

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
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 26 & 27, 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>

Year End Giving

Just a reminder that all 2020 giving - what you want on your year-end statement - will need to be **in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2020.**

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, Television Broadcast for 2021

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church

bulletin on the weekend you select. You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or television broadcast by calling the church office and/or mail your check to the church and note what it is for, and who it is in honor of, in memory, or thanksgiving of.

Today at Kountze

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Chet & Sara Worm in celebration of their 52nd wedding anniversary - married on December 28, 1968 in Mamrelund Lutheran Church in Stanton Iowa

Online Sunday School

There will not be a Sunday School lesson on December 27. Lessons will resume in video format on January 3, 2021. 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

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. The 1st 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 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 18

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 66

Total: 84

Online Attendance: 219

Pantry Guests Served: 1,034

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 37

Offering:

\$14,176.04 (Regular) \$5,016.43 (Specials)

\$792.00 (Debt Reduction)

The sight of baby Jesus brings peace.

Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
Monday	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Tuesday	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
Wednesday	Jude 1-2	A prayer for blessing
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	A time for everything
Friday	Psalms 8	Divine majesty and human dignity
Saturday	Psalms 148	All creation praises God
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh



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"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation." **Luke 2:29-30 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of peace, give us faith to walk in peace each day and to trust your eternal care for us and for all the world through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise the Lord, all you people; for our Savior Jesus and for this gift of food, praise the Lord. (Psalm 148:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the light of the world, give you peace.

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

- When something painful happens, where do you look for hope?
- What does it mean to you to be a person of peace?
- How does the message of the birth of Jesus bring you hope and peace?

Read: Luke 2:22-40.

Luke 2:29-32 is known as the *Nunc Dimittis* (Latin for, "Now release," the first words of Simeon's song of praise in the Latin Bible) used in worship and also tender words offered at the deathbed of a loved one. Simeon's song makes it clear that in Jesus, God has acted in a way that now gives peace for all people, including Gentiles, the non-Jews of the world. Luke makes it clear that the promise given to the Jewish people to be a blessing to the world has now come to pass through the birth of Jesus. Barriers are broken down. Jews and Gentiles together have hope. Mary and Joseph who can only offer two turtledoves (often a gift given by the poor) as a sacrifice for Jesus' birth, have actually given the world its real hope and peace. It brings the joy expressed in Psalm 148, but it also brings the pain that will pierce Mary's soul. Compassion is like that. It feels the pain of others and trusts that God's saving work is the light, hope, and peace of the world. How has love brought you pain and peace at the same time?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for Simeon, Anna, and all those throughout history who have lifted up Jesus as the hope and peace for all the world. Amen.**

In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed two young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph. Identify parents with young children in your congregation or community. Is there an act of service you can do on their behalf (e.g., help with cleaning, bringing a meal, or childcare) so they can enjoy some time out together?

Psalm 148 is a psalm that offers praise to God in all things. Praise means to give thanks. Write your own psalm. Make a list of things for which you wish to praise God. Using the list, say each praise aloud. For example:

I praise God for earth and all stars. Praise the Lord!

I praise God for family and friends. Praise the Lord!

And so forth until you finish the list.

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