

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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert Theresa Gruber
Comm. Set-up	Donna Reinig

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jerry Clanton Kevin Larkowski Jill Gittler
Lector	Jon Natvig
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Dan Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson Dannika Rees

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller Lowell Harms
Lector	Jacob Rump
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Ken Johnson Lee Johnson Norm Sack
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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December 7 & 8, 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 8-11 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:** Pastor Chandran Paul Martin, ELCA Missionary (India) **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Fellowship time)

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

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.

December 8 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)
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr) - Christmas Program Rehearsal
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum

December 9 Monday

9:00 AM Sewing Group (note additional date)
 10:00 AM Pantry

December 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 11:30 AM Property Committee

December 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
 11:00 AM Advent Lunch
 12:15 PM Worship
 5:00 PM Advent Dinner
 6:30 PM Worship
 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (note add'l. date)

December 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due
 9:30 AM WELCA Board
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 14 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Candlelight Carol Service
 Prelude begins 4:40 PM

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

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 Wednesdays, December 11 & 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.

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 Kountze Food Pantry is collecting register receipts from Family Fare stores. For every \$100,000 in receipts returned, Kountze Food Pantry will

receive \$1,000. Many people are unaware that the Pantry food is, for the most part, purchased, not donated. One of our vendors is Family Fare, so your receipts will be added to the Pantry purchases and we can reach \$100,000 in a short time. Please bring receipts to the office or place in receptacle at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

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)	cranberries jellied/whole (14 oz)
corn (15 oz)	stuffing (13 oz)
green beans (15 oz)	mashed potatoes (13 oz)
pineapple tidbits/chunks (20 oz)	cream mushroom/cream chicken (10 oz)
fruit cocktail/mixed fruit (14 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

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM) Reception following. Nursery care will be provided. Please join us as we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas! The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture, Communion, Carols, Choral Anthems, Handbell Music, Brass and String Quartets, Organ, Piano, Flute, and more. The beautiful Christmas tree and candlelight will help illuminate the words of the angels, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." May this be the song in our hearts! A cheese and dessert reception will follow the service. Join us for this special evening of hope, joy, and fellowship!

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

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: 56
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 182 11:00: 85
Midweek - Noon: 27 Evening: 62
Total: 412
Pantry Guests Served: 351
Medical Clinic Guests Served: (Thanksgiving)
Offering:
\$20,626.50 (Regular) \$42,878.23 (Specials)
\$1,646.00 (Phase 2)



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

If you would like to send her 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 peace.

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 11:1-10	The peaceful kingdom
Tuesday	Romans 15:4-13	Good news for Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Thursday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's people will celebrate
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:16	Final greeting of peace
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	A prayer for guidance for the king
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist



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The 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. **Isaiah 11:6 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who bring peace and hope to the world, guide our steps to walk in your peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this food. May this gift of love strengthen us to live lives of hope and peace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

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

- What is something you are concerned about or that worries you?
- What is something you see in the world around you that gives you a sense of peace?
- Jesus comes to bring peace. How do you experience the peace that Jesus brings?

Read: Matthew 3:1-12.

In the Bible the wilderness is a place of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. With John the Baptist, something most dramatic is happening in the wilderness: preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives, the ultimate experience of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. John sounds harsh with words of judgment, not peace and hope. However, God's work of judgment is its own act of preparation that we may be made new. God's judgment condemns sin, death, and evil so that they may be destroyed. That is our great hope. Name places and situations in our world today where we gladly let the life of sin and death be swallowed up in forgiveness and peace.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, come into our lives and put an end to all that is within us that is not part of your kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2). The word repent in Greek means to change one's mind or purpose. John the Baptist wanted people to repent and live a life that "bears fruit" (v. 8). Leading a Christian life means being fruitful and bearing good fruit. Think about what this means. In what ways can people tell that you are a bearer of good fruit?

This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath in our homes. They are the candles of Hope and Peace. Today's candle reflects the peaceful kingdom.

Say: This is the second week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope and Peace. [Light two candles]

Read: The 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. (Isaiah 11:6)

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

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope and peace. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11