

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 Slaughter	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

Ushers	Paul Revord
	Mary Jo Fike
	Deb Hinrichs
	Dan Collett

Comm. Set-up Mary Jo Fike

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Jill Gittler
	Lorie Groenjes
	Lowell Harms
	Pam Johnson
Ushers	Bob Woodworth
	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Marcy Madison
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson
	Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Anna Kidder
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Munguia
	Charlie Wachholtz

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum
Lector	Ashley Sum
Ushers	Linda Hoagland
	Ken Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam St
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 14 & 15, 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 for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8:00-11:00 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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM at 9:00 AM. The Joyful Sounds Choir and all Sunday School children have been working very hard and are excited to "Sing a Song of Christmas" this morning.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** No Forum (Fellowship time) **NEXT WEEK:** Christmas Worship Preview

ALTERNATE GIFTS Check out the Alternate Gift insert that is in your bulletin this weekend. Find a cause or organization that would be the best gift for your friends and family.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Dorothy Cross' 90th birthday by her daughter, Nancy Tunzer; in honor of the 91st birthday of Bill Christensen given by his wife, Madaline.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR & SUNDAY SCHOOL
There isn't Children's Choir, Sunday School, or High School Forum this morning, but there will be a cast party for the children in the Joyful Sounds Studio at 10:10 AM.

December 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline
 No Sunday School
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 8:15 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Christmas Program
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Cast Party in Joyful Sounds Studio
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum - Fellowship
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

December 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
 6:00 PM Congregation Council
 6:00 PM Circle 3

December 18 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch
 12:15 PM Worship
 5:00 PM Advent Dinner
 6:30 PM Worship

December 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
 12:00 PM Circle 4
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
 7:00 PM Circle 5

December 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 22 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)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Sunday School Christmas Celebration
 (2yr-8th gr)
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

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

ADVENT MEALS AND WORSHIP Wednesday, December 18. Lunch served from 11:00 AM—noon. Worship is at 12:15 PM. Dinner will be served from 5:00—6:15 PM. Worship is at 6:30 PM.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, December 19, 11:30 AM. Suggested donation: "Project Santa" gift - see following: We will have a special Holiday meal. There will not be a cost of the meal this month but please consider bringing a new and unwrapped toy for the Open Door Mission's "Project Santa." Project Santa provides toys to needy boys and girls so that everyone will have gifts on Christmas morning. Candace Gregory, President/CEO of the Open Door Mission will be our speaker. Please RSVP to the Church office by Monday,

December 16 or to jim@kmlchurch.org. Project Santa Toy Needs: Toddler Toys, Art Sets for All Ages, Small and Med. Lego Sets, ALL Sports Balls, Board Games and Puzzles (Especially for Children 8+ and Family Time), Dolls (single and sets), \$10.00 Gift Cards for Walmart and Target, Play-Doh Sets, Cars (All sizes, especially Matchbox and Hot Wheel sets), Makeup and Shaving Kits for Teenagers, Alarm Clocks and Ear Buds for Teens

KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY Thank you so very much to all who contributed to the holiday bag giveaway for the Kountze food pantry! It was a very successful event thanks to your generosity! Looking forward, the food pantry is in need of canned fruit. This is a major expense every week, and it is also the favorite category of our guests. We do like to spread a little joy where we can!

SIMPLY GIVING Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you need to indicate this change to the office or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. Please send an email to noni@kmlchurch.org or complete a new Simply Giving form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

CJH CAMP EARLY BIRD SAVINGS! Register for CJH Camp before January 31, 2019 and get \$50 off a full-week session and a drawstring bag! You can register online at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>.



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 50
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 219 11:00: 110
Midweek - Noon: 43 Evening: 62
Total: 484
Pantry Guests Served: 285
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 36
Offering:
\$18,891.54 (Regular) \$5,917.93 (Specials)
\$7,655.00 (Phase 2)

Dorothy Cross will have her 90th birthday on Tuesday, December 17.

If you would like to send Dorothy a birthday card, please send it to:

Mrs. Dorothy Cross
6809 N 68th Plz Apt 206 -A
Omaha NE 68152



Advent is the season of joy.

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10	The return to Zion
Tuesday	James 5:7-10	Patience in suffering
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22	A final greeting
Thursday	Nehemiah 8:9-12	Ezra reads God's Law
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	Paul encourages the people
Saturday	Psalms 146:5-10	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us



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Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, you who bring healing, hope, and joy to the world, give us the faith to trust your never-ending care through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who made heaven and earth, we thank you for this food, a sign of your never-failing love. Amen. (Psalm 146:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May God strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is near. (James 5:8)

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

- How would life be different for you if you were blind or deaf?
- God's promise that the blind will see and the deaf will hear seems too good to be true. In what ways does this promise bring joy instead of disbelief?
- John the Baptist wondered if Jesus was the awaited messiah. What would you tell John?

Read: Isaiah 35:1-10.

The people of Israel were exiled far from home, imprisoned in Babylon, a foreign land. The people were wondering if there was a future for them. Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abandon them? We can ask similar questions. Will our children have faith? Has our Lord abandoned us? To all such concerns and questions Isaiah responds with unbelievable images of God doing amazing things: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; and those who can't talk will sing for joy. God makes the impossible possible. Advent reminds us of God's power and promise that is like no other. Advent is a time for joy and patient waiting (James 5:7-10) for God to do what only God can do, that is, save God's people. How does God's promise of care and salvation bring you joy?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, help us to trust your amazing healing power for our lives and our world. Amen.**

Psalm 146 is a song praising God's help. Happy are those who "give food to the hungry" (v. 7). Make cupcakes or cookies and write the words hope, peace, and joy on them. Put them in a bag or box and include a card that reads "Praise the Lord" (v. 1). Deliver them to an organization that feeds the hungry or to those who are homebound or living alone during this Advent season.

This week we light three candles on the Advent wreath. They are the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. Today's candle reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

Say: This is the third week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. [Light three candles]

Read: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5-6).

Respond: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives joy.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25