KOUNTZE
Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street **Omaha, NE 68131**
402-341-7761 **www.kmlchurch.org**

March 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.*

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	Director of the Weber Clinic

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	James Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Jim Smejkal

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Adam Klinker
	Jill Gittler
	Kevin Larkowski
Lector	Jan Falk
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Ted Kaasch
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Marcy Madison
Greeters	Sharon Anderson
	Carole Meilahn
	Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Carter Waccholtz
Acolytes	Clara Kidder
	Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum
	Lowell Harms
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Adam Klinker
	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Communion Assistant
	Communion Assistant

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ 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:** What is a 'Theology of the Cross'? **NEXT WEEK:** What is a 'Theology of the Cross'?, Pt. 2

NEW MEMBER CLASS continues this Sunday, March 24, from 12:15—2:00 PM. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY We are getting ready to create a new photo directory and we need you to help make it complete! Our directory will showcase our families, provide contact information, and become a useful resource to keep us connected. By participating, you will receive a printed and electronic version of the new directory at no cost to you. Sign up today for your professional photography session. 1. Schedule your appointment online on our website (www.kmlchurch.org) 2. Look for sign-up tables on weekends, located in the Fellowship Hall 3. Use the QR code in this announcement page 4. or call (Susie: 402-596-9397; Darlene: 402-558-0772; Cookie: 402-593-0429; Liz: 402 -957-4775) for assistance. Our directory won't be complete without you. Sign up today!

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

(Continued on page 2)

March 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)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
12:15 PM New Member Class
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

March 25 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

March 26 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3

March 27 Wednesday
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Lenten Dinner
7:00 PM Worship

March 28 Thursday
1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
8:15 PM Taize @ Creighton

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

March 31 Sunday
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Receive New Members
9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM OSJ Commissioning
12:00 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch
12:15 PM 1st Communion Class

TODAY AT KOUNTZE *(continued from page 1)*

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.

March 24	Technology: Chad Picha, PayPal
March 31	Food Industry: Jerry Clanton, Retired
April 7	Engineering—**Tarna Kidder**, Construction Manager, Kiewit Building Group, Inc.
April 14	Banking & Finance: Micah Fannin, Mercer Investment Consulting
April 21	Easter—No Youth Forum

LUTHERAN YOUTH CHOIR OF THE OMAHA AREA Rehearsal for this new creative, spiritual, musical, joyful, soulful, vibrant ensemble begins this Sunday afternoon (March 24) at 6:00 PM. This ensemble welcomes Middle School/High School singers and instrumentalists from all denominations. Join us as we Sing a New Song to the Lord! Contact Janet Campbell if you'd like to be a part of the choir or with questions by email (Janet@kmlchurch.org) or call 402-880-0155.

NEBRASKA FLOODS The Nebraska Synod is coordinating with Lutheran Disaster Response to prepare for recovery efforts following last week's flooding and blizzard. Individuals and congregations wanting to support the future cleanup efforts, can send donations to the Nebraska Synod Disaster Fund. You can make the check out to Kountze and we'll make sure it gets to them. Please include "Nebraska Floods" in the memo line of your check or on your giving envelope. You may also mail your check to: Nebraska Synod ELCA, 6757 Newport Avenue, Suite 200, Omaha, NE 68152.

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.

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING AND APPRECIATION LUNCH Sunday, March 31. Commissioning: 11:00 AM Worship Service Luncheon: 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall Cost: Free. The OSJ Sponsors are hosting an appreciation luncheon for all current OSJ members, alums, and parents. Acolytes will take part in a special commissioning during the 11:00 AM worship service. Then, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 PM for an appreciation luncheon and present the 2019 Outstanding Acolyte Award. A group photo will also be taken. Please plan to attend this event as we honor all those who serve in this very meaningful ministry. Make your reservations by calling or texting Jeff and Robin Perkins at 402-917-2461 by Sunday, March 24.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Our program will be Midland's Pet Therapy. They will be telling us all about what they do, and also will be bringing, 2 therapy dogs for a visit! Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, March 29, so that we know how much food to prepare. If you have any questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. We hope to see you there!

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.

FREE A CAPPELLA CONCERT! The Fort Dodge Iowa High School A Cappella Choir will perform a Concert at Bethel Lutheran Church (1312 S. 45th St) on Saturday, April 6, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to come at 6:00 for a meal before the Concert. Refreshments will be served after the Concert. Matt Drees is the director of the Choir. Matt is the music director at Fort Dodge High School. He has a group of very talented singers. It will be a perfect way to spend your Saturday evening!

HELP NEEDED TO HOST FORT DODGE STUDENTS The Fort Dodge A Cappella Choir needs families to host them for Saturday night (April 6) and return them to the Church Sunday morning. If you could host 2-4 students, it would be much appreciated. If you would be able to host student(s) please call or email Shanna at 402-554-1945 or 402-639-1091 (if no answer please leave a message and) or email msmharald@cox.net or shannaharald@creighton.edu .

LENT AT KOUNTZE

Wednesdays:	March 27, April 3, 10 and Thursday, April 18 (Maundy Thursday)
Lunch:	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Dinner:	5:45 -6:45 PM
Worship:	12:15 PM and 7:00 PM
Cost:	Free-will Offering

All KMLC children, youth, friends, and families are invited to join us for lunch and/or dinner Wednesdays during Lent. Come and celebrate your Lenten journey at Kountze Memorial this year! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help prepare the meals. If you can help for one or more meals, please speak with Marlys or Pastor Olaf.

MENU FOR MARCH 27

Pulled Pork Picnic with
Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, & Potato Salad

Come hungry and join us!

We have the Spirit, yes we do! We have the Spirit, how about you?

This play on words with the popular cheer reminds us of our Nebraska Synod's 2019 Lenten Theme, We are Church Together. The Holy Spirit uses us all in ways we haven't dreamed or imagined to be the Church Together.

Since one of the goals is to unite congregations across the Nebraska Synod in common conversation during Lent 2019. It is a wonderful opportunity for us as individual disciples and as a congregation (together with the rest of the Synod) to explore what it means that we are the Church Together.

The schedule of Wednesday topics will be:

March 27: "Diversity and Challenges"

April 3: "Joys and Burdens"

April 10: "We Are Connected"

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 43
Sunday Attendance: **9:00**: 237 **11:00**: 96
Midweek - Noon: 61 **Evening**: 81
Total: 518
Pantry Guests Served: 363
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 33
Offering:
$23,057.75 (Regular) $2,032.00 (Specials)
$1,012.00 (Phase 2)

An urgent call to repentance.

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	Ezekiel 18:25b-32	Repent and live
Thursday	Luke 3:1-9	The fruit of repentance
Friday	Hosea 14:1-9	Return to the Lord
Saturday	Psalm 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
Psalm 63:1 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:
Dear God, help us to repent of our self-centeredness to discover your steadfast love and joy. Amen.
Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, you who satisfy our every need, we thank you for this food, a reminder of the feast you promise us through your steadfast love. Amen.
A Blessing to Give:
May the Lord of abundance fill you with God's steadfast love and send you on your way with joy and gladness.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:
- Talk or think about something you want to see happen soon.
- Tell or think about a time you have been really thirsty and without water or when you have wanted something very much and did not have it at the moment.
- Repentance in the Bible literally means to have a new mind, to change your way of thinking. How is longing for God with your whole being (Psalm 63:1) a form of repentance?

Read: Luke 13:1-9.
Jesus was addressing people's questions about those who had died in tragic accidents. Did these people die because they sinned? Jesus points out that the questioners misunderstand the work of God. The people asking Jesus are in the same situation as those who died tragically. Jesus says, ". . . unless you repent, you will all perish as they did" (Luke 13:3, 5). Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree to point out the immediate need for repentance. We can easily see the call to repentance as a requirement to be remorseful with a commitment to do better. However, biblical repentance is much more than that. It is a discovery filled with a passionate desire to have what is missing in life, God's steadfast love (Psalm 63:1-8). In Isaiah 55 the invitation to the free feast describes this kind of repentance, a change from hunger and poverty to being fully satisfied without want. True repentance brings not only regret but joy, a gladness that does not want to be delayed. How can repentance or being sorry for something done or said bring you joy?
Pray: **God of steadfast love, my soul thirsts for you as in a dry land without water. Help me to hear your urgent call to repentance. Help me to be fully satisfied without want. Amen.**

In the parable of the fig tree (Luke 13:6-9), we are reminded of the importance of bearing fruit, fruit that represents a living faith satisfied by God's goodness. The man in this story asked to have one more year to fertilize the tree and grow fruit on it. Let your heart overflow with thanksgiving and bear fruit of loving service. In what ways within the next year can you share God's goodness with others?

The Bible uses feasts as a way to celebrate life in God's loving presence. During Lent some have the tradition of fasting, which began as early as the 600's. Since eggs, fat, and milk were forbidden, legend tells us that a monk made the first pretzel as a Lenten bread using only water, flour, and salt. He formed the dough into the commonly used prayer position. Arms were crossed on the chest. The Germans called them *bretzels* and they became a traditional food during Lent throughout Europe in the middle ages. Buy pretzels in this shape and as you feast on them, talk about different ways you pray.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32