

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 20, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride." By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

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.

G 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,

G 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.

G Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Brightest and Best of the Stars”

ELW 303

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.

G 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

- ☞ Lord God, source of every blessing,
- ☞ **you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we will find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride; and the people are called to the celebration

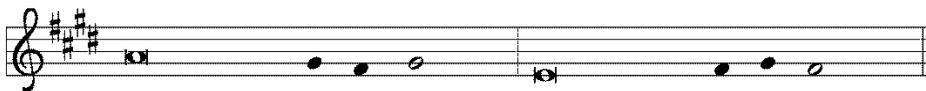
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called *My Delight Is in Her*, and your land *Married*; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 36:5-10

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



⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches | to the heavens,
and your faithfulness | to the clouds.

⁶**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like | the great deep;
you save humankind and ani- | mals, O LORD.**

⁷How priceless is your | love, O God!
All people take refuge under the shadow | of your wings.

⁸**They feast upon the abundance | of your house;
you give them drink from the river of | your delights.**

⁹For with you is the | well of life,
and in your light | we see light.

¹⁰**Continue your lovingkindness to | those who know you,
and your favor to those who are | true of heart.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing one another's spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "*Let Jesus be cursed!*" and no one can say "*Jesus is Lord*" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

☐ 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. John

C Glory to you, O Lord

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

☑ **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: ☐ 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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Del Weber; to the family and friends of Ginny Haug, mother of Pam Johnson; to the family and friends of Elaine Drickey

Illness: Don Burton, Ralph Diggins, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Joan Nelson, David Penning, Gary Rodene, Judy Stuart, Marlys Thomas

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

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

Allen Pote

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(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.



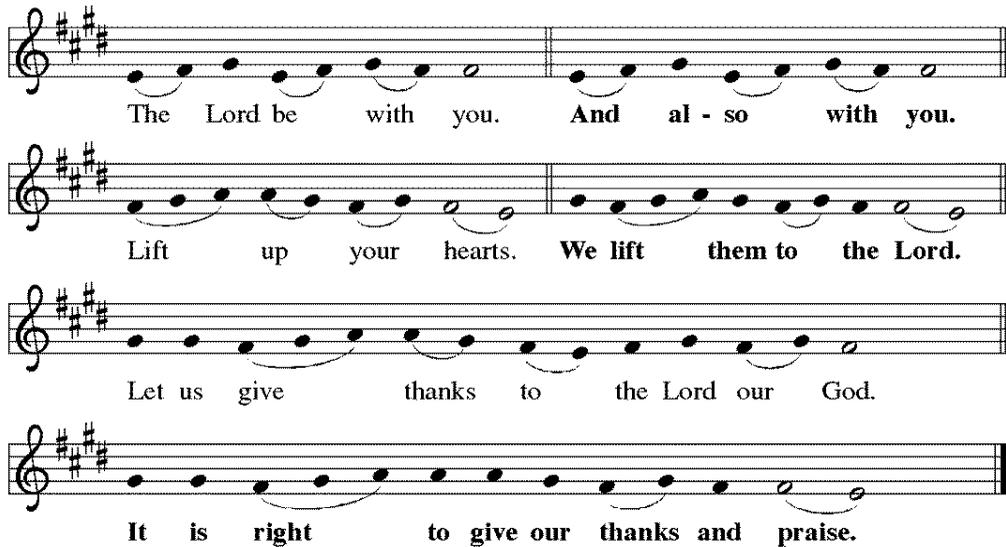
We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

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.

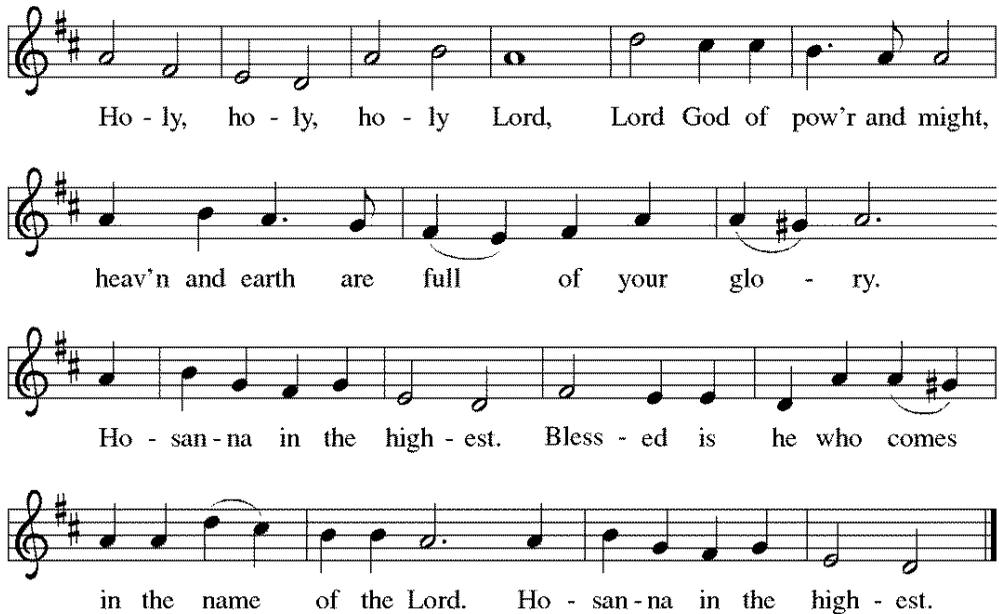
HOLY COMMUNION



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

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

ELW 614

"What Feast of Love"

ELW 487

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, Almighty God,

C **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

“Jesus Shall Reign”

ELW 434

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	Debra Kelly
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick
Comm. Set-up	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Pam Johnson Lorie Groenjes Susie Henry
Lector	Pamela Johnson
Ushers	Joe Councill Jim Comfort Janice Falk John Georgeson Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Dave Forrest
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson John Groenjes

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lee Johnson June Anderson
Lector	Kay Wise
Ushers	Adam Klinker Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Peggy Johnson Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 19 & 20, 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 worshipping, 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:** Creeds: Role and Purpose? **NEXT WEEK:** Creeds: What Do the Say?

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of my good friend, Pauline Brager, on her 100th birthday (1/18) given by Barb Chrisman

NEW MEMBER CLASS continues this Sunday, January 20, from 12:15—2:00 PM. 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 9:00—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 20th **Dr. Jerry Fischer, MD**

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

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

January 21 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
 OFFICE CLOSED
 5:15 PM Kountze Commons Art Committee

January 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 12:00 PM Endowment Board
 7:00 PM Circle 3

January 23 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 24 Thursday

11:30 PM Men's Luncheon (note date change)

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 26 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)

5:00 PM Worship

January 27 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Receive New Members

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)

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

12:15 PM Baptism Seminar

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.

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!

HERITAGE SERIES continues on Wednesdays, January 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 has been moved to this Thursday, January 24, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP by January 22) 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 22.

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.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR Saturday, March 2, 8:00 PM, St. Cecilia's Catholic Church | Kountze Memorial, together with St. Cecilia's and other donors will be sponsoring The National Lutheran Choir in concert on Saturday, March 2, 8:00 PM at St. Cecilia's Cathedral. The Choir will be singing "The Holy Spirit Mass, Together in Hope" which was written in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Under the direction of nationally known conductor, composer and organist Dr. David Cherwien, the 60-member National Lutheran Choir's artistry is rooted in its mission to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music. And it does so through the highest standards of performance and literature.

ALL LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER GATHERING 10:10 AM, Sunday, March 3 | All Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and those interested in learning more about this ministry to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound, are invited to this organizational meeting.

THE GOSPEL AND THE KINGDOM FOLLOW-UP Our very successful series this last August that brought members from Kountze Memorial, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and First Central Congregational into conversation about what it is to be large, vibrant, historic churches in the downtown/neartown area will continue. A leadership team to form and guide future events will be created with two members from each congregation. If you would like to be a part of future events, please stay posted for more information or contact Pr. Hall.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 31

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 172 **11:00:** 81

Midweek - Noon: 6 **Evening:** 27

Total: 317

Pantry Guests Served: 413

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 27

Offering: Not available at time of printing

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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.



God's steadfast love brings joy.

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

Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5	Jerusalem will be saved
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Lamentations 3:22-24	God's steadfast love endures
Thursday	Hebrews 13:1-6	Service well-pleasing to God
Friday	Romans 8:37-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 36:5-10	Human sin and God's goodness
Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. **Psalm 36:7 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and Loving God, thank you for the joy you bring to our lives and to our relationships through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, just as you blessed the feast at Cana, bless our eating and drinking. Fill us with love for you and for one another. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

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

- Tell or think about a time that gave you great joy when you were with family or friends.
- What is it about God that gives you great joy?
- In Psalm 36:7 it says, "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings." Pick out a word that captures your attention and talk about why you chose it?

Read: John 2:1-11.

The Gospel of John gives clear attention to the wedding at Cana. The story concludes, "Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him." What Jesus did at the wedding pointed to his mission and ministry as the Word that became flesh (1:14). It reveals his glory, glory that will only become fully revealed in his death on the cross (17:1). It led his followers to believe in him. The sign of changing an excessive amount of water into wine adds to the joy of a wedding at Cana. The amount of "good wine" saved for last was crazy, about 180 gallons worth for celebrating. This theme is picked up again in John 10:10 when Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." In the Greek, the abundant life is life "overflowing," like the wine overflowing at the wedding of Cana. Jesus' first sign of his reign is about overflowing love and joy. How does Jesus' overflowing love and joy for you impact you today and change your life forever?

Pray: Joyous Lord Jesus, help us to remember how you bring joy to our lives and world. May we join in your eternal feast and celebration with faith toward you and love for one another. Amen.

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 we are all gifted by the Holy Spirit "for the common good." The larger world around us sees these personal gifts as something to shine a light on ourselves and our own success. For Christians, our gifts are for others, "for the common good." Make a list of the gifts you believe you have or others have told you they see in you. Then state each gift out loud by saying: "**Dear God, thank you for my gift of [name it]. Help me to use it to serve others.**"

Jesus' appearance at the wedding at Cana shows that God loves weddings and desires to bless married couples. This week is a good time for couples to share with family and friends about their own weddings and ways Jesus is part of their marriage. Ask a married couple you know if you can see the wedding photos taken on their special day. After visiting with them and hearing stories about their wedding, bless them with these words: **May God bless your life together as you continue to grow in your love for one another.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21