

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

March 13 & 14, 2021

### **Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers and Clothing Needed Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM 9:00 - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

Have you ever bought what you needed at Kohl's or JC Penney, received either Kohl's Cash or a Penney's Reward, and then wondered "What should I use this for?" Use it to buy underwear, socks, hats and gloves! If you wait until the end of a season and buy on clearance, you can get a lot for your money. There is a need for everything in our community! Please put your donations in the Food Pantry Box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you very much! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:  
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

### **Youth Summer Trip**

Summer Trip for 8th—12th graders will be July 31—August 7, 2021. Let us know of your interest by March 22. An email to Pastor Shari ([shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org)) will greatly help in the planning.

### **Attendance and Giving**

**Saturday Attendance:** 30

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 75

**Wednesday Attendance:** 27

**Total:** 105

**Streaming Attendance:** 180

**Cox Cable Attendance:**

**Pantry Guests Served:** 824

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 23

**Offering:**

\$16,808.00 (Regular)      \$5,505.13 (Specials)

\$1,187.00 (Debt Reduction)

### **Easter Sunday Attendance**

If you are interested in attending Easter worship please register as soon as possible so we will know whether or not to schedule two services. Also, we are hoping to hold the Easter Vigil on April 3 at 10:00 PM if there is interest. If you are interested, please register as soon as possible. You may also make reservations for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at any time.

### **Today at Kountze**

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in honor of Anna's 18th birthday by Mark & Tarna Kidder

### **Online Sunday School**

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

### **Youth Forum**

**In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM**

All 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Youth Room and on Zoom each week

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Bible Ponderings

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: High School Hang Out

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Serving in the World

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Host Middle School Hangout

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us.)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org)) if you need the Zoom Link info. We will continue to be masked and physically distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

## God loves the whole world.

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

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The serpent of bronze
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Faith is a gift from God
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	The essence of the law
Thursday	1 John 5:1-5	Faith conquers the world
Friday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	The song of joy
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come



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*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NRSV)*

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love, help us to remember that you hate nothing that you have created and that you love the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fed the Israelites in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today with this food and nourishing us with your love. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves the world shine brightly on you with the light of Christ.

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

- Talk or think about something you really love to do.
- How do you show love for others?
- God created the whole world and loves it. What does that say about the kind of God we have?

*Read:* John 3:14-21.

These words from Jesus are part of a conversation he is having with Nicodemus who had come to see Jesus by night. There is a contrast here between those who love the darkness (initially Nicodemus) and those who “come to the light” (v. 21). Nicodemus would eventually be drawn to the light by defending Jesus in front of the Pharisees (John 7:51-52) and preparing Jesus’ body after his crucifixion (John 19:39). In the Gospel of John, following and believing in Jesus can be a journey of coming to the light and gaining eternal life, as Nicodemus does. Darkness cannot choose light; it must be overcome by the light. The judgement of which Jesus speaks is remaining in the dark. Eternal life is having the light of Christ overcome the darkness that prevents us from seeing and loving Jesus. How has the light of Christ helped you in challenging times or times of darkness?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and to the light of Christ that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen.**

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. The symbol of a snake on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week, plan an act of thanks and appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community.

Martin Luther referred to John 3:16, the *Scripture Verse for this Week*, as “the gospel in miniature.” *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”* This week, light a candle and read the *Daily Bible Reading* each day, then say the *Prayer for the Week* and a word of thanks for how God shows love to you and the world. End by saying: **Remember that you are God’s, and to God you shall return.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33