

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

March 19, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT



*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

## GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION

- P** During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

- P** Merciful God,  
**C** ***you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***  
**P** Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**C** ***Amen.***

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW 618

## GREETING

- P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!  
**C** ***And also with you.***

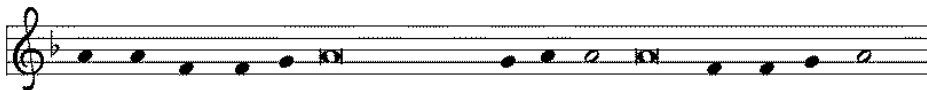
## KYRIE



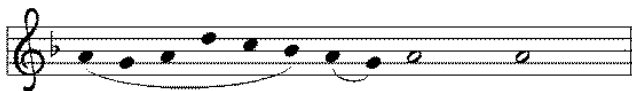
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



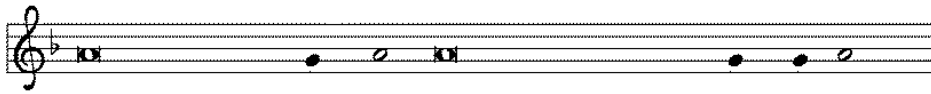
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



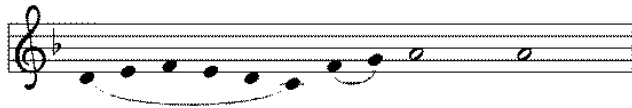
Lord, have mer - cy.



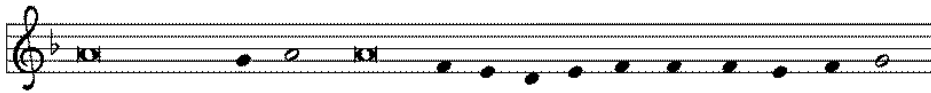
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



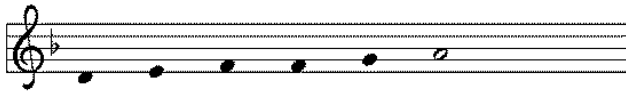
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



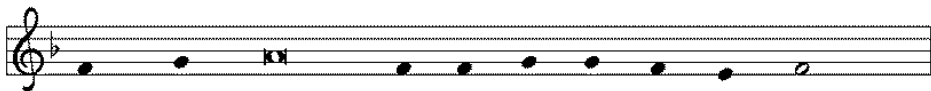
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Merciful God, the fountain of living water,
- ☑ ***you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

## WORD

*(sit)***FIRST READING****Exodus 17:1-7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put the Lord to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to the Lord. The Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.*

**F**rom the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

**A** The word of the Lord.

**B** *Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 95** *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>*Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.*

<sup>3</sup>For you, Lord, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>*In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.*

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>*Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.*

<sup>7</sup>For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup>*"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.*

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>*Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,*

*'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'*

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger,

'They shall never come to my rest.'

## SECOND READING

**Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** *Thanks be to God.*

*(stand)*

## LENTEN VERSE

**G** *Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**G** *Glory to you, O Lord.*

## GOSPEL

**John 4:5-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I

will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

☞ The Gospel of our 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, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

### **SERMON**

Pastor Bard

(stand)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW 332

## APOSTLES' CREED

☩ *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.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    Ⓟ Lord, in your mercy,  
                  ☩ *hear our prayer.*

*(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)*

**Illness:** Rev. Dennis Anderson, Dorothy Cross, Alice Fitzgerald, Dee Hiatt, Sandy Johnson, Dee Luchsinger, Charlie Wachholtz

**Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*** – Amy Dyer, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*** – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Justin Perkins (Young Adults in Global Mission), Argentina/Uruguay; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.  
☩ ***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. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Living Well of Life*

David Lantz  
Kai Johnson, violin

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

### OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Merciful God,
- ☑ **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

*(The Thanksgiving continues)*

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...  
...and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

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

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.', 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.', and 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

☒ *Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those*

*who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☒ Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

☒ *Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. Amen.*

(sit)

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

### Lamb of God

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. A - men.

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

(stand)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Compassionate God,
- C** *you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

- P** Jesus took on the form of a servant and was obedient to death, even death on a cross. May you follow his example and share in the resurrection.
- C** ***Amen.***
- P** In faithfulness to God, Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many. May you walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
- C** ***Amen.***
- P** On the cross of Calvary Jesus bore our grief and carried our sorrows. May his passion bring us healing and peace.
- C** ***Amen.***
- P** Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
- C** ***Amen.***

**HYMN**

*O God, My Faithful God*

ELW 806

**DISMISSAL**

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** ***Amen.***

**POSTLUDE**



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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 nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE

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 not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP** We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet 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** is available from 9 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 plate.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES** Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held April 30 & May 7 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card.

**PARKING** is available immediately west of the church between Farnam and Douglas, across from the church at Farnam and 26th Avenue, and in the deFreese Manor Parking Lot on the northwest corner of Douglas and 26th Avenue.

**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 card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

KOUNTZE STAFF

- Pr. Dean W. Bard Interim Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall Associate Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner Interim Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe Interim Christian Education Coordinator
Ian Hartfield Director of Congregational Life
Debbie Bogue Office Manager
Amanda Zasada Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose Financial Secretary
John Bogue Building Superintendent
Tim Walker Chef
Søren Johnson Assist. Bldg. Superintendent
Barbara Carlsen Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Danny Bos Handbell Director/Assist. to the Bldg. Superintendent
Mark Jones Organist
David Gerard Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Kevin Larkowski, Jeff Perkins
Lector Kevin Larkowski
Ushers Glenn Anderson, Dan Collett, Ted Kaasch, Mark Mahaffey, Gary Westerman, Bob Woodworth, Marcy Madison
Greeters Sharon Anderson, Shirleen Collett, Karen Wolf
Crucifer Kai Johnson
Acolytes Britten Johnson, Clara Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Norm Sack, June Anderson
Lector Bruce Nissen
Ushers Adam Klinker, Linda Hoagland, David Jesberg
Greeters Julie King, Rosemary Tessin
Crucifer Rachel Stouffer
Acolytes Lydia Baum, Kolbey Burns

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

PR. HALL AT DIALOGUE This week, Pr. Hall is in Baltimore, MD participating on behalf of the ELCA in the next round of Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue.

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us on Sundays for a hot, breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Chef Tim and his volunteers. The suggested donation for breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM.

THIS WEEK: Planned Giving, Pt. 1 NEXT WEEK: Planned Giving, Pt. 2

YOUNG MOTHERS Join us on Sunday mornings for some fresh brewed fun in the Fellowship Lounge between worship services for "Frappy Hour." Come meet other young mothers in the congregation for coffee, conversation, fellowship and fun. For more information, contact Meeghan Hartfield at ma\_hartfield@yahoo.com or call 402-212-8145.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Sunday, March 19, 10-11AM, Fellowship Lounge

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in honor of Alan's 21st birthday.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday for Sunday School on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday week in the Youth Center at 10 AM.

THANK YOU Dorothy Vancaster would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards while she was ill.

BACH CONCERT AT THE CATHEDRAL St. Cecilia's Cathedral (701 N 40th Street) is celebrating the Lutheran musical heritage with an organ concert of J. S. Bach's Leipzig Cantatas on Sunday, 3/19, at 3 PM. Admission is free; all are welcome.

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING AND BANQUET Sunday, 3/26. 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 11 AM and then

gather in Fellowship Hall for a luncheon at 12:30 PM. Attire is semi-formal. A group photo will 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, 402-341-7761 or ian@kmlchurch.org BY SUNDAY, MARCH 19.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT Friday evening, 3/24, at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in north Omaha (30th and Redick). Everyone is welcome.

KOUNTZE GAME NIGHT Friday, 3/31. Dinner: 6-7:00 PM, Fellowship and Games: 7-9:00 PM. Nursery Care Provided. Cost: FREE Sponsored by the Congregational Activities Committee. All children, youth, adults, families, and friends of all ages invited! Bring your favorite snack and card/board/ video games and enjoy a night with family and friends. We'll have nutritious snacks and pizza for dinner, followed by some quality time playing your favorite card or board games. We might even play some bingo and there will be some surprises! Please RSVP to the Welcome Desk, Church Office or Ian Hartfield: ian@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761 by 3/26.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Sunday, 4/2, 12-1PM. Children who are already communing or children interested in receiving Holy Communion, are invited to a First Communion class. We will begin with lunch in the conference room followed by instruction in the Nave with Pr. Hall. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, 4/13 at 7 PM. Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

An invitation from one led to the faith of many.



#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Genesis 24:1-4, 10-27	Rebekah at the well
Tuesday	Genesis 29:1-14	Rachel at the well
Wednesday	John 7:37-44	Streams of living water
Thursday	Revelation 21:5-7	The spring of the water of life
Friday	Revelation 22:1-5	River of life
Saturday	Psalms 95	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They told the woman, "We no longer have faith in Jesus just because of what you told us. We have heard him ourselves, and we are certain that he is the Savior of the world!" John 4:42 (CEV)

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Pour your love into our hearts, God, and let it overflow to others. Amen. (Romans 5:5) Mealtime Prayer: Dear God, thank you for satisfying our hunger and thirst with this meal. Help us to share your goodness with others that all may know Jesus, the living water that quenches our thirst for you. Amen. A Blessing to Give: May Jesus pour his love into your heart. May you be filled with his living water, a spring gushing up to eternal life. (John 4:13-14)

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Jesus had a caring conversation with a woman at a well. What would you like to talk about with Jesus?
- It was not acceptable for a Jewish man to speak to a Samaritan or a woman. How does Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well free you to reach out to others?
- Tell a story of how you have shared your faith with others?

#### DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 5:1-11. Paul writes, "By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now, because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we live at peace with God." Paul wants us to know that our life in Christ is empowered by being made "acceptable to God." That faith gives us a peace that leads to lifelong growth and transformation. Reflect on how your life of faith has grown by the grace of God through sufferings, to endurance, to character building, and then to hope through the Holy Spirit that has been given to you. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the hope that does not disappoint us

#### SERVICE

The woman at the well tells her townspeople, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" (John 4:29) The woman does three things that evangelizes her community; she invites them to see Jesus; she tells her own story; and she honestly questions if this Jesus is the one, the Messiah. Have a conversation with someone by telling something of your own life of faith and being honest about your hopes and questions.

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Inviting others to your home is a wonderful Christian tradition and a good way to share the Christian faith with family, friends, and other guests. Invite one or more people to your home for a meal and use the Taking Faith Home Mealtime Prayer. Use the portions of this week's Taking Faith Home that seem to fit well for your company. Consider reading John 4:5-42 as a Reader's Theater, using different readers for the different parts (narrator, Jesus, woman, disciples, and the Samaritans). Take time afterward to discuss your reactions to reading the story and the possible perspectives offered by the various characters. If children are present, use a storybook Bible and have the children act it out.

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**NEBRASKA LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY** (NeLCM) invites you to **Evensong: A Celebration of Ministry with College Students in the Omaha Metro** on Sunday, 4/2, from 3:00 to 5:30 PM at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 17007 "Q" St. Your support will help ensure that college ministry in Omaha will continue to flourish.

**LENTEN RETREAT WITH BR. JAMES DOWD** Saturday, 4/8. Matins (Morning Prayer), 8:15 AM. Program, 9 AM - Noon. 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. All are welcome. Please register by calling the church office.

**KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS** This week we need: Pork 'n Beans, Pasta/Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal, Corn, Pancake Syrup, Chicken, Tuna. Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions. Thanks.

### THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

#### March 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 Mother's "Frappy Hour"  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

#### March 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

#### March 21 Tuesday

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
2:00 PM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Building Committee  
5:30 PM Executive Committee  
6:30 PM Church Council

#### March 22 Wednesday

11:15 AM Lenten Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:30 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 PM Worship

#### March 23 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
5:30 PM KETV Management Board

#### March 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

#### March 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)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
10:10 AM Young Mom's "Frappy Hour"  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
11:00 AM OSJ Commissioning  
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry  
12:30 PM OSJ Banquet  
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

#### Next Weekend's Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

**Saturday Attendance:** 50

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 202 11:00: 162

**Midweek - Noon:** 60 **Evening:** 72

**Total:** 546

**Pantry Guests Served:** 208

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 42

**Offering:** Not available at time of printing

#### Lent at Kountze

**Theme:** *We Are Church*

**Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer - Individual Healing and Absolution following each service**

**March 22** - We Are Holy - Pr. Hall

**March 29** - We Are Catholic - Pr. Hall

**April 5** - We Are Apostolic - Pr. Inbarasu

**April 13** (Maundy Thursday) - Pr. Moessner  
Confession and Absolution with Eucharist

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

**Dinner** - 6 - 7 PM

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

**Cost** - Free-will Offering