

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 5 & 6, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry Need Personal Care Items & Volunteers

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;
9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is asking for full-sized, personal care and hygiene products to give out in lieu of the holiday bags we have given to our guests in the past. We would like to include an all-in-one shampoo/conditioner, bar soap or body wash, toothbrush and paste, razor and shave cream. Of course, toilet tissue is always needed. Thank you! If you would like to volunteer please sign up at the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Pledge Cards

you haven't returned your pledge cards yet we ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Kountze's mission and ministry for the coming year, as well as addressing our debt, and return your pledge cards to Kountze as soon as possible either at worship or by mailing them to the church. Thank you!

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 may go online and make this change yourself, or indicate this change to the church office in writing 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**, please call the church office.

Mid-Week Advent Worship Services

December 9 "On Being Prepared"
December 16 "Mary's Song"
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.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Elen Pesavento given by Paul Revord

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Ellen Pesavento given by Paul Revord

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.
Zoom Codes: Meeting ID 938 1883 9381
Passcode: 697624

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in 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.

Adult Forum

Pr. Hall continues to post videos for a multi-week study of Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520), on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChtalSdEjyMBKlzbGGIyFA/>

The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage:
www.elca500.org.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 23

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 49

Total: 72

Online Attendance: 138

Pantry Guests Served: 697

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

Offering:

\$22,622.00 (Regular) \$1,513.09 (Specials)

\$5,632.00 (Debt Reduction)

God has good news for all people.

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

Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort my people
Tuesday	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Promise of the Lord's coming
Wednesday	Malachi 4:1-6	The great day of the Lord
Thursday	Matthew 3:1-10	The preaching of John the Baptist
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for God's mercy
Saturday	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	A prayer for God's peace
Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light



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"[T]he voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Mark 1:3 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you that through your Son, Jesus Christ, love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Amen. (Psalm 85:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, may this gift of food strengthen us to walk in your way of comfort, hope, and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God feed you like a shepherd and keep you safe. (Isaiah 40:11)

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

- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- What events in the news do people consider to be positive news or good news?
- The word gospel means good news. How is the coming of Christ into our world good news for you?

Read: Mark 1:1-8.

The beginning of a book helps set up what the book is about and where the story is going. This is true of the Gospel of Mark as well. Mark 1:1-8 is part of Mark's prologue (vv. 1-13) and was used in ancient writings with this very purpose in mind: to give information that helps people follow the story as it unfolds. Mark's point is that good news ("good tidings" in Isaiah 40:9), the gospel, is beginning to happen through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This good news is linked to John the baptizer who is himself reminiscent of Elijah. When Elijah comes again, God's people will encounter God's promised deliverance (Malachi 4:5). That future time is now present through John and through Jesus. John's message of repentance (v. 4) will be continued by Jesus when he says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14). Where do you see the good news of Jesus happening today?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you for fulfilling your promise of hope and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Good news has a positive effect on people. Isaiah 40 gives prophetic comfort to God's people. What word of comfort or encouragement can you give to someone this week?

Set up a Christmas nativity set in your home. Place the wise men further away from the set for now. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope and the second one of peace. Pause for a moment to sit in silence and look upon the nativity set and think about the coming of Jesus.

Say this Bible verse: **Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.** (Psalm 85:8a) *Pray:* **Lord, help us to prepare the way of the Lord. Give us peace and hope. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28