

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

**Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor**  
**H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor**  
**Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor**

**2650 Farnam Street**  
**Omaha, NE 68131-3616**  
**402-341-7761**  
**[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)**

**November 25, 2018**

**9:00 & 11:00 AM**

### CHRIST THE KING



*Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, they still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

**C** Amen.

**P** One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** O God, our merciful redeemer,

**C** we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.

We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.

We turn our ears from voices that cry out.

We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.

In your great mercy, forgive our sin

and strengthen us for service to all in need;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for ☩ his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God..

**C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”*

**ELW 435**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P** The grace of your Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## “This Is the Feast”

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

(continued on next page)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Almighty and ever-living God,
- ☞ you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

### FIRST READING

**Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

*To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.*

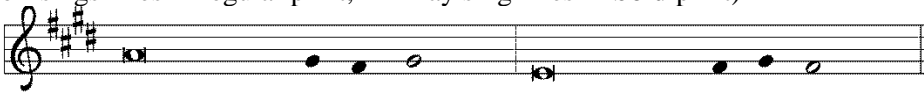
As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. <sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. <sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 93

(Choir sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold** print)



<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and | armed with strength.  
The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- | not be moved.

<sup>2</sup>**Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established;**  
**you are from | everlasting.**

<sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted | up their voice;  
the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea,**  
**mightier is the LORD who | dwells on high.**

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are | very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- | evermore.

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 1:4b-8**

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

**G** Glory to you, O Lord

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 18:33-37**

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

**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 Hall

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"*

**ELW 539**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

(continued on next page)

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response:   **☞** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **☞** 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:** Don Burton, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Carol Herzog, Peggy Johnson, Doris Kusch, Mary Olson, Ellen Pesavento, Susan Ray, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, Marlys Thomas, Marilyn Van Bibber, Del Weber

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

## **WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

**☞** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**☞** And also with you.

## **MEAL**

*(sit)*

## **THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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.*



**MUSICAL OFFERING**      *“Christ is Made as Sure Foundation”*

by: John Ferguson



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

ELW 678

**P** God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission

### OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Creator God,  
**C** you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

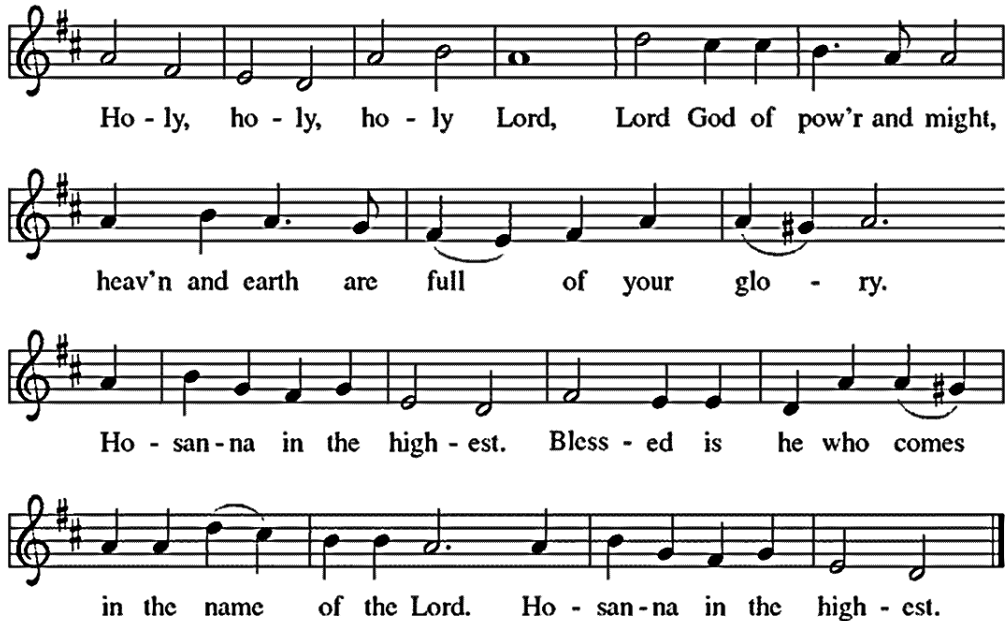
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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** Hunger no more. Thirst no more.

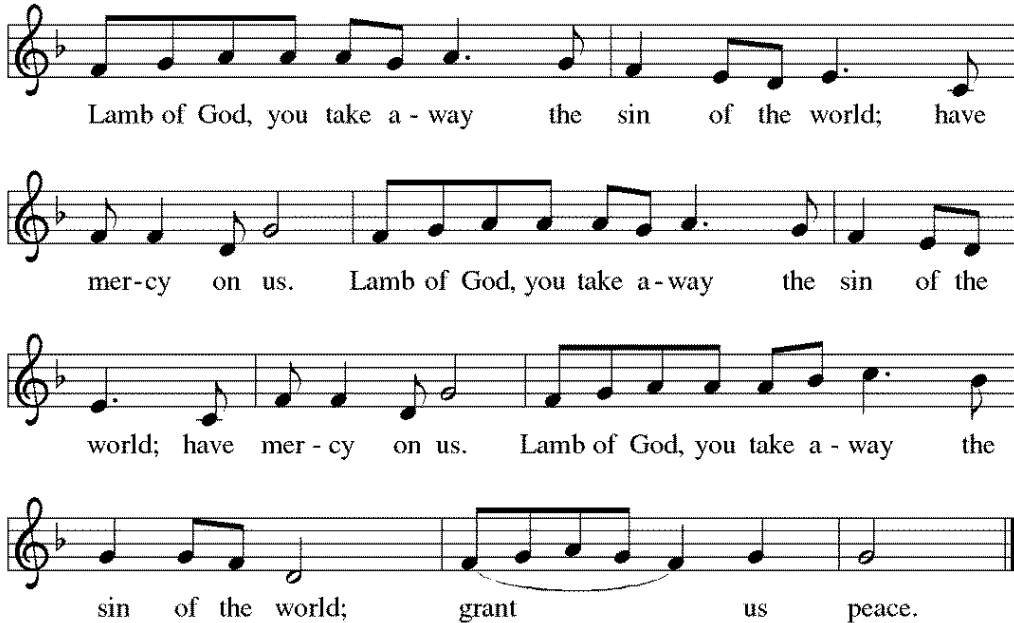
**C** Come to the banquet of life.

## THE 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 who 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. The form of distribution is *intinction*, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

(sit)

## AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION** “Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”  
“Beautiful Savior”

**ELW 475**

**ELW 838**

(stand)

## THE COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen.

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Sovereign God,
- C** in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*

**ELW 634**  
**vs 1-4**

## DISMISSAL

- P** Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

✝ ✝ ✝

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities	Custodian
Søren Johnson	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Children's Music
Donna Moessner	Custodian
Danny Bos	Organist
Mark Jones	Saturday Accompanist
David Gerard	Night Security Manager
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Nursery Superintendent
Norma Pafford	Urban Ministries Coordinator
Joyce Palmer	

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal Jason Klonglan

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Rhonda Wachholtz Adam Klinker Lowell Harms
Lector	Susie Henry
Ushers	Dick Nelson Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Brad Madison Rodney Nord Dan Troxel Sharon West Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Sharon Nelson Bev Troxel
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia Communion Assistant

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Norm Sack
Lector	Ruth Pera
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Adam Klinker Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief Henry Rief



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**November 24 & 25, 2018**

*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 nearly 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.*

## TODAY AT KOUNTZE

**KOUNTZE CAFÉ** Join us each Sunday morning for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8:00—11:00 AM prepared by our kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** No Forum **NEXT WEEK:** Advent Fair

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL, JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR, AND HIGH SCHOOL FORUM** will not meet this Sunday, November 25, because of the Thanksgiving weekend. Next Sunday, December 2, we'll all meet in the Fellowship Hall between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM to enjoy making crafts as a family at the Advent Fair and to share in a chili lunch. Everyone is welcome! See below for our "normal" Sunday schedule beginning again on Sunday, December 9.

## "NORMAL" SUNDAY SCHEDULE RESUMES DECEMBER 9

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us each Sunday 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). Sunday School (2 yrs—8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

**JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K— 5<sup>th</sup> grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

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

**November 25 Sunday**

Christ the King

7:45 AM &amp; 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**November 26 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**November 27 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:30 PM Stewardship Committee

7:00 PM Circle 3

**November 28 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

6:00 PM Heritage Series

6:30 PM Confirmation

7:30 PM Worship

**November 29 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**November 30 Friday**

WELCA Christmas Party Set-up

**December 1 Saturday**

Homebound Communion

9:30 AM Decorate for Advent

10:00 AM WELCA Christmas Tea

4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks

5:00 PM Worship

**December 2 Sunday**

Homebound Communion

Advent Fair

7:45 AM &amp; 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM &amp; 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:00 AM Advent Fair

12:15 PM Eucharistic Minister Training

7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**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.

**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 card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held September January 13 & 20 from 12:15—2:00 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** 1) Individuals to sign up to serve a shift at the Monday Food Pantry. Shifts are: 9-11 AM and 11 AM -1 PM. The lime green sign-up notebook is on the back counter in A & B Rooms. Not sure if this is for you? Contact "JP" Joyce Palmer, Urban Ministry Coordinator (402-341-7761 x 303), to arrange a time to visit/observe the Pantry in operation. 2) Financial support so 300 holiday meal bags can be prepared. In 2018, each bag will cost \$23.20. Can be your alternative gift idea for a loved one or special friend. 3) Food items: black beans (dry or canned), oatmeal, boxed dinners, Sunny-D juice, tomato juice, pork 'n beans, pasta & pasta sauce, syrup, jam/jelly, toothpaste & brush, green beans, corn, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail/mixed fruit, pancake mix (made with water), sardines (mustard or hot sauce). Thanks for your continued support of this outreach ministry!

**HERITAGE SERIES IN NOVEMBER: THE GOOD LIFE**—Continues at 6:00 PM on November 28. Nebraskans claim to live the "good life." Let's explore more of what constitutes a good life from one Christian perspective.

Pr. Hall will lead a discussion of Herbert McCabe's, *The Good Life: Ethics and the Pursuit of Happiness*. All are welcome.

**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA** Saturday, December 1, 12:00 PM. All women are invited. Come for festive food and fellowship! The entertainment will be Paul Siebert. He has a variety of instruments that he plays and also sings. We hope you will join us!

**ADVENT FAIR** Sunday, December 2, 10:00 AM—1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy crafts, chili, cocoa, community and more! All KMLC members, families, neighbors, and friends are invited to share in this fun Advent celebration.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING** Sunday, December 2, 12:15 PM. Please consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is one of God's gifts to us, His people. Through the Sacrament, we are forgiven, strengthened, and assured of our Lord's presence now and forever. Because of sickness or other circumstances, if members are unable to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion during regular liturgies, trained volunteers of Kountze Memorial are equipped to visit them in their home and share the Body and Blood of Christ once a month. Eucharistic Ministers serve as representatives of Kountze Memorial and are a vital connection between the liturgy and our home-bound members. Please join us for a brief training seminar on how you can be part of this very rewarding ministry. Please call the Church office to register or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org).

**ADVENT MEALS AND WORSHIP** Wednesdays, 12/5, 12, & 19. Lunch from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Dinner from 5:00—6:15 PM. Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM. 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.

**HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS** Our Food Pantry holiday meal bags will be distributed in December; 300 in total.

This year's holiday food items include:

fully cooked ham (3 lb)  
corn (15 oz)  
green beans (15 oz)  
pineapple tidbits/chunks (20 oz)  
fruit cocktail/mixed fruit (14 oz)

cranberries jellied/whole (14 oz)  
stuffing (13 oz)  
mashed potatoes (13 oz)  
cream mushroom/cream chicken (10 oz)  
quart shelf sustainable milk.

These items will be placed in a reusable tote with a Christmas card and a prayer square. The approximate cost of the 2018 holiday meal bag is \$23.20 (the 2017 holiday meal bag cost \$22.31); just a small increase. The food items have been changed from previous years to help maintain the cost yet provide additional food items. This project is accomplished by the generous support of Kountze Memorial and Saint Michael Lutheran members and friends.

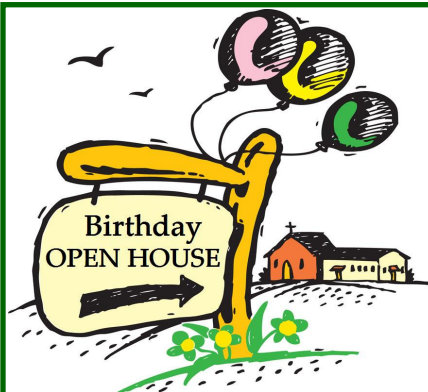
**CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE** (note new name) Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Saturday, December 15 at 5:00 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM). Reception following. Nursery care will be provided.

#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 24  
**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 210 11:00: 106  
**Midweek - Noon:** \* **Evening:** \*\*  
**Total:** 340  
**Pantry Guests Served:** 446  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 34  
**Offering:** \*

\* Not available at time of printing

\*\* Thanksgiving Eve—No Confirmation



#### **WE'RE INVITED!**

Eunice Grunberg will be 100 years old on December 11 and has invited us to celebrate with her at an open house on Sunday, December 9 from 2—4 PM at Brookestone Village (4330 S 144<sup>th</sup>

St, Omaha, NE 68137). No gifts please.



*Jesus' reign frees us to serve as priests.*

Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the King of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Judgment before the Ancient One
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	Mark 15:1-15	Pilate questions Jesus
Thursday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 93	The majesty of God's rule
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man



To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. **Revelation 1:5b-6 (NRSV)**

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you who are “the ruler of the kings of the earth,” thank you for making us your servants and priests. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Blessed be to God, our King, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything his goodness sends. Amen.

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

May Christ the King bless you with his love and fill you with grace and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come. (Revelation 1:4b-5)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Children like to play “Follow the Leader.” How would you describe Jesus, the leader you want children to follow?
- Who or what seems to be the leader in control of the world around us?
- How is Jesus Christ “ruler of the kings of the earth” (Revelation 1:5) in a way that is different than other rulers? How does Jesus reign impact your daily life?

*Read:* Revelation 1:4b-8.

Like Daniel in the Old Testament, the book of Revelation, or Apocalypse, is a unique form of literature in the Bible. It is written for a time when the people of God are surrounded by powerful forces opposed to them and to the God of the Bible. This is resistance literature that says to the faithful people, “Hang in there. Your God will win and, in fact, already rules all earthly powers.” It is a subversive message that opposes the apparent power of earthly rulers with their wealth, control, and influence. In the midst of the struggles of the early church opposed by a Roman emperor, Jesus Christ is truly “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (v. 5). Christ—not the emperor—is the one “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (v. 8). Not only that, but the followers of Jesus have an elevated status and are “priests serving his God and Father” (v. 6). How does the message of Revelation strengthen and encourage you as a priest who represents and prays to the Almighty? How do you communicate God’s love and reign to others? How do your prayers serve the reign of Christ now, no matter what the historical events are around you?

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus Christ, you who are “the ruler of the kings of the earth,” thank you for making us your servants and priests. Amen.**

As priests who serve Jesus’ God and Father (Revelation 1:6), prayer is a form of service that blesses, strengthens, and encourages others with the presence of the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8). Take time this week to pray Psalm 93, a psalm that celebrates the rule of God. Then pray for all that God has created, including those who have special needs this day. Pray that in the midst of daily challenges people will know and believe in the one “who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood” (Revelations 1:5b).

As priests of the ruler of all things, the Alpha and the Omega, we bless others. This week bless your family and friends with the following: **May Christ the King bless you with his love and fill you with grace and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36