

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
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Jim Smejkal

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Rhonda Wachholtz
	Dan Collett
	Liz Pemberton
	Scott Henneman
Lector	Kevin Larkowski
Ushers	Donna Crouse
	Bob Johnson
	Rodney Nord
	Dan Troxel
	Sharon West
	Dean Winther
	Brad Madison
Greeters	Darlene Anderson
	Bev Troxel
	Lois Sorensen
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Charlie Wachholtz

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
	Norm Sack
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards
	Anna Kotula



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 23 & 24, 2019

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 over 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 for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the 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:** ELCA: Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent **NEXT WEEK:** Advent Gathering

BLANKETS FOR REFUGEES Nancy Meyer has been made aware of a great need for blankets for the refugees. If any of you have a good used blanket or buy a new blanket for these local refugees, that would be wonderful! You can bring them to the Welcome Center area of the Fellowship Hall by the end of November. Thank you and God bless!

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Rev. Lowell Berg given by Rev. Bob & Mary Ann Johnson; in memory of Mary Brisbin, cousin of Dayle & Lee Johnson

TELEVISION MINISTRY Live streaming today is provided by Mary Olson given to the glory of God in memory of her father's birthday

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor. The choir will be singing this Sunday during Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us on Sundays 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 Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

November 24 Sunday

Christ the King
 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-6)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

November 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 28 Thursday

Thanksgiving—OFFICE CLOSED
 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peters

November 29 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

November 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion
 9:30 AM Decorate for Advent
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)
 5:00 PM Worship
 6:00 PM "Disney Cruise" Night – Parent's Night Out

December 1 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 No Sunday School - join us for our Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 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.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

ATTENDANCE CARDS 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 Sundays, January 19 & 26, 2020, from 12:15—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. New members will be received on February 2. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by January 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE We will celebrate a DAY OF THANKSGIVING on Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24. A special offering will be received, to be divided between the Kountze Food Pantry and the Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic. Food (canned and box goods) will be presented during the worship service.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE All are welcome to attend the annual city-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving service at 5:00 PM, November 24, at Countryside Community Church (13130 Faith Plaza, on the Tri-Faith Campus). A special program for youth in grades 7-12 and pizza party begins at 3:30 PM. They are asking for cookies, bars, pies and other delicious goodies for the fellowship time following the service. The doors will be open from 8:00 AM until service time for dropoffs. Thanks.

THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH ST. PETER'S Will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th St.) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Volunteers are needed to: a) set up the night before; b) donate pies/desserts; and, c) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal. This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. You can sign up to help on the bulletin insert.

ADVENT FAIR Save the date for our Advent Fair on Sunday, December 1, between 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM. Make a variety of Christmas crafts. Fun for the entire family!

ALTERNATE GIFTS Watch for the Alternate Gift insert that will be in your bulletins beginning December 1. Find a cause or organization that would be the best gift for your friends and family.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Please join us on Tuesday, December 3, for a festive afternoon! We will be gathering together to celebrate the season, with an ornament/small gift exchange game. Please bring a new wrapped item, approx. \$5.00 in cost, if you wish to participate. Lunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP to the church office 402-346-7761 no later than Friday, November 29. All ages are welcome! If you have any questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. We hope to see you there! We will be continuing to collect items to donate to our Food Pantry. We greatly appreciate all of those who donated last month.

ADVENT MEALS AND WORSHIP Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 14. Dinner will be served from 5:00-6:15 PM. Worship is at 6:30 PM.

KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY The Kountze Food Pantry could really use donations of toilet paper. We would love to have this vital item available for our guests, but the expense is significant and we have not had the funds available. Any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated. The Family Fare receipts have been pouring in. Let's keep up the good work! The Food Pantry will qualify for \$1,000 before we know it!

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS FOR KOUNTZE PANTRY 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 2019 holiday meal bag is \$25. 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. You are invited to make a financial contribution for this annual holiday give away. Your gift can be given through the offering, please designate to the holiday meal bags or through the on-line giving page (<https://www.kmlchurch.org>). Should you have any questions or want to discuss ways to support the pantry, please contact Susann Henry, director of the Food Pantry. You can contact Susie at 402-341-7761 or susannfrances@gmail.com

DECORATE FOR ADVENT



Join us at 9:30 AM on Saturday, November 30 to help decorate for Advent.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 41

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 212 11:00: 112

Midweek - Noon: 13 Evening: 13

Total: 391

Pantry Guests Served: 323

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Offering:

\$17,250.86 (Regular) \$26,564.10 (Specials)

\$35,390.00 (Phase 2) \$

END OF YEAR GIVING: All financial gifts to Kountze Memorial should be in by noon on December 31, 2019 or postmarked no later than that date.

Disney CRUISE NIGHT AKA "PARENT'S NIGHT OUT"



When: Saturday, November 30
6:00—8:30 PM

Who: Children ages potty-trained to 10 yrs

Where: Kountze Youth Room

Host: Kountze Youth Group

Dinner: Pizza, Milk, and Juice

Activities: Puppet making & puppet theater, crafting Christmas ornaments, and a Disney movie

Cost: Free will donation of a small, new, unwrapped toy

RSVP: Church office and/or Mike Jensen via email at mwjensen@yahoo.com

Give thanks for the reign of Christ.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	A message of hope
Tuesday	Colossians 1:11-20	The supremacy of Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 30:18-24	The Lord will rescue the nation
Thursday	Philippians 4:4-9	Pray with thanksgiving
Friday	Revelation 21:5-27	The new Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our mighty fortress
Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation



© 2018 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.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father. **Colossians 1:11-12a (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to give thanks for your reign and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of lords and King of kings, with voice of thanks we surely sing. Give us now our daily bread, gratefully received in heart and head. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from Christ's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience and joy. (Colossians 1:11)

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

- In what ways does a shepherd care for the flock?
- Would you rather be a shepherd or a king? Why?
- What is the difference between an earthly king and Christ the King?

Read: Colossians 1:11-20.

The kings of the Old Testament were considered shepherds, and as shepherds they failed miserably. They scattered God's sheep, God's people, instead of leading them into the future with peace, justice, and trust in God. Jeremiah points out that God would have to intervene directly to execute justice and put an end to war (Jeremiah 23:1-6). In Colossians 1, we see the results of God's intervention. We have been rescued from the power of darkness and have received redemption, the forgiveness of sins (vv. 13-14). This is no earthly shepherd or king: "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," and through whom all things—things in heaven and things on earth—have been reconciled to God (vv. 19-20). What we could not do, what God's own earthly kings in Judah and Israel could not do, God did alone through Christ. For reasons that we cannot even fully grasp, list, or tell, we give thanks to God for the reign of Christ. Take a moment and—though never a complete understanding or list—give thanks for how Christ serves as ruler of the universe for you and all creation.

Pray: **Dear Creator and Redeemer, in Christ we give thanks for your goodness and mercy that far exceeds all that we can know or understand. Help us to give thanks as we are able. Amen.**

Luke 23:33-43 tells of a dark time in the life of Jesus. He was arrested and punished for something he did not do. Jesus did not get angry but asked God to forgive the people. On the cross, Jesus had a criminal on his left and on his right. One of them said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (v. 42). Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (v. 43). Christian ministries reach out to those incarcerated with hope through Jesus Christ. Do you know of a prison ministry? Pray for those who are in prison and for those who work with them.

Both adults and children lead busy lives. Moments of quiet are not easy to find. From cell phones to computers to work and school and sports, we fill our days with noise and screen time. This distracts us from God. This week's reading from Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still and know that I am God!" Take five minutes each day to turn off the television/radio, and be silent. Be still and listen to God. After the silence, write down your thoughts on a piece of paper and place it in your Bible as a marker for Psalm 46. At the end of the week, review your notes. Why do you think God desires stillness? What difference does it make?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44