

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH GOOD NEWS

Volume 41, Issue 1

January, 2021



## Ring in the New Year ... Literally!

The Church's new year began on November 30 with the First Sunday in Advent. On December 13 (Advent 3), we were able to ring the refurbished and installed Church Bell. That bell (from the original church building) rang before and after services as well as during the petitions of the Lord's Prayer. We were privileged to have Norm Sack ring the bell for us as he had done many times before.

Soon it will be 2021. As a nation – as a world – we are united in our hope that 2021 will not be a repeat of 2020! We have struggled through elections, the pandemic, the divisiveness, the isolation, the economy, but we now hopefully see light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccines have arrived and are being administered. An instant cure is not attainable so we will continue our current practices of masks, social distancing, hand-washing, and so on. But some time in 2021 we hope to be back to the old normal.

We welcome the New Year at Kountze as well as our new Associate Pastor, Shari Duminy, and are excited and blessed to have her pastoral skills in our midst. As we welcome her this January we will most likely bid farewell to some of our stained glass windows (see separate article). This will be quite a noticeable (but temporary) change in our sanctuary. It is to be hoped that all of us, and our refurbished windows, will be together again soon.

*Pastor Olaf Roynesdal*



December 13, 2020

Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal  
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
2650 Farnam St.  
Omaha, NE 68131

Dear Pastor Olaf, Staff, and Members of Kountze,

It is with great excitement and humility, that I express my acceptance of the Letter of Call to be your next Associate Pastor, with a grateful YES! I give thanks to God and to all of you for this time of discernment. I look forward to beginning our ministry together on January 1, 2021.

I am aware of the many pastors whom have come before me, those whom I will work with, and those whom will follow me. My prayer is that we will continue to find ways to remain faithful to the calling of Christ for the sake of the church and the world. To know that a new beginning is upon us, I ask for prayers to: contain my over eagerness, overcome any fears, be open to learning from, and forgiving one another when needed. My prayers will not cease for each of you as we continue to meet the days of this pandemic!

My present call with Immanuel will be ending on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020. Currently, many goodbyes are being said as I work to make sure there is a good transition for a new pastor that will be in place after the first of the year. I look forward to rest and time with my family for a week, before I begin my time with you in the New Year.

In God's Loving Grace,

Rev. Shari Duminy

# 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](http://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](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org).

## Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This 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.

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by calling the church office and/or mail your check to the church and note what it is for, and who it is in honor, in memory, or in thanksgiving of.



## In this issue...

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# SERVE with us...

## Kountze Food Pantry Need Gloves, Hats, and Socks

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations to the Kountze Food Pantry. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support! Going forward, we are asking for gloves, hats and socks.

It is heartbreaking to see how many guests are in need of these items. There are people arriving every week with little or no protection against the elements. Warm hands, heads, and feet will truly be a gift of love!

As always, we need volunteers. You may pick your shift and day at the link below. We can find a job for any level of ability.

### Volunteers Needed:

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;  
9:00 - 11:00 AM;  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

If you would like to help please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



## Furniture Needed for New deFreese Manor Resident

There is a new resident that moved into deFreese Manor on December 31 and she only has cookware, a microwave, a bed, and a TV. If you have some good, used furniture, such as a table, chairs, dresser, or couch that you would be willing to donate, please get in touch with Sharon West at deFreese Manor (swest@defreesemanor.org or 402-345-0622).



# 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).

## Youth Forum

**In Person:** The youth group will meet in-person on the green space on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month held in the green space next to the church and the link. The meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Mike Jensen will send out the link to the meeting. The Zoom meetings are approximately 30 minutes in length.

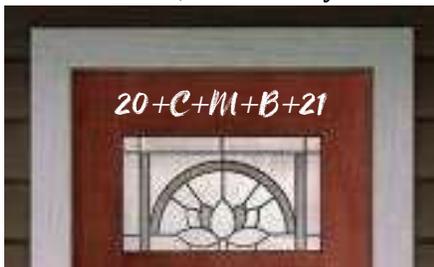


# NEWS & Notes...

## New Year Home Blessing

In German and Scandinavian countries, it is an old Christian custom to bless homes on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany (or Three Kings Day).

The family gathers at the front door, where the year and C + M + B is written over the door or on the door. The letters are initials of the Latin phrase, "May Christ bless this house" (Christus Mansionem Benedicat). However,



because the blessing occurs on Epiphany (the last day of Christmas marking the visit of the Magi to Jesus), children are given a small gift (usually candy) and told that the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) visited in the night, signed their initials, and left a present.

You can celebrate this blessing yourselves on this festival day to mark the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of a new calendar year, whether you live alone or with a large family.

You can make this blessing as simple or as intricate as you like; including the liturgical greeting (e.g. "The Lord be with you..."), a song or carol, Prayer of the Day for Epiphany, sprinkling the door or each room with water, readings (e.g. Matthew 2:1-12 or the start of John's Gospel, 1:1-14), Lord's Prayer, and/or incense (frankincense, of course!).

The core of the house blessing simply involves taking chalk (of any color) and gathering at the main door. You may write on the door or above the door: 20 + C + M + B + 21. As you do so, you or another may say:

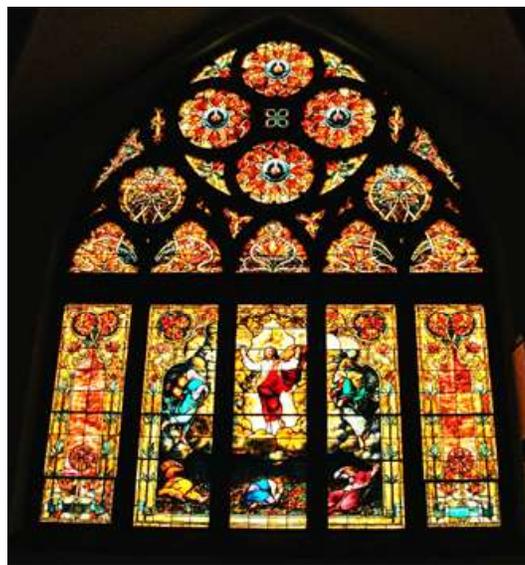
"The three Wise Men—Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar—followed the star to God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty one years ago. Thanks be to God! May Christ bless this home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen."

Indeed, may the light of Christ enrich our homes and all the people who dwell within, giving us and the guests who come the light, warmth and peace of the Holy Trinity, whose love is everlasting!



## Stained Glass Window Repair

The Congregation Council, at its December 15 meeting, voted to proceed with the much-needed repair of three of our stained glass windows: the large East Window; the smaller window immediately south of the East Window; and the large South Window above the Farnam Street Church entrance. The work will be done by Bovard Studios of Fairfield, Iowa.



The windows will be entirely removed in January, 2021 and plywood/insulation will be installed in the window cavities. The windows will then be taken to Bovard Studios and disassembled: cracked glass will be repaired and thoroughly cleaned, the windows entirely re-leaded, and each will have a new aluminum frame. There will be a one inch laminated protective glass on the exterior, with Low-E Protective Glass on the South Window to protect it from the sun.

The total cost of the project will be \$620,000 and will take approximately five months to complete. We have \$73,000 on hand for the project. The Mission Investment Fund loan approved by the congregation two years ago will pay for the windows. We will begin payments on that loan (which also covered the repairs in the sanctuary) when the project is completed.

The Congregation Council also authorized Bovard Studios to do an appraisal of all our windows so that we are sure we are properly insured.

Our thanks to Paul Sum, Tim Holland, Jim Smejkal, and the Property Committee for all their work in making this happen. This has been a long, long process but it has now borne fruit.

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

Previous minutes approved as amended.

Financial Report given by Mr. Backora and approved by Council. The October expenses exceeded the monthly offerings resulting in a \$14,000 shortfall, but the year to date is still in good shape. Discussion was had regarding the PPP forgiveness paperwork. Rick Kolkman had completed that paperwork in the past, so we will check with Noni Cambridge. The 2021 budget process is underway.

Staff reports given and approved by Council.

Committee reports given and approved by Council. Christian Education is meeting on November 18 to discuss Christmas activities. Stewardship reported receiving 67 pledge cards for the church and 35 pledge cards for debt reduction.

Board reports given and approved by Council. Endowment met on October 27 and November 10. The Endowment approved grants for the stained-glass window repairs, media ministry, and global mission. The Endowment did not approve a grant for 2021 funding of debt reduction grant writer (executive director position)

and did not approve a grant for the Boys and Girls Club. The Endowment is discussing possible ways to restructure the KETV, LLC debt. DeFreese Manor Board met on November 15. The DeFreese Board had received a bona fide offer to purchase the building. The DeFreese Board has done their due diligence and voted to proceed cautiously. The Medical Clinic Board is meeting next week and is looking for additional volunteer pharmacists. The Food Pantry is very busy and is in need of additional volunteers. Food Pantry is in need of toiletry donations.

Council Retreat was well received and will do further follow up once we receive Dr. Gary Eller's report. Advent Wednesday evening services will be held in-person and will be live-streamed. Christmas Eve services will be held in-person at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM with the 7:00 PM being broadcast and live-streamed. Jane is working with the newspaper regarding advertisement.

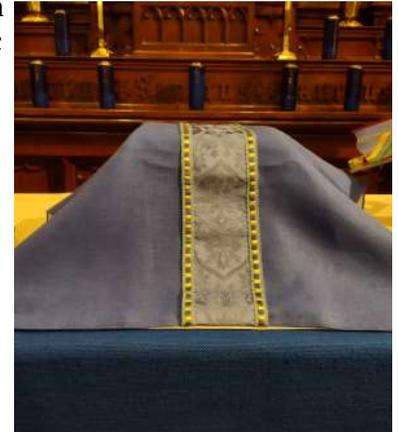
Compensation for the associate pastor was unanimously approved by Council. Personnel Committee candidates Judy Bolts, Bob (Pam) Johnson, and Jerry Clanton were unanimously approved by Council. Kountze Commons Executive Director Position funding was discussed. KETV, LLC will contribute \$35,000 for 2021 executive director position funding. Motion to approve the Church contributing \$30,000 for 2021 executive director position funding. Discussion was had. Motion passed with nine Council members voting yea, one member voting nay, and two members abstaining.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:27 PM.

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## New Chalice Veils

A new set of chalice veils are now in use by the congregation. The chalice veil is the cloth that drapes over the chalice and paten as it sits on the altar before and after the Eucharistic liturgy. Previously, we have used a thin white linen veil. The Altar Guild and pastoral staff decided to order veils that would match the paraments (the other colored cloth that decorates the altar, pulpit, and lectern) and pastoral vestments. Through a donation made in honor of Del Weber, the majority of the costs were covered. Five veils were ordered: white, red, purple, gold, and scarlet. A sixth veil (green) was made and donated by Michele Eakins (who also previously made our green paraments) and the seventh (blue) was made and donated by Pam Johnson. Like "treasures old and new" (Matthew 13:52), the co-chairs of the Altar Guild (Pam Johnson and Dotty Sum) were able to take symbols from previously used (and now aged) paraments of our congregation and reapply them to the new veils. This is true of the purple veil (used at Lent, which has a black crown of thorns applique from a previous lectern parament) and the white veil (which has a large gold cross applique, which was among many such items donated by Jim Hopkins, whose mother Genevieve, served on the altar guild for many years). Finally, the red veil was ordered with two symbols, for the two seasons we use red paraments: a dove for the Holy Spirit (at Pentecost and commemoration of martyrs) and, on the other side, the Luther Rose (on Reformation Sunday). May we sing with the Psalmist "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!" (Psalm 84).

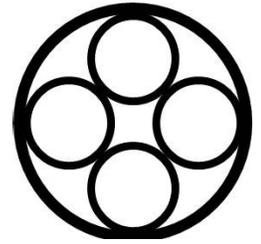


## Kountze Commons Update

Brothers and Sisters in Faith,

This is a very exciting time for Kountze Commons, and I am writing you to share in this excitement of all that Kountze Commons has accomplished in the last month!

Kountze Commons is working diligently to provide services to those who need it most as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to meet the growing need and demand for services, the Kountze Food Pantry has expanded its pantry services by adding additional hours that guests can come and receive food. The Friday before the Thanksgiving holiday, the Kountze Food Pantry fed **852 people just that day**. The Monday before Thanksgiving, the Kountze Food Pantry fed **752 people**. That means in just one week of Pantry **1,609 people were fed**, telling us that the demand for these services are the highest it has ever been. In November, **4,166 individuals were provided food from the Kountze Food Pantry**.



We continue to expand and collaborate through our partnerships to provide truly **integrated** care to those who need it most! The Kountze Food Pantry, Methodist Community Health Clinic, and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic partnered to offer FREE FLU SHOTS during the Kountze Food Pantry operation hours on Monday. In total, **92 free flu shots were administered to guests in partnership with these three organizations during Kountze Food Pantry hours!**

Finally, Kountze Commons continues to raise money for the "In the City for Good" Capital Campaign. So far, specifically the Debt Reduction Task Force and I have raised **\$298,175 including program grants and Capital Campaign gifts! Of that total, \$188,175 has been specifically raised for the Capital Campaign and counting!**

**THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers who dedicate so much of their time, resources, and for your commitment to serving those in need as the hands and feet of Christ.** If you plan to give to the Kountze Commons Capital Campaign, please make your check out to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church with the memo as "Debt Reduction" so it will show up on your giving statement! Finally, for more information about Kountze Commons please visit our VERY OWN WEBSITE at [www.kountzecommons.org](http://www.kountzecommons.org), or contact Taylor Brown, Executive Director at 402-830-1477 or [taylor.kountzecommons@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.kountzecommons@gmail.com)!

### Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 12/1/2020.....	\$2,735,788.68
Principal Payment 12/1/2020.....	\$6,743.07
Interest Payment 12/1/2020.....	\$8,711.93
Balance, 1/1/2021 .....	\$2,729,045.61

### Finances: thru November, 2020

	<i>November</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Total General Fund		
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 68,254</b>	<b>\$ 814,960</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Benevolence	\$ 10,000	\$ 42,500
Christian Education:	\$ 1,010	\$ 3,262
Facility Costs:	\$ 4,434	\$ 132,920
Staff Compensation:	\$ 47,858	\$ 523,806
Worship & Music:	\$ 1,033	\$ 6,544
Youth:	\$ -	\$ 173
Parish Life:	\$ 156	\$ 7,305
Office & Administration:	<u>\$ 3,508</u>	<u>\$ 53,180</u>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 67,995</b>	<b>\$ 769,690</b>

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 - 11/30/2020)

**Balance, 1/1/2020** \$ 51,520.26

#### Income:

Donations:	\$ 87,211.10
Memorials	\$ 42,972.94
NE CARES Grant	\$ 62,000.00
	<u>\$ 192,184.04</u>

#### Expenses:

Costco	\$ 198.70
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$ 9,474.86
Family Fare	\$ 19,934.74
Food Bank	\$ 16,292.06
Other	<u>\$ 11,301.87</u>
	<u>\$ 57,202.13</u>

**Balance** \$ 186,502.07

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

## Update on deFreese Manor



In an effort to keep the Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Congregation informed of developments involving deFreese Manor, the Board decided to provide an update printed in the January “Good News” newsletter. The deFreese Manor Board was approached in January, 2020 by a company and non-profit that specializes in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) subsidized Section 8 housing around the nation. The Capital Realty Group and House of David non-profit indicated an interest in purchasing deFreese Manor to add to their portfolio of subsidized HUD properties. It should be noted that the Capital Realty Group was informed that deFreese Manor is not officially “for sale”, is not under any pressure to sell, and full communication with our congregation would need to commence before any sale would occur.

The deFreese Manor Board has been looking at the future direction of deFreese Manor and has discussed developing a 5-to-10-year plan for this ministry which began over 40 years ago. As many years have passed, things have evolved and changed including growth and expansion of Kountze ministries. At the present time, very few residents of deFreese Manor are also members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. The Board discussed the possibility of selling deFreese Manor to a “like-minded” organization specializing in subsidized housing which could lead to efficiencies, economy of scale, improved services for our residents, and release substantial funds that Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church could direct to other ministries or to build a fund to assist in the upkeep of our church and properties.

To pursue this possibility, the Board decided that a good first step would be to get a third-party appraisal of the value of deFreese Manor. The appraisal idea was discussed, and the Board voted unanimously to obtain bids for an appraisal. Prior to getting an appraisal the Board received a bona fide Letter of Intent offer to purchase deFreese Manor from the Capital Realty Group, Inc. in the amount of \$3.2 million. This organization owns and manages “a diversified portfolio of 15,000+ Section 8 apartments” nationwide. Their portfolio includes properties in both Omaha and Lincoln including Tabitha, an ELCA Nebraska Synod partner in ministry. A first appraisal was received from Mitchell & Associates of Omaha in the amount of \$2.9 million. Several board members expressed the opinion that the property could be worth more than \$2.9 million, and a second appraisal might be desirable before acting on any offers.

A second appraisal was received from Affordable Housing Advisors (AHA) Marcus & Millichap. They are a National brokerage firm representing buyers and sellers of government-subsidized multi-family properties. They estimate a sales value of the deFreese Manor property at \$3.3 to \$3.5 million. Given the ownership status of the parking lot (shared with Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church) that value might be a bit on the high side but could be helpful in negotiations with a potential buyer.

Before proceeding, the Board agreed that it would be beneficial to investigate other options. One option is whether there might be a ‘better fit’ to approach Immanuel Communities. Immanuel Communities has a Lutheran heritage, are also a Nebraska Synod ELCA partner, and there is a strong relationship including two previous meetings between Immanuel Communities and deFreese Manor representatives over the past five years. In August 2020, Scott Henneman, Sharon West, Pastor Roynesdal and Tim Holland met with Eric Gurley, CEO of Immanuel Communities. Based on their discussion, Mr. Gurley advised that Immanuel Communities would not be interested in pursuing a purchase of deFreese Manor. He mentioned the age of the property (40 years old) as a concern and offered his opinion that selling the property would be advisable.

The board discussed the importance of keeping the congregation informed as a possible sale is discussed. Pastor Roynesdal suggested that the January, 2021 Newsletter would be a good place to begin, avoiding the busy Advent Season. There was general agreement that we should give the Congregation time to process and consider a potential sale. In addition to financial and legal considerations, there is an emotional element to be sensitive to and making sure services are maintained and improved for residents. The deFreese Manor Board voted unanimously to begin negotiations with Capital Realty Group. The Capital Realty Group has already indicated they are willing to keep the name “deFreese Manor”, continue the mission of low-income housing for seniors, keep existing staff employed, and involve Kountze church members on the newly formed deFreese Manor Board, if sold. The deFreese Manor Board will continue to keep the Congregation apprised of developments and negotiations throughout the new year.

## What a Joyful Sound in These Trying Times!

Sunday morning December 13, 2020 was a crisp clear morning in downtown Omaha. Just prior to the 9:00 AM service Norm Sack began pulling on the bell rope in the balcony. At first there was nothing. As he pulled a little harder, our Church bell came to life calling people to worship, which no doubt could be heard for many blocks around. Norm than tolled the bell seven times during the "Lord's Prayer," one time for each of the seven petitions. This was an old custom that alerted farmers working in the fields to take a moment and join in the Lord's Prayer.

Our bell had not been rung in many years and while doing some minor repairs to be able to use it again, it was discovered that the crown of the bell was cracked and unsafe to ring. Thanks to a substantial donation from one of our members the bell was lowered down out of the bell tower on May 19, 2020 and transported to the Verdin Bell

company in Cincinnati Ohio for repairs. Once repairs were complete, the bell was once again hoisted into the bell tower on Thursday, December 10 when it was put back into service.

The bell was cast in 1867 by "A Fulton's Son & Company" and is constructed of solid bronze and weighs approximately 700 pounds. It measures 30" in height and 33" in diameter at the base and served in our first Church building at 12<sup>th</sup> and Douglas Street at the current location of the Holland Performing Arts Center. The Inscription on the bell reads: "The Lord is in his Holy temple let all the earth keep silence before him"

Listen for the bell the next time your in Church or even watching via live stream or on Cox channel 13 on Sunday mornings.



Before



After

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## Simply Giving & 2021 Pledge Updates

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you may go online and make this change yourself, or indicate this change to the church office in writing or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up.



Please send an email to [noni@kmlchurch.org](mailto:noni@kmlchurch.org) or complete a new Simply Giving Authorization Form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. A link to the Simply Giving Authorization Form can be found at the link below. If you're already giving through Simply Giving, you don't need to attach a voided check unless your banking info has changed.

If you would like more info. on Simply Giving, you can call the office. If you would like to sign up for Simply Giving, please use the link below for an authorization form.

## Kountze History from the



### History of Youth Groups at Kountze Memorial Church

**1888**—The Christian Lutheran Group for Youth, "Luther League" was founded by six Lutheran Churches in New York City in 1888.

**1895**—The first Biennial Convention of the Luther League in America was held on October 30-31 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Rev Luther M. Kuhns, a newly ordained Pastor and son of Kountze founder, attended that Convention. The Rev. Kuhns from 1903 - 1916 was the National Secretary and Editor of the Luther League Review Monthly Publication.

**May 1906**—The Kountze Dedication Booklet for the third church building in 1906 indicates the first National Group for Youth was the Y.P.S.C.E., the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor that was organized at Kountze on November 10, 1890. Previous to this time there had been a society called the Young Peoples Association but its constitution was abolished and the National one adopted. Unfortunately, Council Notes or Newsletters don't indicate the date when the Kountze Youth Group adopted the National Luther League constitution.

**July 1929**—THE EIGHTEENTH BIENNIAL LUTHER LEAGUE TN AMERICA CONVENTION was held in Omaha at Kountze Memorial Church on July 6 - 10, 1929. Over 300 Luther Leagues from 26 States and one Canadian Province attended this Omaha Convention. In attendance at the Convention, Pennsylvania ranked the highest with 85 leagues and second was New York with 73 leagues. This was nearly two times greater than the 157 Leagues at the last Convention in 1927 at Salisbury, North Carolina.

### JULY - AUGUST 1929, LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW PUBLICATION WELCOME TO THE GATEWAY TO THE WEST



1929 Convention Program



Kountze Convention Hosts

**June 1961, Kountze Newsletter**—Kountze Church had two Luther Leagues, an Intermediate for ages 11 to 13 years and a Senior for ages 14 to 17 years. On the evening of June 11, 1961, the Intermediate League elected Linda Gaughran (Heedum), Vice President and Barbara Anderson (Carpenter), Treasurer. The Senior League elected Robert Fonda, President, Dorothy Boonstra (Sum), Treasurer, and Don Bass, Secretary. It is truly remarkable that after a period of nearly 60 years, these five Luther League officers are still members of Kountze Church. Dottie Sum was asked what she remembered most about her experience with the Kountze Luther League.

She said, "I formed a lot of close bonds with Christian friends that last forever."

**November 1969, Kountze Newsletter**—The Luther League had a Youth Exchange with the First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This was the last mention of Luther League in Kountze Newsletters, from that date on it was just referred to as the Kountze Youth Group.

# Calendar...



**January 1 Friday**

New Year's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

**January 2 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**January 3 Sunday**

Christmas 2

9:00 AM Worship Online or  
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - In  
person

**January 4 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**January 5 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**January 6 Wednesday**

Epiphany of Our Lord

6:30 PM Confirmation

**January 7 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**January 8 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

**January 9 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**January 10 Sunday**

Baptism of Our Lord

9:00 AM Worship Online or  
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum - Zoom

12:00 PM Book Group

**January 11 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**January 12 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**January 13 Wednesday**

6:30 PM Confirmation

**January 14 Thursday**

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**January 15 Friday**

Good News Deadline

5:00 PM Pantry

**January 16 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**January 17 Sunday**

Epiphany 2

9:00 AM Worship Online or  
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - In  
person

10:30 AM Executive Committee

**January 18 Monday**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

**January 19 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Congregation Council

**January 20 Wednesday**

6:30 PM Confirmation

**January 21 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**January 22 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

**January 23 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**January 24 Sunday**

Epiphany 3

9:00 AM Worship Online or  
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum - Zoom

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

**January 25 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**January 26 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Endowment Board

**January 27 Wednesday**

6:30 PM Confirmation

**January 28 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**January 29 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

**January 30 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

**January 31 Sunday**

Epiphany 4

9:00 AM Worship Online or  
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - In  
person





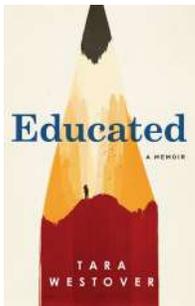
## Birthday Blessings

1. Ruth Henneman, Mary Ann Johnson, Micheala Long, Par Ruach
2. Georgia Severson, Richard Stawniak
3. Nakoma Baker, Barbara Donelson, Morgan Gardner, Tyler Hiatt, Barbara Rassfeld, Marlys Thomas
4. David Eckstrom, Ilse Grage, Jason Hiatt, Kraig dt, William Putnam, Laura Larsen, Donald Strazadas, Shawn Wheeler
5. Andrea Brown, Jeannie Sommer, Jessica Starkel
6. Lois Andresen, L. Holland, Dena Jacobsen, Breanne John, Judy Westerman, Alicia Coles
7. Edward Camenzind, Audrey Nelson, Michael Sommer, Brooke Tipton
8. Marjorie Bock, Christine Kendall, Malvina Stephens
9. Kay Andersen, Karen Bonneau, Juliet Knapp, Pamela Peterson, Jean Raber, Jonathan Taylor, Matthew Munderloh
10. Scott Jones, Judith Poffenbarger, Michelle Wulf
11. Boyd Ervin, Jacob Headley, Michael Pfeilsticker
12. Roland Anderson, Alma Bare, Deanna Edwards, Dante Jones, Alexandria Olson, Aaron Studts
13. Jane Bodnar, Tana Clanton, Karen Fannin, Wayne Hahn, Donald Hirsh, Tina Larsen, Jeffrey Nelson, Justin Perkins, Robert Ringo, Chester Worm
14. John Albers, Ryan Albright, Kenneth Freudenburg, Joslyn Barnes, Richard Mayberry, Marilyn VanBibber
15. Jonathan Martis, Dorothy Yeshnowski
16. Paul Moessner, Mary Syre
17. William Christensen, Robert Penn
18. Jonna Holland, James Smejkal
19. Donald Darst, Christine Forslund, Randall Woster
20. Lori Cameron, Mary Hilkemann, Faith Klein, Terrell Nesselrotte, Tiffany Horan
21. Lois Ernce, Sandra Johnsen, Paul Lux, Marvin Olson, Tricia Ryder, Virginia Sarich
22. Chad Brown, Debra Davidson, Peggy Duncan, Sarah Jerome, Sarah Maaske
23. Steven Hinrichs, Katherine Moldenhauer, Melanie Szymczak, Christian Wulf
24. Mark Mahaffey
25. Sunshine Fonda, Kenyon Martis, Alex Worley
26. Sharon West
27. Mark Hawkins, Karl Kjeldgaard
28. Dorothea Brown, Debra Clatterbuck, Miranda Johnson, Shane Kuenning, Courtney Bailes
29. Steven Dragon, Siany Edwards, Samantha Schueler
31. Mark Coles, Valery Copeland, Robert Hopkins

## Book Group

December 13, 10:15 AM

"Educated" by Tara Westover

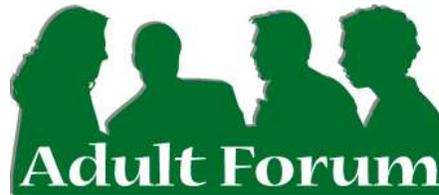


"Educated" is a memoir of Tara Westover who was raised in the mountains of Idaho. Her parents were survivalist Mormons and kept isolated from society. The father did not believe in education or trust the government and did not allow his children to attend school. The mother was a herbalist and self-taught midwife. As a child, Tara spent her summers canning peaches to add

to the food stockpile in preparation for the end of the world and stewed herbs for her mother. In the winter, she salvaged metal in her father's junkyard.

Tara decided to overcome her family's isolation and taught herself math, science, and grammar. At the age of 17, she entered a classroom for the first time and attended Brigham Young University. She went on to earn a PhD in history from Cambridge university.

This is an inspiring book that reveals the importance and power of education. A must read for teachers. Join us.



The Adult Forum will continue with a series of videos posted to the congregation's YouTube channel, starting again in early

February. Topic and link will be posted in the next Good News.

## Pastoral Acts

(November 16 - December 15)

Baptisms:

Gabriel Louis Anderson, November 21, 2020

Katherine Sue Hagge, December 6, 2020

Funerals:

Edward J. White, November 21, 2020

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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 or 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

 Carol Joy Holling Camp 2021

# EARLY BIRD SAVINGS

## Register by January 31!

The Early Bird \$50 discount only applies to full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp, but all campers registered by January 31 will receive a lanyard.

