

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

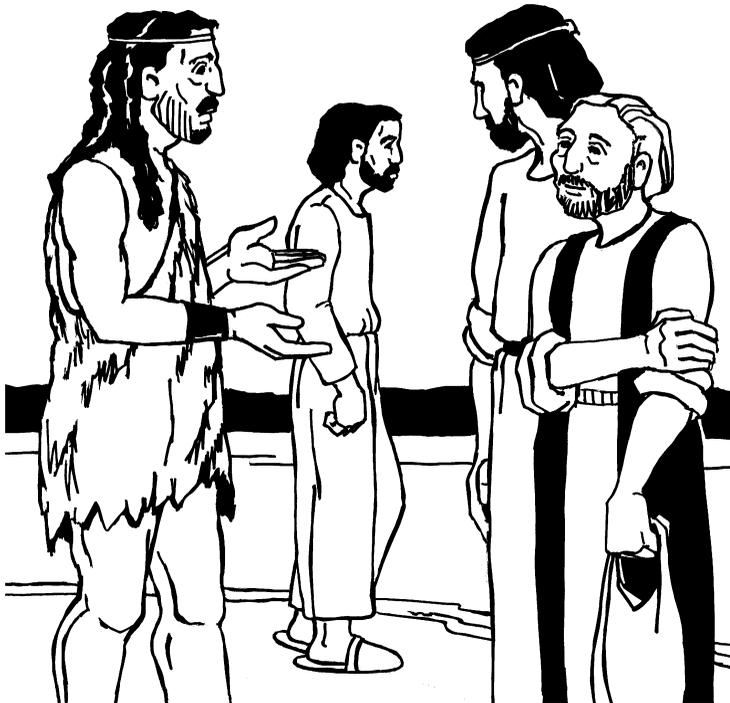
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

January 19, 2020

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among.

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.

C 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,

C 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:

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

ELW 301

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Holy God, our strength and our redeemer,

C by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we will worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.

¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;**

I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.

¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☒ 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. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, *"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*³⁰ *This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'*³¹ *I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."*³² And John testified, *"I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."*³³ *I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'*³⁴ *And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."*

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, *"Look, here is the Lamb of God!"*³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, *"What are you looking for?"* They said to him, *"Rabbi"* (which translated means Teacher), *"where are you staying?"*³⁹ Jesus said to them, *"Come and see."* They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, *"We have found the Messiah"* (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, *"You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas"* (which is translated Peter).

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

"Here I Am, Lord"

ELW 574

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ¶** With the whole church, let us 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.**

(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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Carolyn Jean Nippert

Illness: Richard Bock, Joe Bonfante, Ron Brown, Debbi 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, 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

“Lamb of God”

Llyod Larson

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.

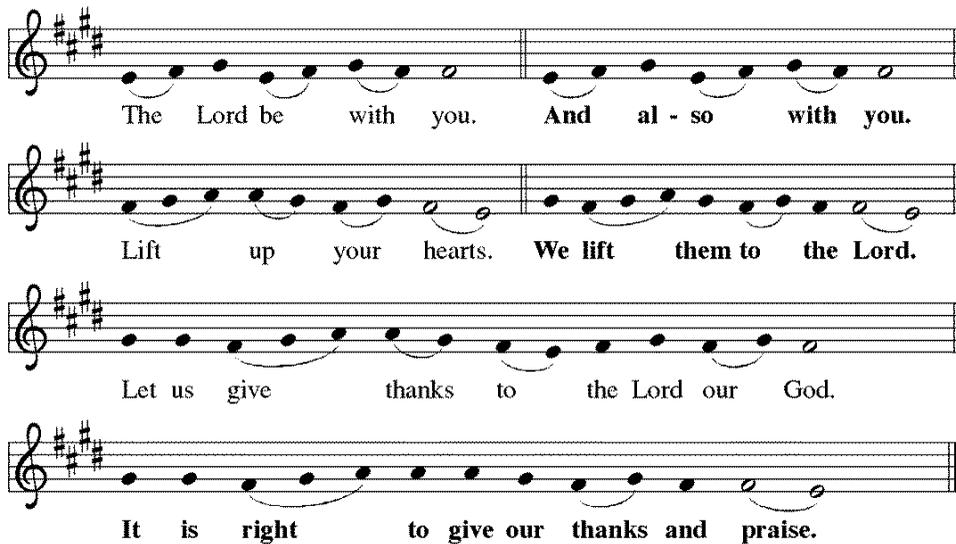
- 4** Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of wonder,
- G** 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.

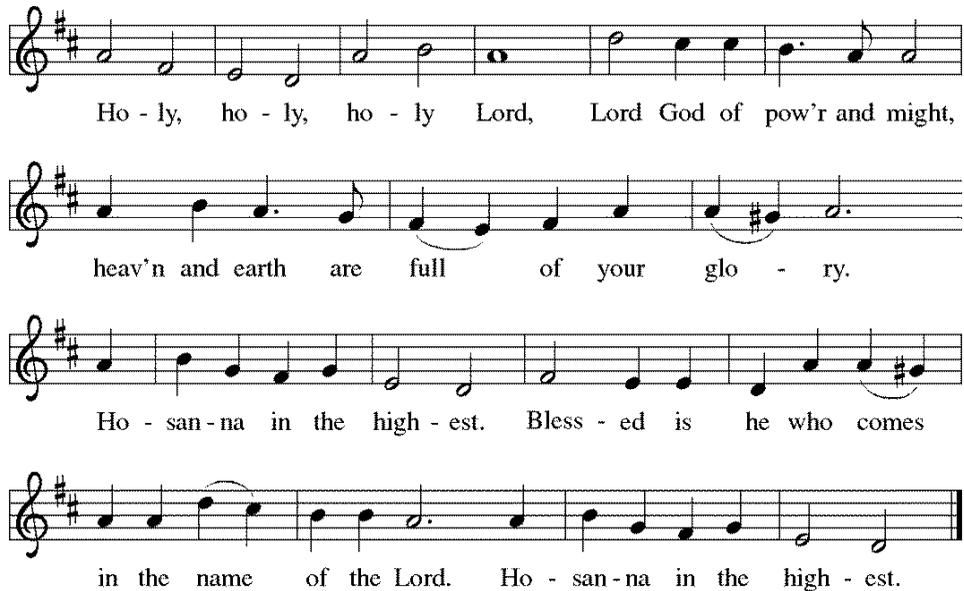
HOLY COMMUNION



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

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

☞ **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

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

☞ **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

“Agnus Dei”

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!”

ELW 308

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

ELW 666

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Faithful God,
- ☑ 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.

SENDING

(sit)

BLESSING

- ☐ 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

“Jesus Shall Reign”

ELW 434

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Let your light shine.
☑ **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 Slaight	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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 18 & 19, 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 worshipping, 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.

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Debra Kelly
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick
Comm. Set-up	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jill Gittler Dan Collett
Lector	Gretchen Engelkamp
Ushers	Joe Council Jim Comfort Janice Falk Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal John Georgeson
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Joyce Wachal Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	John Groenjes
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia Charlie Wachholtz

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum Lowell Harms
Lector	Jennifer Bunge
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty James Holzer
Greeters	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief

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: He Became Truly Human **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Baptism Seminar)

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS This Sunday, January 19 and next Sunday, January 26, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Pauline Brager's birthday given by Barb Chrisman

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 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

January 20 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
 OFFICE CLOSED
 3:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic Sub Committee Mtg.

January 21 Tuesday

10:30 AM Joe Bonfante Funeral
 12:00 PM Endowment Board
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregation Council

January 22 Wednesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
 6:30 PM Confirmation Class
 7:30 PM Confirmation Worship

January 23 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 26 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)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Baptism Seminar
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
 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 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.

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.

LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHOIR welcomes new and returning members to the Spring Concert Season! Rehearsals begin with a retreat on Sunday, January 26, 2:00—5:00 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2788 Franklin St., Lincoln. Julia Marble continues as the choir's artistic director and conductor. Julia has prepared a program theme which will focus on the earth and rebirth. Concerts are April 19 and 26 at Grace Lutheran Church in Lincoln at 3:00 PM. Contact Betsy Obenland at 402-786-7277 or lincolnlutheranchoir@gmail.com. Come sing with us!

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>.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY In our faith formation, what comes after high school youth group? Campus ministry! Join us at Evensong to celebrate our invitation to college students in Omaha! There will be a reception with a silent auction, raffle, and Holden Evening Prayer with special music by students, and a community choir. **What:** Evensong! Holden Evening Prayer, social and celebration! **Where:** Morning Star Lutheran, 331 S. 85th Ave, Omaha, NE 68114. **When:** Sunday, February 9, 3:00 – 5:00 PM (social at 3:00 PM, worship at 4:00 PM). For information or be a part of the choir, contact Pastor Jim Holthus at 218-760-2028 or at lootrn@hotmail.com. Can't attend, but want to make a gift? Click the donate button at www.nelcm.com. This ministry would not be possible without YOU and our local congregations! Thank you for your support of our Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry!

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>

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: 42

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 200 11:00: 89

Midweek - Noon: 9 **Evening:** 13

Total: 353

Pantry Guests Served: 309

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Offering:

\$23,858.50 (Regular) \$1,507.61 (Specials)

\$1,710.00 (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.



Come and see Jesus.

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

Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God
Monday	Isaiah 49:1-7	The servant's mission
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Wednesday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel
Thursday	John 9:1-34	The man born blind receives sight
Friday	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Paul's work in Thessalonica
Saturday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are they who trust the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples



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

He [Jesus] said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. **John 1:39 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help me and all people to see in Jesus the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, let me see in this meal a gift of love, part of your wondrous deeds that are so many they cannot be counted. Amen. (Psalm 40:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May grace and peace be yours through God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:3)

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

- Tell or think about someone you trust. Why do you trust them?
- Trust and faith are very closely related. How is your faith in God a form of trust?
- John the Baptist, Andrew, and Philip all helped others they knew see Jesus. How can trusted relationships help others see Jesus?

Read: John 1:29-42.

Having a relationship with Jesus often involves a trusted relationship with others. John the Baptist twice tells people that Jesus is the lamb of God (1:29 and 36). After the second announcement, two of John’s disciples follow Jesus. They want a relationship to Jesus so they ask where he is staying. Jesus immediately invites them to where he is dwelling. The result is that Andrew (one of the two disciples of John) goes and gets his brother Simon (Cephas or Peter). Then Philip is brought into the inner circle of disciples. Interestingly, he is from the same home town as Andrew and Peter. These were likely neighborhood boys who knew each other for a long time. Then Philip goes and gets his friend Nathaniel. Philip’s invitation includes the same words Jesus used earlier: “Come and see” (vv. 39 and 46). We often see Jesus through others with whom we have a trusted relationship. Who has helped you see Jesus?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, may we help others to see you through our invitation, our care, and our living faith. Amen.**

The Lord says, “I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6b). Isaiah describes a servant’s mission in this chapter. When we are baptized, we often receive a candle and when it is lit, we are reminded to let our light shine before others. How do we, as Christians, reach out to others and let our light shine?

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships—often in our own homes. How often do you take time to talk about your faith with others in your home? Identify a location in your home that becomes your “faith space”. Place a candle, Bible, this *Taking Faith Home* devotion, a cross, and a small bowl of water in that place. Using these resources, invite a trusted friend or family member to talk about ways you can practice your faith at home.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23