebrations, food, field trips, company, time in the sun, and of course fireworks.

There were festivals celebrated with youth centers all across the city, cookouts held to celebrate Juventud Para Cristo's youth center's soccer tournament, end-of-the-year parties with volunteers from the Claves program, end-of-the-year parties with educators at the youth center, end-of-the-year parties with workers all over the JPC. Even the JPC's youth center in Flor de Maroñas neighborhood, where I work, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with groups performing percussion and salsa, and plenty of cake to go



around. And these, I'm told, were only just the parties leading up to the celebrations of Carnival. So here's to the promise of something new: as always, I am humbled by the support you have given me, and I hope these messages have likewise given you the opportunity of new encounters.

At the end of November, our group of 7 YAGMs in Argentina and Uruguay gathered with our country coordinator for the first of four retreats. We met at a small farm in Uruguay, participated

in a day of silence, and even had the chance to cook Thanksgiving dinner. For Christmas, I was blessed to be invited to a large family gathering by members of my host community. In honor of Three Kings day and Epiphany celebrations held here, I would like to offer in this newsletter a few reflections on The Body.

Saludos,

Justin

Go to <http://www.kmlchurch.org/global-mission/> to see YAGM newsletters.

# Calendar...



## February 1 Wednesday

Mission Trip Late Registration Due (\$150)  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:30 PM KETV Management Board  
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal (note time change)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
6:45 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Closing Worship

## February 2 Thursday

Groundhog Day  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
February 4 Saturday  
Homebound Communion  
4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks  
5:00 PM Worship

## February 5 Sunday

Homebound Communion  
Mission Trip Payment Due (\$150)  
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
8:00 AM MS/HS Choir Warm-up  
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 Mothers "Frappy Hour"  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
12:00 PM Acolyte/Crucifer Training  
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

## February 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Building Committee

## February 8 Wednesday

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

## February 9 Thursday

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

## February 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## February 12 Sunday

Lincoln's Birthday  
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 Mothers "Frappy Hour"  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
12:00 PM Book Group  
12:00 PM New Member Class  
7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study  
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

## February 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 14 Tuesday

Valentine's Day  
12:00 AM Lutheran Women of Omaha Fellowship Hall & Kitchen  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Building Committee

## February 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline  
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 Heritage Series  
6:00 PM Dinner  
6:45 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Closing Worship

## February 16 Thursday

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

## February 18 Saturday

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

## February 19 Sunday

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)  
10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
12:00 PM New Member Class  
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

## February 20 Monday

President's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED  
7:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic Board

## February 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
February 21 Tuesday  
5:00 PM Building Committee  
5:30 PM Executive Committee  
6:30 PM Church Council

## February 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
5:30 PM KETV Management Board  
6:00 PM Heritage Series  
6:00 PM Dinner  
6:45 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Closing Worship

## February 23 Thursday

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

## February 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## February 26 Sunday

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)  
9:00 AM Receive New Members  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
12:00 PM Baptismal Seminar  
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry  
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

## February 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## February 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Building Committee  
7:00 PM Circle 3



## Birthday Blessings

## February Birthdays

1. Nien Bol, Rachel Bruch, Barbara Carpenter, Carol Hansen, Virginia Jensen, Christina Kilker, Jean Laughlin
2. Kathleen Bailey, Carolyn Ireland
3. Pamela Brown, Drue Council, Tammy McLeod, Virginia Pretz, Mary Reichert, Amanda Taylor, Kristina Thacker, Lou Ann Weber
4. Xiaohui Gash, Ralph Morse, April Litwin, Hunter Seay, Elise Siffring
5. Patsy Allen, Francine Camenzind, Janet Campbell, Gloria Houston, Karen Jacobson, Kevin Larkowski, Gene Luchsinger
6. Susan Coles, Bethany Gibson, Maggie Hiatt, Robert Powell, Nicholas Robinson
7. Cindy Coufal, Rhonda Pounds
8. Rachel Schramm
9. Victoria Ellwein, Gloria Erickson, David Forrest, Shawna Forsberg, Bruce Nissen, Deborah Strobel
10. Carly Cameron, Karen Gilliam, Jennifer Seay
11. Teresa Heil, Mark Miller, Daphne Reed, Jerry Van Bibber
12. Amber Lawrence
13. Dennis Fannin, Theresa Gruber, Jennifer Jones, Kristina Placzek, Kelli Urbach
14. Janis Fochek, Kara Griger, Steven Olson, Eric Southard, Amy Stevens, Debbie Virchow
15. Laura Anderson, Paul Bruch, Lisa Chmura, Jonathan Wendt
16. Tonia Kinish, Chad Picha
17. Jessica Kaasch, JoAnn Kayton, Riley Pleas
18. Marvin Andersen, Walter Furjanic, Robert M. Johnson, Rachel Storer
19. John Lynch, Susan Puls
20. Haefele, Catherine Hagge, Michaela Humphrey
21. Kristin Boe, Holly Carter, Karla James, Galyn Langer, Phylleshia Larsen, David Muller
22. Danielle Barrett, Ahern Brown, Kathy Englert, Jacob Madison, Mary Ann Owen, Liam Pemberton, Megan Thom
23. Stephen Sheftz, Elizabeth Winborn
24. Mark Adams, John Bogue, Rick Dart, Ben Dey, Kathryn Harvey, James Hopkins
25. Nancy Anderson, Andrew Nord, Paul Revord, Jennifer Toebben
26. Juliana Durio, Hannah Earnhardt, Amy Fredrickson, Suzanne Kotula, Nancy Martens, Patricia Scarpino
27. Hayley Clatterbuck, Jacque Johnson, Paul Lindahl, Lori Senn
28. Erica Weigel, Kyle Frye
29. Rashelle Garrett

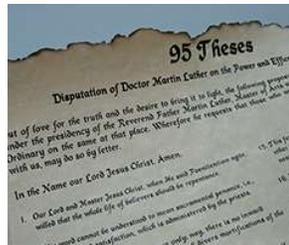
## Save the Date:

### Metro-Omaha Commemoration of 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation

Sunday, October 29, 2 PM

The Nebraska Synod and Western Iowa Synod will hold a Festive Eucharist for the 500<sup>th</sup> 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.



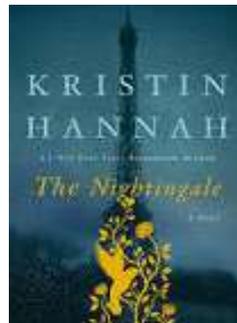
### 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities

The Synod's Refo500/Ecumenism Committee (of which Pr. Hall is co-chair) has coordinated several events to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Book Group

Sunday, February 12, 12:00 PM

Don & Millie's for Lunch



With courage, grace & powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war.

The Nightingale tells the story of two sisters separated by years and experience each embarking on her own dangerous path towards survival, love and freedom in

German-occupied war torn France.

A beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

We'll meet at Don & Millie's for lunch and discuss the book and then to The Bookworm to select books for next season.

Join us.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
2650 Farnam St  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616

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Fax: (402) 341-4841  
E-mail: [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)  
Web: [www.kmlchurch.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

# Kelly: Lutherans, Catholics extend gestures of unity for Reformation's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary

By Michael Kelly / World-Herald columnist

Jan 16, 2017 Updated Jan 22, 2017

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Lutherans will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation at an unlikely place in Omaha — a Catholic church.

On Oct. 29, Reformation Sunday, as many as 1,000 Lutherans are expected for the big event, which will be held at St. John's Catholic Church on the campus of Creighton University.

The church is owned by the Catholic archdiocese, not by the Jesuit order that runs Creighton, and Archbishop George Lucas granted Lutheran leaders' request to use it.

"It's a profound and very warm extension of Christian hospitality," said the Rev. H. Ashley Hall, a Lutheran pastor working on the event. "It's a spirit-filled moment."

In planning for the commemoration, Hall said, Lutherans in Nebraska and western Iowa realized they didn't have a church large enough to accommodate the expected attendance.

That as many as a thousand Lutherans will rise and sing Martin Luther's stirring "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" in a Catholic church on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation may seem surprising or even jarring to some — but to others, it may be a great example of ecumenism and reconciliation.

Hall said Lutheran planners are calling the event at St. John's a commemoration rather than a celebration. It is important, he said, to present it "not in a triumphalistic way."

Still, few would begrudge a time of celebration to followers of a half-millennium movement that changed the practice of Christianity.

Last fall at the Vatican in Rome, Pope Francis welcomed a delegation from the Lutheran World Federation and said it "is truly important for everyone to confront in dialogue the historical reality of the Reformation, its consequences and the responses it elicited."

The pope added that Catholics and Lutherans "can ask forgiveness for the harm they have caused one another."

Francis then traveled to Sweden on the 499th anniversary of the Reformation and led a service at a Lutheran cathedral. Sweden is a majority-Lutheran country, and Oct. 31 marked the beginning of a yearlong celebration, or commemoration.

On that date in 1517, Friar Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of his Catholic church in Wittenberg, Germany, denouncing the Catholic sale of indulgences — pardons for sins — and questioning papal authority.

That led to his excommunication from the Catholic Church and the start of the Protestant Reformation.

The Rev. Hall noted that Luther was just one reformer and that some considered him too conservative in his criticisms. But his impact is undeniable.

In Omaha, Hall is perhaps a natural go-between for Lutherans and Catholics. He serves as associate pastor of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, blocks from Creighton, and is an associate professor of theology at that Catholic university.

He holds a Ph.D. from Fordham University in New York, and is a delegate to the official dialogue between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ELCA members and Catholics still have differences, such as on married clergy and the ordination of women. (The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, like the Catholic Church, does not ordain women.)

Catholics generally observe the authority of church hierarchy, with priests assigned to parishes by bishops. Lutherans tend to view their local congregations as democratic, decision-making bodies, and hire, or “call,” their own pastors.

The faiths have slight theological differences in the salvational role of faith and good works.

In other ways, Catholics and Lutherans are similar. Churches in both faiths use altars, and the faithful receive Communion, with a belief in the real presence of Christ.

The Rev. Ryan Lewis, ecumenical officer for the Omaha Archdiocese, said Friday that Catholics and Lutherans for years have gathered at interfaith ministries.

“Praying together is one of the most important things we do,” he said. “What ties us together is baptism and a shared belief in Jesus Christ.”

Besides the Lutheran event in Omaha on Reformation Sunday, the Rev. Hall said, two ecumenical events are tentatively planned. One may be at St. Cecilia Cathedral and the other at a large Lutheran church, hosted, respectively, by Archbishop Lucas and by Bishop Brian Maas of the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA. Dates have not been selected, but the events may be in late May, near the feast of the Ascension.

Hall said some on both sides may dismiss such gatherings, as well as the Lutherans holding a milestone commemoration at a Catholic church, as mere “Kumbaya” moments.

“They may not be aware of the long period of dialogue,” he said. “This was a 50-year process.”

In a global sense, he said, it dates to the Catholic Church’s embracing of ecumenism at the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s.

Archbishop Lucas, in a statement through a spokesman, said Friday: “I offer my best wishes to our Lutheran brothers and sisters during this commemorative year. I look forward to the opportunities we will have to pray and work for greater unity, in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The Rev. Dean Bard, interim senior pastor at Kountze Memorial, is a former director of the ELCA center in Wittenberg. In October he attended the rededication of the All Saints’ Church there, the “Castle Church” where Martin Luther posted his famed document.

“They have done mighty things in that town preparing for the 500th anniversary,” Bard said. “It’s a really big thing in Germany, which doesn’t have separation of church and state in the way we have it here.”

Many Lutherans will be pleased, he said, to observe the anniversary in Omaha at such a sacred space as St. John’s.

“We think it’s just terrific,” Bard said. “We’re very, very pleased about that.”

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