

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

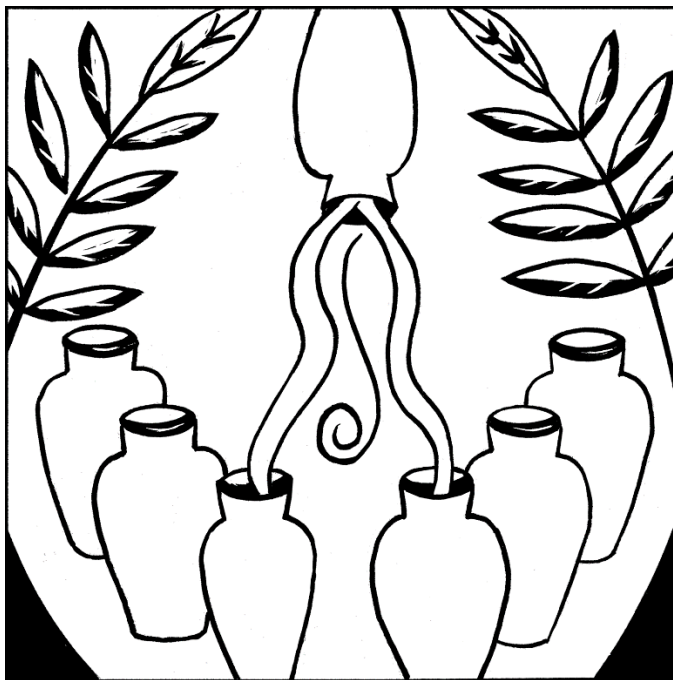
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

January 16, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.

We have turned our faces away from your glory

when it did not appear as we expected.

We have rejected your word

when it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality

to those you called us to welcome.

Accept our repentance for the things we have done

and the things we have left undone.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe

in the glory of your Son born among us,

and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

P Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C Amen.

1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

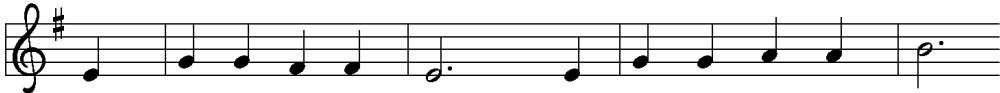
4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
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www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GLORIA



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Lord God,

☞ **source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 36:5-10 (read responsively)

⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**⁶Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you save humankind and animals, O LORD.**

⁷How priceless is your love, O God!
All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**⁸They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

⁹For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.

**¹⁰Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “*Let Jesus be cursed!*” and no one can say “*Jesus is Lord*” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, *"They have no wine."* ⁴And Jesus said to her, *"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."* ⁵His mother said to the servants, *"Do whatever he tells you."* ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, *"Fill the jars with water."* And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, *"Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward."* So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, *"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."* ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

ELW 488

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."**
- 3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.**
- 4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.**

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

- ☐: The following people have been named by the Council to serve as members of the Call Committee of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We give thanks for their willingness to serve in this significant ministry of the congregation. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and called to share in the mission of God; we now rejoice that these sisters and brothers will serve in the common life and mutual mission of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

As your names are announced, please come forward to be installed in your office as members of the Call Committee:

Steve Urlaub
Leon Valquier
Dannika Rees
Paul Revord
Jean Johnson

Bob Johnson
Mary Jo Fike (alternate)
Ann Miller (voice only)
Ashley Sum (voice only)
Jane Kidder (voice only)

☐: Dear Friends in Christ: You have been called to a shared position of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to be mindful that your mutual actions and deliberations within this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us together within the whole church. You are to be conscientious in your service, so that the mission of Christ is carried out within this congregation and in its witness to the wider church, in the community, and in the whole world. You are admonished that your deliberations as a Committee are to be held in strict confidence, and are not to be discussed or shared beyond your meeting, mindful of the sacred trust that is given to you.

You may, from time to time, share a progress report of your work with the Congregational Council and the general membership of the congregation as you deem it to be appropriate. You are to be faithful in this specific area of service, consistent with the guidelines of the Nebraska Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so that the Holy Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. Finally, you are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

☐: On behalf of your fellow members, sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Committee on which you have agreed to serve?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

(stand)

☐: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, the chosen members of your Call Committee, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized in his name?

☑: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

☐: I now declare you installed as members of the Call Committee of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace ✝, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

☑: **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** God of grace,
 C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the birth of Desmond Damme, son of Clayton and Ana Damme

Illness: Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Bobbie Powell, John Rayno, Toby Rees, Doug Revord, brother of Paul Revord, Pastor Harold and Kathy Stromer, Evelyn Sueper, Melissa Osentowski's grandmother, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated"

Mark Hayes

Paul Rath, *soloist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God,
- C** Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepared us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

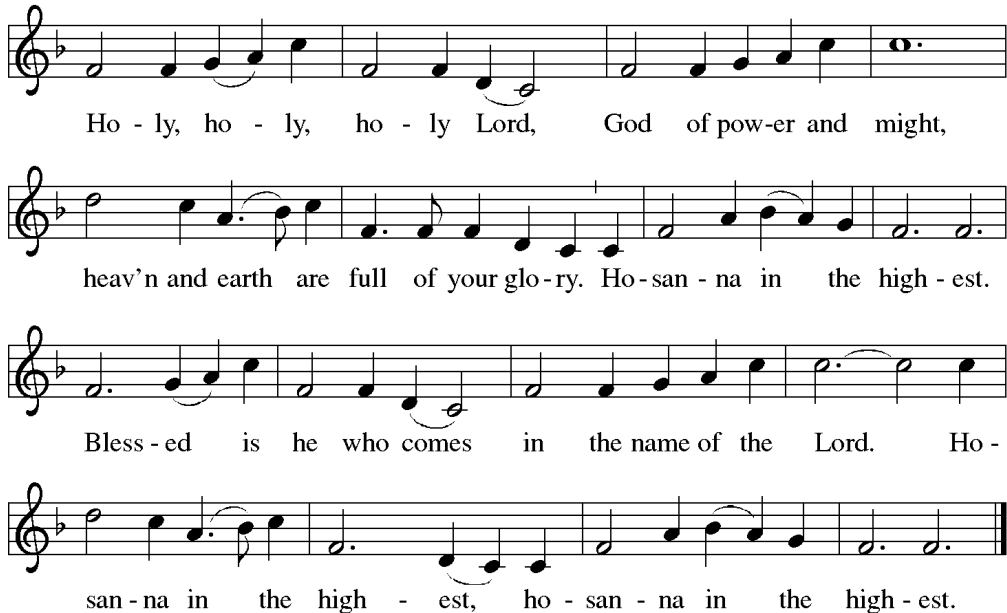
HOLY COMMUNION

- Ⓟ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓞ **And also with you.**
- Ⓟ Lift up your hearts.
- Ⓞ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Ⓞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to God's table. There is a place for you

C and enough for all.

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Eat This Bread"

ELW 472

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."**

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."**

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."**

Text: Taizé Community
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agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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- 1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**
- 3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
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- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company,
Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** We give you thanks, gracious God,
G for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God
from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service
in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action
for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom
and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our
ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children,
the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in
this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and
his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
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DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*



KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 15 & 16, 2022

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

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, as well as 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.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and

monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Myrtle Weible in appreciation of Sarah Jewel and Debbie Bogue; given by Tom Holcombe in memory of wife, Jean Holcome's birthday

Children's Choir **Ages K-6th Grade**

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Adult Forum **Sunday, 10:10**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Full Communion Agreements of the ELCA

Sunday School **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

All 7th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!
This Sunday—Youth Gathering Bible Study

Today at Kountze, *continued*

New Member Class

January 16 & 23 (please plan to attend both sessions)
12:15 - 2:00 PM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, please consider attending this New Member class. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

KMLC Refugee Resettlement Task Force “Epiphany Tree”

Kountze is co-sponsoring a refugee family through Lutheran Family Services, which means we will

provide all the items needed for an arriving family. Starting January 8, please stop by the “Epiphany Tree” and select an ornament listing one or more of the various furniture and household items needed that you would like to donate. Bring your donations and place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall **by January 30**. If you need help transporting larger furniture items, we will arrange for volunteers to help. There is a list of needed items in the January Good News. Just as the Magi came from afar, so do our new neighbors. Thank you for your generosity and answering Christ’s call to offer hospitality to those in need.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 9 Sunday

Middle School Gathering
5:00 PM Worship

January 16 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Executive Committee
12:15 PM New Member Class

January 17 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
OFFICE CLOSED
PANTRY CLOSED
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

January 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

January 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

January 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

January 21 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

January 22 Saturday

Larsen & Strazda Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

January 23 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM New Member Class

Sunday School Talking Points

Children learn through storytelling and parables are stories with a moral lesson. Over the next six weeks, the Sunday School students will be focusing on a parable a week. To begin, they will hear the Parable of the Good Shepherd.

In this Parable, the Shepherd leaves his flock to search for one missing sheep. It illustrates the love God has for each of us, no matter how insignificant we may seem. The Shepherd (God) keeps us from harm, shows us the way, and gives us access to the Kingdom.

To illustrate and reinforce the lesson, after watching the story unfold using the Godly Play materials, the students will have the opportunity to use the materials on their own to further deepen their understanding of the lesson. There will also be two craft activities they can choose from to help reinforce the moral of the Parable. Ask your child to retell the story using these materials.

'22 Stewardship Campaign

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Due to all the fall personnel changes, our Stewardship Campaign is now during our time After Epiphany. We look to this time and join the Refugee Resettlement Task Force in pondering the gifts that the Magi brought to the newborn King, Jesus.

It is the hope of the Congregational Council that you will consider your pledge of time, talents and treasures toward Kountze for the coming year. The timeline for our Stewardship Campaign is the following:

- Stewardship letter and pledge cards are in the mail
- Return your Pledge Cards before January 31

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 20

11:30 AM

After taking the month of December off, the Men's Lunch will resume. Please call the church office on Tuesday, January 18 to make a reservation or email jim@kmlchurch.org. This month come join us and get to know Pr. Steve Griffith.

Project Linus Event

Friday, January 28

6:00 PM

Happy New Year! The Christian Education Committee's resolution for 2022 is to do more service projects for our community. Each month we will have a different project for you to give of your time and tal-

ents. For January, we will be making blankets for Project Linus. This charity gives children with severe illnesses or trauma a security blanket. We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall on January 28 at 6:00. A chili and hot dog dinner will be provided. In addition to needing volunteers to make tie blankets, we need donations of prewashed fleece or cotton material. Please sign up for this event by calling the church office at 402-341-7761 so that we have enough food and materials on hand. Contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org with any questions.

Kountze Food Pantry

Kountze Food Pantry is once again collecting gloves, mittens, and hats! There is always a need in the winter months. Please leave your donations in the pantry box in Fellowship Hall or in the office. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by our guests!

Please note: Family Fare receipts must be complete in order to be counted. Partial receipts cannot be submitted.

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

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

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

Simply Giving

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, you need to indicate this change to the office/make the changes yourself online, or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 13, 2022

10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Committee and Boards Reports for the year need to be into Office Manager, Debbie Bogue by January 9. Thank you to each one for your efforts to complete the reports by this date. It allows for the staff time to get it printed and assembled along with all the other weekly task that continue to be done.

Annual Reports will be distributed at Worship the weekend of February 5 and 6.

On Sunday, February 6, Treasurer Tim Backora will lead a review of the budget during Adult Forum time.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 134 **11:00:** 55

Wednesday: 12:15: 10 **Confirmation:** 11

Total: 234

Streaming: 94

Cox Cable: 282

Pantry Guests Served: 818 (inc. 247 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$31,094.00 (Regular) \$5,166.40 (Specials)

\$52,442.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's abundant goodness brings joy.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5	Jerusalem will be saved
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Psalms 16:7-11	Song of trust in God
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:10-13	Healing after punishment
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 36:5-10	Human sin and God's goodness
Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth



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How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:7 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, your love and faithfulness brings joy; may we use our gifts so that others may see Jesus as the source of your abundant goodness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for this food, a sign of your constant love for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of abundant love give you joy.

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

- Think of a friend of yours. How does that person bring you joy?
- Epiphany reveals God's saving grace in our lives. Where have you seen God's handiwork?

Read: John 2:1-11.

The wedding at Cana contains Jesus' first public sign of his glory. The full intent of the sign is not completely disclosed for his hour has not yet come. His hour of glory that shows the depth of God's love and mercy will happen with his death on a cross. This first sign points to a deep understanding of Jesus' whole ministry. It is about abundance that brings joy. The amount of wine Jesus provides from the water jars was excessive, and it tasted very good. Wine in the Bible was meant to gladden the heart. It was associated with a future divine banquet as well as daily hospitality and celebration. The sign of changing water into wine at a wedding feast introduces Jesus' ministry as overflowing with goodness, joy, and love. It turns our shame and embarrassment (like a bridegroom's shame for running out of wine) into simple delight without limits, without measure. It leads us to long for more of what Jesus has in store for us.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's abundant love in your life?

Pray: **God of love, give us joy in your presence that we may be a sign of your love to others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share God's abundant goodness by using your gifts and talents to care for others?

The wedding at Cana reminds us of how the Bible uses weddings and feasts to express the joy that God intends for us. To experience this joy during the Epiphany season, plan a special meal this week and invite friends. Begin by reciting Psalm 36:7-8: *How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.* During the meal talk about what these verses mean to you. End by reciting the verses again.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21