

## 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 Slight	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	Debra Kelly
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick
Comm. Set-up	Penny Hovendick

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Lorie Groenjes Kevin Larkowski Liz Pemberton Jerry Clanton
Lector	Robin Perkins
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Dan Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson Karen Wolf
Crucifer	John Groenjes
Acolytes	Dannika Rees Kaitlyn Munguia

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Lowell Harms
Lector	Stephen Urlaub
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 Street  
402-341-7761

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

**December 21 & 22, 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.

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

**ALTERNATIVE GIFTS** This is the last Sunday to 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 Lee & Jean Johnson's wedding anniversary

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

### JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FORUM

December 22:	Christmas Celebration
No Sunday School:	December 29 & January 5
January 12:	Sunday School & HS Forum resumes

**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 Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 10:10 AM Sunday School Christmas Celebration  
 (2yr-8<sup>th</sup> gr)  
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

**December 23 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**December 24 Tuesday**

Christmas Eve  
 OFFICE CLOSED (at noon)  
 4:00 PM Worship  
 7:00 PM Worship—candlelight  
 11:00 PM Worship—candlelight

**December 25 Wednesday**

Christmas Day  
 OFFICE CLOSED  
 10:00 AM Worship

**December 26 Thursday**

OFFICE CLOSED

**December 27 Friday**

5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

**December 28 Saturday**

2:30 PM Galucia/Day Wedding  
 5:00 PM Worship

**December 29 Sunday**

No Sunday School  
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
 8:00 AM -11:00 AM Continental Breakfast  
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum - Fellowship

**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

**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.

**PARKING...** On a regular basis we run out of handicapped parking spaces on Sunday mornings. In order to ease this situation, please use the east parking lot (by the handicapped entrance) only if you have a mobility issue. Those who are physically able are asked to use the west parking lot. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**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>.



Join us for Worship  
Tuesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve 4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 PM  
Wednesday, December 25  
Christmas Day 10:00 AM

Dorothy Stanzel will have her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tuesday, December 17.



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

Mrs Dorothy Stanzel  
5015 S 190th Ave  
Omaha NE 68135



**ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

**Saturday Attendance:** 258  
**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 253 11:00: 63  
**Midweek - Noon:** 26 **Evening:** 53  
**Total:** 653  
**Pantry Guests Served:** 354  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 37  
**Offering:**  
\$13,133.64 (Regular) \$8,978.94 (Specials)  
\$1,340.96 (Phase 2)



All financial gifts to Kountze Memorial need to be in the church office by noon on December 31, 2019 or postmarked no later than that date. Thank you.

*Advent is the season of love.*

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



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Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-16	A son named Immanuel
Tuesday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Wednesday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	A child is born
Friday	Romans 1:1-17	A salutation
Saturday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Israel's restoration
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” **Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)**

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

Almighty and everlasting God, may the birth of Jesus remind us of your promise of salvation and lead us to trust in you and to serve and love others with thankful hearts. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, may this food give strength to our bodies and faith, hope, and love to our souls. Amen.

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ fill you with grace and peace. (Romans 1:7)

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

- How would you describe love?
- How has someone shown love to you?
- How does the birth of Jesus show the love of God for all the world?

*Read:* Romans 1:1-7.

The birth of Jesus is not about the sweet presence of a smiling baby. It is about the work of God to save the world by entering our experience and being with us (Matthew 1:23). Ours is the God who promised this beforehand through the prophets (Romans 1:2), who has come in the flesh in the line of King David (v. 3), who rose from the dead and is recognized as the Son of God (v. 4). We are the beloved of God and named holy (v. 7). With the birth of Jesus comes the fulfillment of God's activity to change the world from darkness and despair to a heralding of good news for all the world. It includes a divine assignment to reach all people with the love of God. That is what Advent, Christmas, and the Christian faith is all about. How is this kind of love more of an action than a feeling?

*Pray:* **Dear God, we thank you for entering our world and our lives with hope and love. Help us to love the world you love in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

“God with us” (Matthew 1:23b) became a reality when a baby, Jesus, was born. The prophet Isaiah told of the Lord sending a sign, a child (Isaiah 7:14). God's saving work came to us through the birth of a child. Around the world there are many organizations and hospitals who help children in need of healthcare and food. Think of ways you can help children in need to know that God is with them through your support and donations.

This week we light four candles on the Advent wreath. They are the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Emmanuel means God is with us. God showed love for us by sending Jesus to be with us. During this Advent season we pray for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God through Jesus Christ.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23