

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)**

**February 2, 2020**

**9:00 & 11:00 AM**

**FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY**



*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

# 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

*"Brightest and Best of the Stars"*

**ELW 303**

## 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

☞ Holy God,

☞ you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world will see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

*(sit)*

### FIRST READING

**Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

**H**ear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

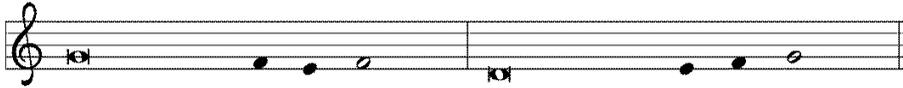
<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 15 (sung)



<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

**T**he message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.*” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the 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.**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

**W**hen Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

(sit)

## SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

- Ⓟ The following people have come to us from other Christian Churches and desire to transfer their membership to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.
- Ⓟ In Holy Baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people here at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

New Members: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

- Ⓟ People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?
- ☑ **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**
- Ⓟ We give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.
- ☑ **Amen.**
- Ⓟ Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.
- ☑ **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to the world.**

## 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 Rev. Harry Fink, father of Stacy Martin

**Illness:** Marvin Andersen, Richard Bock, Debbi Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Donna Crouse, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Eunice Grunberg, Sherri Hannon, Dolores Hiatt, Karrol Kamarath, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Jean Laughlin, Mary Olson, Gary Rodene, Rosmarie Schmidt, Bess Swanson, Sheri Tipton, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White

**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, Justin Perkins

## 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

*“Blessed Are They”*

Lee Dengler

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

**ELW 310 vs 1&4**

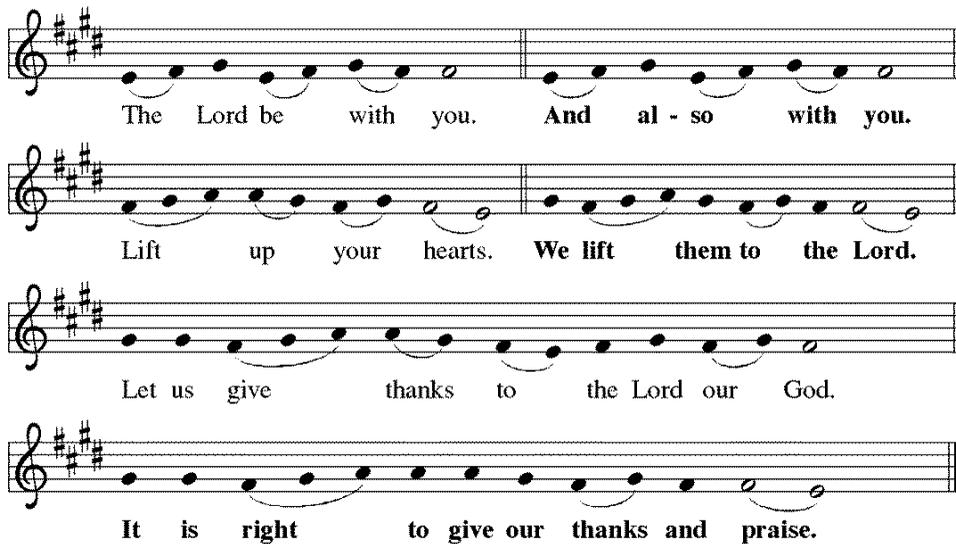
- 1** Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
  
- 4** Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy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

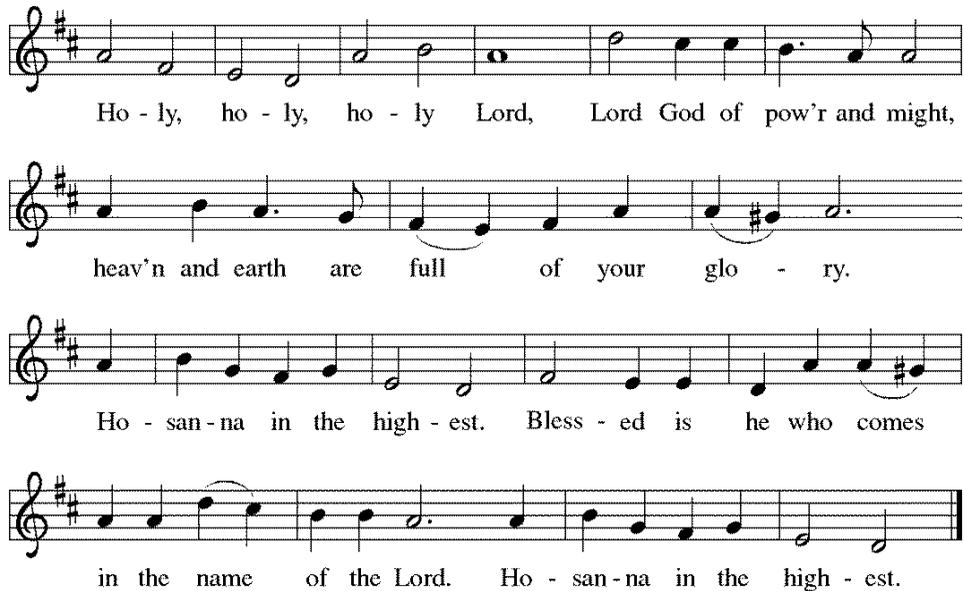
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.**

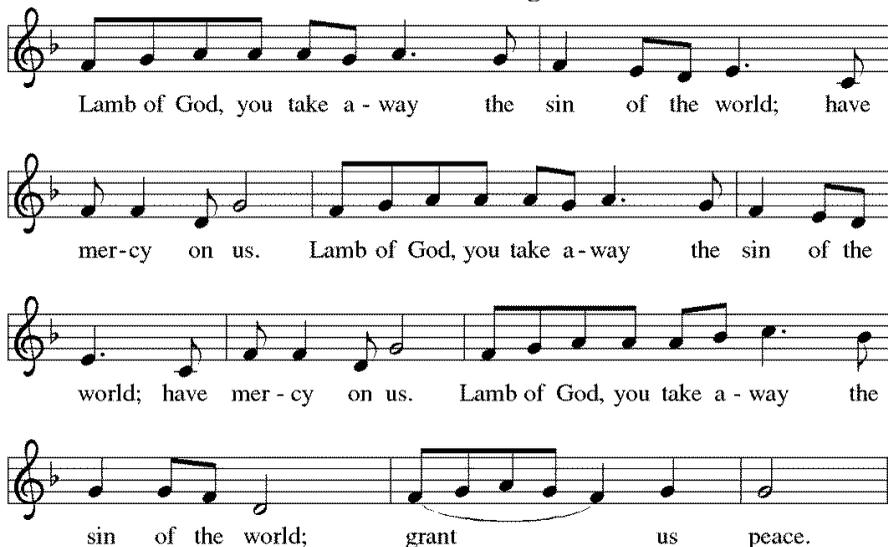
### THE DISTRIBUTION

*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.

*“Now We Join in Celebration”  
“Blest Are They”*

ELW 462  
ELW 728

(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 that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

(sit)

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### 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

*“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”*

**ELW 551**

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

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Jane Ross Dan Collett Kevin Larkowski
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Lector	Karen Fannin
Ushers	Rodney Nord Bob Johnson Brad Madison Sharon West Dean Winther Dan Troxel

Greeters	Colleen Lenners Carole Meilahn Bev Troxel
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Crucifer	Anna Kidder
Acolytes	Jane Kidder Rahn Johnson

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lowell Harms Ann Miller
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Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson

Greeters	Barb Chrisman
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards Communion Assistant



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**February 1 & 2, 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:** Congregational Meeting **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Fellowship)

**NEW MEMBERS** We receive new members this Sunday. Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to Kountze.

**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](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and click on "About Us".



### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00

*(Continued on page 2)*