

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 29 & 30, 2018

5:00 PM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

LESSONS and CAROLS SUNDAY



LESSONS and CAROLS

Is Christmas over? Perhaps your life has returned to normal after Christmas. Perhaps year end business—effects from new tax laws—has you scurrying about. Perhaps expectations of a picture perfect holiday have left you more burdened with frustration and guilt.

May this time of worship remind us that Christmas is God's gift of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Thus, in every moment, in every circumstance may we breath the Angels's declaration: Glory to God in the highest!

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

GATHERING CAROL

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW 275
Verses 1 & 4

OUR NEED for a SAVIOR

LESSON

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, \mp and Holy Spirit, one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God, wonderful counselor,

C we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of \mp Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C Amen.

CAROL

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

ELW 288

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PROMISES of a SAVIOR

(sit)

LESSON

A Just Lawmaker

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Joy to the World"

ELW 267
Verses 1 & 4

LESSON

A Righteous King

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW 282
Verses 1 & 4

LESSON**The Lord's Servant****Isaiah 42:1-10a**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***"Let All Together Praise Our God"***ELW 287**
Verses 1-3 & 5**THE GIFT of a SAVIOR****LESSON****God with us...****Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***"Away in a Manger"***ELW 277**

LESSON**... in humility ...****Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn..

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***ELW 279**
Verses 1 & 3**LESSON****... making us children ...****Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***“Love Has Come”***ELW 292****LESSON****... of God.****John 3:16-17**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

A The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.**CAROL***“All My Heart Again Rejoices”***ELW 273**
Verses 1 & 3

OUR RESPONSE to the SAVIOR

LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

CAROL

"From Heaven Above"

ELW 268
Verses 1 & 3

NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us 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.

(continued on next page)

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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, Barbara Dilly, Emalee Gardels, Jr. Green, Peggy Johnson, Tom Nippert, Mary Olson, David Penning, Jeff Perkins, 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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

℟ 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 congregation 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.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“From Heaven Above”
Verses 10 & 12

ELW 268

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you.

12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God with us:

C You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

13 My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:

14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

☞ 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

☞ Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
☞ Let every heart receive your Savior.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 631

ELW 270

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ God of wonder,
☞ in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now,
send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the
name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

- P** May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- G** Amen.

SENDING CAROL

“Now Thank We All Our God”

ELW 840

DISMISSAL

- P** Glory to God in the highest!
- G** Peace to God’s people on earth!
- P** Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- G** 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
Steve Jacobson	Staff Treasurer
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

Ushers Debra Kelly
Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst. Adam Klinker
Darlene Anderson
Jill Gittler

Ushers Bob Woodworth
Glenn Anderson
Dan Collett
Marcy Madison
Mark Mahaffey
Gary Westerman
Ted Kaasch

Greeters Sharon Anderson
Karen Wolf

Crucifer Carter Wachholtz

Acolytes Clara Kidder
Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst. Ashley Sum
Jennifer Bunge

Ushers Linda Johnson
Ken Johnson
Lee Johnson
Norm Sack

Greeters Rosemary Tessin
Julie King

Crucifer Torin Edwards

Acolytes Anna Kotula
Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 29 & 30, 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 Then 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:** No Forum

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR No Children's Choir this Sunday. Join us again each Sunday beginning January 13 from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K— 5th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL No Sunday School this Sunday. Join us again each Sunday beginning January 13 on the 2nd 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—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM No Forum this Sunday, but join us again each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM beginning on January 13.

December 30 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

December 31 Monday

New Year's Eve
 10:00 AM Pantry

January 1 Tuesday

New Year's Day
 OFFICE CLOSED

January 2 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

January 3 Thursday

8:30 AM Urban Cluster @ KMLC
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion
 4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
 5:00 PM Worship

January 6 Sunday

Epiphany
 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)

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, 2019 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.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING If you haven't turned your Estimate of Giving and Opportunities to Serve cards to the office yet, it's not too late. Just a reminder that if you are giving your offering through Simply Giving and have changed your giving amount for 2019, we need you to email Steve Jacobson (steve@kmlchurch.org) or complete a new Simply Giving form (a new voided check isn't necessary) and put it in the offering plate or return to Steve in the church offering plate. We are unable to change your giving amount without having something in writing. If you're not currently using electronic giving but would like more information about this safe and reliable method to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account through Simply Giving, you can download a form from our website or pick one up at the Welcome Desk. You can always call the church office for more information as well.

YEAR END FINANCIAL INFORMATION You may fulfill your 2018 General and In the City for Good pledges by making your contribution in the following ways:

- Bring to the office or place your offering in the offering plate by Monday, December 31, 2018.
- By mail: Must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. Contributions received in the office or in the offering plates in January, 2019, will be posted in 2019.
- Pre-payments: If pre-paying your 2019 pledge, please clearly indicate on your offering envelope that it is a pre-payment for 2019.

Please contact Steve or Debbie in the church office with any questions you may have. Thank you!

ATTENTION 8THGRADERS - For 77 years, young people have served as acolytes in worship through the Order of Saint John (OSJ) at Kountze Memorial, providing leadership for our worship experience. OSJ members carry the processional cross, torches, gospel book, and banner. In addition, OSJ members light candles, as well as assist the pastors at baptisms and Holy Communion. Since it is your Confirmation year, the Order of Saint John sponsors invite you to train to assist in the Sunday church services. Please contact an OSJ Sponsor to arrange a training time: Jeff or Robin Perkins at papioperkins@cox.net or 402-339-5384; Tom Steffen at 4freefalling@gmail.com or 402-321-3666; Jill Gittler at jill@centertrophy.com or 402-689-4521.

HERITAGE SERIES Begins again on Wednesdays, January 16, 23, & 30, 6:00 PM. Our reading of the concluding chapters of Herbert McCabe's, *The Good Life: Ethics and the Pursuit of Happiness*, resumes in January. All are welcome. The book is available for purchase online or copies of the chapter are available from the church office.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 19 through 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 20. Middle school youth in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders from across the Nebraska Synod are invited to take part in the 2019 Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering. It will take place at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, Nebraska, starting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 19 and concluding at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 20. The theme this year is "Rooted," and participants will explore Colossians 2:6-7. Hip hop artist AGAPE* and spoken word poet Joe Davis will be guest artists for the weekend. Cost is \$65. For more information, please speak with Marcia Roynesdal.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 12:15 PM (immediately following 11:00 AM service). Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptism liturgy with you. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761. The next session will be held on March 10.



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 60
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 231 11:00: 102
Midweek - Noon: 0 **Evening:** 0
Total: 393
Pantry Guests Served: 0
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 31

Christmas Eve Attendance:
4:00: 565 7:00: 265 11:00: 155
Christmas Day Attendance: 70

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:10 AM
In the Fellowship Hall

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 27, 2019. You can pick it up that Sunday or during the week. It will also be available on our website, www.kmlchurch.org and click on "About Us". All items to be included in the Annual Report should be in to the office by Sunday, January 13, 2019.



Jesus grows in wisdom.

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

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple
Monday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Everything has its time
Tuesday	Proverbs 1:1-7	How proverbs can be used
Wednesday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Hanna visits Samuel
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men come to worship Jesus



© 2017 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. **Luke 2:52 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, just as Jesus grew in wisdom and in a relationship to you and others, help us to grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this food that helps us grow and be healthy. Just as you were once a child, bring joy, love, and peace to all the children of the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you wisdom and compassion as you grow in years and in your relationship to God and all people. (Luke 2:52)

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

- ❑ What is something you would like to learn about?
- ❑ How do you learn about the world around you?
- ❑ Jesus listened to teachers of the faith and asked questions. Who are some of your teachers of the faith?

Read: Luke 6:84-52.

Luke is the only Gospel that tells us about Jesus' childhood. It is not easy to understand how the Son of God grows up, but Luke makes it clear in 2:40 and 2:52 that "Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Growth is part of life. Jesus as a human being experienced growth, too. He asked questions. What questions do you want to ask at this point in your life? At the end of the story of Jesus in the temple at age 12, it states that Mary "treasured all these things in her heart" (v. 51). Earlier, as a response to the message of the shepherds, we learn that "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (2:19). The mother of Jesus, too, is growing in her understanding of Jesus. Like the child Jesus, and his mother Mary, we, too, grow in our lives of faith. As you look at your life of faith, where do you think you have grown in wisdom and in your relationship to God and others?

Pray: Dear God, help me to be open to your word and to the experiences around me, that I may continue to grow in love for you and in service to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the story of Jesus at the temple at age 12, his parents were not worried about their son as they returned home because Jesus was surrounded by "relatives and friends" (2:44). Parents need others to assist them in raising children. How could you help and support parents as they raise their children?

In Colossians 3:12-17 there is a beautiful passage that describes how Christians care for one another with love and forgiveness that reflects "compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (v. 12). Christians are to dwell in the word of Christ and to teach and correct one another with love and gratitude, in other words, not with arrogance or by bullying. A tradition for learning how to live the Christian life is to "sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God" (v. 16). The word hymn comes from Greek and means a song of praise. The music of the church is a gift that lifts our spirits and nurtures us in faith. Sing or pray the Hymn of the Week, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and be aware of how hymns and songs can form us in the Christian life and faith.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12