

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

April 02, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises.

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

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.*

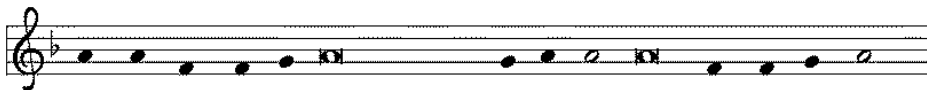
KYRIE



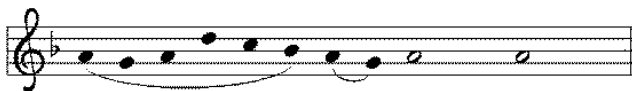
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



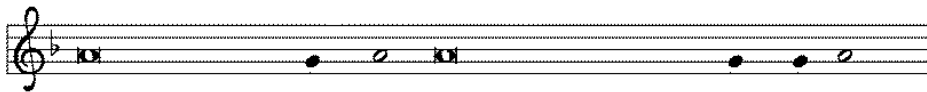
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



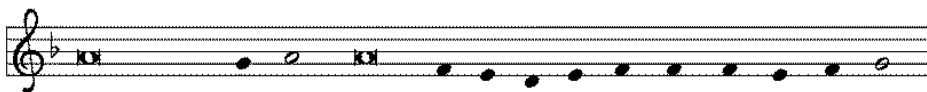
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



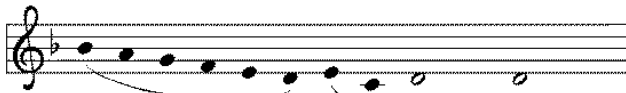
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



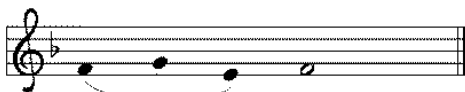
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ ***your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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****Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 130 *(read responsively)*

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

²***O Lord, hear my voice!***

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴***Yet with you is forgiveness,***

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

*⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.*

⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

*⁸For the Lord shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

LENTEN VERSE

☩ 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.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was

not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

📖 The Gospel of our Lord

🙏 *Praise to you, O Christ.*

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

ELW 750

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: Arlene Andersen, Dorothy Cross, Dee Hiatt, Norman How (father of Suzanne How), Dee Luchsinger

Sympathy: To the family and friends of Sandy Johnson

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, 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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Dan Forrest

(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.

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
- C** *Amen.*

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

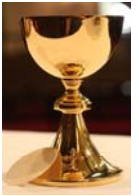
\dagger \dagger \dagger

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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



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. Scott Henneman
Dan Collett
Liz Pemberton
- Lector Jon Natvig
- Ushers John Georgeson
Jim Comfort
Joe Councill
David Forrest
Jeff Perkins
Jeff Senn
Fred Wachal
Chad Wachholtz
Janice Falk
- Greeters Darlene Anderson
Lennea Davis
Lori Senn
Carol Hyland
- Crucifer Søren Johnson
- Acolytes Anthony Bonacci
Madelyn Hinrichs

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. June Anderson
Kevin Larkowski
- Lector Bruce Anderson
- Ushers Ken Johnson
Linda Johnson
Lee Johnson
Julie O'Doherty
Norm Sack
- Greeters Peggy Johnson
Myrna Carter
- Crucifer Morgan Stouffer
- Acolytes Lily O'Kane
Grace Penrod

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.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

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: Building Update & Farewell to Ian Hartfield **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Palm Sunday)

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.

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.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY – WHAT'S HAPPENING? Parents: Join the conversation! Sunday, 4/2, 12:00 noon in the Meeting Rooms (off Fellowship Hall) and Sunday, 4/9, 10:10 in the Joyful Sounds Room, upstairs. With all the staff changes it is easy to think that youth ministry has been suspended. We trust you know that is not the case. There is always value in talking with parents about their expectations and challenges. For this purpose, please come to one or both of the *conversations* listed above to express your hopes and hear information about Youth Ministry. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Pr. Moessner. Oh! Of course we will have other opportunities for Youth members to talk as well. Watch for details.

NEBRASKA LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY Today is the day! Don't miss **Evensong: A Celebration of Ministry with College Students in the Omaha Metro**, 3:00-5:30 pm, at

St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 17007 "Q" St. Join us for a Reception with Silent Auction, Evening Prayer featuring special music from students and a combined choir, and something sweet to send you on your way. Help us build a strong and sustainable ministry for ELCA college students in the Omaha Metro!

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Please join us on Tuesday, 4/4 at noon. We will be making Palm Crosses! They will be large enough to hang on your wall, or simply to have as a keepsake. You can make them yourself (we will show you how), or just visit and watch as we assemble them. Also hear cherished stories of how Palm Crosses were a beloved part of Kountze. A delicious lunch, scalloped potatoes and ham, will be served. Cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office by March 31. All ages are welcome. Don't miss out on having a beautiful Palm Cross

The power of God's resurrection has already begun.



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 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Dry bones live again
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha raises a dead child
Wednesday	Acts 20:7-12	Paul raises a young man
Thursday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Friday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Made alive with Christ
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trust the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, fill us with your resurrection life today. Help us to live for you. Amen. (John 11:25; Romans 8:5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, through this food you give us life for today, and through your Son you give us life forever. All praise to you! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of God live in you. May God fill you with new life, now and forever. (Romans 8:9-11)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time when you felt sad and discouraged.
- Jesus responds to the sadness of Mary and Martha with the promise of the resurrection that began for them that very day. How does your Christian life make a difference for you today?
- Where do you see resurrection life happening?

DEVOTIONS

Paul contrasts the "mind of the flesh" with the "mind of the Spirit." The one leads to death, and the other leads to life and peace. To have the wrong attitude or the wrong mindset in life, one that is not guided by God's power of love and forgiveness, is to have the "mind of the flesh." It is a life that is a dead end. Life in the Spirit is directed by the power of Christ's resurrection and shapes our lives now and into God's eternity. Reflect on how life in the kingdom of God is different from all other ways of living. Conclude by praying Psalm 130 and then the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

To have the "mind of the Spirit" is to have a mind shaped by Jesus, the one who came to serve and who calls all his followers to be servants. Create a list of the ways you would like to use your God-given gifts to serve others and creation. Then create a log that notes the ways you are able to use your gifts as a servant of God's love. Service to others can be as simple as offering intercessory prayers as well as a smile and a helping hand.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Death happens. It is a reality that we often avoid discussing. The church is a community of faith that reaches out to others with care, support, and the hope of resurrection. Think about an individual or family that is grieving the death of a loved one. Plan a visit or send them a sympathy card. Whether it is a visit or a card, consider including words from Psalm 130 and John 11.25-26.

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for your home! Any questions, call Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033).

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.

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF OMAHA will meet 4/11 at noon at Immanuel Lutheran Church (2725 North 60th Avenue). The program will be David Hendee from the World Herald talking about his book on 150 years of Nebraska. If interested in attending, please call Carole at 402-339-2056.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY **What does Stephen Ministry provide?** Someone who cares, supports, listens, shares. **Who can benefit?** Anyone going through difficult times who needs someone to care, listen, and share God's love with them on a one-to-one confidential basis. **Want to know more?** Contact Donna Reinig — 558-6352 — or one of our pastors.

For additional information about upcoming calendar events, please visit our website, www.kmlchurch.org

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

April 2 Sunday

- Homebound Communion
- Mission Trip Payment Due (\$50)
- 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 First Communion Class
- 12:00 PM Youth Ministry Parent Meeting
- 9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

April 3 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry

April 4 Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

April 5 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
- 8:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

April 6 Thursday

- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 8 Saturday

- 8:15 AM Matins (Morning Prayer)
- 9:00 AM Lenten Retreat
- 5:00 PM Worship

April 9 Palm Sunday

- 7:45 & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
- 8:00 - 11:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:00 AM MS/HS Choir Warm-up
- 9:00 & 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 deFreese Manor Board
- 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
- 10:10 AM Youth Ministry Parent Meeting
- 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
- 12:00 PM Book Group
- 7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study
- 9:00 PM LCM Worship (Halley Chapel)

Next Weekend's Lessons	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
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Saturday Attendance: 52
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 230 11:00: 154
Midweek - Noon: 48 Evening: 62
Total: 546
Pantry Guests Served: 375
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 36
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
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
Cost - Free-will Offering
Worship - 12:15 PM and 7 PM