

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 17, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ares” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.*

# 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

*“Blest Are They”*

**ELW 728**

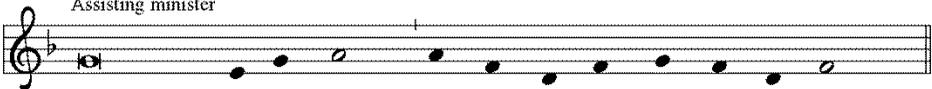
## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G** And also with you.

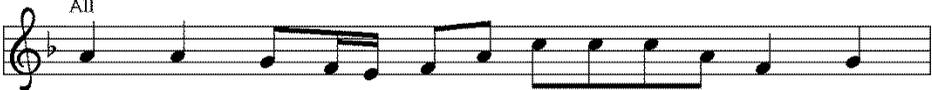
# GLORIA

Assisting minister



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

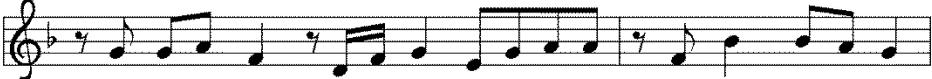
All



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

**P** Living God,

**C** in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

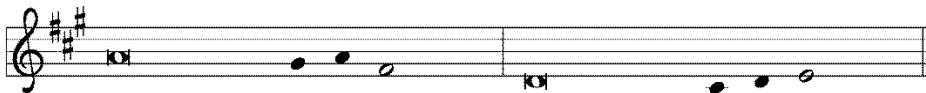
**T**hus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 1

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



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

(continued on next page)

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so | with the wicked;**

**they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

**N**ow if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**G** 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.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

**J**esus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.<sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: *“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”*<sup>21</sup> *“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”* *“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”*<sup>22</sup> *“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.”*<sup>23</sup> *Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.”*<sup>24</sup> *“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”*<sup>25</sup> *“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.”* *“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.”*<sup>26</sup> *“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!”*

ELW 369

## 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: **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 Joyce Sievers, mother of Karen Wolf, grandmother of Nancy Rayno

**Illness:** Don Burton, Ralph Diggins, Jr. Green, Rev. Harry Fink, father of Pastor Stacy Martin, Carolyn Nippert, David Penning, Bob Ringo, Gary Rodene, Lorna Swingen, Marlys Thomas, Joanne Worm, Ed & Darlene White

**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

*“Blessed Are They”*

Lee Dengler

## 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.

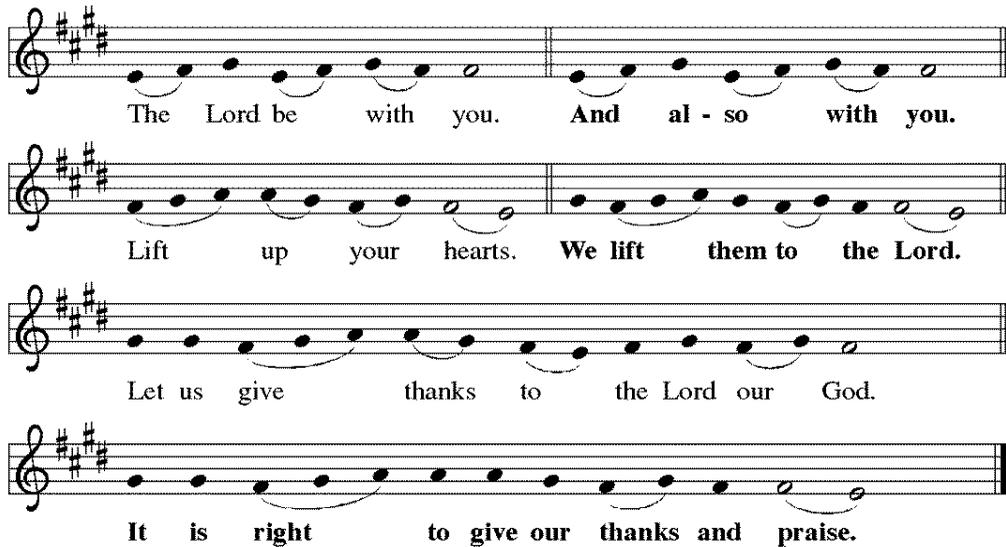


We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

## 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.

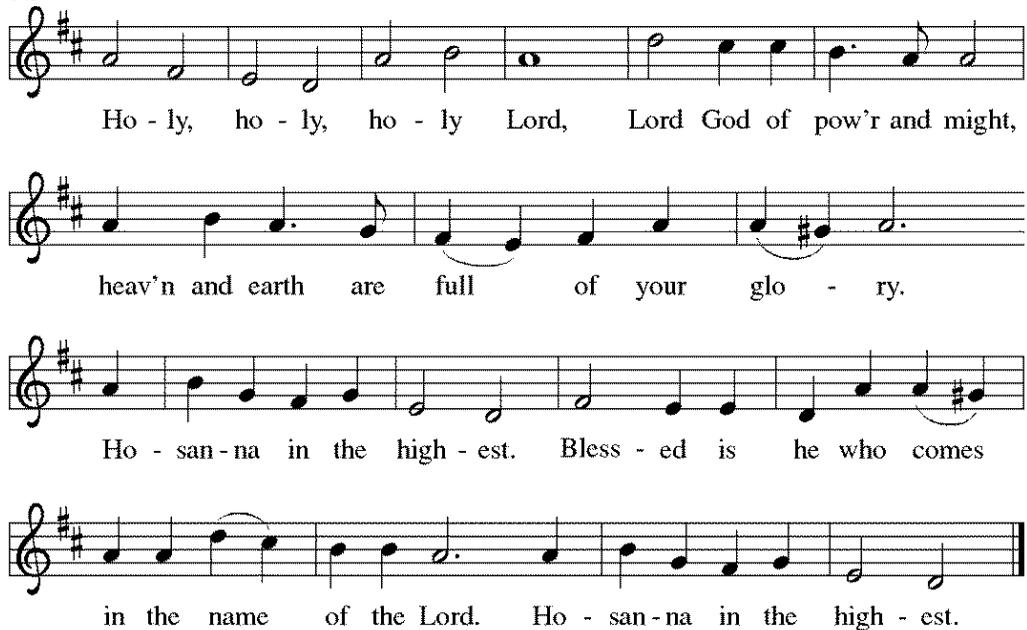
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.



# 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

*“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

**ELW 543**

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Jesus Christ is your light.  
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



# **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

## **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**February 17, 2019**

### **The Good Life**

What does a good life look like, and how does one achieve it? That question has been asked by everyone from average people to the greatest philosophers for as long as humans have been around. Adults share their answers with children through moral tales. Advertisers promise it to consumers through carefully calculated stories and pictures. In both cases, the “blessings” of the right choice are contrasted with the “woes” of the wrong.

In today’s gospel, Jesus speaks his own series of blessings and woes that paint a counterintuitive picture of the good life. He stands among a crowd of people who have come to him to be healed of diseases and unclean spirits. People of Jesus’ time blamed ailments on individuals’ own poor choices and sins. But as Jesus looks around at the crowd, he calls them blessed: the poor, the hungry, the weeping, the hated, the reviled, and the defamed. They are blessed because their poverty, hunger, grief, and pain have brought them to Christ, through whom God’s power goes out to heal all people.

It can be easy to paint a version of the good life, or even the “good church,” based on worldly visions of prosperity, success, and righteousness. But the goodness of the church comes from the one who stands at its center: Jesus Christ. As we come together to worship, our Lord draws around himself a crowd with ailments, wounds, and worries, many of which the world has taught us to cover up and hide. But together we listen to Christ’s words of grace and receive his body and blood at the table. What does the good life look like? Broken people being healed together in the presence of Christ.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## 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.	Lee Johnson Jill Gittler Dan Collett
Lector	Melissa Osentowski
Ushers	Rodney Nord Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Brad Madison Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Bev Troxel Lois Sorensen
Crucifer Acolytes	Britten Johnson Rahn Johnson Clara Kidder

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Lowell Harms
Lector	Jacob Rump
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer Acolytes	Torin Edwards Abby Rigas Anna Kotula



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**February 16 & 17, 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 over 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:** Adam Klinker presents on Seminary Visit to Germany **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum

**ETERNAL CANDLE** is given to the glory of God are given to the glory of God in memory of Jean Franklin, sister of Pat given by Robert & Pat Ranney

**TELEVISION BROADCAST** is sponsored by Vicki Mary Olson

**CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS** This Sunday, February 17, 3:00 - 5:30 PM, we are invited to EVENSONG, an annual celebration highlighting Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Omaha metro colleges and universities at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge). Enjoy wonderful food and beverages, take part in the silent auction, and join a student-led worship service of Holden Evening Prayer. If you sing or play an instrument, you can join others for special music. For more information call Campus Pastor Jim Holthus at 218-760-2028 and leave a short message."

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us each Sunday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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—8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

**JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** No Children's Choir today

*(Continued on page 2)*

**February 17 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)  
**NO** 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)  
 10:10 AM Endowment Board  
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

**February 18 Monday**

President's Day  
 OFFICE CLOSED  
 10:00 AM Pantry  
 6:00 PM Clinic Board

**February 19 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
 6:00 PM Congregational Council

**February 20 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship  
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner  
 6:30 PM Confirmation  
 7:30 PM Worship

**February 21 Thursday**

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon  
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
 7:00 PM Circle 5  
 8:15 PM Taize @ Creighton

**February 23 Saturday**

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)  
 5:00 PM Worship

**February 24 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)  
**NO** Adult Forum  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)  
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

**TODAY AT KOUNTZE** *(continued from page 1)*

but join us again next Sunday from 9:00—9:30 AM. All children (K— 5<sup>th</sup> grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

February 17 Construction—**Paul Sum**, Retired Contractor, Upland Construction

February 24 Prosecutorial Law—**Mike Jensen**, District Attorney; **Ann Miller**, District Attorney, Douglas County Nebraska

**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 March 17 & 24 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 when you register.

**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](http://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 Cathedral | Kountze Memorial, together with St. Cecilia and other donors will be sponsoring The National Lutheran Choir in concert on Saturday, March 2, 8:00 PM at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St). The Choir will be singing “The Holy Spirit Mass, Together in Hope” which was written in commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> 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.

**BAPTISM SEMINAR** Sunday, March 10, 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.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** An introduction to Holy Communion for those children and youth receiving their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, will be held in a two-part session, on Sundays, March 31 & April 7 from 12:15-1:00 PM. More details to follow. Please register with the church office. For more information, contact Pr Hall or Kristin Boe.

**CHURCH ARCHIVES** Are you interested in learning more about the History of Kountze? The archives committee is looking for volunteers to help preserve the history of Kountze. Over the next few years we would like to digitize a lot of the Church’s records, meeting notes, youth trip reports etc. There are not formal set times if you can spare an hour or two after a worship service or maybe while a spouse is volunteering at pantry or sewing group we would love to have your help. For more information please contact the Church office or [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org).

**DISCOVERY TRIP | July 16–27, 2019 | Moshi, Tanzania** In November Jonna Holland and Carol Stoltenberg shared their Tanzania experiences with us at a Sunday morning Forum. Even though both of them had traveled quite a bit before, this was a special kind of trip, different and more meaningful than anything they had so far

experienced. The people they met were so poor and yet so joyful and generous. If you would like to participate in the 2019 Discovery Trip to Tanzania, check out the details at <https://files.constantcontact.com/8c919081201/da73c243-3f82-4e78-8696-03d37afe9824.pdf>. But BEWARE! This is a life changing adventure! Consider joining Carol on this trip of a lifetime and get the chance to see the “big 5” African animals on a Serengeti safari as well.

#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 48

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 136 **11:00:** 83

**Midweek - Noon:** 12 **Evening:** 16

**Total:** 295

**Pantry Guests Served:** 388

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 35

**Offering:**

\$19,571.50 (Regular) \$4,408.35 (Specials)

\$9,522.00 (Phase 2)

*To be blessed is to have joy and contentment.*

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Acts 13:26-34	Bring the good news
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Sermon on the Mount
Saturday	Psalms 1	Blessed are the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is in the LORD. **Jeremiah 17:7 (NRSV)**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Merciful God, bless your people like a tree planted by water that bears fruit, even during dry seasons. Amen.  
(Psalm 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

As we eat this meal, may your word feed the soul and give joy and contentment to the heart. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with contentment, with joy, and with laughter through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Luke 6:20-22)

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

- Tell or think about a time you felt very fortunate, very happy.
- Talk or think about a time you felt as though things were going badly for you.
- In the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-26), Jesus describes those who are experiencing difficulties as people who are blessed. How can this be?

*Read:* Luke 6:17-26.

We can hear ourselves and others describe our lives as blessed when something good happens to us. However, Jesus reverses this thinking in what is called the Sermon on the Plain. The poor, the hungry, those weeping, those hated because of the Son of Man will, in the future, receive riches, food, laughter, and joy. So confident is Jesus of this future that he calls them blessed now. The reverse is true for those who receive fortunes now. They are called cursed. Jesus presents a view of life with very different standards and rewards than most people value today. Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17 do so as well. To trust the wisdom, the teachings of God, gives the blessed life, not human powers filled with deviousness (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus, the psalmist, and Jeremiah honor a life that trusts God's word above all things. This gives a life more to be treasured than what one sees and experiences now. This is faith that blesses us with joy and contentment. Recall difficult times you have had or are now experiencing. Hear and believe Jesus' words read in this passage from Luke 6 that you, as a follower of Jesus, are blessed, no matter your circumstances.

*Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

In Luke 6, Jesus lifts up the poor, the hungry, and the grieving for a reason. These are the ones for whom the Bible shows God's preferential care. Be on the lookout for how you can show God's care for the poor, the hungry, and the grieving this week—and always. What can you do this week to care for those in need?

Blessing others is an ancient tradition, a way to speak of God's love and care for others. It often comes with a physical gesture. It is the act of a faith community that communicates God's word of peace and joy. That community can be a parent with a child or a pastor with a congregation. This week offer a blessing to another person, perhaps to a family member when they leave the house or go to bed, or to a friend when you depart from each other's company. When you do so, make the sign of the cross on that person's forehead as a reminder of God's baptismal promise.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38