

# 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 9, 2020**

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY**



*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ 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.*

☐ God who searches us and knows us,

☑ **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.**

☐ 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:

☑ **Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God, Almighty!"*

**ELW 413**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

☑ **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Lord God,

☞ **with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

**S**hout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup>“*Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?*” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

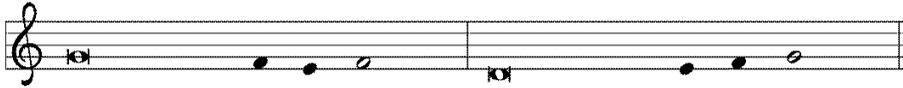
<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 112:1-10 (sung)



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD  
and have great delight in | God’s commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;  
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending  
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will nev- | er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and | will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor.

<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;  
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God’s hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God’s revelation in the cross.*

**W**hen I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him*”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the

depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>*"For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"*

But we have the mind of Christ.

☒ 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 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

**J**esus said: <sup>13</sup>*"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.*

<sup>14</sup>*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

<sup>17</sup>*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **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 Hall

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Arise, Your Light Has Come”*

**ELW 314**

## **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)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Eunice Grunberg; to the family and friends of Michael Kendall, brother of Ken Kendall; to the family and friends of Jean Laughlin

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Debbi Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Donna Crouse, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherri Hannon, Dolores Hiatt, Karrol Kamarath, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, 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

*“Step by Step (Lead Me, Lord)”*

arr. Ruth Elaine Schramm

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

**ELW 310 vs 1&4**

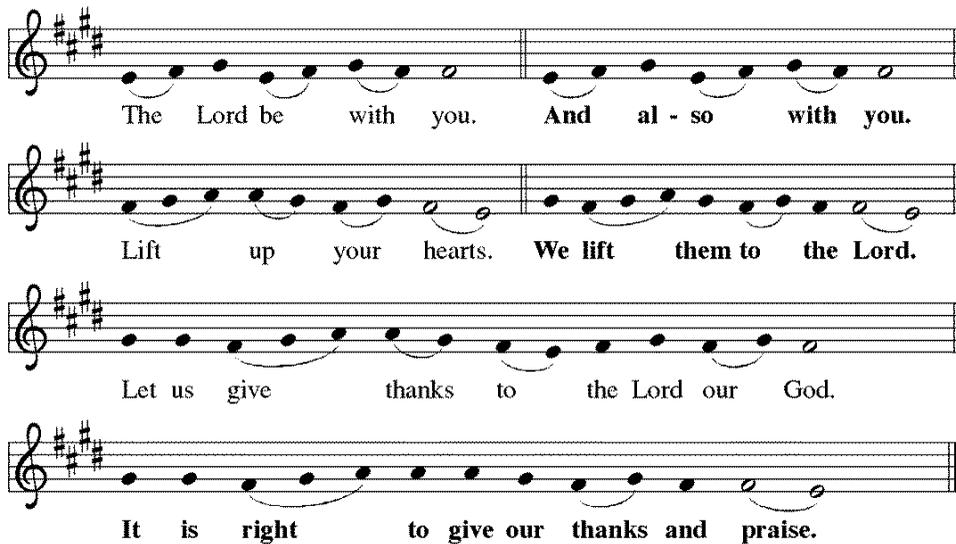
- 1** Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
  
- 4** Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy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

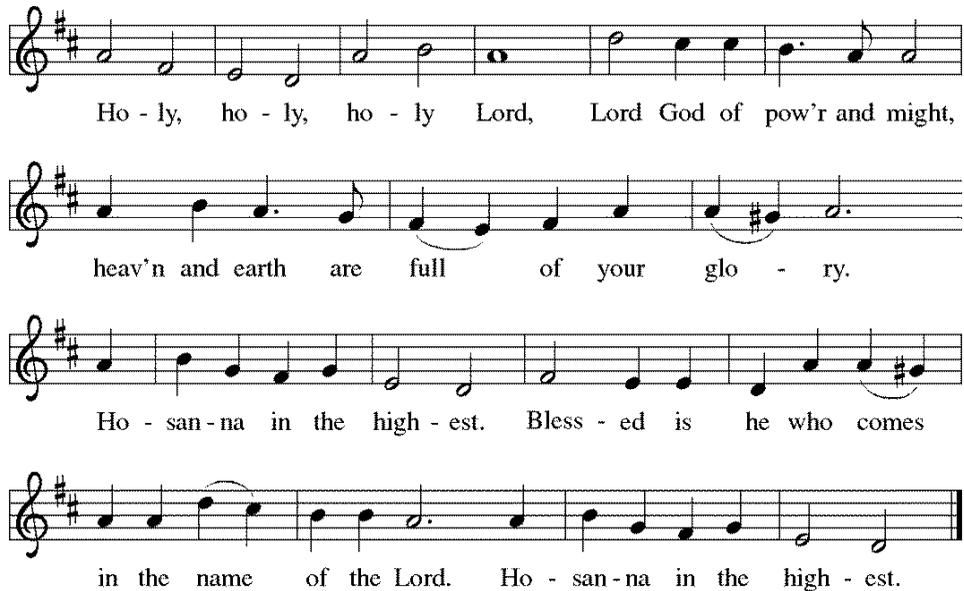
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.

*“Thy Holy Wings”*

*“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”*

ELW 613

ELW 617

(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 that 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

*“Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak”*

**ELW 676**

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Let your light shine.  
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

✝   ✝   ✝

From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.

## 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

### 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.	Jill Gittler Tarna Kidder Jane Ross Lowell Harms
Lector	Kimberly Grassmeyer
Ushers	Rodney Nord Bob Johnson Brad Madison Sharon West Dean Winther Dan Troxel
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Carole Meilahn Bev Troxel
Crucifer	Anna Kidder
Acolytes	Jane Kidder Kaitlyn Munguia

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller June Anderson
Lector	Steve Hinrichs
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

**February 8 & 9, 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:** No Forum (Fellowship) **NEXT WEEK:** The Creed: He Sits at the Right Hand of God

**BOOK GROUP** Meets this Sunday, February 9, 12:00 PM. Our February selection is "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean. We hope you'll join 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 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs-8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

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

**NEW HANDRAILS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED!** Check out the new stair handrails on the East and South sides of the Sanctuary entrance. They were installed this past week and look great!

**February 9 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-8<sup>th</sup> gr)  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 12:00 PM Book Group

**February 10 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**February 12 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
 9:00 AM Sewing Group  
 11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
 12:15 PM Worship  
 6:00 PM Confirmation Supper  
 6:30 PM Confirmation Class  
 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 7:30 PM Confirmation Worship

**February 13 Thursday**

11:30 AM Property Committee  
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
 6:00 PM Worship Committee

**February 15 Saturday**

Good News Deadline  
 5:00 PM Worship

**February 16 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-8<sup>th</sup> gr)  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

**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, April 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 May 3. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by April 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register. We are also planning a Saturday New Member Class for those not able to attend on Sundays. Please mark April 18 & 25 from 3:00—4:15 PM on your calendars and mark your attendance card if you plan to attend. New members will be received on Saturday, May 2.

**KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY** Thanks to all who donated cereal in January. The Kountze Food Pantry is also the recipient of Morning Star Lutheran Church's January Cereal Bowl. They donated 188 lbs. of cereal to us! In February the pantry can once again use donations of toilet tissue. We do strive to make sure every Pantry guest receives one roll. Please leave your donations in the crate located in Fellowship Hall. Your gifts are mightily appreciated! Please consider volunteering for one of the regular shifts from 9:00—11:00 AM or 11:00AM—1:00 PM. The green sign-up book is in Fellowship Hall, meeting room A, by the kitchen.

**BOOK GROUP** Sunday, February 9, 12:00 PM. Our February selection is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. The Library Book is Susan Orlean's thrilling journey through the stacks that reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country. It is also a master journalist's reminder that, perhaps especially in the digital era, they are more necessary than ever. We hope you'll join us!

**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. 85<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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!

**TAIZÉ WORSHIP AT CREIGHTON** The community is invited to attend Evening Prayer in the Taizé style of worship at St. John's (on Creighton's campus) during the spring semester at 8:15 PM on Thursday, February 13.

**KMLC MEN'S LUNCH** First (possibly annual) Men's Chili Cookoff! Thursday, February 20, 11:30 AM Call the church office or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to sign up. Let us know if you will be entering a pot of chili or just attending. If your entering a pot of chili the cost is free otherwise suggested donation for the event will be \$5.00 which will cover cornbread, drinks, deserts and two free tums tablets! Come vote on your favorite chili, there will be prizes for the top three and a great time of fellowship.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE "PALOOZA" BREAKFAST** supporting Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry is happening February 25 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church from 7:30—9:30 AM. Breakfast will be prepared by "The Pancake Man" Jim Cooper, who is a "showman" as he cooks the cakes. A feast of all you care to eat pancakes, sausage, and enjoy fellowship in support of our work together in faith formation for college age young adults. Free will offering for breakfast—college students free with student ID.

**CJH CAMP EARLY BIRD SAVINGS!** Register for CJH Camp before February 29, 2020 (note date change) and get \$50 off a full-week session and a drawstring bag! Register online at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>.

**TABLE GRACE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls "Voices of Empowerment" with MC D. Kevin Williams on Friday, March 6, from 5:30—8:30 PM at St. Thomas Lutheran Church (17007 Q St). Heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, live and silent auction. This year's fundraiser is in memory of Tom Tentis. Individual tickets are \$80 or sponsor a table (includes 8 tickets) for \$640—\$20,000. Tickets are available at [tickets@tablegraceministries.com](mailto:tickets@tablegraceministries.com) or call Simone at 402-965-1276. Reserve table or tickets by March 3.

**LYSO** June 8–12, 2020, from 8:30—Noon. Grades K–12: Mark your Calendar for this exciting summer ministry opportunity. Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is hosting Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha (LYSO). JOIN US!!

Invite your friends.

**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>

### **ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

**Saturday Attendance:** 49

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 192 11:00: 96

**Midweek - Noon:** 12 **Evening:** 10

**Total:** 359

**Pantry Guests Served:** 336

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 39

**Offering:**

\$14,816.54 (Regular) \$2,466.00 (Specials)

\$1,604.00 (Phase 2)

1/19/20 (correction)

\$17,490.54 (Regular) \$826.72 (Specials)

\$962.00 (Phase 2)

*See the world through the cross of Christ.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:17-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:21-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus



© 2019 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord bless you with a generous heart that trusts in God. (Psalm 112:5-7)

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

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Talk or think about a sad time you have experienced. Who helped you?
- The cross of Christ is about Jesus' suffering and death so that we may know God's eternal love. How does knowing that Christ suffered help you in daily life?

*Read:* 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentles" because it is "the power of God and the wisdom of God." The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need. How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?

*Pray:* **God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.**

Jesus tells his followers "you are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). Think about what this means for us. In Jesus' day salt was used for many things from preserving and flavoring food to using it as money. Make a bowl of popcorn and set aside a salt shaker. Place several pieces of popcorn on a napkin. For each piece of popcorn, name someone who is in need. Then shake salt on the popcorn and as you taste its saltiness think about how "you are the salt of the earth" and can add flavor and a little something extra to the lives of those who are in need.

Faith is caught more than it is taught. Praying in the faith community is visible as we kneel, fold hands, or bow our heads. The ritual of prayer is important and something that is "caught" through years of worship together. The ritual of daily prayer in our homes is important also. Make a list of the different ways you pray in your home. Practice getting "caught" in the act of prayer by family members or when others visit to establish a tradition in your home that many will learn and look forward to doing with you for generations to come.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37