

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

December 2, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT



First Sunday of Advent

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity one God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

G Amen.

- P** Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P** To you, O God, we lift up our souls.

G You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins;

remember us instead with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways; teach us your paths;

and lead us in justice and truth,

for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

- P** Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ☩ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The Kingdom of God is near.

G Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

ELW 241

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

- P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
- C** **You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.**
- P** Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
- C** **Rouse us from sleep, that we will be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.**

We light the first candle.

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW 240

vs 1



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

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.**

THE KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- C** By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “*The Lord is our righteousness.*”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

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



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

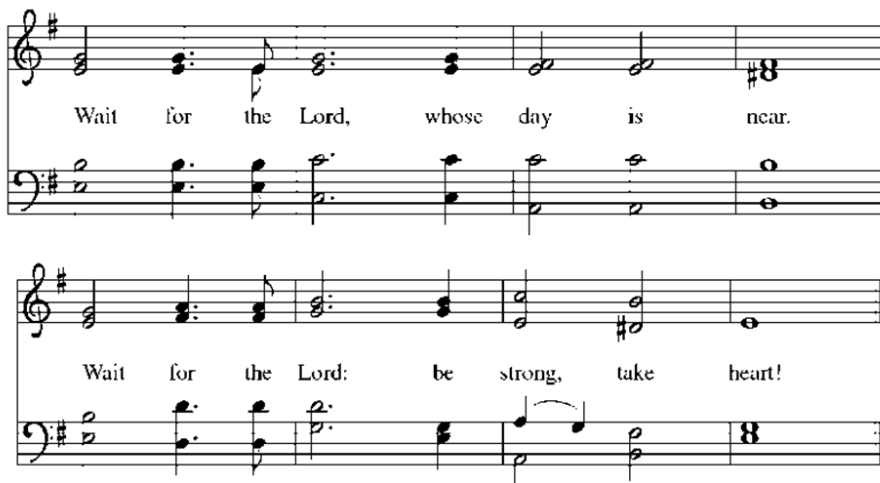
Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Jesus says ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

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

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Prophets Told Us, 'Pay Attention!'"*

tune: ELW 275

**Prophets told us, "Pay attention! God is working in the land.
Lo, the days are surely coming; seek the justice God has planned!
Seek the signs of your redemption; hear God's word and understand!"**

**Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention! Nature's signs are sure and clear:
When the trees grow leaves and blossom, summertime is almost here."
So it is in God's good kingdom; be alert; God's reign is near!**

**As we welcome your salvation, all around we see distress;
There is trouble in the nations! There is greed and wickedness;
As we trust in your redemption, may we live your righteousness.**

**May we work for what you call for; may we labor for your reign.
Families cry out at the border; children suffer grief and pain.
May your church, committed, prayerful, work for justice in your name.**

**Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention!" So we humbly serve and pray:
May we gladly live your kingdom in a world that's gone astray.
May the hope of our salvation guide the things we do and say.**

REGENT_SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory") Biblical References: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36 Tune: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory") Text: Copyright © 2018 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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.
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: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 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: Don Burton, Gloria Erickson, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Peggy Johnson, Doris Kusch, Mary Olson, Ellen Pesavento, Susan Ray, Gary Rodene, Steve Sheftz, father of Stephen Sheftz, 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


Today is the first Sunday of Advent – a time of preparation for Christmas. The world around us prepares for Christ’s birth by saying, “Buy! Buy! Buy!” In Advent we are reminded that showing love is more important than buying what is not really needed. Your offering gifts each week show your appreciation for God’s love.




MUSICAL OFFERING *“Carol of the Advent”* arr. Phillip Dietterich

THE TABLE IS PREPARED


(stand)
OFFERTORY HYMN *“All Earth is Hopeful”*




1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.



Fur-rows lie o-pen for God’s cre-a-tive task: this, the
This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our



la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our

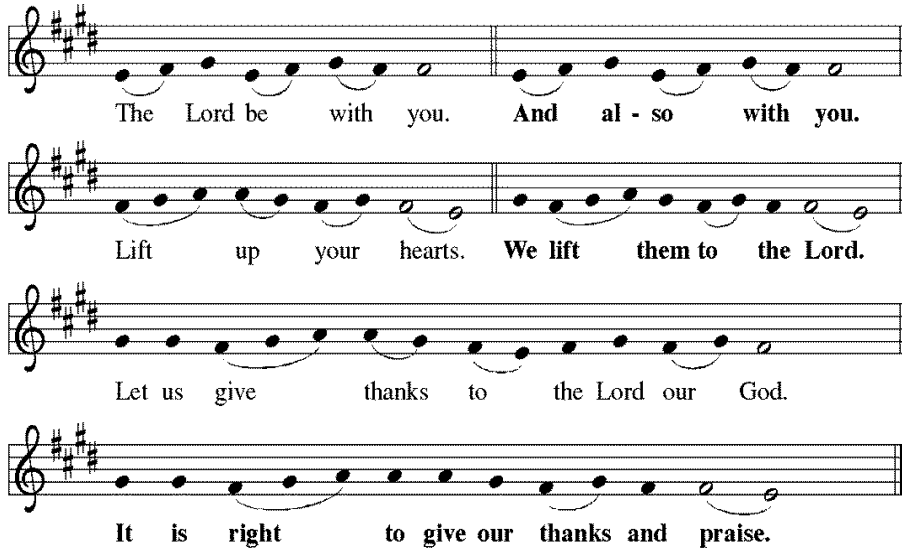


God’s truth and jus-tice set ev-’ry-bod-y free.
Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of abundance,
C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



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

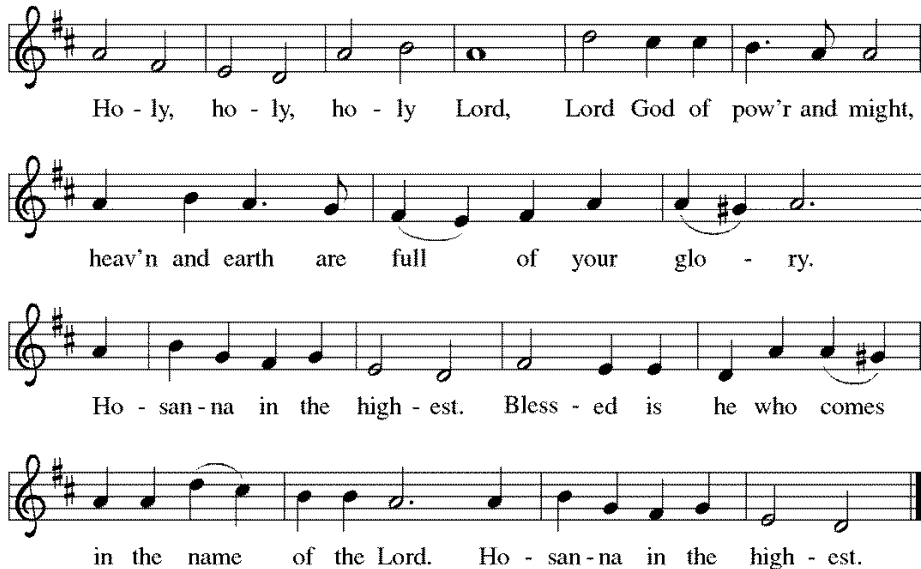
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR ADVENT

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

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

☑ **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

☐ God fills the hungry with good things.

☑ **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

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.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

ELW 488

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

ELW 263

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

ELW 244

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Holy One,
- C** we give thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we will be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- P** May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Soon and Very Soon”

ELW 439

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you.
- 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
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert
	Theresa Gruber

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder
	Adam Klinker
	Steve Jacobson
Lector	Robin Perkins
Ushers	Bob Woodworth
	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Marcy Madison
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson
	Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Madelyn Hinrichs
Acolytes	Brooks Hinrichs
	Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller
	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Steve Pera
Ushers	Linda Johnson
	Ken Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin
	Julie King
Crucifer	Rachel Stouffer
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 1 & 2, 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 We won't have a hot breakfast this Sunday but join us for the Advent Fair and Ralph Diggins' chili lunch. Then join us again next 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING this Sunday, December 2, 12:15 PM. Eucharistic Ministers serve as representatives of Kountze Memorial and are a vital connection between the liturgy and our home-bound members. If you're interested in learning more or would like to serve in this way, please join us for a brief training seminar on how you can be part of this very rewarding ministry.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Advent Fair **NEXT WEEK:** TBA

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Tressa, Herb and Lorraine Barrett by Marie Barrett.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

ADVENT FAIR We will not meet this Sunday, December 2, for Sunday School and Youth Forum, but instead, we'll all meet in the Fellowship Hall between 10:00 AM and 1:00 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.

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR will meet this Sunday, December 2. Join us each Sunday from 9:00—9:30 AM. All children (K— 5th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

"NORMAL" SUNDAY SCHEDULE RESUMES DECEMBER 9

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Pre-school 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 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 in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

December 2 Sunday

Homebound Communion

No breakfast – join us for chili at the Advent Fair

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

9:00 AM & 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/Chili Lunch

12:15 PM Eucharistic Minister Training

7:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU

December 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

December 5 Wednesday**160th Anniversary of KMLC**

11:00 AM Advent Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Advent Dinner

6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (following worship)

December 6 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 8 Saturday

9:00 - 10:30 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal

5:00 PM Worship

December 9 Sunday

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)

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

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

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 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 and if you have food restrictions when you register.

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.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Tuesday, December 4, 12:00 PM, \$4.00 for Lunch. All ages are welcome! Please join us for a Christmas extravaganza! The festivities will include an Exchange game. If you would like to participate, please bring a \$5.00, wrapped Christmas gift or ornament. Lunch will be served at noon, and will feature ham and scalloped potatoes! Save room for dessert, because there will be plenty of delicious Christmas cookies! Please RSVP to the church office (402-341-7761) by Friday, November 30 so that we are able to have an idea of how much food to prepare. Any questions, please call Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033). Let's all get in the Christmas spirit, and come together for some fellowship, and holiday fun! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS There will be a Saturday morning rehearsal of the speaking parts and for those in the Joyful Sounds Choir on Saturday, December 8, and for the entire Sunday School & cast on Saturday, December 15. Both rehearsals will run from 9:00 to 10:30 AM and are vital to attend. Thank you to the children's parents and grandparents for encouraging and getting their kids to Sunday School and choir rehearsals. ALL Sunday School children and the Joyful Sounds choir will rehearse during the Sunday School time on December 9, 10:00 - 10:55 AM. All the children from Joyful Sounds Choir and Sunday School will sing one song from the program for the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

KMLC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GATHERING Post College to the Young at Heart! Saturday, December 15 (Note date change) For the December YP Gathering, we are going to attend the Candlelight Carol Service at Kountze Memorial. Please note that we will be meeting on a different day than the 3rd Friday this month. After the Carol Service we will go to Proof in Midtown Crossing. For questions, contact Ashley Sum (AshleySumRealtor@gmail.com 402-880-7629) or Melissa Musick (Musick.melissa@gmail.com, 913-209-4485).

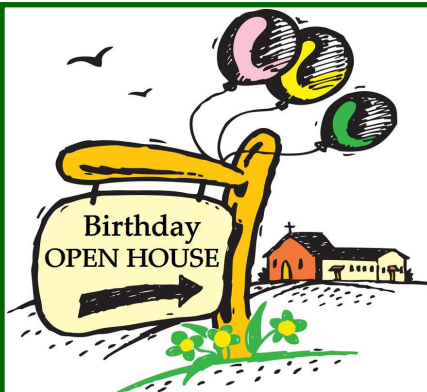
CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE (note new name) Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Saturday, December 15 at 5:00 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM). Reception following. Nursery care will be provided.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON "Come, All Ye Faithful" to celebrate Christmas at the Kountze Memorial's Men's Luncheon. We will have a special Holiday meal and time for sharing your favorite Christmas stories of days gone by. There will not be a cost for the meal this month but please consider bringing a new and unwrapped toy for Toy's for Tot's. Join us at Kountze Memorial on Thursday, December 20, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP to the church office or to jim@kmlchurch.org by Monday, December 17).



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 53
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 93 11:00: 55
Midweek - Noon: 8 **Evening:** 22
Total: 231
Pantry Guests Served: 328
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0
Offering: Not available at time of printing



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 next Sunday, December 9 from 2—4 PM at Brookestone Village (4330 S 144th

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

We wait for Jesus with faith and hope.

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The Lord's wonderful promise
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Paul's words of thanks
Wednesday	Nehemiah 9:6-15	God's faithful goodness
Thursday	Revelation 22:12-16	Jesus is coming soon
Friday	Malachi 3:5-12	Return to God
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for help
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord



Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. **Psalm 25:5 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God, and wait for you all day long. Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2, 5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us with hope and faithfulness as we prepare for your coming. We give thanks for the gift of food that strengthens us as we wait. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)

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

- What do you hope for during this Season of Advent?
- What does the advertising industry want you to hope for? How is this different from our hope and faith in Jesus Christ?
- Jesus says that when scary times happen, stand tall because God's saving work is near (Luke 21:28, 36). Tell or think about a time you were scared and relied on God's presence.

Read: Jeremiah 33:14-16.

Waiting is not easy, especially for those who are impatient types. Whether it is described as waiting for the "righteous branch to spring up for David" (v. 15), or Christ's return as the "Son of Man coming in a cloud" (Luke 21:27), the people of God have been a waiting people. What makes the waiting bearable—even joyous—is that the waiting is joined by God's powerful word filled with glory: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made" (v. 14). Salvation and security are the work of the one who is known by this name: "The LORD is our righteousness." The church, the body of Christ, is given confidence to wait and to endure difficult times. We are strengthened by God's word to be alert, to pray, and to stand boldly (Luke 21:36). What do you wait for boldly with confidence and joy?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

While making your own Advent wreath, purchase an extra wreath frame and candles for a friend, neighbor, or someone in your family to use during Advent. Take time to visit with them and light the first candle using the words found below. Make a plan to visit this person each week as you prepare for the coming of Christ.

The Advent Wreath is a common Advent home tradition. Make or purchase a round wreath frame and decorate with greens, ribbons, or other materials. Place a white candle in the center and four blue candles around it. Light one blue candle this first week, the candle of expectation and hope. Read the following after lighting your first Advent candle:
Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." (Jeremiah 33:14-16)
All: Lord, thank you for your promise to us filled with expectation and hope. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6