

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 40, Issue 4

April, 2020



“Peace Be With You!”

In less than two weeks we will celebrate Easter, The Resurrection of Our Lord. This is the chief festival of the Church. Indeed, when God raised Jesus from the dead the church was created. On the first Easter night Jesus appeared to two his disciples who were hiding, afraid for their lives and terribly confused by what had taken place over the past three days. They were in a room behind locked doors and windows.

Jesus appeared in their midst with four crucial words: **peace be with you**. They were good words for anxious times back then and they are good words for us as we face the anxiety, fear and uncertainty of the coronavirus.

Jesus spoke these words to his first disciples and speaks these words to you, his disciples of today: peace be with you. You are beloved children of God. You and I live in the light of Easter but also in the shadow of the cross. In these trying times we have every right to be concerned about ourselves, our family, our friends. We can try to stay calm but fear becomes a reality every time we watch the news and hear the latest statistics. Yet as God’s people, we need not let fear win over the hope we have been given because Jesus Christ lives and is still alive. He is now in our midst and his message is clear: **peace be with you; do not be afraid**.

Common sense and the best hygiene practices that have been outlined by health care providers and the government are called for at this time. Whether you can be a part of our Lenten and Easter worship experiences is something you must discern. We are doing everything possible disciples of Jesus Christ, to be faithful to God and to serve God and our neighbor.

And remember to pray. As I mentioned in the E-Blast, pray for those who have contracted the illness. Pray for the many medical personnel, first responders and care-givers who are selflessly giving of themselves to those who are ill. Pray for our leaders on all levels of government that God will bless them with wisdom and understanding.

Pray for the peace of God, which surpasses all our understanding.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

This was sent out as an E-Blast to those who have e-mail. It is printed here for those who do not.

*“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change.”*

[Psalm 46]

Fear seems to be the operative world of late, and understandably so. The coronavirus has created much fear and anxiety in our places of work, schools, and daily activities. It has had an effect on our congregation as well.

We are doing everything possible to care for our congregation and our physical well-being. Our custodial staff is doing excellent work in keeping all areas clean and wiping down hard surfaces with bleach wipes. You should already know the basic guidance from the government:

- Stay home if you are sick or suspect you have been exposed to the virus. This is true at all times, not just during the coronavirus threat.
- Wash your hands often and for a longer time than usual (Dr. Jerry Fischer suggests singing “Happy Birthday to Me” twice while you wash!). Wash your hands after using the restroom, before you eat, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

In addition, we are changing some “worship habits” that will remain in effect until you are notified otherwise:

- We will continue to share the peace, but will do so without physical contact. Simply look toward your worship neighbor and say “peace be with you.” Such a verbal greeting of peace is more important now than ever.
- We will continue with the Lord’s Supper using intinction, but you may refrain from intincting (dipping) the wafer in the wine if you so prefer. Please be assured that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present in, with and under the bread. It helps the communion server if you hold out your hand flat to receive the host (bread).
- We will not be shaking hands either before, during or after the worship service.

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WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings, we are cancelling all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities through April 30.

In the meantime, be sure to tune into Worship on Sundays at 9:00 AM on Cox channel 13.

If you don't have Cox as your cable provider or can't tune in at 9:00 AM, be sure to go to our website and watch the service via our live streamed service any time at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

A bulletin is available on our website as well at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>



Photo by Jake Madison

Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can now also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50.

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle. Donating altar flowers is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.

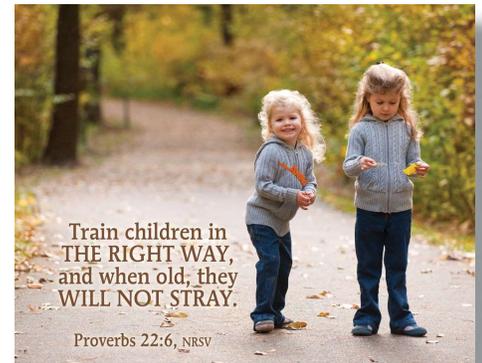
Church Broadcasts

You can sponsor a broadcast in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone's birthday or anniversary, etc. The cost of sponsoring one broadcast is \$200 for 2020.



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. We also have 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.



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GROW with us...

Joyful Sounds Children's Choir

Our Adult Choir and Joyful Sounds Children's Choir sang "This Little Light of Mine" together at 9:00 AM on Sunday, February 16. The Children's Choir sang alone at 11:00 AM. They all did a great job! See photos to the right.

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- Offering plates will be set up at the entrances to the sanctuary. You can place your offering and attendance sheets in them before or after worship. They will not be passed. Please remember that you can sign up for Simply Giving or donate on-line on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). Continued financial support of our ministry is crucial at this time.
- Additional hand sanitizers have been placed around the church sanctuary and fellowship hall.

We have an advantage over the general public. We confess a God who is our refuge and strength. We are in God's good hands. We must pray for those who are affected by the virus and their families. We must pray for the many medical personnel, first responders and caregivers who are selflessly giving of themselves to those who are ill. We must pray for our leaders on all levels of government that God will bless them with wisdom and understanding.

And remember: despite the coronavirus ... Easter is coming!

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

If You are Hospitalized...

If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, or would like pastoral visit, please be sure to let the church office know, 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org. The pastors, eucharistic ministers, or altar guild (flower deliveries) would be more than happy to call on you at any time. Thank you.



I appreciate the prayers, cards, and comforting words from so many during this sad time for me. Thank you for your kindness.

Martha Eckmann



SERVE with us...

Kountze Commons Welcomes New Executive Director!



Kountze Commons is pleased to announce the selection of Taylor Brown as the new Executive Director. Taylor Brown officially began her new role as Executive Director on February 11, 2020. The selection to institute Taylor as the Executive Director was made after extensive conversation about the future strategic vision of Kountze Commons.

Taylor Brown is an accomplished fundraising professional and comes to Kountze Commons with extensive fundraising, grant writing, and direct service development and management in the Education and Health and Human Services industries. Brown will be responsible for fundraising, community outreach, developing new community relationships and partnerships, promoting services, and overseeing programmatic developments to ensure overall client, patient, and guest satisfaction.

“The Board of Directors are pleased to have Taylor on board to bring a fresh perspective and approach to local fundraising and relationship development,” said Paul Sum, President of Kountze Endowment True Vision, the Board of Directors overseeing operations at Kountze Commons. “Taylor has notable fundraising experience and an ability to connect with others in the community. We are excited to see Kountze Commons further grow

as an organization with her experience.” Brown will be working in the Kountze Commons building in downtown Omaha strategically located on 26th and Douglas Street at the crossroads between the north and south interstate system along two major bus routes. Kountze Commons was created to serve our city’s most vulnerable people with complex health and life issues. We are leading the nation toward an integrated care model that services the whole person through a unique partnership of five entities co-located in one building: The Del and Lou Ann Weber Free Healing Gift Clinic, a fully licensed pharmacy, Methodist Community Health Clinic, Lutheran Family Services behavioral health, and the Kountze Food Pantry. A typical vulnerable person in our community does not have just one health issue, but rather faces multiple underlying issues – chronic health issues overlaid with food insecurity and behavioral health challenges. Kountze Commons aims to fulfill its mission in the community and beyond by providing crucial life-saving services to those who need it most.

The partnerships and services provided at Kountze Commons not only strengthen the community and the surrounding neighborhoods by nurturing health and nourishing families— Kountze Commons is also a faithful act of solidarity in standing with the most vulnerable in our community.

For more information about Kountze Commons and the services provided, you may call Taylor Brown at 402-359-1159, email her at taylor.kountzecommons@gmail.com, or send information to 2665 Douglas Street Omaha, NE 68131.

Kountze Food Pantry

In response to the coronavirus threat we will be temporarily changing our distribution system at the Kountze Food Pantry, to allow for extra protection for our volunteers, as well as our guests.

Your help is still needed to fill individual bags. Bags will be distributed at the garage door. Anyone willing to hand the bags out should identify themselves. I have asked Dr. Fischer to provide masks and gloves. Volunteers will be utilized in the pantry to fill as many bags as we can with the food on hand. People still need their food, and it is our mission to feed the poor in Christ's name. I pray you will feel called to help with this mission as usual on Monday.



Food Pantry Monday, March 16

NEWS and Notes...



February 18, 2020

January minutes approved.

Financial report given and approved. Pantry and Clinic are starting the year off on firm financial footing. Overall, church offerings are down from last year thus far.

Staff reports given and approved by Council. Pastor Olaf reported that Taylor Brown has been named the executive director of the Kountze Commons. Pastor Olaf noted the need to do another presentation regarding estate, funeral, and legacy planning. Pastor Hall provided notice of his intent to scale back his KMLC responsibilities within a year.

Committee reports given and approved. Media & Technology committee reported that Taylor's computer has been ordered. Property committee reported the bell tower repairs are underway and the bell clapper has been removed.

Board reports given and approved by Council. The Endowment will be funding the Kountze Commons Executive Director Position. The Endowment Board expressed concern regarding the planning to retire the Kountze Commons debt. Discussion was had by the Council. Council will continue to monitor and review ongoing efforts to fund all missions of the church. Clinic Board reported that Taylor's position will open up more grant options.

Motion to approve Taylor Brown as Kountze Commons Executive Director was approved. Synod annual meeting will be the first weekend in June. Council approved Jeff & Robin Perkins, Melissa Osentowski, Scott & Ruth Henneman as voting members for KMLC. Synod will host a 'road-show' on April 18th at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Robin will have devotions at the March church council meeting.

The Synod has forwarded two associate pastor applicants for the Call Committee to review.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:59 PM.

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 3/1/2020.....	\$3,008,388.12
Principal Payment 3/4/2020	\$19,392.86
Interest Payment 3/4/2020.....	\$9,260.14
Balance, 4/1/2020	\$2,988,995.26

Finances: February, 2020

	<i>February</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 67,460	\$ 142,850
Expenses:		
Benevolence	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Christian Education:	\$ 268	\$ 596
Facility Costs:	\$ 12,602	\$ 26,622
Staff Compensation:	\$ 47,657	\$ 95,922
Worship & Music:	\$ 893	\$ 1,694
Youth:	\$ 0	\$ 32
Parish Life:	\$ 2,348	\$ 4,146
Office & Administration:	\$ 6,326	\$ 11,609
	=====	=====
Total Expenses:	\$ 75,126	\$ 145,641

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/20 - 2/29/20)

Balance, 1/1/20 \$ 51,520.26

Income:

Donations:	\$5,870.54
Memorials	\$ 35,157.94
	=====
	\$ 41,028.48

Expenses:

Family Fare	\$ 3,308.04
Food Bank	\$ 1,396.40
Other	\$ 152.64
	=====
	\$ 4,857.08

Balance, 2/29/20 \$ 87,691.66

The Food Pantry relies on your financial donations! Please be alert to the weekly needs of this important ministry!

Kountze History from the



50th Anniversary of Lenten Dinners at Kountze Church

January 1970 - Kountze Newsletter - " 1970 Lenten Plans"

Many planning hours have gone into making arrangements for the 1970 Lenten Season. Here are the highlights:

I. "Well- received" Community Preachers will be featured.

II. Something New "Lenten Fellowship Suppers."

III. Guest Choirs from Colleges and Institutions.

IV. Special Music by Children and Youth.

February 1970 - Kountze Newsletter - "Bless the Women"

Our women have done an excellent job in making the Lenten Suppers run smoothly. We heartily salute them! Special thanks to, Pauline Brager, General Chairman.



February 1970 -Pictured are Louise Vanzago, Esther Backhuss, Pauline Brager, Bernice Boberg and Ruth Bernhardt. Not Pictured, Sharon Feiste, Bernice Fees and Ellie Carlson.



2012 Archive Committee Picture - Pictured are Louise Vanzago and Pauline Brager.

April & May 2010 -Archive Committee Interviews of Pauline Brager and Louise Vanzago

The history of Lenten Dinners as related by both Pauline Brager and Louise Vanzago: said, in the year 1970, Pastor de Freese called Pauline into his office. In an idea, from his former church in Hastings, NE, he said working people need a place to get dinner before going to Lenten Services. So he asked me to get some of the women to help her make sandwiches and desert before the Services. This way, members could attend the Services on their way home from work. At that time, two services were held, one at 5:45 p.m. and the other at 7:15 p.m. Donations of \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children were requested. I asked Louise Vanzago to be my "right hand" in this project. After the first week Pastor called us in and asked if we could prepare something a little more substantial. Pauline said, "like a casserole?" and Pastor said," No, Like Meat and Potatoes." Lenten suppers turned into Lenten Dinners. In 1983, Pauline retired from the Dinners and turned it over to Louise, who picked Jo Kayton as her "right hand". Louise continued another 29 years until her retirement, after 42 years, at the end of the 2012 Lenten Season.

A more complete history of "THE LENTEN SEASON AT KOUNTZE" is currently shown in the ARCHIVE DISPLAY CASE, located in FELLOWSHIP HALL.

February-April 2020- "50th Anniversary of Lenten Meals at Kountze Lutheran Church."

Lenten meals for this year are being prepared by Jim Smejkal and Marlys Duin, both excellent chefs. "Fun in the Kitchen" with Jim and Marlys, includes many volunteers helping in meal preparation and clean up. Confirmation students are helping both at serving the meals and in ushering at the Lenten Services. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers!



Birthday Blessings

1. Pamela Carlson, Bryce Griger, Patricia Studts, Donald Zinnecker
2. Barbara Chrisman, Dale Enger, Alissa Fial, Genelle Girthoffer, Scott McDermott, Thumbelina Molly, Jo Whitmyre,
3. David Pafford
4. Kurt Arends, Noah Bieber, Mary Martens, Mark Panning, Judy Sealer, Rebecca Zellmar
5. Julie Bratcher, Cassandra Morgan
6. Stephanie Dart, John Fonda, William Fonda, Laurie Houseworth, Victoria Meyer
7. Luke Olson, Leon Valquier, Zachary Zellmar
8. Sarah Heimes
9. Lauri Askew, Donald Bass, Connor Cameron, Lauren Holm, Kay Mayberry, Vickie Wichert, Robert Woodworth
10. Ronald Brown, Abigail Rigas, Alan Weedman
11. Victoria Anderson, Marci Luczynski, James Pemberton, Scott Radwan, Ralph Ross, Rachel Stouffer, Leonard Swanger
12. Janet Darst, Michael Jensen, Jennifer Johnson, Robert Johnson, Ted Kaasch, Adam Kotula, Mark Maser, Robert McDowell, Eugene Peterson, Margaret Reinholz, Jenna Woster, Ana Damme
13. Thomas Brumfield, Braiden Dragon, Jeffrey Hiatt, Rodger Price
14. Rachael Coufal, Sandra Fonda, Rhiannon Taylor
15. Darlene Anderson, Leonard Falk, Emma Gardner
16. Justin Bradley, Edward Chand
17. Frykberg, Claire Furjanic, Brittany West
18. Elijah Salmon, Keith Kotera
19. Rodney Brown, Bradley Morrow, Mark Muller, Heather Schirber, Dessire Waller
20. Jessica Carlson, Brenda Myers, Gina Samland, Jeff Clarke
21. Dean Anderson, Susan Malesa, Madison Titus, Carter Wachholtz, Matthew Woster, Cameron Miller
22. Gwendolyn Berney, Daniel Collett, Madeline O'Kane, Brent Rasmussen, Bessie Swanson, Anola Wheeler
23. Michelle Jensen, Rae Johnson, Melissa Musick, Shelley Smisek-O'Connor, James West, Daniel Wolf
24. Linda Daugherty, Britten Johnson, Deborah Oshlo, Rebecca Sedlak, James Holzer
25. Henry Rief, Hadley Rief
26. Ruth Hashberger, Esther Riha, Nancy Wiese
27. Cynthia Edwards, Deanne Lundahl, Sydney Morrow, Susan Ward
28. Bennett Eckhorn, Michelle Kuehn, June Van Bibber
29. Marilyn Burdic, Stevie Duffield, Gregory Fonda, Phillip Frye, John Jr Askew
30. Jianna Crouse, Isaac Gardner, Robert Kreiser, Susan Rasmussen, Roberta Vanbuskirk, Todd Weiland

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

The Trials and Tribulations of being Olaf...

On August 14, 1952 a boy was born in Brooklyn, New York. His mother had been taken to the hospital to give birth but they sent her home because the Doctors said it was too early. Apparently they were wrong; the mother gave birth to her first-born son (and only child) in their apartment! He wasn't wrapped in swaddling clothes; no need to give him a messiah-complex. But his mother did name him Olaf, after Saint Olaf, the patron saint of Norway. Interestingly, he had two first cousins named Olav (spelled with a "v" because the Latin form of the name is Olavus).

Growing up in New York could be difficult at times. Olaf had his Norwegian friends, some of whom shared heritage names like Lars, Siguard, Hans, Arvid, etc. But among my Italian and Irish friends the name was problematic. "Olaf" ... what kind of name is that ... O-Laugh, ha, ha, ha. On and on it went.



Not to worry. Olaf went to Augustana College, where being a real "Ole" actually meant something. In the center of the campus there is a huge statue of a Viking appropriately named "Ole"! Most male Olsons (and a few females!) at Augustana sooner or later went by Ole; but of course, they were not real. Olaf from Brooklyn was a real "Ole".

In time Olaf became a Pastor and for a good part of his career, Olaf (now Pastor Olaf ... how do you pronounce that last name?) would hear something like, "Oh, you're Pastor Olaf. I expected someone a lot older." Alas, he no longer hears that. Must really be older now.

But God is great and God is good. God so often works in mysterious ways. Thanks to Disney, and the movies Frozen and Frozen 2, everybody and their mother is naming their sons Olaf (not really). But now Pastor Olaf is introduced to young children and they look at him in utter amazement. "You're Olaf?" Yes indeed. Olaf has triumphed. Everyone has heard of the name even if he has a carrot for a nose. And he likes warm hugs. Olaf's mother was a genius.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule:

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox Cable Ch. 13
and live streamed on our website.



Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

JOIN US!!

**June 8 – 12, 2020
from 8:30 – Noon
Grades K – 12th**

**Mark your Church Calendar for this exciting summer ministry opportunity.
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is hosting
Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha (LYSO).**

Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha, or LYSO, is Vacation Bible School with a twist. It features faith formation, servant-hood, fellowship and fun! Children and youth will gather at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for breakfast and devotions. Everyone is then divided by grade and sent out into the community to serve at sites around the Omaha-Metro area. Upon returning to Kountze, the youth will join together for reflection and a closing worship.

Email Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. Registration coming soon!