

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 40, Issue 10

November, 2020



“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

[Colossians 13:14-15]

The Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 lasted about two years, and it came at the end of our involvement in the First World War. As you read about both of these terrible events you don't really think in terms of time. It is history to us. We've been in this pandemic for eight months and it is driving us all to our wits' end! When will it end? Will it go on for two or more years?

Much has been made of the fact that we are **apart** ... and yet **together**. For most of our members, our connections are all through media. Kountze has been fortunate in that we have had a television ministry for a long time and we have very capable people serving us in that capacity. Those volunteers have served us well during this pandemic. Simply seeing our sanctuary on television or live-streaming brings us a sense of connection to this place and to each other as the Body of Christ. It also reminds us how much we long to be together again.

November is the traditional time for our Fall Stewardship Drive and this year is no exception. We are doing things simply and efficiently this year (and economically!). I want to thank all of you for your faithful support that has allowed us to carry on pretty much as normal. Your generosity has greatly alleviated the stress on members of the staff and congregation council. Your generosity in support the Food Pantry and Weber Clinic has been outstanding. We are serving close to 900 people each week at our pantry! You make that possible.

Enclosed with this issue of the Good News are two pledge cards. One is for the mission and ministry of the congregation, the General fund; the other is for the retirement of the debt on Kountze Commons, which now stands at **\$2,749,038**.

We are grateful for what you have already done and

now we invite you to consider an increase of your financial commitment to Kountze's mission and ministry for the coming year, as well as addressing our debt. Here are some suggestions that may be of help as you pray about your response this year:

- Assess your giving as a percentage of your annual adjusted gross income and consider increasing your gift by 1% of your income — or whatever percentage seems appropriate and right for you.
- Consider increasing your annual giving by \$1,000 or \$2,000.
- If you are new to estimating your giving, set a weekly goal ... \$15.00 or \$20.00 if you are able.

None of us bears the financial burden of our ministry or the debt-retirement alone. Together (yes, even while apart!) we can do so much. We ask that you return the cards in November, either at worship or by mailing them to the church. As the Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Colossians, we are called in **one** body. And we are indeed **thankful**.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 10:30 AM

A special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on calling The Reverend Shari Duminy as Associate Pastor will be held in the sanctuary. Attendance at the meeting will also be permitted through Zoom.

Those physically present will cast a ballot on whether to call Pastor Duminy. Those who attend via Zoom will have until 12:30 PM to come to the west church parking lot, receive a ballot, and vote. Please note that those not physically present at the meeting must have first registered via Zoom in order to cast a ballot. This is in accordance with ELCA policy. Five percent (5%) of the voting members (those who are confirmed) shall constitute a quorum. That means that at least 75 confirmed members must attend the meeting either physically or via Zoom.

Zoom Codes: Meeting ID: **938 1883 9381**
Passcode: **793541**

WORSHIP with us...

Worship Times

If you plan to attend Worship in person on Saturday at 5:00 PM or Sunday at 9:00 AM, please call or e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the date you want to attend.

The plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

Saturday: Enter through the handicapped entrance on the northeast corner of the church building.

Sunday: Enter the church through the Kountze Commons Link Doors on the west side of our facility.

Please Note: In order to maintain physical distancing, no one will be admitted without a confirmed reservation.



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.



If You are Hospitalized...

If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

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.



In this issue...

- Adult Forum: *The Freedom of a Christian*
- Archives - Sons and Daughters of Kountze Memoria
- Confirmands, 2020
- Congregational Meeting in-person or via Zoom
- Book Group
- Grief Support - via Zoom
- KMLC Pantry Needs
- Special Congregation Meeting
- Sunday School Online Learning
- Youth Forum

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



Sunday School lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page. In addition, there will be pintables and activity suggestions that complement the

lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Youth Forum

In Person: The youth group will meet in-person on the green space on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month held in the green space next to the church and the link. The meeting on the 1st Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share. (Must be non-COVID related). The link doors will be unlocked during our meeting time, and I will also have key to the exterior gate. We will maintain good physical distancing during our in-person meetings.

Zoom: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Mike Jensen will send out the link to the meeting. The Zoom meetings are approximately 30 minutes in length.



Calendar...



November 1 Sunday - All Saints

Daylight Savings--fall back 1 hour
9:00 AM Worship Online or Reserv. Only
10:00 AM Sunday School - Online
10:10 AM Youth Forum - In person
10:30 AM Congregation Meeting - Vote
11:00 AM Grief Support

November 2 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 4 Wednesday

6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom

November 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 6 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

November 7 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 8 Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Online or Reserv. Only
10:00 AM Sunday School - Online
10:10 AM Youth Forum - Zoom

November 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 11 Wednesday

6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom

November 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 13 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry
5:30 PM Council Retreat @ KMLC

November 14 Saturday

8:30 AM Council Retreat @ KMLC
5:00 PM Worship

November 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline
9:00 AM Worship Online or Reserv. Only
10:00 AM Sunday School - Online
10:10 AM Youth Forum - In person
10:30 AM Executive Committee

November 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Congregation Council

November 18 Wednesday

6:30 PM Confirmation via Zoom

November 19 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

November 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 22 Sunday - Christ the King

9:00 AM Worship Online or Reserv. Only
10:00 AM Sunday School - Online
10:10 AM Youth Forum - Zoom

November 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 26 Thursday - Office Closed

Thanksgiving

November 27 Friday - Office Closed

No Pantry

November 28 Saturday

9:30 AM Decorate for Advent
5:00 PM Worship

November 29 Sunday - Advent 1

9:00 AM Worship Online or Reserv. Only
10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

November 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

Affirmation of Faith – October 18, 2020

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and made public affirmation of their baptism.

Neely Caitlin Edwards

Daughter of Patrick and Cindy Edwards

Baptized on July 30, 2006 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Jeffery Borchman and Siany Edwards*

Bible Verse: John 14:27 *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

Amy Jane Fischer

Daughter of Joel and Esther Fischer

Baptized on May 28, 2006 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Sarah Roane, Todd and Drue Lovgren*

Bible Verse: Proverbs 31:25 *"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future."*

Jane Margaret Kidder

Daughter of Mark and Tarna Kidder

Baptized on January 8, 2006 at Thanksgiving! Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Nebraska

Baptismal Sponsors: *Jason and Jessica Domec*

Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."*

Dannika Olive Rees

Daughter of Eric and Toby Rees

Baptized on November 27, 2004 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: *Scott and Peggy Hooks*

Bible Verse: Psalm 32:8 *"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."*

Lawton Charles Rees

Son of Eric and Toby Rees

Baptized on October 21, 2006 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsor: *Courtney Hochhalter*

Bible Verse: Psalm 31:3 *"You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me"*

Jacob Jeffrey Weiland

Son of Todd Weiland and Elizabeth Stieneke

Baptized on May 30, 2004

at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee, Iowa

Baptismal Sponsors: *Monica Marks and Troy Weiland*

Bible Verse: Galatians 2:20 *"And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

NEWS & Notes...



We are living in uncertain and difficult times. Amid the pandemic of COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic of racism and xenophobia, our communities and world are ravaged by illness, death and injustice. Fear, grief, anger and strife are within and around us. We are tempted to turn inward in despair.

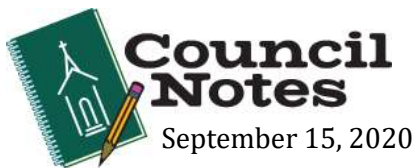
*Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther wrote a treatise titled *The Freedom of a Christian*. In it, he offered his most compelling summary of the Christian life: In Christ we are completely free and at the same time completely bound in love and service to our neighbors. For Christians such as you and me, this has been our Lutheran way of telling the Christian story for 500 years. At the heart of our Lutheran theological tradition, we find the antidote to our despair.*

Taken from the introductory letter written by The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Pr. Hall will post videos for this multi-week study on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChtalSdEjyMBKlZjbGGlyfA/>

The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: www.elca500.org.



The meeting was held in person with proper social distancing and safety precautions in place.

The agenda was approved as distributed. Pastor Olaf passed out copies of the Covid 19 Phased Reopening Plan for Kountze. We are currently in Phase II.

Steve Urlaub shared devotions.

Previous minutes approved.

The treasurer's report was given by Tim Backora and approved. Kountze continues to be on secure financial footing due to continued member support- especially for the media ministry.

Staff reports were given and approved by Council. Pastor Olaf is starting a new confirmation class using zoom. There will be 5 or 6 students. Pastor Hall will reschedule the council retreat.

Committee Reports: Steve Urlaub reported on preparations for the Congregational Parking Lot Picnic on September 27. Scott Henneman will meet soon with the Global Mission committee. There was discussion about

supporting the American Church in Berlin. Activities will be considered and an envelope may be used to allow individual members to designate contributions to that church. Jane reported that a phone campaign will be organized soon for Outreach.

Board Reports: DeFreese Manor Board is meeting with Immanuel Communities to seek advice. Jane Ross will fill Chad Picha's place on the De Freese Manor Board. The Food Pantry needs additional volunteers- food supplies and monetary support is good but the number of workers has been declining in the last several weeks.

Old Business: Confirmed that none of the officers elected had served longer than the two terms the constitution allows.

New Business: Jim Smejkal has enough volunteers resume to Saturday 5:00 pm worship. People will enter through the handicap door and exit through the Farnam doors. Reservations will be required and services will start in October.

The council approved proceeding with the call process for Shari Lounsbery Duminy as associate pastor. She will be invited to preach at a Sunday live streaming service after which the congregation will vote by mail.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Birthday Blessings

1. Myrtle Hinrichs, A Jones, Cameron McCarthy, Sherry Nickel
2. Penny Matuszeski
3. Danna Grinnell, Anthony Robinson, Robert Siffring
4. Patricia Elson, Robert Whitehead
5. Lora Sarich
6. Kimberly Grassmeyer, Melissa Osentowski, Charlie Wachholtz
7. Patrick Kuehn, Tiffany Zaporowski, Corey Wagg
8. Randy Rolfe, Angela Svacina, Carol Herzog
9. Tyler Anderson, Gerald Clanton, Shirley Dietrich, Pamela Duffield, Leslie Hartmann, Paul Nippert, Carolyn Wheeler
10. Tyler Willson, Robin Jones, Paulette Luetje, Katrina Venn
11. Hazel Hanson, Dean Vancaster
12. Deanna Lundin, Christina Raber, Dannika Rees, Jeanne Schramm, Claire Smock, Ethan Ray
13. Anthony Jones, Kristine Olson, Eleanor Ward, Diana Wilkins
14. Sharon Anderson, JoDee Klinker, Christopher Vawter
15. Blake Gittler
16. Robin Ferguson, Christopher Fischer
18. Hailee Kjeldgaard, Dwight Kurbis, Judith Ryan, Cole Schramm
19. Sarah Willson, Vanessa Bang, Linda Peltz, Braden Bonacci, Lynn Schneiderman, Jeanette Sikora
20. Kenneth Johnson, Garrett Zaporowski
21. Paul Gittler, Matthew Minturn, Stacy Martin
22. Katharine Lefebvre, Sarah Reida, Carol Stoltenberg
23. Kyle Johnson, June Anderson, Kent Rasmussen, Roberta Worm
24. Benjamin Brinkman, Tristan Johnson, Kyra Peterson, Douglas Reed
25. Damon Bartek, Linda Filbrandt, Jacob Stier, Benjamin Svacina
26. Jeremy Lange
27. Adam Arispe, Sean McLeod, Duane Retzlaff
28. Walter Nash, Donna Reinig
29. Albert Grage
30. Debra Robinson, Beverly Bannick, Carl Englert, Stefanie Ervin, Katie Harshbarger, Joshua Kellams, John Mertz

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 10/1/2020.....	\$2,749,037.71
Principal Payment 10/2/2020.....	\$6,818.94
Interest Payment 10/2/2020.....	\$8,636.06
Balance, 11/1/2020	\$2,742,218.77

Finances: thru September, 2020

	<i>September</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 62,388	\$ 692,246
Expenses:		
Benevolence	\$ -	\$ 32,500
Christian Education:	\$ 520	\$ 2,252
Facility Costs:	\$ 15,344	\$ 116,887
Staff Compensation:	\$ 47,520	\$ 428,008
Worship & Music:	\$ 309	\$ 5,184
Youth:	\$ 22	\$ 173
Parish Life:	\$ 482	\$ 6,580
Office & Administration:	<u>\$ 5,165</u>	<u>\$ 45,272</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 69,362	\$ 636,856

In addition, \$29,224 was awarded to our Seminarians, with another \$10,000 to be awarded at a later date. These monies come from the Seminary Scholarship Fund.

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2020 - 9/30/2020)

Balance, 1/1/2020	\$ 51,520.26
Income:	
Donations:	\$ 80,708.10
Memorials	<u>\$ 42,457.94</u>
	\$ 185,166.04
Expenses:	
Costco	\$ 198.70
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$ 9,474.86
Family Fare	\$ 14,517.65
Food Bank	\$ 10,320.80
Other	<u>\$ 2,315.33</u>
	\$ 36,827.33
Balance	\$ 199,858.34

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

Kountze History from the



Part I - Sons and Daughters of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

July 16, 1868 - (First Attempt to have a Son of Kountze)

Council Notes - Council votes to request the repayment of a \$50 loan made to a young man from Tekamah, 3 years ago. Rev. Kuhn's gave him the loan to help him enter the ministry at Wittenburg College in Springfield, Ohio, but he didn't complete his studies. On Jan. 2, 1869, the Rev. Kuhn's received a letter from the man indicating he didn't have the money to repay the loan. On Jan. 30, 1870 the man repaid the loan to the church.

1886 - (First Son of Kountze Lutheran Church)

Rev. Luther Melancon Kuhns, son of Kountze founding Pastor Henry W. Kuhns and wife Charlotta, a graduate of Gettysburg Seminary in Pennsylvania. He was licensed by the Maryland Synod in 1885, ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod in 1886 at Freeport, PA. The Rev. Luther M. Kuhns born in Omaha on Dec. 10, 1861 is not only Kountze's first Son, he is also the first born Lutheran Pastor in the Nebraska Territory. He returned to Nebraska in 1888 and was the founder of Grace Lutheran Church in Omaha. He served at Grace during the years 1888 - 1903 and 1927 - 29. He was President of the Nebraska Synod from 1899 -1902, General Secretary of the Luther League of America from 1902 - 16 and editor of the Luther League Review from 1916 - 19, and Trustee of Midland College for 3 terms. He passed away in 1938 and is buried with his parents and brothers in the family gravesite located on Kountze Circle at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha.

1990 - Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

"A History" - Written by Rev. Dr. L. Dale Lund, President of Midland College.

Page 169- Sons and Daughters of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church with date of Ordination.

Fred W. Henkel 1926	Burd Arganbright 1937	Robert Rath ?	David deFreese 1982
Edward Amend 1927	Vance Baird 1938	Robert Holden 1946	Conrad Swanson 1983
W. Fred Martin 1927	Lawrence Vosseler 1939	Conrad Schmitz 1954	Deanne Lundahl 1985
Herbert Dichsen 1927	Milton G. Moore 1942	Robert Hamilton 1954	Raymond Parrish 1988
George P. Krebs 1934	Robert Shirck 1945	Robert Magnusson 1958	
Ernest Haugse 1935	Theodore Pflueger ?	Everett Brailey 1972	



Left:
Luther M. Kuhns
Student at Gettysburg College

Right:
1930 or 1931 PHOTO
Seven Ministry Students
with Pastors Baltzly and Yost



Back Row: George Krebs, Vance Baird, Ted Pflueger,
Burd Arganbright, Ernest Haugse
Front Row: Herbert Dichsen, Dr. Baltzly, Rev. Yost,
Fred Martin

- 2003 Eric Bostrom - Ordained in 2003 at Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont and is currently serving at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln.
- 2005 Christopher Hawkins - Ordained in 2005 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church and is currently serving at Morning Star Lutheran Church in Omaha.
- 2020 After only having two Sons in 32 years Kountze Church currently has four members studying for the ministry:
 Adam Klinker - Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA.
 Katie Larson - Illiff School of Theology in Denver, CO.
 Justin Perkins - University of Illinois Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.
 Giselle Loucks - Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA.

Dear Members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church:

I want to thank all of you who remembered me and my family in the death of my mother Sherry Henneman. I appreciated all the cards, letters, calls, emails and memorials sent to us during this time of losing my mother. It meant a lot to me and I truly appreciate your kindness. This is what being the body of Christ is all about and what being a member of Kountze means as a community. Thank you and Blessings
 Scott & Ruth Henneman and Family.



Pastoral Acts (September - October 15)

Baptisms:

Ellie Mae Durio
 October 3, 2020

Silje Ruth Pignatore
 October 4, 2020

Weddings:

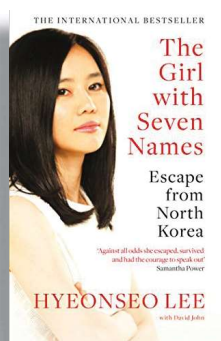
Nicholas Olson/Jessica Coufal
 September 19, 2020

Hannah True & Alexander Jarvis
 October 10 (Trinity Cathedral)

Funerals:

James Timothy 'Tim' Daugherty
 October 9, 2020

Book Group November 2020 (Date TBD)



The November selection for the Kountze Book Group is "The Girl with Seven Names: Escape from North Korea" by Hyeonseo Lee with David John.

Lee has written a sad and beautiful memoir of her escape from North Korea to China in 1997 at the age of 17 following the famine of the 1990s. As a child, Lee was brainwashed to a secretive and brutal Communist regime and told her country was "the best on the planet."

Escaping North Korea was like leaving another universe. In order to avoid capture, Lee couldn't even keep her own name in her struggle to reach freedom and eventually her family to live a life in light and warmth and not return to the shadow. Readers will be shocked to hear this story and learn of life in one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships.

Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's Parish

After much prayer and deliberation, the congregations of Kountze Memorial and St. Peter's have decided not to co-host a Thanksgiving meal this year. As infections increase in our community, the risk is simply too high for our guests and volunteers to eat and converse in such close proximity. We do this with a heavy heart but also with a profound hope that we will be able to return to this collaborative ministry after the pandemic. If you would still like to make a donation to a community meal, we ask you to consider the following:

Open Door Mission - hot meals

<https://www.opendoormission.org/urgent-needs/turkey-n-fixins/>

Catholic Charities - Turkey dinner kits

<https://www.ccomaha.org/program-and-services/behavioral-health>

Salvation Army - deliver hot meals to elderly

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/omaha/>

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Web: www.kmlchurch.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE 68131
Permit 238

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

Worship Times

You may worship in person by confirmed reservation only (call/e-mail no later than noon on Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend). Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change.

You can also tune in on Sundays at 9:00 AM on Cox channel 13 or watch our live streamed service any time at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Did you know...

If you shop with Amazon you can benefit the Kountze Endowment! Simply go to **smile.amazon.com** and log in as you normally would. In the upper left you will see the word **supporting**. Type in **Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Endowment Fund** and click on the select button. Amazon will donate 1/2% of all your purchases to our Endowment Fund.