

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 43, Issue 1

January, 2023

## FROM THE PASTOR

Here we are – at the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Christ is God’s “Yes!” breaking into a world that too often says “No!” The angels sing it. The shepherds visit the manger and tell the good news. The Magi travel from afar and bring gifts. It’s Christmas!

And we are at the beginning of a new year, full of possibilities and hopes. We don’t know what the year, but we do trust that God walks with us into each new day and brings joy and hope.

As we worship together, grow together, and serve together, may the blessings of Christ continue with you day by day.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!  
Pastor Steve

## CALL COMMITTEE

At the November 20 Adult Forum, Jean Johnson gave an update on the committee’s work.

They have held a mock interview that gave them a chance to practice an interview with a candidate (volunteer). The committee was introduced to those in attendance at the Forum.

At that event, Kountze members were asked to submit names of possible pastor candidates to the committee. Several were given and those have been sent to Bishop Scott Johnson’s office. Pr. Greg Berger, assistant to Bishop Johnson, is working to contact the Bishops of the names given to determine interest and availability. It is hoped that January will bring a slate of candidates for our consideration. Please be cognizant that the committee will not inform the congregation of interviews and names, as that is not for public knowledge.

The committee appreciates your continued prayers as God leads us to the next Senior Pastor of the congregation.

Jean Johnson, Chair of the Call Committee  
Committee members: Mary Jo Fike, Bob Johnson, Paul Revord, Dannika Rees, Leon Valquier, Ashley Sum, Ann Miller, Pr. Steve Griffith

## Epiphany New Year Home Blessing

In German and Scandinavian countries, it is an old Christian custom to bless homes on Jan. 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 + 23. 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 sixteen 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!



# WORSHIP *with us...*

## Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed on our website ([www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



Photo by Jake Madison

## Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



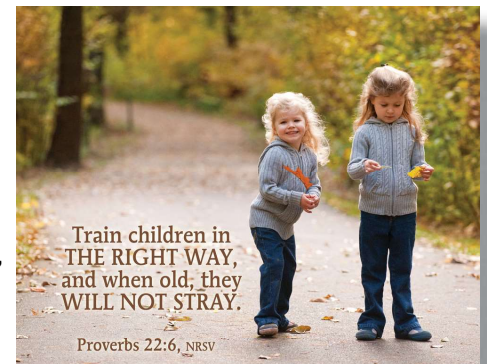
Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

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.

## 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. We also have 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.



## 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 signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked "flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



## In this issue...

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# GROW with us...

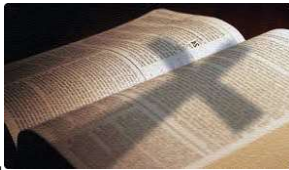


## Bible Study

**Mondays, 6:00 PM or  
Wednesdays, 11:00 AM**

**Enter through the Farman Office**

Beginning January 9 & 11 we will explore Epiphany Themes as we unwrap the present of Christ in our lives. Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.



## New Member Class

**January 15 & 22  
10:15 AM**

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.



## Holden Village, 2023

**July 22 – 29, 2023**

**Register by January 3**

Join us for a week at Holden from July 22 – 29, 2023.

Save the date and watch the bulletin and Good News for more information.

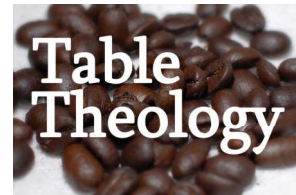
Contact Pastor Duminy with any questions you may have or to let her know if you intend to go on the trip by Tuesday, January 3. We need to submit a reservation list by January 5.



## Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

### Table Theology

**Sozo Coffeehouse  
(1314 Jones St, Omaha)  
Sunday, January 8  
6:30 PM**



For latest information join on Facebook, or email [omahalutheranyoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:omahalutheranyoungadults@gmail.com)

## Pastoral Acts

**(November 16 - December 15)**

### Baptisms:

Hollis Opal Fischer, December 11, 2022

### Funerals:

Jerry E. Weible (December 6, 2022)

## From Those Serving in Mission

We received newsletters from two of the Missionaries that Kountze Memorial is helping to support this year thanks to grants from our Endowment Fund.

We also received a newsletter from Katie Larson, our Missionary/Seminarian in Columbia.

Use the links below to read their newsletters.



**Rev. Chandran Paul Martin**

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Chandran-Martin-PDF.pdf>



**Steve & Jodi Swanson**

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Steve-Jodi-Christmas-2022.pdf>

**Kaitlyne Larson**

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Katies-Newsletter-OctoberNovember-2022-Kaitlyne-Larson.pdf>



# SERVE with us...

## Kountze Food Pantry



On December 1, 2022, the Kountze Food Pantry participated in the WOWT Stuff-the-Bus event. The activity began before 7:00 a.m. at Kountze Commons and at the donation site at 84th and Dodge Streets, outside of the NP Dodge building.

1-2 volunteers from Kountze were at the truck on site from

7 AM-7 PM. Two Men and a Truck donated their services to transport the filled containers to the Pantry. We received 2 truckloads of 12, 4 foot tall containers for a total of 24. Each container is estimated by WOWT to weigh 700 lbs, however they do not have scales. The Food Bank for the Heartland does have scales and we regularly receive 2 foot tall containers from them, estimated between 500-800 lbs each, depending on the contents. As the containers we

received during this event were twice as tall and filled with mostly canned food, I can safely say each weighed 1000 lbs. Once the containers reached the pantry, they were removed by a forklift donated by Stan Houston Equipment. Volunteers spent the next 2 days sorting, date checking and storing the food. 49 volunteers participated in total at the pantry and donation site. A few volunteers worked in excess of 12 hours each day. The Food Bank for the Heartland is one of 200 food banks across the country that is in the Feeding America network. Feeding America allows charitable contribution deductions at \$1.70 per pound of donated food.  $24,000 \times 1.70 = \$40,800$  worth of food. In addition, we will receive cash donations of approximately \$3,000.00.

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

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

## Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- someone(s) to make mini quiches on **Saturday**
- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 3 people to clean up from 10:45 - 11:30 AM

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 - 11:30 AM

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**
- kitchen help from 8:00 - 11:30 AM

Do you like to shop? The grocery lists are established, but we need someone willing to shop for groceries and

deliver them to the church by Saturday morning. This can be split by more than one person/family. Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you are able to serve.

## Kountze Café Serving on Sundays from 9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.



## Nursery Volunteers Needed



The KMLC Nursery officially opened Sunday, December 11, and will be open every Sunday from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as

well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

We need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to email [Nursery@kmlchuch.org](mailto:Nursery@kmlchuch.org) or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

## January Service Project

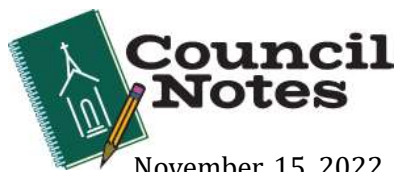
January 13  
5:00 PM

This month we will be volunteering in the Kountze Food Pantry.

After we finish with the service project, everyone is invited for pizza and a movie in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to this even by calling the church office at 402-341-7761.



# NEWS & Notes...



November, 15, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Pastor Steve Griffith. Tina Broekemeier led a devotional. Motion and adoption of the meeting agenda by a voice vote.

Moved and seconded to adopt minutes of previous meeting.

Financial Report by Tim Backora. Current budget passed is greater than pledge cards for FY 2022. FY 2023 Budget process starting soon, rough draft by next meeting; not required by 1/1/2023. Explanation of COVID refund (no update on when that should arrive): tax credit given to organizations who paid personnel during a certain time period of the COVID-19 pandemic; titled "Employee Retention Tax Credit."

Pastor Hall briefly described the script for TV ministry.

Personnel Committee update: Lewis Flake hired as night manager. No official start date/move-in date as of yet.

Endowment: Capital repairs to the building have been approved. Questions/discussion regarding interpretation of Endowment Bylaws.

DeFreese Manor Board (Mike Jensen): New owners are aware of the board's existence.

Food Pantry: Need volunteers for Stuff the Bus. Fork Lift made available to Kountze.

Internship Committee (Jacob Rump): The committee met and decided on some sections of Vicar Gretchen's midterm evaluation.

Outreach Ministry (Tina Broekemeier): Need to set meeting date.

Property Committee (Mike Jensen): Construction of

windows with Ronco and Bovard is going forward as planned. The East window is set to be replaced after Easter, and the South window is set to be replaced in January. It will be necessary to rent parking from city on the South side of the building while this construction takes place.

Youth Committee (Pastor Shari, Madeline O'Kane): Upcoming lock-ins, working on finding additional committee members.

Endowment: Funds: \$39,000 available for use this year. Consideration of use for paying down loans on windows?

Old Business: Pastor Duminy discussed the membership and stewardship audits. Written report available, of note: number of households is 433. The goal for pledges is to increase the number of pledges by 20%. Councilmembers handed in their intent cards, prior to this Sunday when the congregation will give their intent cards. Per Ann Miller of the Call Committee, they held mock interviews, and had good dialogue surrounding differences in opinions. Under Bishop Scott, laypersons can take suggestions of potential Pastors to our Pastor to be sought out by the Synod. More discussion of the use of DeFreese Manor sales. Bruce Nissen discussed it with 22 people in the congregation, and overwhelmingly people felt it should be used for the MIF loan debt.

New Business: Motion to hold the next Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023. Seconded and adopted. Discussion of use of Al Schewe memorial gift funds of \$25,000. Request for Council to submit \$39,000 request to the Endowment for use toward window repair (MIF) loan.

Moved, seconded, adopted. Discussion of hosting an intern for 2023-2024; do we have capability given budget issues?

Council Workshop to be rescheduled.

Movement into an Executive Session. Moved, seconded, and approved. Pastoral staff excused. Motion and approval to adjourn the meeting by a voice vote.

## Stained Glass Windows

This is a photo of one of the window frames. The south window should be installed in January and the east window is set to be replaced after Easter.





## Kountze History from the



In 2010, the Archive Committee interviewed 90 Kountze members who shared their church memories. It was similar to the interviews Rev. Wick had done in 1990 except these were done using a video camera. At the time of these interviews one man had been a member for over 90 years but most of the people had been members for 30 to 80 years. They were asked what brought them to

Kountze, why they have stayed so long and what were their favorite church activities they participated in. They were also asked what they would say to future generations. Unfortunately, during the 12 years since the interviews were made, 38 of the members have passed away and become Kountze Saints. The following are parts of some of the interviews:

- **DARLENE ANDERSON, KAYE BOCK and VICKIE WICHERT**-Interview May 11, 2010. (70+ year members) Their parents were Bill and Irene Michalenko. When they were young, their parents would bring the three daughters and son Bill to Church on Sundays. They would ride a bus to 16<sup>th</sup> and Farnam, then take a streetcar to the church. All four siblings were baptized and confirmed at Kountze. Kaye became a Kountze Saint in 2016, Vickie has moved to Arizona and Bill lives in Texas. Darlene was baptized in 1938. Some of Darlene's activities at Kountze over the years have spanned from the Church Council to Eucharist Minister. She has been is a dedicated volunteer working in the kitchen during funerals and the office two days a week. Darlene said, "Kountze is home. If Dean and I miss a Sunday the day doesn't start right." Darlene added, "We need to give our time, our treasures and our talents to keep our church life active."
- **ROBERT "BOB" FALK**- Interview May 24, 2010. (70+ year member) Bob was baptized at Kountze in 1934 and confirmed in 1948. Bob was very active at Kountze. He was on the Church Council and for many years was in charge of the ushers. Bob stated, "as an usher, you are sometimes the first introduction to a church, so I felt it was important to reach out to the guests. I tried to be upbeat and enthusiastic." He was involved with the Nebraska Synod when Rueben Swanson was President. He was also on the committee to establish bylaws when the ELCA and LCA merged. Bob stated, "Kountze has always been on the cutting edge, but it's traditional. During tough times, Kountze has always been a safe haven. I would walk in the door and feel comfortable. Kountze to me is the flagship of Lutheran Churches. I've been proud to be part of it. It is warm and welcoming." Bob, at the age of 79 years, in 2014 became a Kountze Saint.
- **BRUCE AND BARBARA NISSEN** - Interview August 1, 2010. (30+ and 20+ year members) Bruce was received at Kountze in 1979 by Rev. Paul deFreese and Barbara in 1992 by Rev. Lawrence Wick. Bruce said that when he moved to Omaha to begin his first teaching job, he started looking around at different Lutheran Churches. One day after he had been to a downtown event, he saw Kountze Church. On the next Sunday he came and sat in the balcony next to a nice older lady. After the services she asked, "how do you like our church?" Bruce said, "It's a wonderful sanctuary, I like the music, the people are friendly and the pastor is fantastic. He can really give a sermon." She said, "I like him also, he's my husband." (It was Mina deFreese) Bruce said they then had a bond; his hometown of Plainview and Mina's hometown of Orchard are only 12 miles apart. Bruce said the Kountze Aeolian-Skinner organ installed in 1950 is a "romantic organ" you can get many kinds of sounds from warm rich sounds to the brass sounds. It really enhances the worship and can set the tone of the people's emotions. Bruce sometimes is a substitute organist for Sunday services and both Bruce and Barbara sing in the Kountze Choir.
- **DEL AND LOU ANN WEBER**- Interview August 17, 2010. (7-year members) Del and Lou Ann grew up in the Lutheran faith at Columbus, NE. In 2004 they were looking for a new Lutheran Church in Omaha. When they found Kountze, Del and Lou Ann said, "We are Home." They said there are three fundamental reasons he and Lou Ann are so happy at Kountze-the pastors and their sermons, the beautiful music, which they feel is integral to the church, and that feeling he had the minute he walked into the church. Del said Kountze Church is a vital church in the Omaha community. The Weber's are very active at Kountze. Del attended Bible Study classes, was on the deFreese Manor Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund and Lou Ann worked in the Food Pantry and the office. Del has been very active in the Omaha Community and was the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha from 1977-1997. Del, at the age of 86 years, in 2019 became a Kountze Saint.
- **ELAINE BONFANTE** - Interview August 22, 2010 (60+ year member) Elaine said she began attending Good Friday services in the early 1940's with two girls she worked with at the Harry Koch Insurance Co. They would stay for the 3-hour service and would return to work with their church bulletin to prove they had been at church. She soon joined Kountze and was confirmed in 1947 by Rev. Traub. Kountze church has meant a lot to Elaine. She said coming to church is the highlight of the week. Her advice to Kountze members is "Keep coming to church. There are only a handful of people holding the world together. On Sunday mornings when I see people walking down to take communion, I know they are the ones." Elaine, at the age of 98 years, in 2022 became a Kountze Saint.

## Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets are taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

Sign up with SignUp Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4DA5A628ABF58-altar>), contact the church office at 402-341-7761, or via email at [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

Your help is appreciated!

## 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).

## ANNUAL Committee REPORTS

**All Committee Chairs:** Please have your report to Debbie in the church office no later than January 22. Thank you!

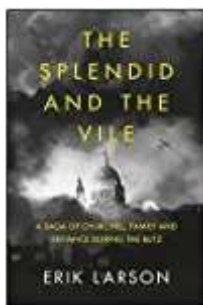
## KMLC Book Group

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, January 8

12:15 PM

*The Splendid and The Vile* by Erik Larson



Best selling author, Erik Larson, gives an account of London's darkest days and a story of Winston Churchill and through his true leadership, eloquence, courage, and perseverance, brought a country and family together. Larson used diaries, original archival documents, and recently released secret intelligence reports to relate this story.

The book begins on the first day for Churchill as the British Prime Minister in May of 1940. Hitler bombed Holland and Belgium that day and Czechoslovakia and Poland followed.

In his bombings, 45,000 Britons were killed in a campaign that lasted 12 months. The evacuation of Dunkirk is two weeks away at the beginning of this.

Churchill holds the country together and taught the British people "the art of being fearless." He persuaded the U.S. President, F. D. Roosevelt, to be an ally.

An intricate drama of Churchill's wife, youngest daughter, Mary, their son Randolph and his unhappy wife, and his "Secret Circle" of advisors are intertwined through a backdrop of the country home, Chequers, his wartime retreat, Ditchley, and 10 Downing Street in London.

The reader is taken back to a time of true leadership during the Blitz of London.

## Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 19

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Suggested Donation is \$10.00



Our speaker John O'Keefe, BA, PhD is a Professor of Theology and Journalism at Creighton University. He has recently finished a documentary film "The Last Prairie - The Nebraska Sandhills". John will talk to us about what inspired the making of the movie and we will get a chance to watch the movie (movie is about an hour long).

## The Call Process Checklist

- ✓ Leadership: Transition Minister: Pr. Stephen Griffith  
Assistant to the Bishop: Pr. Greg Berger
- ✓ Ministry Site Profile Completed, Approved, Posted online
- ✓ Call Committee formed, installed, trained.
- ✓ Chair of Call Committee is Deacon Jean Johnson
- ✓ Call Committee prepared to receive candidates
- Call Committee receives names of candidate
- Call Committee interviews candidates
- Call Committee recommends one candidate to Council
- Council Interviews candidate
- Council recommends candidate to congregation
- Congregation meets the candidate
- Special Congregational Meeting is called
- Letter of Call is extended to pastor-elect

Pastor has 30 days to respond, then gives current congregation 30 days notice.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

## Look What's Coming Up!



- Jan. 8 Epiphany
- Jan. 15 The Ark and the Tent
- Jan. 22 The Ark and the Temple
- Jan. 29 The Prophets

### Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

Sundays, 9:15 AM

(after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.



### Confirmation Program

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:15 PM



7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the church.

- Jan. 4 Intro to the Creeds
- Jan. 11 1<sup>st</sup> Article
- Jan. 18 2<sup>nd</sup> Article
- Jan. 25 3<sup>rd</sup> Article

### Youth Forum

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving.

- Jan. 1 No meeting. Happy New Years!
- Jan. 8 Assisting with Sunday School
- Jan. 15 Catching up and sharing current events
- Jan. 22 Bible Study
- Jan. 29 Fun and games



### Jumping with Jesus

Through Life's Highs and Lows

Grades 4-6<sup>th</sup>

A Trampoline Park Formation Adventure

Friday, January 27

6:45 - 9:00 PM

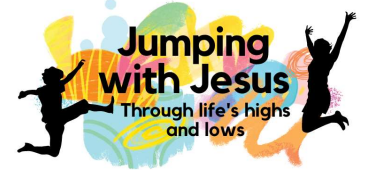
Altitude Trampoline Park

5575 N 90<sup>th</sup> St, Omaha

Youth from across Omaha's Lutheran Congregations will gather for fellowship, creative learning, and lots of jumps! Friends are welcome as long as they register. Treats and water provided.

Register and pay Pastor Shari by Wednesday January 25.

**NOTE:** You must fill out Altitude's jump waiver on their website or this link: <https://altitude.active8pos.com/public/waiver/video?loc=OMAHA>



### Journey to Denver - NE Synod Youth Trip

Grades 8-12

July 10-15, 2023. (This is a change from Sunday to Friday to a Monday to Saturday.)



Youth are encouraged and invited to join the group already registered for this summer trip. You can register until January 29 for \$400.00 and February 25 for \$500.00.

Our home base will be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study and worship.

Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer!

### Carol Joy Holling - High School Retreat

Grades 9 - 12

January 21-22

1:00 PM Saturday -

1:30ish PM Sunday

Cost is \$50 per person

Register by January 13 at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>



continued on page 9





## Carol Joy Holling Camp 2023

Early Bird Savings - Register by January 31

The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at CJH Camp.

The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a beanie. Register at [CarollJoyHolling.org](http://CarollJoyHolling.org)

## Upcoming Elementary Faith Formation Opportunities!

### Bowling Down Barriers

Faith Formation Adventure

Grades 4 - 6

Sunday, February 19

2:45 - 5:00 PM

Maplewood Lanes

3030 N 101<sup>st</sup> St, Omaha

Cost is \$20 for youth, includes pizza

### Explore! Day Retreat

Grades 1 - 6

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Springs at Carol Joy Holling Camp

27416 Ranch Road, Ashland

Cost is \$25 for youth, includes lunch

## Upcoming Opportunities for Middle School, High School & Young Adults

July 16-20, 2024

New Orleans

### 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> graders (currently)

### Young Adults Gathering

12<sup>th</sup> graders through 25-year-olds

## Children's Christmas Program



Our Children's Christmas Program was held on Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 AM.

If you didn't get a chance to see it, or would like to see it again, go to:

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/sermons/4th-sunday-of-advent-childrens-program-12-18-2022/>

We are so grateful to the youth that shared the story of Christmas with us. Children's Choir Director, Barb Carlson, and Christian Education Director, Kristin Boe, Janet Campbell, and Anita Morse get our applause for their time and direction.

A Christmas Party with carols and cookies was enjoyed between services with the residents of deFreese Manor.

# CALENDAR



## January 1 Sunday

Christmas 1  
New Year's Day  
9:00 AM (TV & Livestream only)  
10:00 AM Worship (Note time)  
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

## January 2 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

## January 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## January 4 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

## January 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## January 6 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## January 7 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
9:30 AM Take down Christmas decorations  
5:00 PM Worship

## January 8 Sunday

Epiphany of Our Lord  
Homebound Communion  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)  
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM Book Group

## January 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Bible Study

## January 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## January 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese  
6:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

## January 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## January 13 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Pantry & Service Project & Movie

## January 14 Saturday

2:00 PM Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

## January 15 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord  
Good News Deadline  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)  
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:15 PM New Member Class

## January 16 Monday

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

## January 17 Tuesday

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

## January 18 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

## January 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

## January 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## January 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## January 22 Sunday

Epiphany 3  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)  
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:15 PM New Member Class

## January 23 Monday

Annual Report Deadline  
10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Bible Study

## January 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
11:30 AM Endowment Board  
12:30 PM Circle 3

## January 25 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

## January 26 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## January 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## January 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## January 29 Sunday

Epiphany 4  
Receive New Members  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)  
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

## January 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Bible Study

## January 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting



1. Ruth Henneman, Mary Ann Johnson
2. Kailee Harbin, Georgia Severson, Richard Stawniak
3. Nakoma Baker, Barb Donelson, Morgan Gardner, Tyler Hiatt, Barbara Rassfeld, Marlys Thomas
4. David Eckstrom, Ilse Grage, Bo Hiatt, Kraig Schjodt, William Putnam, Laura Strazdas, Donald Strazdas, Shawn Wheeler
5. Andrea Brown, Jeannie Sommer, Jessica Starkel
6. Lois Andresen, Lowell Holland, Dena Jacobsen, Breanne John, Judy Westerman, Alicia Coles
7. Edward Camenzind, Alex Chand, Audrey Nelson, Michael Sommer, Brooke Tipton
8. Marjorie Bock, Chris Kendall, Vinn Stephens
9. Kay Andersen, Karen Bonneau, Julie Knapp, Jean Raber, Jon Taylor, Matt Munderloh
10. Scott Jones, Judith Poffenbarger, Michelle Wulf
11. Boyd Ervin, Jacob Headley, Michael Pfeilsticker, Walker Porter
12. Bruce Anderson, Deanna Edwards, Dante Jones, Alexandria Olson, Aaron Studts, Linda Beckman
13. Jane Bodnar, Tana Clanton, Wayne Hahn, Donald Hirsh, Tina Larsen, Jeffrey Nelson, Justin Perkins, Chet Worm
14. John Albers, Ryan Albright, Ken Freudenburg, Joslyn Barnes, Dick Mayberry, Marilyn VanBibber
15. Marsha Vance, Jonathan Martis, Dorothy Yeshnowski
16. Paul Moessner, Mary Syre
17. William Christensen, Wilson Munstermann, Robert Penn
18. Jonna Holland, Thure Johnson, Jim Smejkal
19. Donald Darst, Christine Forslund, Mackenzie Jones, Randall Woster, Paula Henneman
20. Lori Cameron, Faith Klein, Terri Nesselrotte, Tiffany Horan
21. Lois Ernce, Paul Lux, Marvin Olson, Tricia Ryder, Michael Pribyl
22. Chad Brown, Debra Davidson, Peggy Duncan, Sarah Maaske
23. Steve 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, Michelle Shields
28. Dottie Brown, Debi Clatterbuck, Miranda Johnson, Shane Kuenning, Courtney Bailes
29. Steven Dragon, Siany Edwards, Carly Horacek, Tanner Horacek, Samantha Schueler
30. John Rayno
31. Mark Coles, Valery Copeland, Rob Hopkins

## Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 11/1/2022 .....	\$201,7203.61
Principal Payment, 12/1/2022.....	\$6,832.86
Interest Payment, 12/1/2022 .....	\$6,638.07
Balance, 12/1/2022 .....	\$2,010,370.75

## Finances: November, 2022

	<i>November</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
<b>Total General Fund</b>		
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 65,290.32</b>	<b>\$ 765,755</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission Support	\$ -	\$ 37,500
Christian Education:	\$ 1,161	\$ 4,464
Facility Costs:	\$ 14,783	\$ 144,824
Staff Compensation:	\$ 51,032	\$ 555,298
Worship & Music:	\$ 1,765	\$ 21,793
Parish Life:	\$ 2,576	\$ 22,047
Youth:	\$ 5,230	\$ 6,190
Office & Administration:	\$ 5,230	\$ 70,386
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 81,801</b>	<b>\$ 862,503</b>

## Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2022 - 11/30/2022)

**Balance, 1/1/2022 \$ 50,000.00**

### Income:

Donations:	\$ 62,974.15
Memorials	\$ 4,636.33
	\$ 67,610.48

### Expenses:

Costco	\$ 8,831.93
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$ 4,074.76
Hy-Vee	\$ 120.00
Family Fare	\$ 22,685.99
Food Bank	\$ -
Other	\$ 3,642.29
	\$ 39,354.97

**Balance \$ 78,255.51**



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Permit 238

Stephen Griffith, Transition Sr. Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

## Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is  
televised live on Cox channel 13  
and live streamed on our website at  
[https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-  
streaming/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/) (you may watch the live-  
stream at anytime)

A bulletin is available on our  
website at [https://www.kmlchurch.  
org/bulletin-announcements/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

