

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 31, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT



The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P 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.

C Amen.

P 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.

P God at the margins,

C **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.**

P 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.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW 807

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.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C 
Lord, have mer - 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.

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.

P Help, save comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C 
A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ God of compassion,

☞ you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

The, Lord said to Joshua, “*Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.*” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8 (read responsively)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
you must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From, now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

L The word of the Lord.

C 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 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

Now, all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, *“This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

³So Jesus told them this parable: ^{11b}*“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.*

²⁵*“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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 Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

ELW 779

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.**

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING (11:00 am)

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 Scott Diggins, son of Ralph Diggins

Illness: Don Burton, Dwaine Carlsen, Ralph Diggins, Rev. Harry Fink, Jr. Green, Marvel Green, Dolores Hiatt, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Joan Nelson, David Penning, Bob Ringo, Gary Rodene, Joanna Sauder, sister of Donna Crouse & Norma Pafford, 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

“Lead Me Back ”

by Pepper Choplin

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

A musical score for a four-part setting of the Offertory Hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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".

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

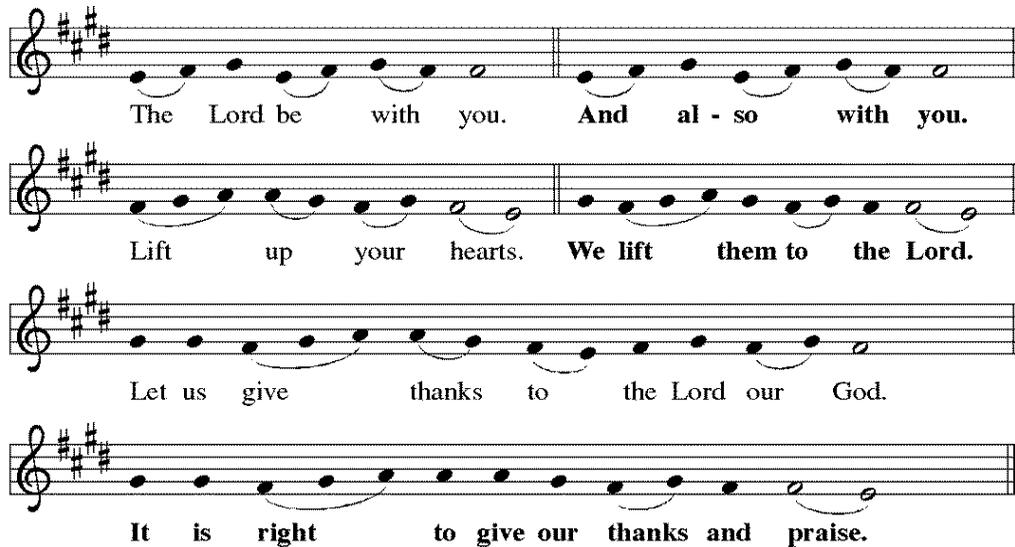


Spir - it from me, Re - store un - to me the joy of
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

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

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is calling"
"What Wondrous Love Is This"

ELW 608

ELW 666

(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

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

ELW 763

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
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

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

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Adam Klinker Kevin Larkowski Lee Johnson
Lector	Karen Fannin
Ushers	Glenn Anderson Dan Collett Ted Kaasch Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Bob Woodworth Marcy Madison
Greeters	Sharon Anderson Carole Meilahn Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Jennifer Bunge
Ushers	Adam Klinker Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Madelyn Hinrichs Brooks Hinrichs



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 30 & 31 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?', Pt. 2 **NEXT WEEK:** What's New In Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue?

NEW MEMBERS We welcome new members this Sunday morning. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them.

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. Photos will be taken May 14 - 18, 21 - 25, and 28 - June 1. 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.

(Continued on page 2)

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

April 1 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

April 3 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Call Committee

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Worship

April 4 Thursday

8:30 AM Cluster Pastor Meeting
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion
4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
5:00 PM Worship

April 7 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 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)
10:10 AM deFreese Manor Board
12:15 PM 1st Communion Class
6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

TODAY AT KOUNTZE *(continued from page 1)*

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.

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
April 28	Agriculture/Natural Sciences

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.

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.

ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING AND APPRECIATION LUNCH today, 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.

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.

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!

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: 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 APRIL 3

Broccoli/Cheese Soup & Black Bean Chili
Chicken Salad & Ham & Cheese Wraps
chicken noodle soup for the kiddos—and Pastor
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:

April 3: "Joys and Burdens"

April 10: "We Are Connected"

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 43

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 237 11:00: 129

Midweek - Noon: 59 **Evening:** 77

Total: 545

Pantry Guests Served: 420

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 37

Offering:

\$11,663.5 (Regular) \$3,699.25 (Specials)
\$827.00 (Phase 2)

We are reunited to God through Christ.

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father
Monday	Joshua 5:9-12	Passover at Gilgal
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Hosea 2:13-20	The Lord courts Israel as a bride
Thursday	Luke 15:4-10	Lost and found
Friday	Colossians 1:15-23	The work of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany

taking
faith
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear gracious and merciful God, thank you for restoring us in a loving relationship to you and for sending us out to extend your love to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts of food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord fill you with good things, with joy and gladness and a clean heart. (Psalm 32:11)

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

- What does it mean to you to be reunited—or reconciled—to another person?
- We all experience difficult times in our relationships to family and friends. What helps to restore good relationships with others?
- As followers of Christ, we represent Christ and his message of being reconciled or reunited to God (Corinthians 5:20). How do you show or communicate to others Christ's work of reconciliation?

Read: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

If children are present, consider role playing this parable. This is one of the most well known parables in the Bible. It has been described as the parable of the prodigal son. It has also been named the parable of the prodigal father. Prodigal means wasteful. How are the son and the father in this parable wasteful? The story is preceded by two other parables about the lost being found and an accusation that Jesus "welcomes sinners and eats with them" (v.2). The current parable ends with the father saying "this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found" (v. 32). Jesus tells the story of a selfish, disrespectful, and disobedient son whose life has fallen apart and yet is fully received once again by his father. Who do you relate to most in this parable? The accepting father? The resentful older son? The disobedient younger son? Explain.

Pray: **Dear Lord, you who welcome sinners and eat with them, we thank you for accepting us as we are and restoring us with extravagant love. Amen.**

It is tempting for us to want to deal with others on the basis of our understanding of fairness, but God sends us out into the world to show God's love that goes beyond fairness to kindness and mercy. Be intentional this week about showing God's kindness and mercy to someone who others may not deem as worthy to receive your care. A warm smile, an act of kindness, or taking time to have a caring conversation is a way to show God's love beyond measure.

The earliest Christian paintings come from tombs in the Catacombs of Rome, Italy. They show the life of Jesus. Christian art continues to be a valuable tradition that communicates the biblical story to us. There are many artists who have interpreted the Prodigal Son through painting. Find artwork online or in books in your local library depicting the parable of the prodigal son. Think about what the various interpretations in the paintings of the father, older son, and younger son tell you about this parable. What do these various paintings suggest to you about our relationship to God?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8