

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**December 18 & 19, 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**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Bill Christensen's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday by Madeline Christensen

### **Children's Christmas Program**

**December 19, 9:00 AM**

The program, “The Unbelievable, Super Fantastic, Truly Amazing, Christmas Extravaganza”, will be held this Sunday at the 9:00 service only. There will be a Christmas celebration after the program with treats and games. We will not have Sunday School classes on December 26 and January 2. We will resume as normal on January 9 .

### **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.

### **Youth Forum**

**Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—Checking in and Christmas Gift Exchange (Wrap up a present of something you no longer need or want. We will play a game to pass them

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:30 AM Executive Committee

### December 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### December 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### December 22 Wednesday

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

### December 23 Thursday

OFFICE CLOSED (at noon)  
No Healing Gift Free Clinic

### December 24 Friday

Christmas Eve  
OFFICE CLOSED  
No Pantry  
4:00 PM Worship  
7:00 PM Worship  
11:00 PM Worship

### December 25 Saturday

Christmas Day  
10:00 AM Worship  
No 5:00 PM Worship

### December 26 Sunday

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
No Sunday School or Forums

### December 27 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED  
10:00 AM Pantry is open

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

#### December 22

Peruvian baked chicken  
Cilantro lime rice (plain rice available)  
Vegetable  
Roll with butter  
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

## Ongoing and Coming Soon *continued*

### 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>

### From Lutheran Disaster Response

"On the night of December 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed, including a candle factory in Mayfield, Ky., where first responders are still searching for survivors. More than 330,000 people are without electricity across multiple states. The full extent of the damage is expected to become clear in the coming days."

"Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete."

"Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes until the response is complete. Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery. Please give today."

You can make your check out to Kountze Memorial and specify "Tornado Relief" or go to the Lutheran Disaster Response website at :

<https://www.elca.org/disaster/>

### Year End Giving

The church office will be closed on December 31 in observance of New Years Day. All financial gifts to Kountze Memorial that you wish to be on your 2020 giving statement should be in the office by Thursday, December 30, 2021 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2021.

### 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 need to indicate this change to the office 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**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

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:** 26

**Sunday:** 9:00: 130 11:00: 56

**Wednesday:** Closed due to weather

**Total:** 212

**Streaming:** 111

**Cox Cable:** 214

**Pantry Guests Served:** 751 (inc. 265 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 24

**Offering:**

\$25,767.00 (Regular) \$4,189.65 (Specials)

\$577.00 (Debt Reduction)

*We rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promises.*

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

|           |                 |                                 |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 1:39-55    | Mary visits Elizabeth           |
| Monday    | Micah 5:2-5a    | A promised ruler                |
| Tuesday   | Hebrews 10:5-10 | Christ's sacrifice once for all |
| Wednesday | Micah 4:1-5     | Peace through obedience         |
| Thursday  | Psalms 80:1-7   | Prayer for Israel's restoration |
| Friday    | Luke 2:1-20     | The birth of Jesus              |
| Saturday  | John 1:1-14     | The Word became flesh           |
| Sunday    | Luke 2:41-52    | The boy Jesus at the temple     |



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*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46b-47 (NRSV)*

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Come, Lord Jesus, come and bring hope, peace, joy, and love to our lives and for all the world. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundance, as you fill us with this meal, we pray for all to have enough food to be satisfied and enough hope to have peace and joy in Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the mercy and love of God shine on you and give you joy.

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

- How is love more of a commitment to others than an emotion that comes and goes?
- How does Jesus' birth show God's loving commitment to us?

*Read:* Luke 1:39-55.

It is quite common for Christians to wonder what the God of the Old Testament has to do with the God of the New Testament and the grace, mercy, and peace described there. For Luke 1, the answer is everything. It is the same God. The God of the Old Testament keeps promises, like the promise of new life to Elizabeth, a woman beyond the child-bearing years, and Mary, a young maiden without a husband. This is the God who cares for the lowly and brings down the powerful, cares for the hungry, and sends the rich away empty. This new world order of lifting up the lowly is never fully lived out in Luke for all to see, but God's mercy definitely changes lives and households, like those of Elizabeth and Mary. God's steadfast love and mercy is here to stay, and God's people rejoice.

*Discuss:* Where do you see God's love today?

*Pray:* **Loving God, just as you gave Elizabeth and Mary reason to rejoice, fill us with love and joy in your presence through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you care for the lowly and feed the hungry?

For this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light four candles on the Advent Wreath.

*Say:* **We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, the third candle, the Shepherd's candle, and light the fourth candle, the Angel's candle. The fourth candle announces Jesus' mission on earth to love and unite all people, bringing them closer to God. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with hope, peace, joy, and love.**

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52