

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 6, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

EPIPHANY of OUR LORD



Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God, wonderful counselor,

C **we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.**

P God’s loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God’s mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

ELW 302

Jack Bailey, Brett Bailey, Violet Fannin, 3 Kings
Zeb Fannin, Star

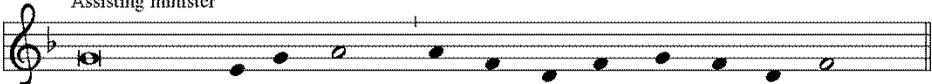
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

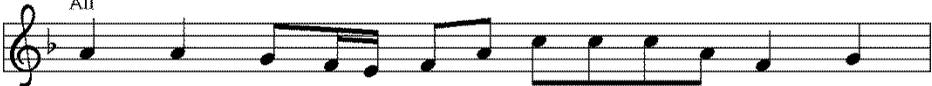
GLORIA

Assisting minister



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

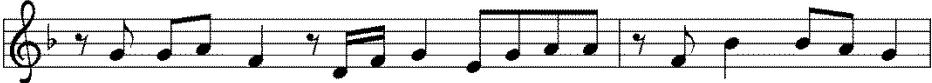
All



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.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

℣ 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.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

☐ The Gospel of the 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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

ELW 314

THE NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Sean Pedersen, son of Candace Edris; to the family and friends of Rev. Lavern Larkowski

Illness: Don Burton, Barbara Dilly, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Peggy Johnson, Tom Nippert, Mary Olson, David Penning, Jeff Perkins, Diane Rasmussen, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, 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

“Walk in Light”

by Karen Marrolli

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.



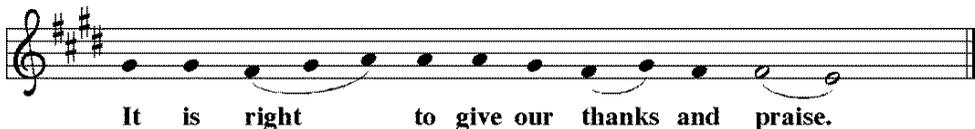
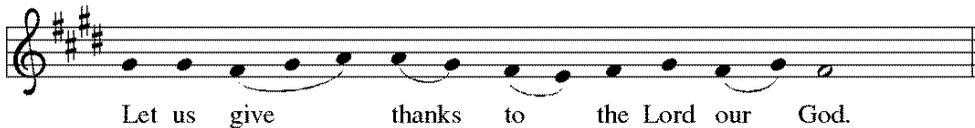
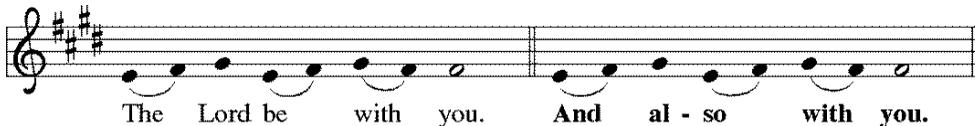
We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Holy God,

- ☑ **your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION



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 where Christ meets you.

C **Eat, rejoice and be glad!**

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

*"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"
"Beautiful Savior"*

**ELW 311
ELW 838**

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of wonder,
G in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- P** God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

ELW 310

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
G 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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Theresa Gruber Kathy Englert

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder Steve Jacobson
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Lector	Bailey Gittler
Ushers	Joe Councill Jim Comfort Janice Falk John Georgeson Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Chad Wachholtz Dave Forrest
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Clara Kidder
Acolytes	Anna Kidder Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	June Anderson Ann Miller
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Adam Klinker Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Peggy Johnson Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer Anna Kotula



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 5 & 6, 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:** No Forum **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Lavern Larkowski by Kevin & Terrie Larkowski

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Additional poinsettias were given to the glory of God in memory of Sandra Johnson by Curt Johnson and in memory of Debra Enholm by Donna & Ed Nimerichter. If you would like to take a poinsettia—or two—home today, they are in the Link area between the church and the Commons. Please help yourself and enjoy.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR No Children's Choir this Sunday. Join us again each Sunday beginning January 13 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL No Sunday School this Sunday. Join us again each Sunday beginning January 13 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.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM No Forum this Sunday, but join us again each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM beginning on January 13.

January 6 Sunday

Epiphany
 Homebound Communion
 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)

January 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
 12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Confirmation
 7:40 PM Worship

January 10 Thursday

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

January 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

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

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held January 13 & 20, 2019 from 12:15—2:00 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare and if you have food restrictions when you register.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING If you haven't turned your Estimate of Giving and Opportunities to Serve cards to the office yet, it's not too late. Just a reminder that if you are giving your offering through Simply Giving and have changed your giving amount for 2019, we need you to email Steve Jacobson (steve@kmlchurch.org) or complete a new Simply Giving form (a new voided check isn't necessary) and put it in the offering plate or return to Steve in the church offering plate. We are unable to change your giving amount without having something in writing. If you're not currently using electronic giving but would like more information about this safe and reliable method to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account through Simply Giving, you can download a form from our website or pick one up at the Welcome Desk. You can always call the church office for more information as well.

ATTENTION 8th GRADERS - For 77 years, young people have served as acolytes in worship through the Order of Saint John (OSJ) at Kountze Memorial, providing leadership for our worship experience. OSJ members carry the processional cross, torches, gospel book, and banner. In addition, OSJ members light candles, as well as assist the pastors at baptisms and Holy Communion. 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 19 through 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 20. Middle school youth in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders from across the Nebraska Synod are invited to take part in the 2019 Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering. It will take place at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, Nebraska, starting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 19 and concluding at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 20. The theme this year is "Rooted," and participants will explore Colossians 2:6-7. Hip hop artist AGAPE* and spoken word poet Joe Davis will be guest artists for the weekend. Cost is \$65. For more information, please speak with Marcia Roynesdal.

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 Faith 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.

2019 ALTAR FLOWERS, ETERNAL CANDLE, & BROADCAST SIGN-UP Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle. Donating altar flowers is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary. You can sponsor a broadcast in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary, etc. The cost of sponsoring one broadcast is currently \$175.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 34
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 199 11:00: 92
Midweek - Noon: 6 **Evening:** 0
Total: 331
Pantry Guests Served: 269
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

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.



Jesus' birth is for all the world.

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

Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men come to worship Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to the light
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's mission to the Gentiles
Wednesday	Daniel 2:17-49	Nebuchadnezzar's dream
Thursday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Friday	1 John 1:1-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7	Prayer for a righteous king
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus



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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.

[T]hat is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **Ephesians 3:6 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and strength, may we bring our lives before you with treasures of the heart just as the wise men came before Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Like Wise Men three from far away, we come to Christ with joy this day. To our Provider and our King, gifts of thanks and praise we bring! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you and guide you to Christ today and fill you with joy and peace.

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

- What is the furthest you have traveled from home?
- What have you learned by traveling away from home?
- In the story of the wise men from the East coming to pay homage to baby Jesus, God is announcing that in God's Son, salvation is brought to all. How does God's action in Jesus help you look at and appreciate different customs and cultures you have seen?

Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

This passage lifts up important themes for Epiphany Day. The Apostle Paul expresses humility at being included in God's plan of salvation, a plan that includes the Gentiles, therefore, all people of the earth. Just as the wise men from the East represent those people not from Israel, so God's love reaches far beyond any national boundary. For foreign wise men to follow a star and reach Bethlehem, too, represents the greater mystery of God's work in a little one born to a peasant family to be worshiped by the rulers of the earth. The visit of the wise men changes everything. Strangers become family. Rulers are humbled. The humbled are exalted, and through the birth of Jesus, God's love reaches the ends of the world. Think about ways you have seen God's love reaching the ends of the earth today.

Pray: God of the nations, you unite all the people of the earth through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to recognize in the face of others your saving work for all people. Give us hearts to share the mystery of your will and your love with all that you have made through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Matthew 2:9-11, the wise men followed a star and "when they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy" (vv. 9b-10). They entered the house where the star stopped and saw Mary and the child. They knelt, honored, and worshiped Jesus and gave him gifts. God guided the wise men to Jesus with a star. What guides you to Jesus today? Name ways you can be a "star" to guide others to Jesus through your actions and words.

Epiphany is an older tradition than Christmas for recognizing the birth of Jesus. Many places around the globe have some form of a Three King's Cake, an Epiphany cake or bread that is made to celebrate the visit of the wise men and honor Christ's birth. In the Spanish-speaking world it is called "*Rosca de Reyes*." Buy or make a Three King's Cake or bread and enjoy this treat as part of your Epiphany Day celebrations.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12