

## Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
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Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**December 19 & 20, 2020**

### Kountze Food Pantry

#### Thank You & Volunteers Needed

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;**

**9:00 - 11:00 AM;**

**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas hygiene bags for Pantry guests! Between products collected and monetary contributions, we will be able to hand out 250 gift bags which include: shampoo/conditioner, soap, razor, shaving cream, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, and floss. We will distribute the bags on December 21. On December 14, we distributed 250, 30 lbs. extra boxes, provided by the government and Food Bank, which contained canned goods and pantry items. It was a welcome surprise for our guests!

More good news is Kountze received \$1,370.82 from Family Fare receipts! Please keep them coming! As winter approaches, the pantry will be in need of volunteers willing to take a turn facing the elements while helping guests to their cars. The more people we have, the shorter the shift. Right now, we have 2 or 3 people doing all the work for 4 hours. Please consider helping them out by volunteering at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

### Mid-Week Advent Worship Services

December 23 "Joseph"

Paul Rath will serve as Cantor for Holden Evening Prayer. These services will be in-person and livestreamed. Those wishing to be in-person should register by the Tuesday prior to the service and again enter through the west Kountze Commons doors.

### Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM or 7:00 PM

**Christmas Day, 10:00 AM**

#### Make Your Reservations by 12/22.

The 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service will be televised on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM on Cox Cable channel 13 and will also be livestreamed. A bulletin will be posted online. For **in-person worship**, seating will be limited so you must **register** with the church **by Tuesday, December 22**. Enter through the west Kountze Commons doors.

### Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve and all day on Christmas Day and Monday, December 28. Voicemail messages and the [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) email will be checked periodically throughout the long weekend in case of emergencies.

### Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of Jean Holcombe given by Tom Holcombe

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Jean Holcombe given by Tom Holcombe

**Television Broadcast** on Christmas Eve is anonymously sponsored to the glory of God and the great things He has done. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

### Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.

### Youth Forum

#### Sundays at 10:10 AM

No Youth Forum this Sunday, 12/20, but join us again next Sunday, 12/27 via Zoom

**IN-PERSON:** The youth group will meet in-person on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share (must be non-COVID related).

**ZOOM:** The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

### Attendance and Giving

**Saturday Attendance:** 16

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 57

**Total:** 73

**Online Attendance:** 209

**Pantry Guests Served:** 806

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 32

#### Offering:

\$11,025.00 (Regular)

\$6,008.88 (Specials)

\$1,432.00 (Debt Reduction)

## God favors the peasant girl Mary.

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

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	The Lord's message to David
Tuesday	Romans 16:25-27	Paul's closing prayer
Wednesday	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Friday	John 3:11-16	For God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	God's promise to David
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple



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*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)*

### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, just as you favored your servant Mary, grant all of us faith and trust in your power to bring salvation to all through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

With this food we receive your steadfast love, O Lord; with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness to all generations through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:1)

### A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God bless you with the good news of Jesus' birth.

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

- When have you received special attention from friends or family?
- Think of someone you have valued as a friend. In what ways do you value them?
- The angel Gabriel describes Mary as favored. What does it mean to you that God has given the world our Savior and Lord Jesus through Mary, a young peasant girl?

*Read:* Luke 1:26-38.

In verses 28 and 30 the angel Gabriel says that Mary is favored, that is, Mary experiences the undeserved kindness of God. In Luke 2:40 and 52 the child Jesus is also described as favored. Divine attention comes to a young virgin to deliver Jesus, the Son of the Most High. The beginning of the Gospel of Luke tells of Elizabeth, a barren woman who gives birth, Mary, a peasant girl who gives birth to the future king in the lineage of David, and of shepherds in the field who will be the first evangelists of the good news of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:18). The message is clear: with God all things are possible, and as with Mary, our faithful response is, "let it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the model of the life of faith that acknowledges that God has done great things for her. As we prepare to enter the season of Jesus' birth, we are met with God's favor and blessings for us as well. How has God come to you with divine favor?

*Pray:* **God of undeserved kindness, give us faith to trust that with you all things are possible through Christ Jesus our Lord, Son of the Most High God. Amen.**

During this Advent season think of those who are not favored in our society. For example, the homeless are poor, hungry, and in need. In what ways can you show God's love to them through an act of kindness?

From your nativity set, hold each piece in silence for a moment. Then place the pieces back in the scene. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and then the wise men. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, the third one of joy, and the fourth one of love. *Say this Bible verse:* **For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.** (John 3:16) *Pray:* **Lord God, thank you for showing us love even when we are afraid like Mary, the mother of Jesus. Give us hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 61:10--62:3; Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40