

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 4 & 5, 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 memory of Jean Holcombe by Tom Holcombe

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—Serving in the World

Today at Kountze, continued on next page

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Nebraska Synod Middle School Youth Gathering Saturday, January 5

9:00 AM—6:00 PM

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Words: What R U Trying 2 Say? Is the theme of the day. Sixth—8th graders are invited to participate with the cost for the day being \$20. Information can be found on the Youth Board in the Youth Room.

Registration fee is due in the church office by Sunday, December 5.

At this time, if you need to be able to get into the church building after office hours or on weekends outside of worship times, please talk with the church staff at least the day before you plan to be here so we are able to make sure doors



can be opened and alarms will not sound which, if the alarm goes off, will bring the police to attend your event...



We appreciate your assistance and patience.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

December 5 Sunday

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:10 AM Children's Choir (K-6th gr)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2 yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

December 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

11:00 AM Advent Lunch

11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

12:15 PM Worship

5:30 PM Advent Dinner

6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer—in-person or live-streamed

December 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

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

Ongoing and Coming Soon

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 Zachariah, 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 8, 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

Advent Meals

Please join us for Advent meals. 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.

We will need some volunteers to help prepare, serve, clean up, put out placemats, pour drinks, run the dishwasher, etc. so no culinary experience is necessary. If you love to cook, we would be most happy to have you help us with one or all of the meals. Please consider taking an hour or two this Advent season to volunteer before, during, or after

Ongoing and Coming Soon *continued*

one of the meals. Please call the church office if you are able to help. The tentative menu(s) subject to minor changes follows:

December 8

Meatloaf
Mashed potatoes (**not** out of a box)
Mixed steamed vegetables
Dinner roll w/butter
Desert T.B.A.

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

Children's Christmas Program

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: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 171 **11:00:** 50

Wednesday: 12:15: 23 **6:30 :** 44

Total: 312

Streaming: 64

Cox Cable: 210

Pantry Guests Served: 603 (inc. 199 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

Offering:

\$11,665.00 (Regular) \$2,262.33 (Specials)

\$3,322.00 (Debt Reduction)

Prepare the way of Jesus.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Wednesday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Thursday	Proverbs 24:13-14	Seek wisdom
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah's prophesy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming



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[A]s it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Luke 3:4 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, may we join with John the Baptist to prepare your way into the world that all may know hope, the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation you bring. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this meal and your tender mercies that bless us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus bless you with hope for each new day.

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

- When you are expecting company in your home, how do you prepare for their visit?
- How does preparing for the coming of Christ reflect your hope for the future?

Read: Luke 3:1-6.

Baptism by John the Baptist was not the same as that of Jesus. Jesus' baptism brings the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). It is our Christian baptism that gives birth to a life of faith and salvation. John's baptism does reveal something about our life in Christ through baptism: daily renewal through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Christian baptism begins a way of life of daily renewal in grace, free to confess shortcomings and free to receive forgiveness, new life, and new opportunities to love one's neighbor. John prepares the way of Jesus into the world, and so do we with our daily return to our baptism. Our faith, born by the Spirit, gives hope not only to us, but to the whole world because in our relationships with others, we speak of repentance, forgiveness, and salvation for all.

Discuss: How do you share this faith with others?

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, renew us in faith each day that we may prepare for your coming into our lives so that all may live in hope through the power of forgiveness. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share the hope of Jesus' coming through your actions or words?

This is the Second Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles on the Advent wreath. *Say: We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, and the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, naming where Jesus will be born. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with confidence and with hope for all the world.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18