



Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Nebraska Synod, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a part of the worldwide Lutheran Church body. We invite you to join us regularly for worship and for a variety of opportunities for growth and service. If you are a new resident in the community and are looking for a church home, we invite you to join this faith community. If you are new here, welcome. If you are "newly returned," we rejoice with you. If you are a member of long-standing, we celebrate your ministry and your faithfulness.

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Dean W. Bard	Interim Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Interim Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Katie Larson	Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
Ian Hartfield	Director of Congregational Life
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
John Bogue	Building Superintendent
Tim Walker	Chef/Assist to the Bldg Super
Søren Johnson	Assist to the Bldg Super
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Danny Bos	Handbell Director
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jeff Perkins Pam Johnson
Lector	Colleen Lenners
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Daniel Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Shirleen Collett Edie Goodwin Karen Wolf Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Anthony Bonacci
Acolytes	Carter Wachholtz Britten Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum June Anderson
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Linda Johnson Ken Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin Julie King
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolyte	Jackson Barrett Charlie Campbell

ADVENT MEALS/WORSHIP In this season of preparation for Christ's coming, a place has been prepared for you, to hear the promise, see the signs of the times in Christ's light, and share your hopes and dreams one with another. We are invited to make Wednesday evenings in Advent a place apart for our minds and souls. Join us on Wednesdays, 12/7, 14, 21 for dinner from 6-7 PM and Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Join us on Tuesday, 12/6, 12 PM for lunch and a gift exchange game. Bring a small, wrapped ornament or gift if you would like

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WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE

HOLY COMMUNION All who are baptized and trust in Christ's



presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table today. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Ushers will direct you. Communion is by intinction: you will receive the Host in your hand; you may then dip the Host into the chalice. 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 and children's bibles and bulletins are available. We also provide a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a variety of toys, games, and books for young children. Parents may watch the service via the TV screen.

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 Please fill out the cards found in your bulletin. If you are a guest, please fill out the additional information, so we can meet your needs. Then, put the cards in the offering plates. Thanks.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES are available. Please speak to an Usher if you would like to have a large print bulletin or to use a listening device.

WELCOME DESK Our Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall has become a center for hospitality with volunteers on hand each Sunday to help with event information, sign-ups, payments, answering questions, etc. Be sure to check out this resource if you have questions and to stay up to date on events and activities happening at Kountze Memorial. If you'd like to volunteer to help at the Welcome Desk, please contact Ian (402-341-7761 or ian@kmlchurch.org). Amanda Zasada and Sheri Tipton are also available if you need help on Sunday mornings in the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS & ETERNAL CANDLE If you would like to provide altar flowers or the eternal candle in honor or memory of someone or some special event, please put your name on the flower chart in the Narthex by the drinking fountain. Altar flowers are \$20 and the eternal candle is \$7.50.

NEW MEMBER CLASS Are you interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church? Or do you know someone who has expressed an interest in learning more? If so, please let us know on the registration card in your bulletin and we'll let you know when the next class will take place. The next class will be held on February 12 & 19 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors. We look forward to hearing from you.

E-NEWS AND E-NEWSLETTER If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the membership card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us for a hot, breakfast buffet each Sunday served from 8-11:00 AM prepared by Chef Tim and his volunteers. The suggested donation for breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM.

THIS WEEK: St. Athanasius, On the Incarnation **NEXT WEEK:** Building Update

YOUNG MOTHERS Join us on Sunday mornings for some fresh brewed fun in the Fellowship Lounge between worship services for "Frappy Hour." Come meet other young mothers in the congregation for coffee, conversation, fellowship and fun. For more information, contact Meeghan Hartfield at ma_hartfield@yahoo.com or call 402-212-8145.

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS Advent is a time of preparation for the gift of love incarnate with the birth of Jesus Christ. A table is set up during the Forum time on each of the Sundays in Advent and also in the Narthex for the Saturday evening services on 12/3 and in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, 12/17 after the Candlelight Carol Sing Service. Please see the insert in your bulletin for more info. There is something for everyone. Come to our table and purchase your Alternative Gifts!

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, 12/4, 12 PM. We'll meet in the church office conference room and then Pr. Hall will lead the participants to the Nave to walk through the liturgy.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of our founding pastor, Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, and our charter members Augustus Kountze, Clementine Kountze, Adeline Ruth, Daniel Redman, Eliza Redman, Joseph Redman, Mary Jane Redman, Uriah Bruner, George Stark, Catherine Brobst, George Herzog, and Dr. Augustus Roeder, and Frederick and Lida Schneider on the occasion of the 158th Anniversary of our church's founding (December 5, 1858) by Ian Hartfield.

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Advent is a season of hope.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice crying in the wilderness
Tuesday	John 1:19-28	The testimony of John the Baptist
Wednesday	Romans 15:4-13	Gospel for Jews and Gentiles
Thursday	Isaiah 11:1-10	Peace at last
Friday	Hosea 14:1-9	Repentance brings blessing
Saturday	Psalms 72	A prayer for guidance
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And the Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope.
Romans 15:4 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare the way for you in our lives and in our world by being people whose hope is in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for all you have prepared for us to share and eat and enjoy. Help us to prepare the way for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you great joy and peace as you trust in God. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope. (Romans 15:13)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Tell about something that you hope will happen.
- How does your faith influence what you hope for?
- John the Baptist prepared people to meet Jesus. Who has been a “John the Baptist” figure in your life by helping you to know Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

In the second week of Advent light the first and second Advent candles and say these words. Say: This is the second week of Advent. We light our second candle to remind us that this is the season of hope. Jesus came to bring us hope, and we live in hope for him to come again. [The candles are lit.] Read: Romans 15:4-13. Pray: God, in this season of hope, make us patient and cheerful, and help us to live at peace with one another as we follow Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Set aside time to prepare Christmas cookies and treats to give away to friends and neighbors. After the gifts of food are packaged, pray for those who will receive them

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Gather with others and use the following Christmas Tree Blessing during the Advent season.

Leader: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of God’s goodness and all that is beautiful. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus’ presence with us as the light of the World. He was the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse to become a branch that gives us shelter.

Read: Isaiah 11:1-3a.

All: **God of all creation, we thank you for this tree. Bless us as we gather around it. May it light up our hearts with your love, joy, and peace, and may the gifts placed under it remind us of the great gift of your Son Jesus. Amen.**

After the blessing, have each person tell about their favorite Christmas tree decoration or Christmas tree story.

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to participate in the festivities. Please RSVP to the church office. Contact Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033) if you have questions. All ages are welcome.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING Saturday, 12/17, 5 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM) with a reception following. A free-will offering will be taken and nursery care will be provided. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing and worshipful reflection. Journey to the manger through beautiful scripture readings, sacred poetry, congregational singing and special musical offerings from the Kountze choirs, handbells, brass, woodwinds, strings, harp and more. We look forward to this opportunity to gather together to welcome the birth of Jesus! Please join us in the blessed gifts of the Eucharist, word and song!

KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS This week we need: beef stew, canned chicken, Spam, spaghetti/pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, oatmeal, and canned fruit. Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions.

For additional information about upcoming calendar events, please visit our website, www.kmlchurch.org

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

December 4 Sunday

Homebound Communion
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Mothers “Frappy Hour”
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
12:00 PM Baptismal Seminar
7:00 PM MS & HS Girl’s Bible Study
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

December 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
12:00 PM Endowment Committee

December 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Yesterday’s Youth

December 7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM KETV Management Board
6:00 PM Advent Dinner
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 PM Adult Choir

December 8 Thursday

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

December 9 Friday

9:15 AM Christmas Pantry Bag Assembly

December 10 Saturday

9:00 AM Children’s Program Rehearsal
5:00 PM Worship

December 11 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship/Children’s Musical Offering
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Mothers “Frappy Hour”
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Next Weekend’s Lessons

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Saturday Attendance: 56

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 217 11:00: 119

Midweek - Noon: 12 **Advent Worship:** 57

Total: 461

Pantry Guests Served: 382 (280 Adults — 102 Children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

Offering:

\$43,429.54 (Regular) \$5,980 (Specials)
\$3,080 (In the City for Good)

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ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of Joe Pavlis

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday for Sunday School on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday week in the Youth Center at 10 AM.