

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

January 30, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Partita on 'Deo Gracias'*

setting: Michael Burkhardt

Mark Jones, *organist*

Tune to "O, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair" and "O Love, How Deep"

1. Maestoso

2. Allegro

3. Larghetto

(concluded in Postlude)

### 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.

**G** 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,

**G** **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.

**G** Amen.

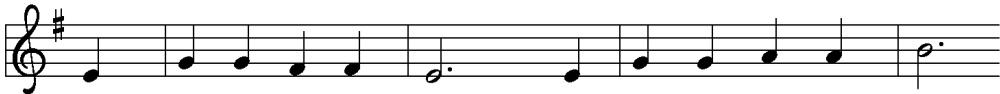
- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684,  
sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.
- ☑ 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

- ☐ Almighty and ever-living God,
- ☑ **increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 1:4-10**

*God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.*

**N**ow the word of the Lord came to me saying,  
<sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

<sup>9</sup>Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 71:1-6** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup>**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

<sup>4</sup>**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,  
my confidence since I was young.

<sup>6</sup>**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.*

**I**f I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** 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.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 4:21-30**

*People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.*

**T**hen Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, *“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”* <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, *“Is not this Joseph's son?”* <sup>23</sup>He said to them, *“Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”* <sup>24</sup>And he said, *“Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.”* <sup>25</sup>*But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.* <sup>27</sup>*There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”* <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Duminy*

*(stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”*

**ELW 737**

**1 He comes to us as one unknown,  
a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone,  
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred,  
a pulse of being stirred.**

**2 He comes when souls in silence lie  
and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye,  
a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart,  
of night within the heart.**

**3 He comes to us in sound of seas,  
the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze,  
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home,  
a voice to call us home.**

**4 He comes in love as once he came  
by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame  
a life, a death, a saving name,  
for ev'ry child of earth,  
for ev'ry child of earth.**

**5 He comes in truth when faith is grown;  
believed, obeyed, adored;  
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Savior and our Lord,  
our Savior and our Lord.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company,  
Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
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(sit)

## PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

- ☐ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*Charles and Kathy Cole  
Trevor Culbertson  
Michael and Laura Pribyl*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ God has made us his 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.**

- ☐ In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

(continued on next page)

- P** *Sisters and brothers* in Christ: do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

May almighty God – Father, Son † and Holy Spirit – who gave you the will to reaffirm your baptismal vows also give you the grace and the strength to uphold them.

- P** People of God: do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**C** **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

- P** Let us pray: we give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

**C** **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)*

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Erica Freeman, Philip Frye, Bud Gogetap, Pr. Stephen Griffith, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Bobbie Powell, Toby Rees, Doug Revord, Evelyn Sueper, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Dean Winther, Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, 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

*“All Are Welcome”*

arr. Paul Tate  
Jean Johnson, *pianist*

*“Let us build a house where love can dwell, and saints and sinners live.  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome in this place.”*

## 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 prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

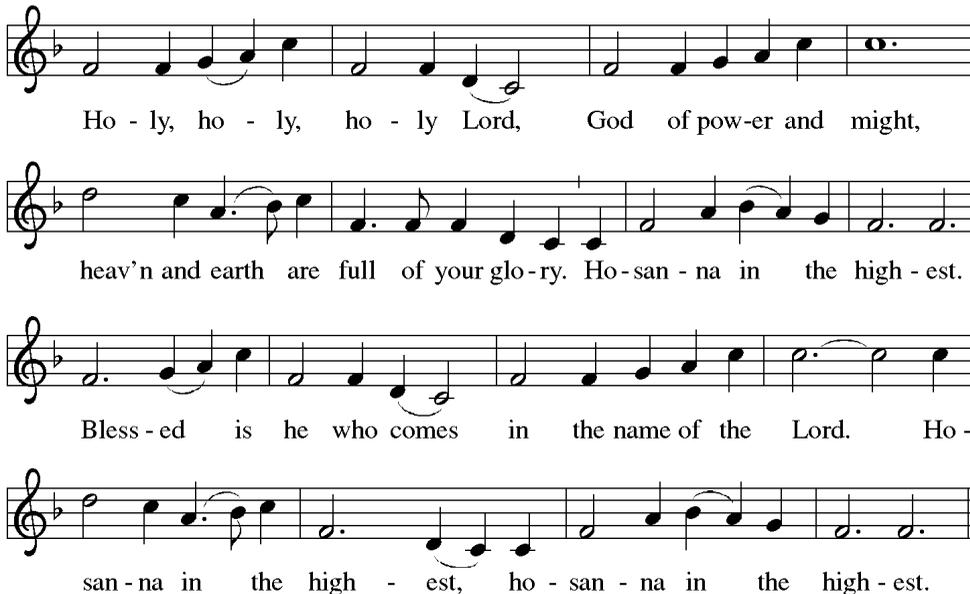
## HOLY COMMUNION

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

## PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- P** 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

*“Now We Join in Celebration”*

ELW 462

**1** Now we join in celebration  
at our Savior's invitation,  
dressed no more in spirit somber,  
clothed instead in joy and wonder;  
for the Lord of all existence,  
putting off divine transcendence,  
stoops again in love to meet us,  
with his very life to feed us.

**2** Lord, as round this feast we gather,  
fill our hearts with holy rapture!  
For this bread and cup of blessing  
are for us the sure possessing  
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,  
of your living self, our vict'ry,  
pledge of your unfailing presence,  
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

**3** Lord, we share in this communion  
as one fam'ly of God's children,  
reconciled through you, our brother,  
one in you with God our Father.  
Give us grace to live for others,  
serving all, both friends and strangers,  
seeking justice, love, and mercy  
till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen  
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 1 **Although I speak with angel's tongue,  
my faith, my knowledge all surpass,  
but have no love, my gifts are vain  
as clanging gong or blaring brass.**
- 2 **For love is patient, love is kind,  
and never vain with boasting pride;  
love bears all things, all things endures.  
All things must end; love will abide.**
- 3 **For now we peer at darkened glass;  
our visions end; our tongues all cease.  
In part we know, in part now see:  
then we will see love face to face.**
- 4 **The gifts are many, the Body one,  
and into one are all baptized.  
Beloved, share one heart, one mind,  
one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.**

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b.1951  
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

*(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.

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# 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

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Rise, Shine, You People!”*

ELW 665

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,  
with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
God's new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*Partita on 'Deo Gracias'*  
4. Toccata

Mark Jones, *organist*  
(continued from Prelude)

✠   ✠   ✠

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

January 29 & 30, 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 worshipping, 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. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a 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 in honor of Mary Jensen for her 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and Thomas Jensen for his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by their parents

### **Children's Choir Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Barb Carlsen is 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. This week we welcome new members.

### **Sunday School**

#### **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—State of Young People and Religion – a study by Springtide Research Institute

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

### Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our congregation, all the household items and furniture for our refugee family have either been already donated, or commitments have been made. To those who have already dropped off their items, THANK YOU! For those who have signed up or called offering items, now is the time to bring them to the Fellowship Hall. We hope to learn who our family is by February 15 and get the apartment set-up and the family moved in yet that week. Volunteers are

still needed to help move furniture! Please call Jerry Fisher at 402-981-5765 to let him know if you have a truck or a strong back. If you missed your chance to donate items, we still need gift cards for grocery stores. You may drop those off in the church office – please mark them “for refugees”. Volunteers are also needed to help with mentoring and transportation for the family. We are putting together a team so that we can support the family’s adjustment to life in Omaha. Go to LFSneb.org and click on “get involved” OR call Jonna Holland 402-669-4575 to learn more. Together we are blessed to offer hospitality to our new neighbors! We hope to have information on our family sometime in February.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### January 30 Sunday

Epiphany 4  
Receive New Members  
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

### January 31 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
2:30 PM Clinic in Classroom

### February 2 Wednesday

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

### February 3 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 4 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### February 6 Sunday

Epiphany 5  
Homebound Communion  
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

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## Sunday School Talking Points

The Parable of the Sower is a simple story with a powerful message. In the parable, we see a sower scattering seeds in four different areas of the earth. First, the birds eat the seeds as soon as they are thrown, leaving nothing to even begin growing. Then, the seeds are scattered on rocks where they do not have the nutrients or space they need to sprout roots. Next, the seeds are thrown onto soil crowded with thorns, blocking the sun and choking the seedlings. Lastly, the seeds are sown in fertile soil with the correct growing conditions to sprout, grow, and thrive.

In today’s lesson, we will be learning about what the sower, soil, and seeds represent in our lives. Ask your children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss what makes type of environment helps our seeds of faith grow.

## ‘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. Please return your Pledge Cards before January 31.

### **Free at-home Covid-19 Tests**

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. If you don't have access to a computer, you can order tests via a hotline at 1-800-232-0233.

### **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**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

Thank-you for all the hats, scarves and socks for the Pantry guests. We are still in need of adult men's gloves. We are also collecting toilet tissue. Our biggest need is for volunteers! Several key helpers will be flying south for the winter and we could really use your help!

### **Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall**

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.



### **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>

### **Camp Carol Joy Holling**

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 - 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

### **Service Project for the Youth of Kountze Project Linus Event**

**Postponed until Friday, February 11  
6:00 PM**

This charity gives children with severe illnesses or trauma a security blanket. We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall. A chili and hot dog dinner will be provided. In addition to needing volunteers to make tie blankets, we need donations of pre-washed 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](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) with any questions.

Join us on February 25 in preparing meals for the YES House located in our community at 26<sup>th</sup> and Harney. Watch the bulletin and e-news for more information.

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 31

**Sunday: 9:00:** 108 **11:00:** 63

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 6

**Total:** 208

**Streaming:** 90

**Cox Cable:** 249

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1186 (inc. 297 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 17

**Offering:**

\$14,513.00 (Regular)      \$1,736.68 (Specials)

\$1,653.00 (Debt Reduction)

*God sustains and delivers us.*

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

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	The Lord chooses the boy Jeremiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Wednesday	Luke 2:25-32	Simeon praises the Lord
Thursday	Ezekiel 2:1-10	The Lord chooses Ezekiel
Friday	Amos 5:6-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalms 71:1-6	A prayer for God's protection
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples

taking  
faith  
home

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*"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."* **Jeremiah 1:8 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus that others may see in us our faith in you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this meal; may this gift of food remind us of your care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.

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

- How do you feel when you want to be part of a group but are not invited to join? Explain.
- When have you been challenged to oppose others and speak what you believe?

*Read:* Luke 4:21-30.

Most of us want to be liked. Because of that, it is easier to follow the crowd than stand up for what is right, or in the case of Jesus and the prophets of the Old Testament, to stand up for God's word that opposes the preferences of the masses. God specifically tells Jeremiah not to fear those who receive his message as commanded by God (Jeremiah 1:7-8). Jesus boldly reminds his townspeople that God and the prophets of old had shown mercy to foreigners and enemies of Israel. Jesus must have known that was not a popular message. It is a reminder for us that popularity is not the goal of life. Faithfulness to God's rule and God's word is what we are to follow. The good news is that God goes with us to sustain and deliver us from evil, just as God did for Jeremiah and Jesus. That did not mean an easy life for either of them. However, there is a peace and confidence God gives that no crowd will ever provide.

*Discuss:* How has God sustained you during a time you felt unfairly criticized for what you believe?

*Pray:* **God of truth, justice, and mercy, give us your word daily that we may follow you faithfully and trust in you and you alone, through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show God's love to those who are less popular?

Epiphany is a time for public expressions of the Christian faith. This includes caring for those who are treated poorly, even bullied. Think of people who are picked on or criticized by others. It is an act of the Christian faith to speak up against those bullying others. Light a candle and say a prayer for your own courage to speak for those who are demeaned or otherwise persecuted.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30