

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

January 13, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

BAPTISM of OUR LORD



The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

C Amen.

P Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Mighty and loving God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We seek our own way.

We divide the body of Christ.

In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.

**Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts,
and everything that we do
be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

P Hear the voice of Jesus: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”* In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Bright and Glorious Is The Sky”

ELW 301

vs 1-4

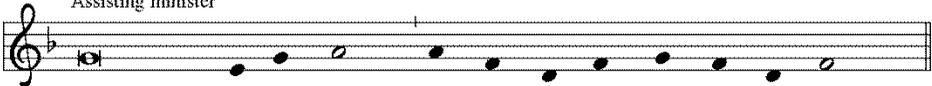
APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of your Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

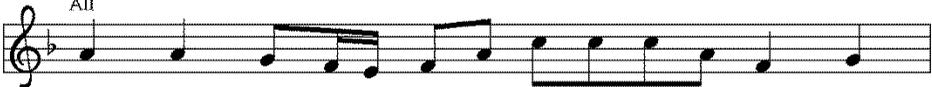
GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

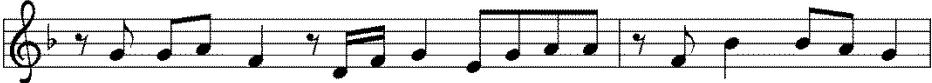
All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we will rejoice to be called your children, 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

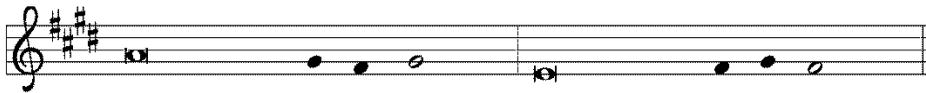
But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth — ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

(Choir sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold print**)



¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." . . .

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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 Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

ELW 800

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Holy Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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 INTERCESSION

Response: **L** Lord, in your mercy,
C 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: Don Burton, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Peggy Johnson, Tom Nippert, Mary Olson, David Penning, Jeff Perkins, Diane Rasmussen, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, Judy Stuart, Marlys Thomas, Marilyn Van Bibber, Del Weber

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, 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; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this congregation 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.



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Come to the Water”

arr. Jack Schrader

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

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(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

ELW 691



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of all creation,

- C** all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we will be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



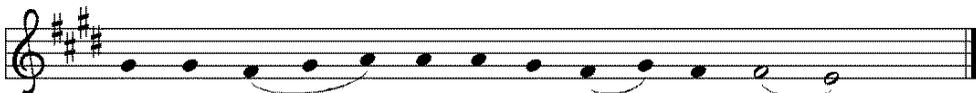
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **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

P Come to the table.

C **Feast on God's abundant Life for you.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is *intinction*, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

<i>"We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"</i>	ELW 451
<i>"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"</i>	ELW 445
<i>"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"</i>	ELW 442

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We give you thanks, Almighty God,
- ☛ **that you have fed us at your banquet table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Jesus Christ for us. Send your Holy Spirit with us now, that we will set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

ELW 301
vs 5-6

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Jesus Christ is your light.
- ☛ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

✝ ✝ ✝

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Steve Jacobson	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord Jim Smejkal

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lowell Harms Liz Pemberton Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Liz Pemberton
Ushers	Joe Councill Jim Comfort Janice Falk John Georgeson Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Dave Forrest
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Anthony Bonacci
Acolytes	Braden Bonacci Kaitlyn Munquia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum June Anderson
Lector	Steve Hinrichs
Ushers	Lee Johnson Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Peggy Johnson Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Abby Rigas Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 12 & 13, 2018

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.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Then join us each Sunday morning for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8:00—11:00 AM prepared by our kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Introducing the Godly Play Curriculum (Kristin Boe) **NEXT WEEK:** Creeds: Role and Purpose?

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of David J. Carlson by the Carlson and Campbell families;

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, please join us this Sunday and next, January 13 & 20 from 12:15—2:00 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K— 5th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM. Our Youth Forums this winter and spring will focus on vocations. Kountze Members will speak to you about their profession, the education necessary to attain the profession, and the work involved. They will also speak about how their faith in God impacts their vocation. Most important, there will be time for you to ask questions about the work they do.

January 13th **Sheila Valquier**, Omaha Police Department

January 20th **Dr. Jerry Fischer**, MD

January 27th **Tim Holland**, AIA, Architect

January 13 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:30 AM Executive Committee
 12:00 PM Book Group
 12:15 PM New Member Class

January 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline
 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 11:30 AM Property Committee
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregational Council

January 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Heritage Series-The Good Life: Ethics and
 the Pursuit of Happiness
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Confirmation
 7:40 PM Worship

January 17 Thursday

Council Reports Due
 11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 6:00 PM Christian Education Committee
 7:00 PM Circle 5

January 18 Friday

Annual Report Deadline
 7:00 PM Christian Unity Service
 First Central Congregational Church (421 S 36th St)
 (6:00 PM - Soup Supper 7:00 PM - Worship)

January 19 Saturday

Jan 19 - Jan 20 Middle School Gathering - 10 AM Sat -
 2 PM Sun
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:00 PM Worship

January 20 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 Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 12:15 PM New Member Class

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.

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.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are looking for teachers for elementary aged students. If you would like to volunteer once a month to either teach a class, or help supervise, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. Thank you!

ATTENTION 8th GRADERS Since it is your Confirmation year, the Order of Saint John sponsors invite you to train to assist in the Sunday church services. Please contact an OSJ Sponsor to arrange a training time: Jeff or Robin Perkins at papioperkins@cox.net or 402-339-5384; Tom Steffen at 4freefalling@gmail.com or 402-321-3666; Jill Gittler at jill@centertrophy.com or 402-689-4521.

HERITAGE SERIES Begins again on Wednesdays, January 16, 23, & 30, 6:00 PM. Our reading of the concluding chapters of Herbert McCabe's, *The Good Life: Ethics and the Pursuit of Happiness*, resumes in January. All are welcome. The book is available for purchase online or copies of the chapter are available from the church office.

MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, January 17, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP by January 15) at Kountze Memorial. Please join us for the first men's luncheon of 2019. This month our speaker will be from Youth Emergency Services (our neighbor across the street). Come learn about the important services they provide Omaha's youth. Please RSVP to the Church office or to jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday January 15.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE First Central Congregational Church (421 S. 36th Street), Friday, January 18, 6:00 PM—complimentary soup supper; 7:00 PM—Worship. This service began a few years ago as a cooperative between Lutheran Campus Ministry at Creighton and St. John's parish (Creighton); this is the first year we are expanding to a city-wide event! All are welcome.

LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHOIR welcomes new and returning members to the Spring Concert Season! Rehearsals begin with a retreat on Sunday, January 20, 2-5 PM at First Lutheran Church, 1551 S 70th St., Lincoln. This spring the choir is pleased to welcome our new conductor and artistic director Ms Julia Marble. Our concert theme is "Christ, Light in the Darkness" and Julia has chosen music that speaks to His grace, peace and hope. Come join us on this musical journey!

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 12:15 PM (immediately following 11:00 AM service). Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptism liturgy with you. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761. The next session will be held on March 10.

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD/CANDLEMAS Sunday, February 3, 9:00 AM. Parents are invited to bring their child's baptismal candles to church for the celebration of the Presentation of Our Lord/ Candlemas. on This feast commemorates when Mary and Joseph (as faithful Jews) came to the Temple to make a sacrifice of praise for the birth of their son, Jesus. While there, Simeon, an elderly prophet, takes the infant Jesus in his arms and declares that Jesus will be "the light to reveal [God] to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel." In celebration, an ancient custom of the Church was to bless candles used to bring light and warmth to the church and home. We will use the occasion to remember our baptisms and the charge to "let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." If you can't find your child's baptismal candle, we'll provide one.

KMLC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS 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 after the first of the year in the Church Office, or downloaded at www.kmlchurch.org. Applications are due March 1. **Any applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 402-341-7761.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:10 AM
In the Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 56
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 197 **11:00:** 115
Midweek - Noon: 12 **Evening:** 20
Total: 400
Pantry Guests Served: 378
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 41
Offering:
\$25,412.07 (Regular) \$1,873.45 (Specials)
\$9,152.00 (Phase 2)

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 27, 2019. You can pick it up that Sunday or during the week. It will also be available on our website, www.kmlchurch.org and click on "About Us". All items to be included in the Annual Report should be in to the office by Sunday, January 13, 2019.



In baptism, God calls us by name.

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

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Ezekiel 36:24-28	God will make you clean
Thursday	Romans 6:1-11	Baptized into Christ's death
Friday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana



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But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. **Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, open our ears to hear your voice and our lips to shout your glory. Amen. (Psalm 29:3-9)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, just as you join us in baptism, grace our table with your presence today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has called you by name give strength to you; may the Lord bless you with peace. (Isaiah 43:1 and Psalm 29:11)

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

- What are nicknames you have been given? Who gave them to you?
- What does it mean to you that God has called you by name, that God knows your name?
- In baptism God's name is placed on us with the words, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We become people who bear God's name. How does it influence your life that you live each day with God's name placed on you?

Read: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

The Baptism of Jesus Sunday leads us to reflect on our own baptism. Some believe that baptism is something that we do as a commitment to God. It is our decision to accept God. The texts chosen for the Baptism of Jesus points us in another direction: God names and claims us; God's voice is the decisive factor in our faith and in our baptism. If baptism is something we do as an expression of our faith, then our baptism is only as powerful as our commitment to God, something that waxes and wanes as a human and frail commitment. If God is the actor, then one can rely on God's faithfulness, not ours, as the great gift of baptism. Reflect on what it means to you that God calls you by name in baptism.

Pray: **Almighty and living God, thank you for calling us by name in baptism. Help us to trust in you, to believe in your faithfulness to us now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Baptism happens in a community of faith with the support of others, just like Peter and John extended their support to the newly baptized in Acts 8:14-17. Send a card to someone who has been baptized in the past year or to their family and offer your support for their life of faith. Let them know they are valued. Offer them a blessing in the card and promise to keep the baptized and the family in your prayers.

Baptism claims us as a child of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. It involves a lifetime of intimacy with God. In Luke 3:21 it states that Jesus was praying at the time of his baptism. Prayer is an expression of that intimate relationship with God. Take time this week to remember your own baptism by lighting a candle, looking at baptismal pictures, placing water in a bowl and sitting in silent prayer. Give thanks for Jesus' baptism and your own. Begin a tradition of remembering your baptismal anniversary each year and thinking about your baptism daily when bathing, washing hands, or drinking water.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11