

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

March 24, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT



The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

☑ Amen.

☐ In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God’s promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

☐ God at the margins,

☑ **We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

☐ Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading you from death into life.

☑ Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Hol,! Lord God Almighty!”

ELW 413

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.**

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'mer' and 'cy'.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord .

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'mer' and 'cy'.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'mer' and 'cy'.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'mer' and 'cy'.

P Help, save comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C 
A - men, a - men.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'men' and 'men'.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Eternal God,

C your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8 (*read responsively*)

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly 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.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸**My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

LENTEN VERSE

“Thy Word”

**Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path**

**Verse 1: When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end**

**Verse 2: I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end**

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P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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

"If You but Trust in God to Guide You"

ELW 769

HOLY BAPTISM (11 am)

Pastor Roynesdal

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9 am)

- ☐ 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.**

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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 Alan Larsen

Illness: Don Burton, Ralph Diggins, Rev. Harry Fink, Jr. Green, Marvel Green, Dolores Hiatt, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Joan Nelson, David Penning, Bob Ringo, Gary Rodene, 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

“Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer ”

arr. Mark Hayes

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

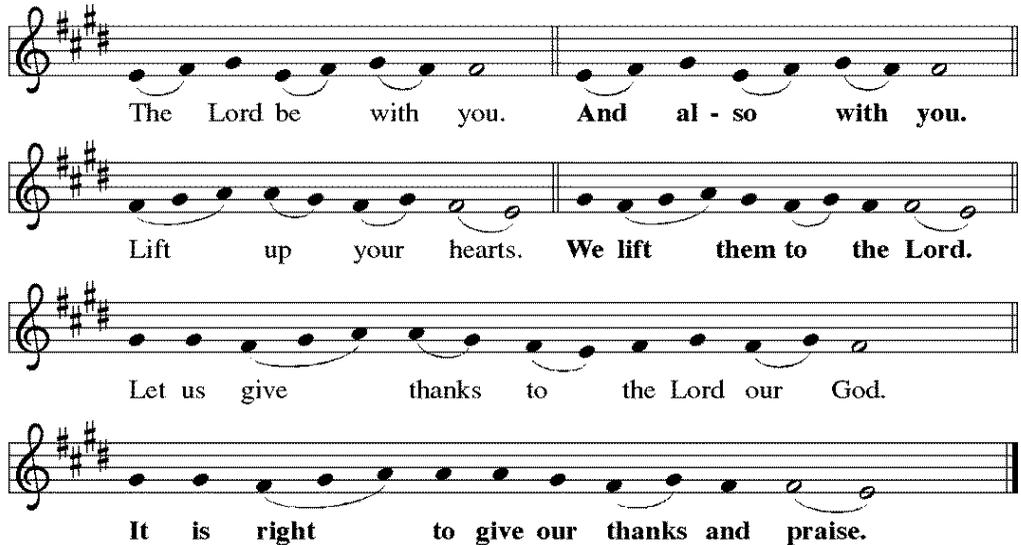


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Generous God,
☑ you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

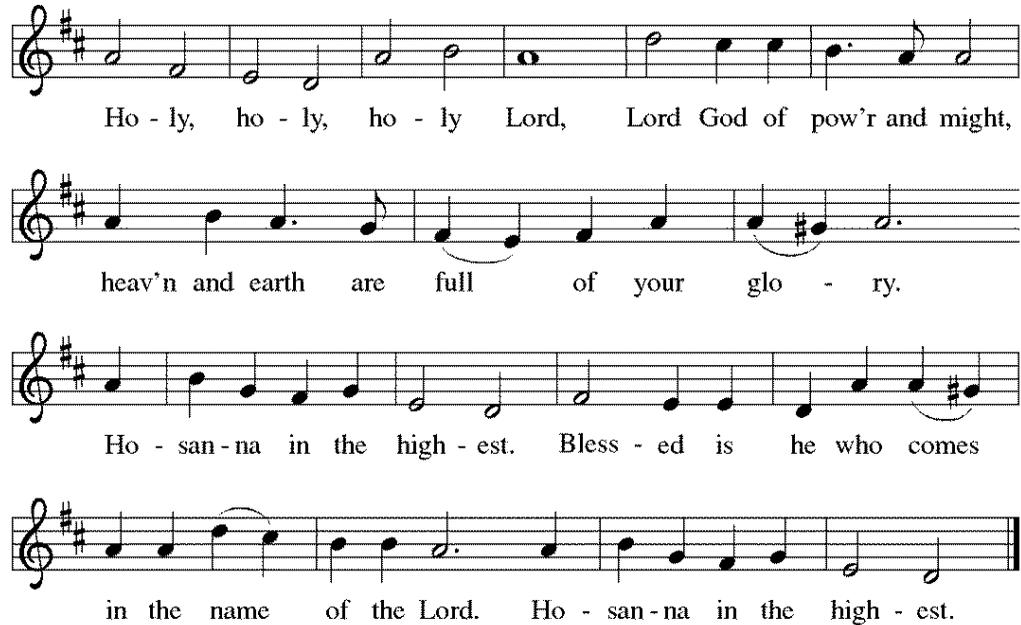
HOLY COMMUNION



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 LENT

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 Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

C **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

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

"Restore In Us, O God"

ELW 328

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

ELW 324

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

"The Nunc Dimittis"

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ Almighty God the Father, who fills the creation with abundance, Jesus Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

ELW 326

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Serve Jesus Christ.
☑ 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	Director of the Weber Clinic

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	James Smejkal Jason Klónglan
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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
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.

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.



**FLOOD
RELIEF**

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.

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	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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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