

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

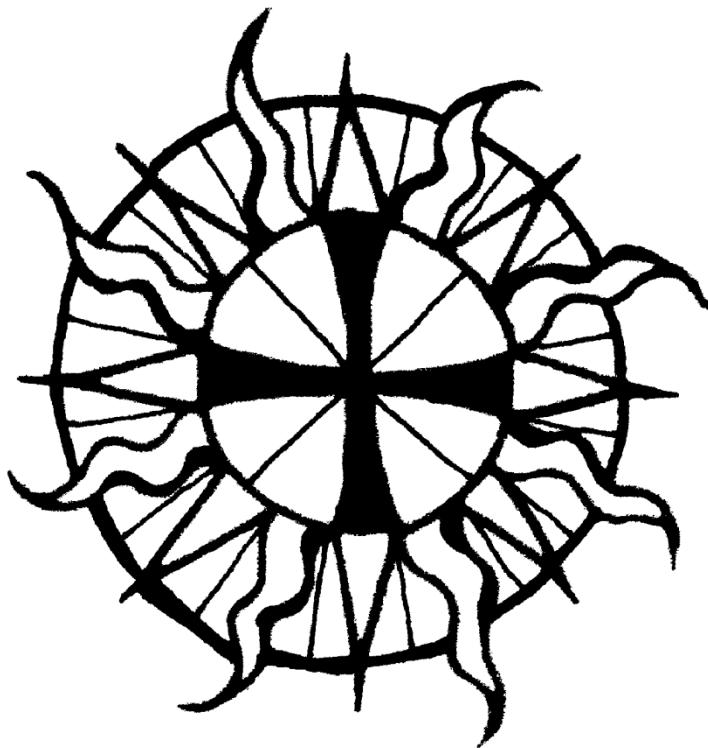
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 3, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

## CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ¶ 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.
- ¶ Amen.
- ¶ Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

- ¶ Mighty and loving God,
- ¶ 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.

- ¶ 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.
- ¶ Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“In His Temple Now Behold Him”*

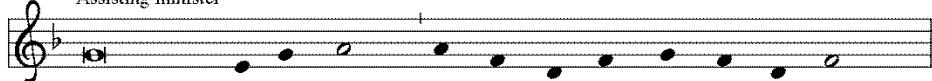
**ELW 417**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ¶ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ¶ And also with you.

# GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,



we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,



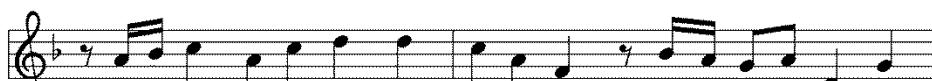
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;



you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.



For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Almighty and ever-living God,  
**C** your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(*sit*)

### FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

*This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.*

**S**ee, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

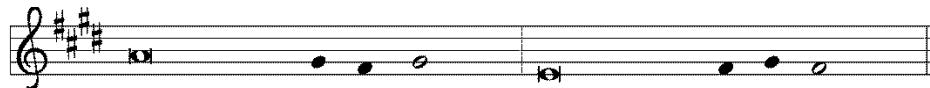
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 84

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



<sup>1</sup>How dear to me | is your dwelling,

O | LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD;**  
**my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they who dwell | in your house!**

**They will always be | praising you.**

<sup>5</sup>**Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.**

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

<sup>7</sup>**They will climb from | height to height,  
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.**

<sup>8</sup>**LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;  
give ear, O | God of Jacob.**

<sup>9</sup>**Behold our defend- | er, O God;  
and look upon the face of | your anointed.**

<sup>10</sup>**For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the  
tents | of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>**For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;  
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk | with integrity.**

<sup>12</sup>**O | LORD of hosts,  
happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 2:14-18**

*Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.*

**S**ince, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:14-21

*This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.*

**W**hen the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),<sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.<sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed<sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon 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 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 Hall

(stand)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"O God of Mercy, God of Light"*

**ELW 714 vs 1-4**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

- P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response: **L** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

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

*"I am the Light of Nations"*

Lloyd Larson

## **THE TABLE IS PREPARED**

(stand)

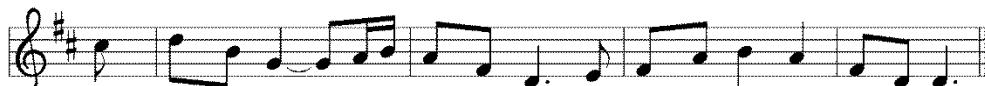
## OFFERTORY HYMN

*"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

Four-line musical staves in G major, common time, featuring eighth and sixteenth note patterns. The lyrics are centered under each staff.

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

*"Now We Join in Celebration"*

**ELW 462**

*"Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed"*

**ELW 463**

(stand)

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*"Now Lord Let Your Servant Depart"*

**ELW 201**

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in G major, common time, with a treble clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has  
been ful-filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion  
which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## **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**

### **DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

#### **BLESSING**

- P** 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 <sup>☩</sup> Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

#### **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**HYMN**

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

**ELW 631**

#### **DISMISSAL**

- P** Go in peace. Jesus Christ is your light.  
**C** **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
	Custodian
Søren Johnson	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Children's Music
Donna Moessner	Custodian
Danny Bos	Organist
Mark Jones	Saturday Accompanist
David Gerard	Night Security Manager
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Nursery Superintendent
Norma Pafford	Urban Ministries Coordinator

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
Comm. Set-up	Theresa Gruber

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder
Lector	Jeff Perkins
Ushers	Kevin Larkowski
Greeters	Colleen Lenners
Crucifer	Rodney Nord
Acolytes	Donna Crouse
	Ralph Diggins
	Brad Madison
	Dan Troxel
	Sharon West
	Dean Winther
	Bob Johnson
	Colleen Lenners
	Bev Troxel
	Lois Sorensen
	Clara Kidder
	Anna Kidder
	Communion Assistant

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller
Lector	Jennifer Bunge
Ushers	Ruth Pera
Greeters	Norm Sack
Crucifer	Ken Johnson
Acolytes	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
	Charlie Campbell
	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

**February 2 & 3, 2018**

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.*

## TODAY AT KOUNTZE

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

**ADULT FORUM** Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Congregational Meeting **NEXT WEEK:** Paul Sum presents of Roof Renovations

**PRESERVATION OF OUR LORD/CANDLEMAS** 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" at 9:00 AM Sunday morning. If you didn't bring your child's baptismal candle, we'll provide one.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth of Mara Elisabeth Grassmeyer

## 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.



(Continued on page 2)

## **February 3 Sunday**

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 Presentation of Our Lord/Candlemas

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - Cong. Meeting

10:10 AM Congregational Meeting

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

## **February 4 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

## **February 5 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## **February 6 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

6:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM Worship

## **February 7 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## **February 9 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

## **February 10 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)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

12:00 PM Book Group

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

**JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Join us each 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 3: Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

February 10: **Don Johnson**, Research Scientist

February 17: **Paul Sum** on construction Careers

February 24: **Ann Miller** and **Mike Jensen**, District Attorneys

**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 September 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. 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.

**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.

**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 hem 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:** 50

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 193   **11:00:** 86

**Midweek - Closed due to weather**

**Total:** 329

**Pantry Guests Served:** 355

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 29

**Offering:**

\$16,773.13 (Regular) \$9,463.06 (Specials)

\$1,715.00 (Phase 2)

**CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS** On 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 he 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."

*The good news of Jesus breaks down barriers.*

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	The Lord chooses the boy Jeremiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 34:1-7	The reign of Josiah
Thursday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Friday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Saturday	Psalm 71:1-6	A prayer for God's protection
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples



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[The people of Nazareth] got up, drove [Jesus] out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. **Luke 4:29-30 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Compassionate God, your mercy brings in the foreigner and the enemy into your reign of love. Help us to be your loving messengers today. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, give us hearts that are grateful for your kindness that feeds us and strengthens us each day. Help us to be your loving servants. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God of righteousness be your refuge and strength, your rock and your fortress. (Psalm 71:2-3)

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Describe or think about what it means to be a friend.
- If you were asked to choose a team, how would you decide who is on your side?
- People often join together by finding a common enemy. In Luke 4:21-30 Jesus alienates himself from his own townspeople by telling how God supported the enemies of Israel. How is Jesus' message of God's support for those rejected by others good news for you?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: Luke 4:21-30.*

Jesus preaches in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth (4:14-21). The people are thrilled and praise Jesus until he points out how God cared for a foreign widow when there were plenty of widows who needed help in Israel and how God healed Naaman, the commander of an enemy army. The townspeople did not like the way Jesus showed how God cared for the enemy of the people of Israel. Historically, religion has often been used to support one's own people, supporting nationalism over true faith. Jesus experienced this, too. How do you see that happening in our world today? God's love leads us to a humility that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7). How can God's love lead you to break down barriers between you and people you might consider your "enemy" because they disagree with you or are different than you?

*Pray: Dear Merciful God, thank you for loving us beyond anything we deserve. Guide us to love others, especially those we see as different from us. Help us to love as we have been loved through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SERVICE

Children and youth can easily be seen as the "church of the future" or future leaders in society. In Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:5-6 God trains and equips children to be faithful followers now, not later, and, in Jeremiah's case, a prophetic leader. Identify how you can support and mentor children and youth in the faith community and larger society.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God's love breaks down all barriers and all loyalties that separate one from another. Even our faith commitments mean nothing without love. It is a tradition for some people to keep a love journal. Pictures, sketches, and notes are captured in the journal as they see or experience images or acts of love in their daily life. Consider creating your own love journal and begin a daily ritual this week of prayerfully reciting 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, the great love hymn of the New Testament.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11