

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

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

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Lector | Paul Rath |
| | Karen Fannin |
| Ushers | Bob Woodworth |
| | Glenn Anderson |
| | Dan Collett |
| | Marcy Madison |
| | Mark Mahaffey |
| | Gary Westerman |
| | Ted Kaasch |
| Greeters | Sharon Anderson |
| | Karen Wolf |
| Crucifer | Anna Kidder |
| Acolytes | Jane Kidder |
| | John Groenjes |

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Lector | Kay Wise |
| | Ashley Sum |
| | Pam Johnson |
| Ushers | Linda Johnson |
| | Ken Johnson |
| | Lee Johnson |
| | Norm Sack |
| Greeters | Julie King |
| Crucifer | Torin Edwards |
| Acolytes | Neely Edwards |
| | Communion Assistant |



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 28 & 29, 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 continental breakfast this morning and then next Sunday 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:** No Forum (Fellowship time) **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Fellowship time)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS were given to the glory of God by Bob & Sandy Fonda in memory of their parents and in honor of their grandchildren, Catelyn, Gwen, Patrick, and Brynn; in memory of Luther Meilahn by wife, Carole Meilahn (not listed in the Christmas bulletins)

TELEVISION MINISTRY for Christmas Eve was provided to the glory of God in thanksgiving for God's many blessings by Mary Olson.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

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

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

December 30 Monday

No Pantry

December 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 1 Wednesday

New Year's Day
 OFFICE CLOSED

January 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 4 Saturday

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

January 5 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 No Sunday School
 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 - 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Saturday, January 4, 4:30-5:00 PM in the Bride's Room near Sanctuary and Sunday, January 19, 10:00-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Lounge. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Yesterday's Youth will be taking our yearly winter break, for weather related reasons. We will not be meeting in January or February. You will not want to miss out, when we return on March 3!! Stephen Sieberson will be our speaker. He will be discussing his new book, so mark your calendars for the first Tuesday in March!! Stay tuned for some very exciting news and changes. Stay warm and keep safe during these colder winter months!

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Join us on Thursday, January 16, 11:30 AM. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. Watch the bulletin and weekly e-news for more information. Please RSVP to the Church office by Tuesday, January 14 or to jim@kmlchurch.org.

BAPTISM SEMINAR If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, please join us on Sunday, January 27 at 10:10 AM. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have. Please call the church office to register at 402-341-7761.

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>.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:10 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 26, 2020. 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 12, 2020.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER EDUCATION Hospice volunteers provide companionship for individuals living with terminal illnesses and their families. Volunteers choose the hours they are able to serve and determine the geographical location in the metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and the surrounding area. Volunteer education will take place on February 20, 24, and 27 and is sponsored by CHI Health at Home Hospice, VNA Hospice, and Hospice House—The Josie Harper Residence. If interested, please call: VNA Hospice: Celeste Feuerbach at 402-930-4143. CHI Health at Home Hospice: Mary Pendell at 402-898-8239. Hospice House: Tina Geistfeld at 402-343-8600.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 65

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 222 11:00: 124

Christmas - Eve: 844 **Day:** 83

Total: 411

Pantry Guests Served: 383

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 38

Offering:

\$17,068.04 (Regular) \$5,943.80 (Specials)

\$3,845.00 (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.

The coming of Christ triggers hostility.

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 2:13-23 | The escape to Egypt |
| Monday | Isaiah 63:7-9 | God's mercy remembered |
| Tuesday | Matthew 25:31-46 | The great judgment |
| Wednesday | Psalms 103:1-5 | Thanksgiving for God's goodness |
| Thursday | Hebrews 2:10-18 | Jesus the high priest |
| Friday | Exodus 1:15-2:10 | Moses is born to a slave people |
| Saturday | Psalms 148 | Let all things praise the Lord |
| Sunday | John 1:1-18 | The Word became flesh |



© 2019 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more. **Matthew 2:18 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear merciful God, bring your comfort and protection to all who experience violence and suffering, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food; may all who hunger be blessed with the food you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May our God and the Lord Jesus Christ, lift you up and carry you all the days of your life. (Isaiah 63:9)

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

- Tell or think about a time when you or someone you know needed to be protected or comforted.
- How can you be a responsible member of the church and society in the face of ongoing violence in our nation and world?
- Why is the shocking slaughter of the children described in Matthew 2 an important part of the Christmas story?

Read: Matthew 2:13-23.

Christmas time is a wonderful opportunity to sing Christmas hymns, see beautiful lights and contemplate peace on earth. However, Matthew 2 brings us back to the daily fears and violence that continues around us. Innocent children are slaughtered because a king fears for his power. The slaughter of innocent children continues to this day. The holy family flees to a land that once enslaved God's people, yet there the family is protected. People seek protection today as refugees in historic numbers. Christ's birth is powerful because sin and death remain realities. Christ's birth brings violence from those who fear God's design and rule. The life of the church is the life of faithful and courageous opposition to all powers that are an affront to the salvation of God in Christ. In the midst of unfairness and violence, in what ways can Christians respond with truth and peace? How does the message of Christ's birth and return from Egypt give you courage to live each day as a child of God? **Pray: O, Holy Jesus, your path of love and salvation brings hope to a world that needs saving. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.**

A refugee is one who leaves their country because they encounter danger in their lives. Herod wanted to destroy Jesus. For this reason, Jesus' family fled to Egypt and became refugees. When refugees enter a new country, they are in need of compassion and care. There are many Christian organizations providing food, language lessons, and housing for refugees. Become familiar with refugee needs and take action through prayer and donations to support them.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18