

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

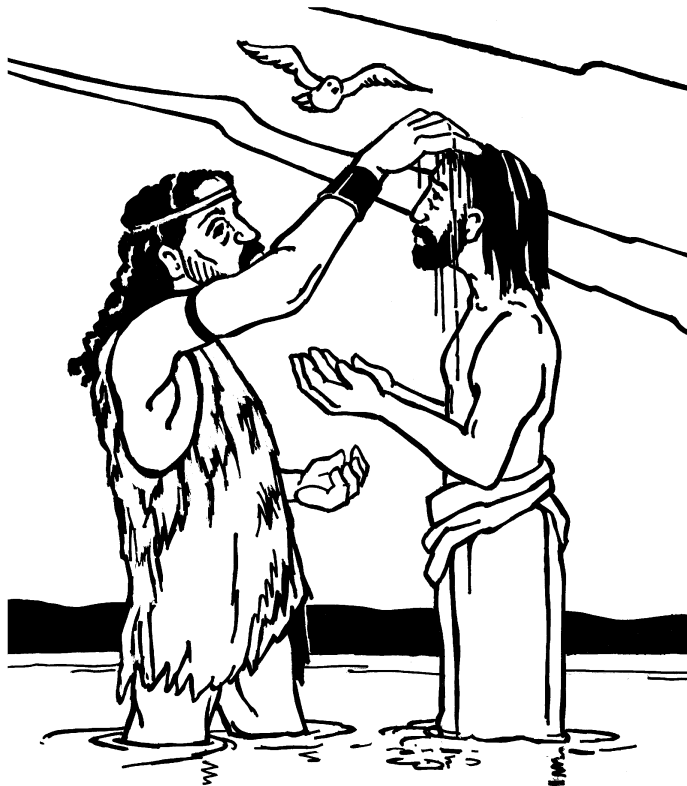
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

January 12, 2020

9:00 & 11:00 AM

BAPTISM of OUR LORD



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

G Amen.

P As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God who searches us and knows us,

G **you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.**

We have not been just in our dealings with others.

We have chosen revenge over mercy.

We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you.

With what shall we come before you?

**Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven:

G Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

ELW 673

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

G And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O God our Father,

☞ **at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

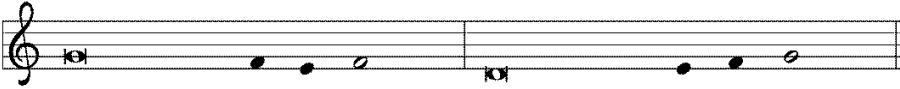
Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29



¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God’s inclusive forgiveness in Jesus’ name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter’s preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “*I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

ELW 517 vs 1

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.**

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, *“I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”* ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, *“Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.”* Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, *“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”*

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”*

ELW 304

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us 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.**

(stand)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** 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: Richard Bock, Joe Bonfante, Ron Brown, Debbie Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Rev. Harry Fink, Samuel Garrett, Susie Henry, Dolores Hiatt, Karrol Kamarath, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Jean Laughlin, Jean Nippert, Mary Olson, Gary Rodene, Bess Swanson, Sheri Tipton, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White, Don Zinnecker

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson

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

“Here marked Not With Water Only”

Robert J. Weaver

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

ELW 310 vs 1&4

- 1** Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

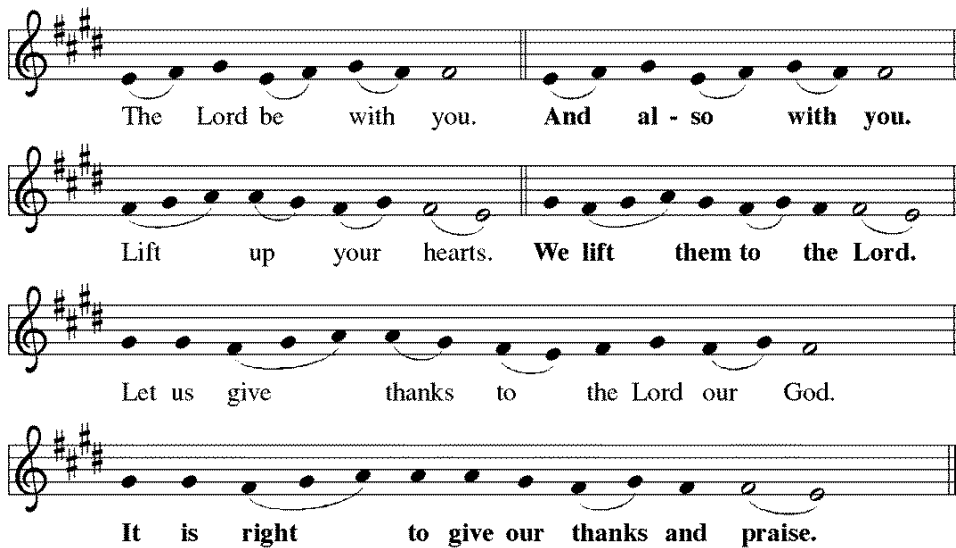
- 4** Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of wonder,
- C** you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

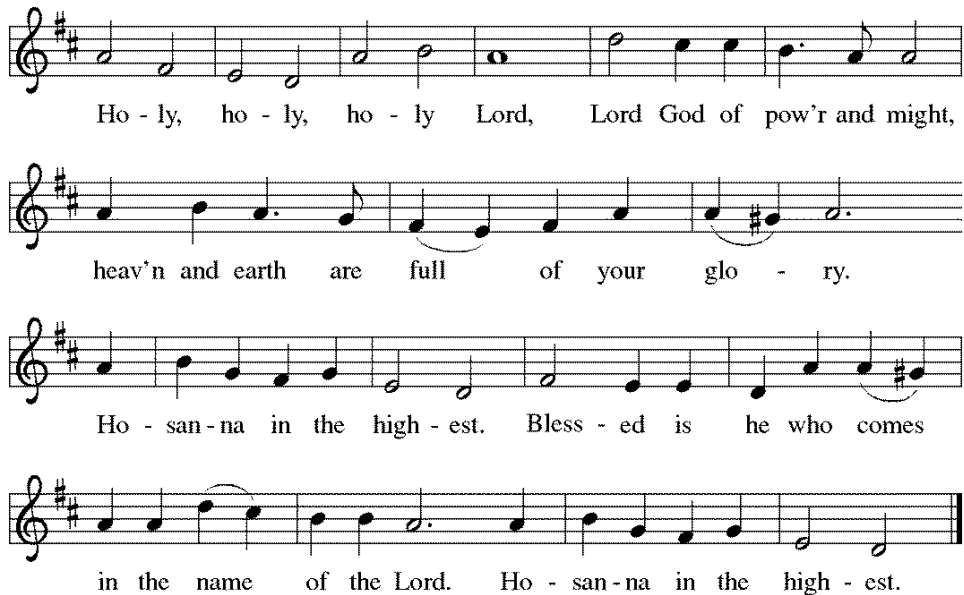
HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

C **Come to the table of mercy and joy.**

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.*

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"How Firm a Foundation"
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

**ELW 796
ELW 311**

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Faithful God,

C **you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope this is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

P Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

C **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

P Almighty God,

C **by the power of the Spirit you have knit us, your servants, into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

(sit)

BLESSING

P May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW 650

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



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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
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Kayla Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
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

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord
	Mary Jo Fike
Comm. Set-up	Mary Jo Fike

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman
	Lowell Harms
	Dan Collett
	Jerry Clanton
Lector	Don Darst
Ushers	Joe Councill
	Jim Comfort
	Janice Falk
	Jeff Perkins
	Fred Wachal
	John Georgeson
Greeters	Darlene Anderson
	Joyce Wachal
	Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Dannika Rees

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller
	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
	James Holzer
Greeters	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 11 & 12, 2020

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 for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the 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:** The Creed: God our Father **NEXT WEEK:** The Creed: He Became Truly Human

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of David J. Carlsen given by his family

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us on Sundays 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.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

January 12 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
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-6)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:00 PM Book Group

January 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline
9:00 AM Staff Meeting (note date change)
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:30 PM Confirmation Worship

January 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

January 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 19 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
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-6)
10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Executive Committee
12:15 PM New Member Class

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.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

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 Sundays, January 19 & 26, 2020, from 12:15—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. New members will be received on February 2. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by January 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY The Kountze Food Pantry volunteers do a great job of making your donation dollars go as far as possible, allowing Kountze to serve the most people with nutritious food. One item that takes a big chunk out of the weekly budget is cereal, so we would like to make January Cereal Drive month! We like to include healthful choices such as oatmeal, Cheerios and other non-sugary, whole grain options. If you are able to contribute to our cereal drive, you may leave your donation in the pantry container located in Fellowship Hall.

SIMPLY GIVING Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you need to indicate this change to the office or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. Please send an email to noni@kmlchurch.org or complete a new Simply Giving form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

PARKING... On a regular basis we run out of handicapped parking spaces on Sunday mornings. In order to ease this situation, please use the east parking lot (by the handicapped entrance) only if you have a mobility issue. Those who are physically able are asked to use the west parking lot. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Join us on Thursday, January 16, 11:30 AM. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. Watch the bulletin and weekly e-news for more information. Please RSVP to the Church office by Tuesday, January 14 or to jim@kmlchurch.org.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Sunday, January 19, 10:00-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Lounge. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

BAPTISM SEMINAR If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, please join us on Sunday, January 26 at 10:10 AM. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have. Please call the church office to register at 402-341-7761.

JOURNEY 2020 The Nebraska Synod Journey is typically a six or seven-day experience held during the summers when there isn't an ELCA Youth Gathering, and it's open to youth who have completed grades 8-12 along with their adult leaders. The next Journey will be held July 6-12, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee. Early bird (submitted on or before February 15, 2020): \$495. \$100 per person deposit is due with online registrations and is paid by credit card online. Space is limited, so please register early. Registration forms are available online at: <https://nebraskasynod.org/ministries/faithformation/youth/trips/journey-registration.html>

CJH CAMP EARLY BIRD SAVINGS! Register for CJH Camp before January 31, 2019 and get \$50 off a full-week session and a drawstring bag! You can register online at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>.

WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS Due to scheduling changes, our Tuesday Staff Meetings will now be held on Wednesdays. There will be someone in the office to answer phones and doors on Wednesdays but unless there's an emergency, we won't be available between 9:00 & 10:30 AM.

SIMPLY GIVING Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you need to indicate this change to the office or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. Please send an email to noni@kmlchurch.org or complete a new Simply Giving form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 75

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 175 11:00: 80

Midweek - Noon: 16 **Evening:** 19

Total: 365

Pantry Guests Served: 328

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 27

Offering:

\$13,471.00 (Regular) \$9,757.94 (Specials)

\$4,501.00 (Phase 2)

The Annual Meeting of Kountze Memorial Church Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:10 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 26, 2020. You can pick it up that Sunday or during the week. It will also be available on our website, www.kmlchurch.org and click on "About Us". All items to be included in the Annual Report should be in to the office by Sunday, January 12, 2020.



God announces who Jesus is.

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Thursday	Matthew 2:19-23	Holy family's return from Egypt
Friday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God



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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

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

- ☐ How do you describe yourself to others? How do others describe you?
- ☐ What does it mean to be "well pleased" with someone?
- ☐ What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus "My Son, the Beloved"?

Read: Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus' baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus' baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is (Matthew 1:21-23). Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets (Matthew 3:15-17), not us. Jesus' presence announces God's ruling activity among Israel and the nations (1:1-17; 2:1-12). Jesus' life fulfills the word of the prophets (2:23). All of that leads to Jesus' baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the anointed one (Christ). Yes, it is good to reflect on our baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God's will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone. Think about Jesus' baptism and what it means for you and others.

Pray: Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In Isaiah 42 we read about a servant described as being humble in service to God. A servant can be described as one who performs duties or works for others. As Christians, our call is to serve God. What does it mean to you to be called a servant of God? In what ways do you feel you can answer this call?

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God's family. Take time to remember your baptism. Revisit pictures or think of the memories you have of your baptism or that of another. Fill a small bowl with water and after revisiting memories, dip your fingers in the water and as you mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or that of another say, "**You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.**"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42