

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

February 24, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.

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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord Jesus,

C make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

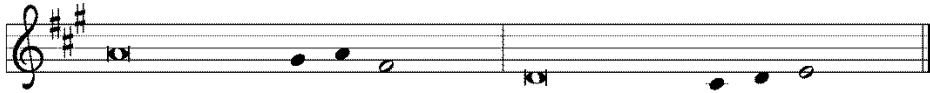
⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

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



¹Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.

⁶**The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

¹⁰**In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

³⁹**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other

grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C 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 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

Jesus said: ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even

sinner do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

☐ 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

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

ELW 359

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 Linda Carlan, sister of Sheri Tipton

Joy: for the birth of Effie Diggins on 2/15, daughter of Melody Diggins and grand-daughter of Ralph and Janet Diggin

Illness: Don Burton, Ralph Diggins, Rev. Harry Fink, father of Stacy Martin, Carolyn Nippert, David Penning, Bob Ringo, Gary Rodene, Lorna Swingen, Marlys Thomas, Merlyn Ulrich, 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

“Put On Love”

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.

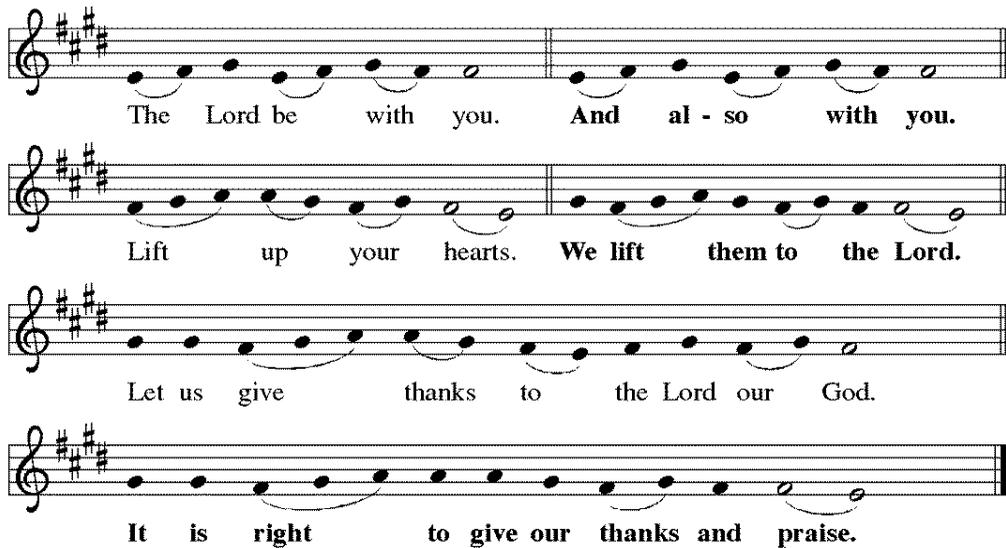


We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

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.

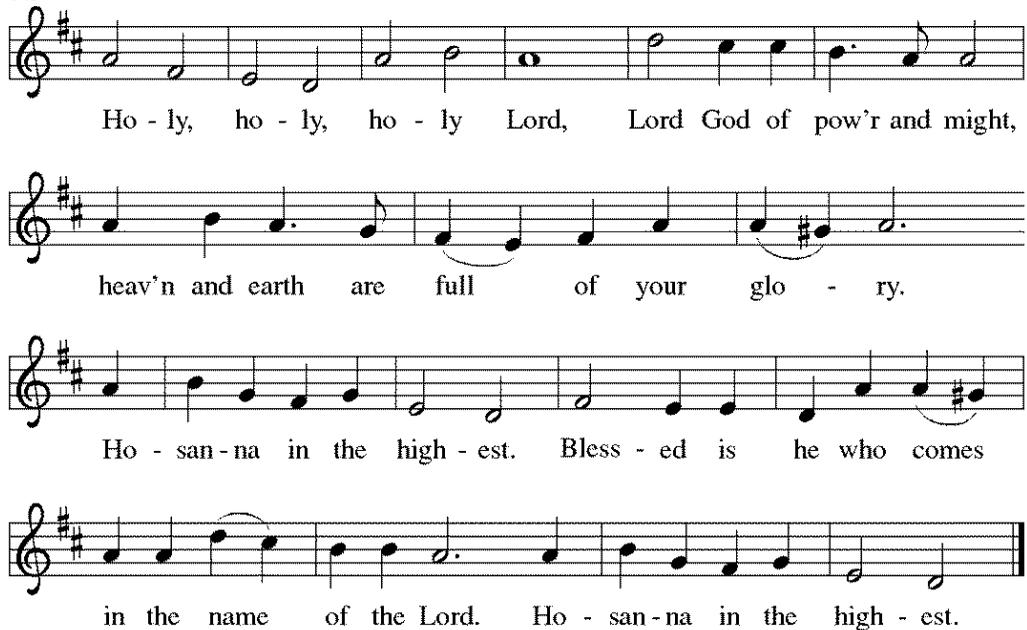
HOLY COMMUNION



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.

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

"God, When Human Bonds are Broken"

ELW 603

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

ELW 645

(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

“There Is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

ELW 588

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	James Smejkal Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Jim Smejkal

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Adam Klinker Lorie Groenjes Susie Henry
Lector	Liz Pemberton
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	Carter Waccholtz Anna Kidder John Groenjes

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Ashley Sum
Lector	Ashley Sum
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer Acolytes	Torin Edwards Rachel Stouffer Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 23 & 24 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 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:** No Forum **NEXT WEEK:** Preview of Lent

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.

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

March 3 Scientific Research—**Don Johnson**

March 10 Broadcast Journalism—**Sarah Fili**, TV News Reporter,
KETV

(Continued on page 2)

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

February 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 7:00 PM Circle 3

February 27 Wednesday

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

February 28 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

March 1 Friday

College Scholarship Deadline

March 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
 4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
 5:00 PM Worship
 8:00 PM National Lutheran Choir @ St. Cecilias

March 3 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord
 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)
 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 Eucharistic Minister Gathering
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

TODAY AT KOUNTZE *(continued from page 1)*

March 17	Pharmacology— Larry Camenzind
March 24	Information Technology or Computer Programming
March 31	Food Industry

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.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet at 6 PM, February 28.

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 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 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.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Tuesday, March 5, 12:00 PM. \$4.00 for Lunch. All ages are welcome! Join us as we welcome, our very own Kountze member, Adam Klinker. He will be telling us all about his journey to Ordination, including his studies in Germany! Whether you missed Adam at Adult Forum on 2/17 or not, you won't want to miss his presentation! Looking forward to seeing you there!

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.

LUTHERAN YOUTH CHOIR OF THE OMAHA AREA Join this new creative, spiritual, musical, joyful, soulful, vibrant ensemble in sharing the Good News of God's abundant Love! This ensemble welcomes Middle School/High School singers and instrumentalists from all denominations. Join us as we Sing a New Song to the Lord! Our repertoire will draw from many rich sources: Classical literature, Hymn arrangements, Contemporary (though not praise band music) compositions, Spirituals, and Songs of Faith from around the world. Three - five rehearsals will be held in preparation for annual Spring programs. For information/rehearsal schedule, please contact Janet at Janet@kmlchurch.org. Rehearsals begin in March at Kountze Memorial Church. Please email to let us know that you will joining us!! 🎵

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 6

Worship: 12:15 & 7:00 PM

Lenten Meals:

Lunch: 11:15 AM

Dinner: 5:45 PM

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 36

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 69 11:00: 49

Midweek - Snow Day

Total: 154

Pantry Guests Served: 272

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 32

Offering:

\$ 42,046.04 (Regular) \$19,366.51 (Specials)

\$2,157.00 (Phase 2)

Be merciful as God is merciful.

Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies
Monday	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Joseph reveals himself
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	The resurrection body
Wednesday	Genesis 43:16-34	Joseph is kind to his brothers
Thursday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Friday	1 John 2:7-17	A new commandment
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured



Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **Luke 6:36-37 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, let us follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May this food give us strength to overcome anger and anxiety with love and mercy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord rescue you from all your enemies and be your hiding place in times of trouble. (Psalm 37:40)

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

- When has someone showed kindness and forgiveness toward you? Explain.
- Tell or think about a time you showed kindness and forgiveness toward someone.
- What makes it easy or difficult to show mercy to someone else?

Read: Luke 6:27-38.

Compassion is a powerful force in life. We grow up wanting to be fair, but fairness is not as easy as it might first appear, especially when we try to see life through someone else's eyes. Finally, fairness falls short. Only kindness and mercy can heal relationships and give hope to a divided and broken world. Jesus speaks as a wise sage, one who points his followers in the direction of compassion that requires courage and strength of character, grounded in knowing that our God is the God of love and mercy. When the body of Christ speaks and acts faithfully with courage and strength, it speaks and acts with mercy. The church has little to say to the world if it does not know the ultimate power of God's mercy. Take time to reflect silently on the power, beauty, and grace of God's mercy. If you are with others, talk about your thoughts after the time of silence.

Pray: God of mercy, give us the grace, power, and faith to trust you so that we can love our enemies, and give without an expectation of receiving in return. Let us follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Sometimes it is difficult to love those near and dear to us. Jesus directs us to love our enemies and pray for them. Is there a person who is hard for you to like or makes you angry or afraid? Pray for this person and then think of an act of kindness you can do for this person whether writing a note or leaving a gift.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 encourages us to trust the Lord when we are being mistreated by wrongdoers. Feeling mistreated by others can make us feel hurt and our relationship with them changes. Write a list of people who have wronged you in the past. Then say the Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. Pause after "forgive us our trespasses (sins and debts) as we forgive those who trespass against us," and read the names you have written aloud or silently before finishing the prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2 ; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]