

Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that 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/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 16 & 17, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry 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

As winter approaches, the pantry will be in need of volunteers willing to take a turn facing the elements while helping guests to their cars. The more people we have, the shorter the shift. Right now, we have 2 or 3 people doing all the work for 4 hours. Please consider helping them out by volunteering at the link below:

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



Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Phoebe Stanga by her aunts, Karen and Shirley Bonneau; Dave & Norma Pafford in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. 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).

ZOOM: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

deFreese Manor Board Meeting

The deFreese Manor board will meet today, January 17, at 10:10 AM

Where Did our Stained Glass Windows Go???

They are at Bovard Studios in Fairfield, Iowa for much-needed repairs. They will have been disassembled and 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. As stated in the January Good News, 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. Any contributions to the stained glass window repair fund will be greatly appreciated.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 22

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 74

Total: 96

Online Attendance: 147

Pantry Guests Served: 217

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 35

Offering: 12/31/2020*

\$11,473.00 (Regular) \$5,799.01 (Specials)

\$106,926.89 (Debt Reduction)

Offering: 1/10/2021

\$24,704.00 (Regular) \$5,600.19 (Specials)

\$4,107.00 (Debt Reduction)

*We received some offerings in 2021 that were postmarked in 2020 which will count as 2020 offerings.

God reaches out to us.

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

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are those who trust in God
Thursday	Romans 8:26-30	God reaches out to us
Friday	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	Be faithful
Saturday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples



Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Awesome God, for your desire to have a relationship with us through Christ our Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For the food that we eat, for your love that we meet, for this meal that we share as a sign of your care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God that searches you and knows you give you hope and peace through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 139:1)

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

- Are you more of a listener or a talker? Explain.
- Is it easy for you to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- As a disciple of Jesus, why is listening to God so important?

Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Human efforts are important for lots of things in this world, but in the Bible, it is God's efforts that make all the difference. It is not first that we as humans call on God to make God a saving presence in our lives. It is God that reaches out to us. We see this in the story of Jesus calling disciples (John 1:43-51). Jesus takes the initiative with Philip, Nathanael, and with us. We see that same pattern when God calls Samuel. God repeatedly reaches out to a boy who does not know God yet. This is also the theme of Psalm 139:1: "O LORD, you have searched me and known me." According to the psalmist, that is unbelievably awesome news. That news is worthy of our full attention, like the boy Samuel saying to the LORD, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). With a God who comes to us, knows us, and calls us to do God's work in the world, it is worth taking the voice of Samuel and making it our own: "Speak, Lord, for I am listening." The church, body of Christ, wants to acknowledge that we are listening to Jesus; the faithfulness of each disciple of Jesus says, "Lord, I am listening to you." How do you listen to God? Is it through prayer, reading the Bible, public worship, or listening to the voice of God through others around you? Explain.

***Pray:* Dear God, just as you pursued Samuel and the disciples Philip and Nathanael, we thank you for pursuing us with your love and grace today through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

To care for someone is to listen to them as Samuel listened to God when God called out to him. Is there someone who could use your attentive listening this week?

Psalm 139 is a beautiful and reflective psalm. Read Psalm 139:1-6 this week using a meditative tradition called *Lectio Divina*. Read it once slowly and pause for reflection. Read it again and pick out a word or phrase that stands out for you. Pause, then read it one last time and wonder how the verses can guide your life this week. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20