

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 Slaughter	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 26, 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.

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

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Lee & Jean Johnson in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

December 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

December 30 Thursday

No Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 31 Friday

New Year's Eve
Office Closed
No Pantry

January 1 Saturday

New Year's Day
5:00 PM Worship

January 2 Sunday

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

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.

Jesus grew in divine and human approval.

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

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple
Monday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Samuel at Shiloh
Tuesday	Colossians 3:12-17	The new life in Christ
Wednesday	Galatians 1:10-24	How Paul became an apostle
Thursday	Exodus 24:1-8	The people agree to obey God
Friday	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Ministry of the apostles
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. Luke 2:52 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we give you thanks for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to grow in wisdom and in the knowledge of your grace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise the Lord! We thank you for all your goodness and mercy, including the gift of this food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you grow in grace to know the joy and peace of God's love for you in Christ Jesus, born in Bethlehem.

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

- Think or talk about a time you received a compliment for something you did well.
- Think or talk about a time when you felt the divine presence of God in your life.

Read: Luke 2:41-52.

Growth is a part of life. That growth can be physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. What was it like for Jesus to grow up both human and divine? Amazingly, in the four New Testament Gospels, only this childhood story from Jesus' life exists. It says quite a bit: Jesus lived in a community of care with parents and other adults; he grew up as a Jew, going with his family to Jerusalem for the Passover; he experienced tensions with his parents as he explored his faith with elders in the temple; Jesus was obedient to his parents; his mother observed Jesus'

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

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



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

development with awe; and, Jesus grew and gained wisdom and the approval of God and humans alike. God's unfathomable entry into our world brings divine acceptance of us through a baby, then a child, and finally an adult who brings God's saving work for all.

Discuss: What questions do you have about what it was like for Jesus to be fully human yet fully divine?

Pray: **Awesome God, for what we understand and what we cannot understand about all that you have done for us in love, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, in what ways can you reflect the love of Jesus to others?

Christmas is a season of twelve days. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He is also known for his love of animals and birds and felt they should be remembered during Christmas because they were present at the birth of Jesus. Consider decorating a tree or bush outside with popcorn or pinecones rolled in peanut butter and bird seed. Enjoy watching God's creatures around you.

Pray: **Dear Lord, we praise you for all creation. We praise you for mountains and hills, for fruit trees and cedars, for wild animals and cattle, for creeping things, and flying birds. Amen.** (Psalm 148)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 26

Sunday: 9:00: 167 **11:00:** 62

Wednesday: not available at time of printing

Total: 255

Streaming: 82

Cox Cable: 202

Pantry Guests Served: 810 (inc. 268 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 24

Offering: not available at time of printing