

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

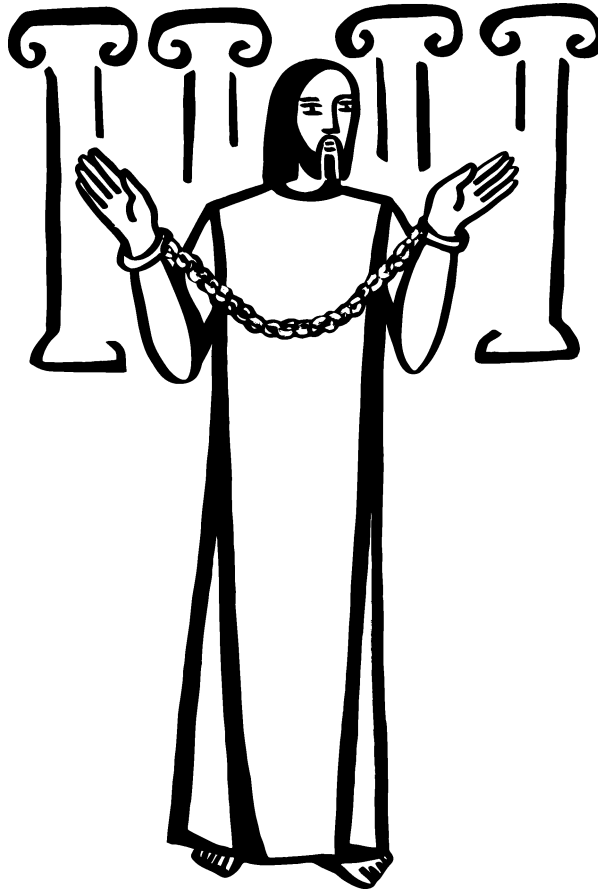
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

November 24, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

☞ **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives

for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors,

following in the servant way of Jesus.

Amen.

☞ These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are † forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

☞ **Amen.**

1 O Christ, what can it mean for us
to claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed
whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory's height,
to power, wealth, and fame,
you walked a diff'rent, lowly way,
another's will your aim.

3 Though some would make their greatness felt
and lord it over all,
you said the first must be the last
and service be our call.
O Christ in workplace, church, and home,
let none to power cling;
for still, through us, you come to serve,
a diff'rent kind of king.

4 You chose a humble human form
and shunned the world's renown;
you died for us upon a cross
with thorns your only crown.
But still, beyond the span of years,
our glad hosannas ring,
for now at God's right hand you reign,
a diff'rent kind of king!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

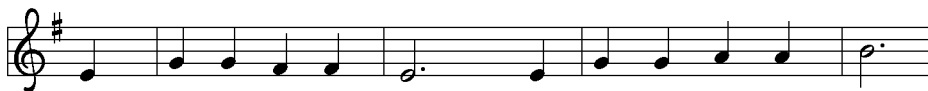
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GLORIA



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty and ever-living God,
☑ you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,

and the books were opened.
¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
 I saw one like a human being
 coming with the clouds of heaven.
 And he came to the Ancient One
 and was presented before him.
¹⁴ To him was given dominion
 and glory and kingship,
 that all peoples, nations, and languages
 should serve him.
 His dominion is an everlasting dominion
 that shall not pass away,
 and his kingship is one
 that shall never be destroyed.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 93 (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)

Ev - er since the world be - gan, your
 throne has been es - tab - lished.

¹ The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and ¹ armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it can- ¹ not be moved.

² Ever since the world began, your throne has ¹ been established;
 you are from ¹ everlasting. *Refrain*

³ The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted ¹ up their voice;
 the waters have lifted up their ¹ pounding waves.

⁴ Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers ¹ of the sea,
 mightier is the Lord who ¹ dwells on high.

⁵ Your testimonies are ¹ very sure,
 and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and for- ¹ evermore. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Ⓐ Word of God, Word of Life.

Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Ⓐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Ⓒ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 474

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Ⓐ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 6th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 who are not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. All children will return to the sanctuary in time to receive communion. There are Children's Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands

ACS 953 vs. 1 & 2



1 Be - fore the An - cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and
2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and
hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and
glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,
ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence
Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and
tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -



might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.
claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

After the baptism, the congregation welcomes the newest member:

- ☐ Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- ☑ **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

- ☐ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

- ☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Merciful God,
G receive our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Olive Jade Hinrichs (11/24/2024)

Prayers this week: Liz Pemberton, Laurine Savine, Vinn Stephens

On-going Care: Sharon Ambler, Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John Bodnar, Don Burton, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Jessica Hannon, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Samaria, Dorothy Stanzel, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens, and grandson of Vinn Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenburg Center, Germany; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians* – James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Proclaim the Glory of the Lord

arr. Johnny Mann

Words and Music by Dwight Liles and Niles Borup

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Though the Earth Shall Change

ACS 1035 sung twice



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa-ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na-tions war, though the peo-ples bat-tle,



though the em-pire fal-ters, we will not fear.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46
Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

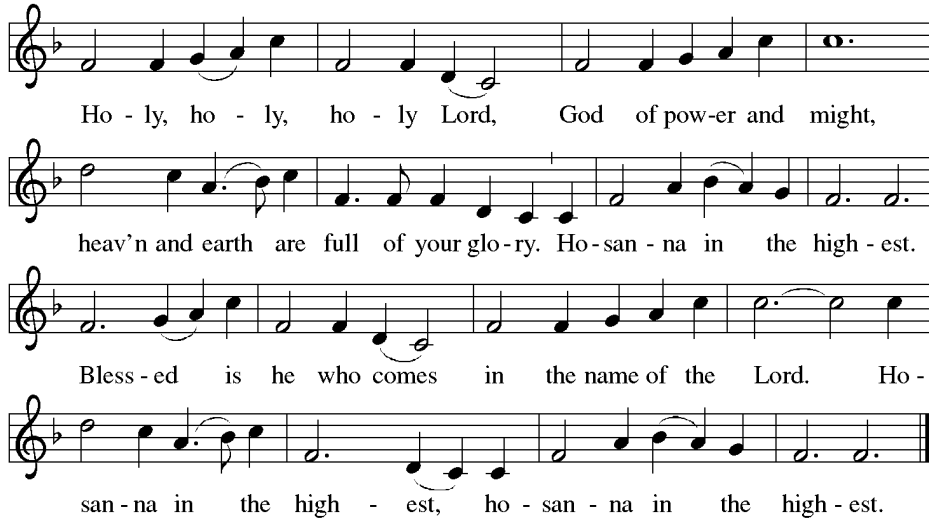
OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
- C** you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

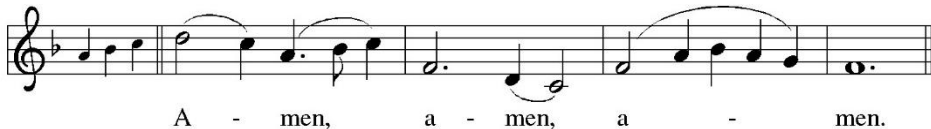
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and take your place in the new creation.

C Behold, God is making all things new.

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

- 1 **O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.**

- 2 **O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving pow'r,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.**

- 3 **O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
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1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

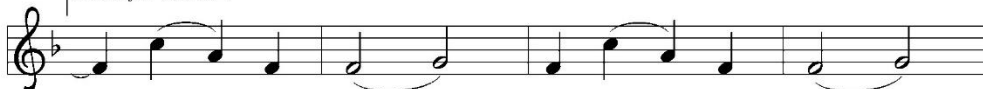


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Faithful God,
- ☑ you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The Ancient One; enthroned; the Crucified One, now risen; the Indwelling One, poured out; †
bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264 vs. 1, 3, 4

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

† † †

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 23 & 24, 2024

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 165 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the 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. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a 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 8:45 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. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

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.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

During the month of November, we will be learning about how God provides us with what we need. To begin the Sunday School educational time, **we are serving the students a hot breakfast upstairs.** The kids can enjoy the same breakfast being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

This week: Budget Update

Next week: Advent Fair

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24

6 PM

Hosted by and Held at Kountze Memorial

Let's join our interfaith siblings and give thanks to God! A cookie & coffee reception will follow. The offering collected will be donated to Together, Inc.

Alternative Gifts

November 24, December 1, 8, & 15

Between services ~ 10-11 AM

ELCA Good Gifts, Global Mamas, and Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

We will again have the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and give a gift that shares God's love and truly

makes a difference in someone's life. Honor your family and friends with an Alternative Gift this Christmas. This year there will also be some physical items for purchase.

Homemade Peanut Brittle Sale

Urban Ministry Cooperative Parish

November 24, December 1, & 15

Between services ~ 10-11 AM

Noni Cambridge, our Staff Treasurer, is selling homemade peanut brittle for the Urban Ministry Cooperative Parish. The proceeds from this Fundraiser goes to support the Raven Fund. This fund supports the underserved in the North and South Omaha Communities with food, rent, and utility bill assistance. Stop by to see Noni and enjoy a yummy treat while helping others at the same time! Peanut brittle makes a great gift.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 24 Sunday

Christ the King

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

6:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 28 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal

@ St. Peters

November 29 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED—No Pantry

November 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion

9:00 AM Decorate for Advent

5:00 PM Worship

December 1 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Fair

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Kitchen Help Needed

Turkey Prep & Cook for Thanksgiving Meal

Monday, November 25 &/or Tuesday, November 26

Kountze Memorial provides and cooks the turkeys for the Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's each year. We need 2 or 3 someones to help with cleaning the turkeys to get them ready to go into the oven on the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Working in the kitchen is always fun and a great way to get to know others that you may only see on Saturday or Sunday while at church. There is a sign-up sheet in the bulletin.

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, November 30

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Annual Advent Fair

December 1

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. **Please bring diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items** that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

Alternative Gifts

November 24, December 1, 8, & 15

Between services ~ 10-11 AM

ELCA Good Gifts, Global Mamas, and Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

We again have the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and give a gift that shares God's love and truly makes a difference in someone's life. Honor your family and friends with an Alternative Gift this Christmas. See the insert in this week's bulletin for more information.

GivingTuesday

December 3

Let's celebrate what we can do in just 24 hours! You are invited to join in the biggest local giving day of the year. It is time to start thinking about what nonprofits and causes you will support and we invite you to learn more and give to Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center and help us Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, and Tend the Soul. There are many local nonprofits who also participate in this amazing day of generosity. GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Please see #GivingTuesday402 or <https://shareomaha.org/> to learn more.

Advent

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

Meals: 11 AM & 5 PM

Cost: Free Will Offering

Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM

Plan to Worship on Wednesdays during Advent and come early for lunch or dinner here at Kountze Memorial. We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals. If you would like to help in the kitchen (always a fun time) please sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org

Something to think about: What are two or three ways that you will cultivate hope this season? How might these ways bring hope to you? To others?

Blood Drive

Sunday, December 8

9 AM—1 PM

Kountze Memorial will host a Blood Drive this Advent. We need 30 to sign up in advance but there will also be room for "walk-ins."

- If you normally give blood, please consider giving here and sign up as soon as possible
- If you haven't given blood before or aren't on a regular schedule, this is a great time for you to consider giving at our Blood Drive and sign up as soon as possible. You can sign up online or at the Welcome Desk (online is preferred).

By giving blood, you can save up to three lives in only one hour every time you donate.

Merry Tuba Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8

3:00 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the Public. It should be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Candlelight Carol Service

Kountze Memorial

Saturday, December 14

Prelude begins at 4:40 PM

Service 5 PM

Reception Following

Nursery Care will be Provided

You, your family, and friends are invited to join us for this special service of sacred scripture and poetry, congregational carols, handbells, brass, organ, and piano. Please join us following the service for a lovely reception and time for fellowship.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15

9 AM

We are excited to hear our children sing and tell the story of Christ's birth. The children (grades Pre K-6) will present the Christmas story with music. Be sure to invite grandpas & grandmas, aunts & uncles, and any other special people your kiddos would like to have here. They always do a great job telling the story.

Kountze Youth Christmas Party

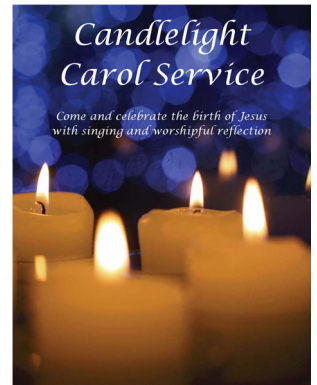
Middle School, High School, College Youth

Kristin Boe's House

Saturday, December 21

3—5 PM

We will decorate sugar cookies, play games, and have a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Please bring a gift—either from home or something you purchase for \$10 or less! RSVP to the church office or at the Welcome Desk.



Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 11/14—Wednesday, 11/20

Saturday: 18

Sunday: 9:00: 188 11:00: 70

Wednesday: 12:15: 7

Total: 283

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 1,063 (inc. 368 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$19,907.48 (Regular) \$5,956.63 (Specials)

\$282.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus Christ's reign is here now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	The time of judgment
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	1 Timothy 6:11-16	The good fight of faith
Thursday	Hebrews 1:1-4	God has spoken by his Son
Friday	Colossians 2:6-15	Fullness of life in Christ
Saturday	Psalm 93	The majesty of God's reign
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	Coming of the Son of Man



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." **Revelation 1:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Ever-living God, may all people know of your love, power, and glory that brings healing and new life through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who have established the world and all that is in it, we thank you for giving us this meal, a sign of your love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of heaven and earth bless you to know Christ's reign.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If you had unlimited power, how would you use it to change the world?
- How is Jesus, as "ruler of the kings of the earth" (Revelation 1:5), different from other rulers?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 1:4b-8.

This scripture writing celebrates what glory and power really look like. The Book of Revelation delights in the God who always is, always was, and always will be. God is not some rumored supreme power who intimidates and destroys. Unlike earthly powers that come and go, it is the reign of Jesus Christ that bestows life, love, and joy. It is not the power meant for a few at the expense of many. It is a reign filled with a whole kingdom of priests, meaning all of us, who serve God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving without end. It is a reign that lifts all God's people to share in this power and give glory to God. This Jesus, the one who died as the faithful *witness* (also translated as "martyr") is coming and is here now to love us and free us from the bondage of all other rulers of the earth. This Jesus, the slain lamb, has already arrived in worship, in Holy Communion, and in a whole series of "Amens" that we shout because in Christ we are turning to see God's glory.

Discuss: Where and how do you see the reign of Christ in the world today?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, give us hearts and voices that give you praise as the only one who has the power to be with us always with love and hope through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help others experience the power of God in the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent.

Think or talk about the traditions you have established in your home over the years. Many different types of Advent calendars can now be found in stores and online. Advent wreaths are another tradition. If you have not had a tradition in the past, consider using a calendar or wreath this year as part of your faith journey in your home and gifting them to family and friends as well.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36