

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate 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
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 11 & 12, 2021

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.

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

Our 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 attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Children's Choir

9:05 AM

Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Lighting of the Advent Wreath and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. There are no scheduled topics for Forum at this time.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

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).

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—Youth Gathering Bible Study – Living God's Boundless Forgiveness

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Poinsettias

Cost: \$10.00 each.

Deadline to order: Today, Sunday, December 12

Giving a poinsettia is a special way to honor or remember loved ones. You may also simply give a gift of love to honor someone special. If you would

like to order a poinsettia, please fill out the form in the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate during Worship. Poinsettias will be available for pickup after the 11:00 PM Service on Christmas Eve or after the 10:00 AM Worship Service on Christmas Day.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

December 12 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

December 13 Monday

9:00 AM Joseph Scott Jones Visitation & Funeral
10:00 AM Pantry

December 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3 - Kountze Commons Link

December 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline
11:00 AM Advent Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Advent Dinner
6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due
12:00 PM Circle 4 - Potluck
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

December 17 Friday

1:00 PM Barb Carlsen's Swing Choir Concert @ KMLC
5:00 PM Pantry

December 18 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
5:00 PM Worship

December 19 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Executive Committee

Ongoing and Coming Soon

Worship Assistants Needed

Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Beyond...

If you are a Communion Assistant or Lector and would like to serve on Christmas Eve or Day—or any other time—please be sure to sign up (SignUp Genius) as soon as possible.

If you are an Usher, there is an Usher schedule in the back of the Sanctuary for you to sign up on as soon as you know which service you will be attending. Anyone wishing to help can also call the church office to sign up if you prefer. Thank you for serving in this way! New volunteers are always welcome.

Mid-week Advent Services

The Days are Surely Coming.... will be our theme for

Advent this year. We join with ELCA World Hunger in pondering the scripture from Jeremiah and Luke that focus on Zechariah, John the Baptist, and Elizabeth. Join us at 12:15 PM for our Eucharist Worship or at 6:30 PM for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays, December 15, & 22.

If you are unable to worship in person, we are live-streaming the Wednesday evening service. A bulletin may be found on our website.

Advent Meals

Wednesdays—11:00 AM or 5:30 PM

Bring your family, friends, neighbors, or call your church friends and meet at Kountze for lunch or dinner. Maybe you met someone new at coffee and cookie hour, give them a call and invite them.

Advent Meal Volunteers Still Needed

Please call the church office if you are able to help.

Ongoing and Coming Soon *continued*

The tentative menu(s) subject to minor changes follows:

December 15

Peruvian baked chicken
Cilantro lime rice (plain rice available)
Vegetable
Roll with butter
Desert T.B.A.

December 22

Baked spaghetti w/ meat sauce or alfredo
Garden salad
Garlic bread
Desert T.B.A.

All meals are free will offering and served with choice of coffee, water, or tea.

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Willowdale Elementary Swing Choir Concert

Held at Kountze Memorial

Barb Carlsen, Director

Friday, December 17, 1:00—2:00 PM

Barb is bringing her 4th & 5th grade swing choir to Kountze for a short concert for their parents. We are invited to attend the concert as well.

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal

Saturday, December 18, 9:00—11:00 AM

Children's Christmas Program

December 19, 9:00 AM

The program, "The Unbelievable, Super Fantastic, Truly Amazing, Christmas Extravaganza", will be held on December 19 at the 9:00 service only.

The ELCA Wittenberg Center Presents:

The Magnificat: Turning the World Upside Down

The ELCA Wittenberg Center invites you to a three-part webinar series to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's commentary on the Magnificat and the continued significance of Mary's voice. Each hour-long session will take place at 12 PM Central time.

December 15

My Soul Magnifies the Lord:
The Gift of Mary's Voice

December 16

Brought Down the Mighty From Their Thrones:
The Strength of Mary's Voice

December 17

From Generation to Generation:
The Future of Mary's Voice

Register at <http://bit.ly/MagnificatWebinar>

Kountze Food Pantry

Kountze Food Pantry is once again collecting gloves, mittens, and hats! There is always a need in the winter months. Please leave your donations in the pantry box in Fellowship Hall or in the office. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by our guests!

Please note: Family Fare receipts must be complete in order to be counted. Partial receipts cannot be submitted.

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

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

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Join us for Worship

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve 4:00, 7:00, & 11:00 PM

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day 10:00 AM

4:00 PM—Family Oriented
7:00 & 11:00 PM—Candlelight

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 126 **11:00:** 52

Wednesday: 12:15 PM: 30 **6:30 PM:** 45

Total: 286

Streaming: 70

Cox Cable: 197

Pantry Guests Served: 700 (inc. 237 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$16,145.00 (Regular) \$5,651.56 (Specials)

\$51,362.00 (Debt Reduction)

Joyous news for the needy.

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

Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
Monday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Tuesday	Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is near
Wednesday	Isaiah 55:6-13	Invitation to abundant life
Thursday	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Encouragement to be generous
Friday	Proverbs 15:23	Expressing joy with our words
Saturday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth



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So, with many other exhortations, he [John the Baptist] proclaimed the good news to the people. Luke 3:18 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, bring your joy and compassion to those in need and help us to change our ways when we are insensitive to others, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us joy to know that you care for us every day of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and love of God give you joy through Christ our Lord.

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

- Tell or think about a time you experienced great joy.
- How does the message of John the Baptizer bring joy as well as repentance?

Read: Luke 3:7-18.

John the Baptist calls the people, “*brood of vipers.*” He demands repentance. What does not reflect “*good fruits*” of repentance will be burned up in “*unquenchable fire.*” John calls his message “*good news.*” Really? Yes, really. The good news is that injustices that harm people’s lives will not be tolerated. We can do simple steps to make a positive difference by giving food, clothing, and fair treatment to others. All of this prepares us for the coming of the Messiah who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and a cleansing fire. The good news for a life of faith is that there is real joy in God through Jesus Christ. The power of God is present in this Messiah, this Jesus. Thanks be to God for this joyous news!

Discuss: What steps can we take to prepare for the coming of the Messiah?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, bring your power and your rule of justice and mercy to all the world, and lead us to bring joy and love to others. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, in what way can you bring joy to the needy?

This is the Third Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles and the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.

Say: **We light the first candle, the Prophet’s candle, the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, and the pink candle, the Shepherd’s candle, representing the joy the shepherds felt upon finding the Christ child. May we prepare with joy for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Pray: **Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, hope in your promise, and joy for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]