

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 44, Issue 11

December, 2024



## FROM THE PASTOR

### Advent 2024 – Cultivating Hope

**This year our Advent theme is Cultivating Hope**, so let's take a moment and think about what hope is, and what it's not. My own understanding of hope has transformed quite a bit over the years of my adulthood. Two things in particular have ...complicated... the idea of hope in my mind and, in doing so, I think deepened and broadened how I think about hope. First is being a foster parent. Because kids in foster care have been able to show and tell me a truth about hope that I knew but had never been brave enough to put words to – **hope is incredibly frightening, because hope makes you vulnerable.** The temptation, then, for people who have had hope many times and been bitterly disappointed, is to stop hoping altogether. And sometimes we might rationalize such an approach as better preparing us for the hard realities of life. But the truth is, avoiding hope doesn't protect us the way we might, well, hope. Sociologist and author Brené Brown describes this poignantly in a story from her book *Daring Greatly*:

"A man in his early sixties told me, "I used to think the best way to go through life was to expect the worst. That way, if it happened, you were prepared, and if it didn't happen, you were pleasantly surprised. Then I was in a car accident and my wife was killed. Needless to say, expecting the worst didn't prepare me at all. And worse, I still grieve for all of those wonderful moments we shared and that I didn't fully enjoy. My commitment to her is to fully enjoy every moment now. I just wish she was here, now that I know how to do that."

The second group of people who have helped me think differently about hope are Black authors, activists, and friends who have been transparently honest about their own complicated relationship with this dynamic of hope

and disappointment. Black Christian writer and speaker Austin Channing Brown titled the last chapter of her book *I'm Still Here* "Standing in the Shadow of Hope". She reflects on the pushback that Ta-Nehisi Coates got, after his landmark memoir *Between the World and Me* was published, that he was being too cynical, too hopeless, and it was unhelpful to his cause. She pushes back in return, describing the way "hope for me has died one thousand deaths... **I had hoped... but hope died.**" She repeats that truth over and over – I had hope... but hope died – describing so many things she has hoped for, only to be disappointed. Do you hear some echoes of Scripture in this? "I had hoped... but hope died" said the disciples on the road to Emmaus in the aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion. "I had hoped... but hope died" Mary might have thought as she stood at the foot of Jesus' cross. "I had hoped... but hope died" is a faithful and transparently honest reflection of life in this world. "So," writes Channing Brown, **"I have learned not to fear the death of hope.** ...What is left

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. . . <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the BLESSED HOPE and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. - Titus 2:11 & 13

when the source of my hope has failed? **Each death of hope has been painful and costly. But in the mourning there always rises a new clarity about the world, about**

**the Church, about myself, about God. And in this there is new life....** And on the really good days, renewal."

I am in a content place in my own life at the moment – although, if I'm honest, perhaps that contentment is more exhausted resignation and simply going through the motions! I remember the first year of the pandemic – when professional and personal life both felt overwhelmingly hard. Hope died a thousand deaths for me in 2020. And slowly I learned to let it die – each time pointing me to a new and richer hope. Because the things that I long for in the depths of my heart aren't wrong hopes: I long for every person – every child, every friend, every stranger – to have the safety, dignity and love they deserve; I long for the end of violence, hunger, cold-hearted disdain, destruction of our planet; I long for my own sense of meaning and purpose – to live a life that honors my neighbors and glorifies God, and to escape the petty sins that I can't seem to shake. And

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# WORSHIP *with us...*

## Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed and archived on our website ([www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda. During Advent and Lent these services are in the Sanctuary.



Photo by Jake Madison

## Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

## Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

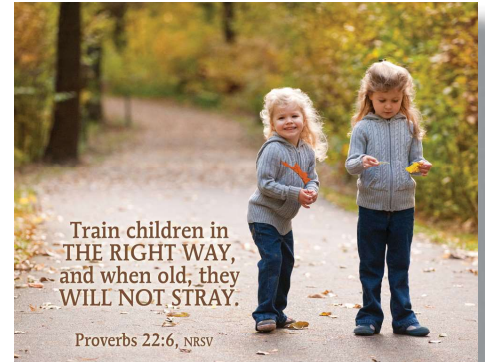
Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked "flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



## 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. We also have 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.



## In this issue...

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# GROW with us...



**10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

## Adult Forum

- Dec. 1: Advent Fair
- Dec. 8: Presentation of Columbia Companion Synod Trip
- Dec. 15: Stewardship and 165th Anniversary
- Dec. 22: Fellowship
- Dec. 29: Fellowship

## Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits

**Saturday and Sunday, November 2 & 3**

On All Saint's weekend, we blessed 204 beautiful quilts that the quilt group made and 41 health kits put together for Lutheran World Relief and now they are on their way to be a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents, or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.



If you would like to help make quilts, we hope you will consider joining the sewing group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9 AM. Sewing experience is a plus but not necessary. If you can use scissors, an iron, or tie your shoes, you can help make these quilts.



**Tuesday, 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.



## New Member Classes

**January 12 & 19**

**10:15 AM**

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, January 26. Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

## Candlelight Carol Service

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church**

**Saturday, December 14**

**Prelude begins at 4:40 PM**

**Service 5:00 PM**

**Reception Following**

**Nursery Care will be Provided**

We hope that you, your family, and friends can 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.



# SERVE with us...

## Kountze Food Pantry



The Kountze Pantry is collecting gloves for men, women and children. Men's large and extra large gloves are especially in short supply. Also, we will accept and distribute new or like-new coats to our Pantry guests if they request them. You may leave your donation in the box marked

"Food Pantry", located in Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are located on the box.

As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

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

## Food Pantry Report (1/1/2023 - 10/31/2024)

### Income:

Grants	\$	-0-
Donations:	\$	34,569.35
Memorials	\$	<u>3,010.00</u>
	\$	37,579.35

### Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	-0-
Regular Expenses		
Aldi	\$	-0-
Costco	\$	2,998.67
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$	3,469.57
Hy-Vee	\$	-0-
Dollar Tree	\$	205.44
Family Fare	\$	5,324.88
Food Bank	\$	-0-
Walmart	\$	8,785.06
Sam's Club	\$	520.49
Other	\$	<u>5,412.38</u>
	\$	26,716.49

**Balance**                      \$      **10,862.86**

## Alternative Gifts ELCA Good Gifts



For the past twenty years, KMLC has offered Alternative Gifts during Advent, primarily using the ELCA Good Gifts program. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. This gives you the opportunity to support the needs of people in Third World countries so they can become self-sufficient. There are goats, chicks, school supplies, water systems, bees, and so much more.



## New This Year for Alternative Gifts: Global Mamas



New this year, the Global Mamas community works together to create a life of prosperity for African women and their families. Global Mamas offers vibrant products—batik bags, Christmas ornaments, beautiful accessories, jewelry and unique home products—created by skilled craftswomen. They are fully invested in fair trade principles as they improve the economic outlook for the women of Ghana by delivering unique products defined by their signature style. [Globalmamas.org](http://Globalmamas.org)

## Also New This Year: Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

Also new this year for Alternative Gifts is Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty. Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is excited to announce they will be partnering with Omaha Bridges as a host site for classes in 2025. The mission of Omaha Bridges is to empower under-resourced families to change their lives by discovering and overcoming barriers to success. Omaha Bridges fulfills this mission by offering classes and mentoring to work with individuals toward a permanent solution for reducing poverty. Omaha Bridges offers the Getting Ahead curriculum, which teaches the development of soft skills, time management, problem solving, personal financial management, negotiation, abstract thinking, goal setting, and more. In addition to classes, Omaha Bridges offers Life Skills

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# NEWS & Notes...

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October 15, 2024

Tina Broekemeier, vice president, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Jerry Fischer led devotions.

The meeting agenda was accepted.

The minutes from September 17, 2024, were approved.

The Council reviewed the committees and boards by Ministry area that Pastor Lucy provided. Following a brief discussion Council members volunteered for the various committees as follows: Steve Hinrichs Council representative to the property committee; Tim Backora Council representative to the Scholarship Committee; Kate McCoy Council representative to the Endowment Fund Board; Jennifer Bunge Council representative on the KETV Board; and Ruth Henneman Council representative to the Stewardship Committee.

Tim Backora provided an update on the unspent funds' proposal. The Finance Committee has written and nearly completed the forms that will allow the areas of Worship, Faith Formation, Community Engagement, Membership, and Facilities to apply for seed money (up to \$14,000) to try new ideas to improve and grow the church.

Once the request forms are completed and returned to the Finance Committee, the Council will be asked to approve the funding. After the proposal(s) are completed and the seed money spent, a report on the outcome of each project is to be submitted to the Council. This information will also be shared with the congregation in the church's annual report.

The staffing consultation report from Martin Malley was discussed. Some of the areas discussed were the need for more volunteers in most areas and the need for a more formalized method of assessing volunteer workloads.

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Coaches to mentor and provide continual support to graduates, helping them to achieve their personal goals by connecting them to necessary resources. To help support this collaboration, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church's Alternative Gifts program is adding two items to its Christmas list:

- Books or Supplies for an Omaha Bridges class participant at \$25.00.
- Salary of a Mentor to support an Omaha Bridges class participant at \$83.00.

The need for cross-training of staff members was also discussed. Specific areas of discussion were the positions of office manager and facilities manager. The Council recognizes that efforts in these areas are critical for going forward, but it is not an easy task given the vast knowledge and skills these two individuals possess. This will be an ongoing cooperative effort. It is anticipated that the staffing consultation recommendations will be discussed again in the future as the need arises.

The Stewardship Report (Jennifer and Mattie) is an ongoing process and will be updated at an upcoming meeting.

New Business. Tim Backora reported that budget planning for 2025 is in the early stages. It is anticipated to become intense soon as the various committees are queried regarding budget requests and possible future needs. The process is labor intensive and will take time. This is also the time to relabel account names to ensure they align with the budget items in specific accounts as the switch is made to the software program, Realm Church Management. The annual budget will require a considerable amount of time and work.

Tim Backora detailed the financial report for September. September was not a particularly good month financially. For the year through September, the church had budgeted \$790,000 but has only received \$719,000. We still have three months to catch up. There was a brief discussion regarding the deficit. A suggestion was made to use a graph (such as a thermometer) in the monthly bulletin to show the congregation our financial situation. This is being considered. It was also mentioned that \$22,000 is required per week for the church to operate.

Staff reports were reviewed and accepted.

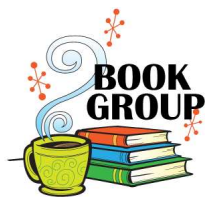
There were seven new members in the last membership class.

Other Council announcements included:

- The next archives presentation will be on Sunday, November 10, 2024.
- A Thanksgiving Community Worship service is being hosted by Kountze on November 24, 2024, at 6:00 PM. This service will require volunteers such as ushers, etc. Volunteer sign-up sheets are being developed. Also, security will be provided at this service.
- Once again Kountze and St. Peter Catholic Church are co-hosting a Thanksgiving dinner at St. Peter's. Tuesday PM the prepping of the turkeys will take place at Kountze and the cooking of the turkeys will be organized. Further details will be announced. The carving of the turkeys will occur at St. Peter's this year.



## See You Next Year!



We won't meet in December, but wish you a blessed holiday season.

Join us again on January 12 in the Fellowship Lounge at 12:15 PM. The book will be *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelly Van Pelt.

Some suggested holiday reading for December includes:

- *The Christmas of the Phonograph Records* by Mari Sandoz
- *Journey Into Christmas and Other Stories* by Bess Streeter Aldrich
- *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry
- *The Spider Who Saved Christmas* by Raymond Arkyo
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans
- *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan
- *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E.T.A.Hoffman



## Thanksgiving Bags

On Sunday, November 17, the Sunday School students assembled 55 Thanksgiving bags for our Pantry guests. Thank you for helping us provide the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal for so many families.

## Pledge Cards

Please bring your pledge card with you to worship on December 15th. That morning we will celebrate with our children the Christmas story - Jesus' birthday - and in forum the birthday of Kountze. And what do we do at a birthday party? Bring a gift! Your pledge is your gift - in celebration of all God has done and all God is leading us into in the year ahead. And of course, like any good birthday party, there will be cake!

LOVE deeply. Be HOSPITABLE.  
SERVE one another.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

As a response to God's grace, I/we offer the following estimate of giving for Kountze Memorial's General Fund in 2025:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually — for a Total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please contact me/us about how I/we can make an estate gift to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, the Kountze Endowment, Kountze Commons and/or its partner ministries, to assist in the ongoing ministry in and through KMLC and the community.  
☐ Please contact me/us about Simply Giving, an electronic giving option.  
☐ Please adjust my/our current Simply Giving to reflect this new amount in 2025.  
☐ I do not need physical giving envelopes in 2025.

KOUNTZE Memorial Lutheran Church

## Pastoral Acts

(October 16 - November 15, 2024)

### Baptisms:

Beau William Lundin, October 27

### Marriages:

Krystin Eastman & Luke Landkamer, October 25

Rachel Landsness & Tony Hackett, November 9

### Funerals

Wilfred "Willie" Higa, October 21



## Please Remember

- There is no Kountze Memorial parking in the lot on the South side of Farnam. That is apartment parking only.

- No parking Monday - Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM in the Methodist Clinic parking lot.

You may park in the deFreese Manor parking lot, at the meters (must pay), or in the West parking lot.

## 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.

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

## Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 16  
11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00



We won't be getting together in December but join the guys again on January 16.

## Cards with Friends

Thursday, December 5  
2:00 PM

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first Thursday of the month for a time together playing cards. Bring a snack to share if you would like. All are welcome.



## If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org).

## Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11:00 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

## Advent Meals are Just Around the Corner

December 4, 11, and 18

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM



Please mark your calendars and 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 can always use volunteers to help with prep, serving, clean-up. Please sign up at the welcome desk or by emailing [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)

All meals are free will offering and served with choice of coffee, water or tea. We will also have a vegetarian option at each of the meals.

- December 4:** Lasagna, Garden salad, garlic cheese bread and dessert.  
**December 11:** Braised pork ribs (sauce on the side), oven roasted potatoes, vegetable and dessert.  
**December 18:** White Chicken Enchiladas (not spicy), refried beans, Spanish rice and dessert.

## Omaha Streetcar Update from Jim



As work on the Omaha Streetcar is increasing, we will try to keep you updated as best as possible of upcoming closures to Farnam St. and areas surrounding the church. Currently, Farnam St. is reduced to one lane at the Interstate 480 bridge. M.U.D. is relocating natural gas pipelines in the area. This work is scheduled to continue into December barring any unplanned delays.

The parking meters in front of the church along Farnam St. are still available for use and you will still need to pay at the meters. In the future there may be times that the parking at the meters will not be allowed during some of the construction, (if the meters have RED bags on them stating no parking, then please do not park there).

The City and Streetcar Authority have assured us that they will try and minimize the impact and keep the Farnam St. access to our West parking lot open as much as they can. There may be some minor closures to that entrance once work progresses. None of the construction should impact the Douglas St. entrance to the West parking lot.

The biggest impact will probably be the bridge replacements (First Harney St. then the Farnam St. bridge). Each bridge is expected to take a year to complete. We do not have a timeline on when the bridge replacements will begin - but soon.

Please watch the Good News, E-News, and bulletins for future updates as the project continues.

*Advent 2024 – Cultivating Hope continued from page 1*

regularly those hopes are bitterly disappointed. **Advent invites us deeper into those hopes, those longings – and to live in the shadow of their disappointment. Knowing that this world and its kingdoms will over and over again fail to give the salvation we hope for. Knowing that we ourselves will fail, ourselves and one another.** But instead of abandoning hope, we cultivate it – deepen it, asking God to renew our hope over and over again when it is disappointed. Because in doing so we lift our eyes up to the One who is, who was, and who

is to come – the only One who offers us true Hope, true Salvation.

So wherever you are in life this December, I invite you to join us in Cultivating Hope – not in a falsely optimistic way, but in being transparently honest about our deepest hopes and deepest disappointments. Turning our hearts together towards the One who is our only Hope.

In hope,

*Pastor Lucy*

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

## Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

There will not be Sunday School December 22, 29, or January 5. Classes will resume on January 12, 2025.



### 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.

## Children's Choir

Sundays, 9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Music Room  
Grades K-6



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.

## Are You Saving Your Pennies?



The Sunday School students are collecting their change for Alternative Gifts and have a goal of purchasing a portion of a cow. Bring your change on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and join us in a "Noisy Offering" as we combine all our donations together in one large pot. Please consider helping us surpass our goal for Alternative Gifts.

## Annual Advent Fair

December 1

10:00 AM - Noon

The Advent Fair is December 1st, following the 9 AM service. Decorate cards, gift bags, ornaments, and more. Plus, don't forget the greenery for the Advent wreath! In addition, enjoy breakfast and fellowship during this time. We look forward to crafting keepsakes and memories with you.

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.



## Confirmation

During Advent we do not meet at St. Timothy's. Instead we expect our Confirmation students to come to Advent services, and meals (if possible), at Kountze. The evening meal is from 5-6:15 PM and the worship begins at 6:30 PM each Wednesday night. Families and friends are of course always welcome!



Confirmation students will serve in 3 different ways during our Advent Wednesdays:

- Kitchen helpers - helping to serve or prepare or do whatever is needed in the kitchen
- Clean-up crew - helping to collect dirty dishes, wipe off tables, etc.
- Worship assistants - helping to lead short prayers, light the candles, etc. during the worship service

You should plan on serving in at least 2 different roles during the Advent season. Please use the following link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4DA5A628ABF58-53472467-advent#/>

Let Pr. Lucy know if you have any questions. Students who are not helping in the kitchen can plan to sit together during the meal. Students who are not assisting in worship are welcome to sit either with family or with other students during the service. (Hint - you can also take worship notes during Advent services!)



## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15

9:00 AM

Come and hear the youngest members of Kountze tell the Christmas story through song and praise.

There will be a Christmas Program rehearsal on Saturday, December 14, 9 - 10:30 AM. Please plan to attend this important rehearsal so the choir and speakers can perform to the best of their ability.

## 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.







Kountze Memorial will join other high school youth and leaders from around the Nebraska Synod

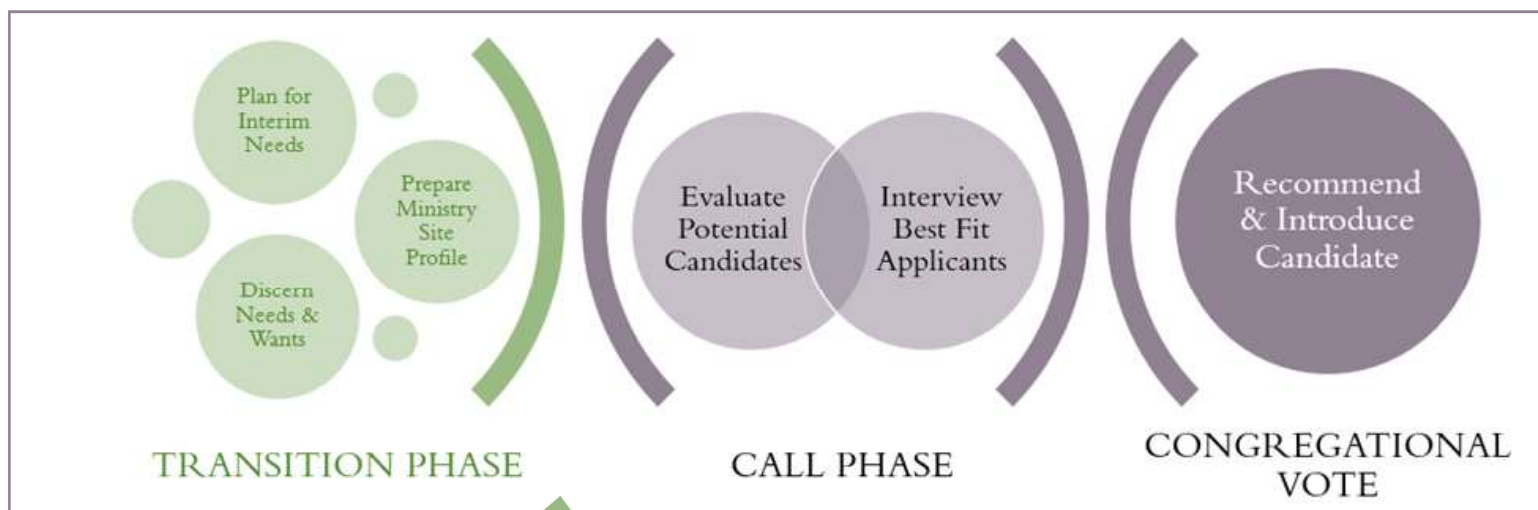
this summer on mission in Nashville. The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person
- We will fundraise to offset the cost to families
- Contact Pr. Lucy or Kristin Boe if you are interested!

Our youth are kicking-off the fundraising for this trip with an Advent Envelope Tree. Just like last year, we ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!

## Update on the Associate Pastor Transition

The Transition Team have completed the work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and submitted it to the Congregational Council, who approved it at their November meeting. This document serves as both our "advertisement" of who we are as a congregation and a position description of what we're looking for in an Associate Pastor. Please give the Transition Team your thanks for the many hours of hard, faithful work they put in! Transition Team members were Dulcinea Boesenberg, Ron Brown, Anne Dey, Scott Henneman, Tarna Kidder, Lara McCormick, Jeff Perkins and Pastor Lucy. And thanks to all who gave us your feedback throughout the process - it was invaluable in putting the MSP together. We now submit the MSP to the Synod for their approval, and then it is published and we wait for the names and paperwork of potential candidates. In the meantime the Transition Team transitions to a Call Committee - some members will come off the team and a few new ones will be added. Please continue to pray - for the work of the Call Committee, for the staff and pastors in this busy interim period, for God to call the right next Associate Pastor to Kountze Memorial, and for our ongoing shared mission and ministry together!



# CALENDAR

★ D · E · C · E · M · B · E · R

## December 1 Sunday

Advent 1  
Advent Fair  
Homebound Communion  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

## December 2 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## December 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## December 4 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Advent Dinner  
6:30 PM Worship  
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

## December 5 Thursday

12:00 PM Circle 4  
2:00 PM Cards with Friends  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

## December 6 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Pantry

## December 7 Saturday

3:30 PM Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

## December 8 Sunday

Advent 2  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:00 AM Blood Drive  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour  
3:00 PM Tuba Christmas Concert

## December 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## December 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## December 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
11:00 AM Advent Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
5:00 PM Advent Dinner  
6:30 PM Worship  
7:30 PM Adult Choir

## December 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
4:00 PM Project Everlast Christmas

## December 13 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## December 14 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program  
Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Candlelight Carol Service  
Prelude begins 4:40 PM

## December 15 Sunday

Advent 3  
Good News Deadline  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:00 AM Children's Christmas Program  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

## December 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
7:30 PM Youth Committee

## December 17 Tuesday

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

## December 18 Wednesday

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

## December 19 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

## December 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## December 21 Saturday

2:00 PM Piano Recital  
5:00 PM Worship  
3:00 PM Youth Christmas Party

## December 22 Sunday

Advent 4  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

## December 23 Monday

No Pantry

## December 24 Tuesday

Christmas Eve  
OFFICE CLOSED (at noon)  
4:00 PM Worship  
7:00 PM Worship  
11:00 PM Worship

## December 25 Wednesday

Christmas Day  
OFFICE CLOSED  
10:00 AM Worship

## December 26 Thursday

OFFICE CLOSED

## December 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

## December 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

## December 29 Sunday

Christmas 1  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

## December 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

## December 31 Tuesday

New Year's Eve  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### Advent & Christmas

**Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18**

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon  
Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM  
Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM

### December 24

Christmas Eve: 4:00, 7:00, 11:00 PM

### December 25

Christmas Day: 10:00 AM

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code below...

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>





1. Becky Anderson, Marlys Duin, Soren Johnson, Kim Neville, Ashley Sum, Daisy Wynard.
2. Dianne Bruckner, Kolbey Burns, Brett Nelson.
3. Clay Cameron, Michele Eakins, Carol Gleason.
4. Gary Clatterbuck, Troy Dougherty.
5. Dale Broekemeier, Hailey Ingram, Jim Marcum, Alan Woster.
6. Dale Ervin, Jery Inbarasu, Aage Jensen, Nicholas Natvig.
7. Arlene Hirsh, Delores Kocourek, Neil Stier.
8. Tara Capellupo, Madison Duffield, Lowell Harms, Debby Woosley.
9. Jan Bowder, Craig Hill, Jenny Johnston, Tyler Johnston, Renee Osborn, Norm Sack, Scott Saxton, Jeffrey Watts.
10. Sydney Kinish, Kirk Krisor.
11. Robert Burt, Diane O'Connor, Zachary Stoj.
12. Phyllis Green, Edward Jenkins, Zachary Johnson, David Roethemeyer, Emma Ryder.
13. Hal France, Sandy Lundholm, Melissa McDermott, Donna Moessner, Luke Woosley.
14. Marjorie Andrews, James Camenzind, Margaret Day, Emily Drickey, John Georgeson, Madelyn Hinrichs, Tanner Klemmensen, Susan Mollner, Bill Pemberton, Susan Sanders, Tiffany Steinblock.
15. Ryan Daugherty, Lori Grisso, Ronda Nelson, Jaya Winther.
16. Gary Dietrich, Leigh Freeman, Jack Greguska, Gage Hansen.
17. Carla Ohm.
18. Carly Headley, Larry Jacobsen, Craig Johnson, Benjamin Williams.
19. Charlie Campbell, Mark Meier, Corey Reimers.
20. Andrew Darr, Rich Fogleman, Jamie Freier, Eric Rees, Sydney Ryan.
21. Steven Hansen, Landon Putnam.
22. Justin Bailey, James Bodnar, Torin Edwards, Julie Green, Lindsay Neill, Melanie Reida-Sample, Suzanne Schueler, Bev Troxel.
23. Steven Duffield, Debra Larsen, Corey Lynch, Lynn McKeeman.
24. Holly Bartek, Holly Groenjes, John Martis.
25. Charles Andersen, Kathe Ohm, Carson Rusch, Ashley Titus.
26. Randy Furby, Ingrid McCormick, Lara Rodene, Nancy Westerman, Gary Willert.
27. Holly Arispe, Emilio Kosola, Tanya Nelson, Robert Sorensen, Colleen Waterman, John Zellmar.
28. Zach Dean, Kathryn Misbach, Charles Portrey, Elizabeth Stanzel, Dorothy Tuite, Leon Woosley.
29. Joel Hallowell, Shane Land, Arthur Swartz.
30. Linda Albers, Monica Di Lorenzo, Kara Jackson, Lauren Myers, Benjamin Ricks.
31. Deborah Baker, Jeffrey Martin, John Minturn.

## Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 10/1/2024 .....	\$783,740.63
Principal Payment, 9/1/2024 .....	\$2,875.01
Interest Payment, 9/1/2024.....	\$2,829.99
Balance, 10/1/2024 .....	\$ \$780,865.62

## Finances: October, 2024

	October	Year-to-Date
<b>Total General Fund</b>		
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 78,001.20</b>	<b>\$ 797,557.25</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Mission Support:	\$ 6,666.66	\$ 66,666.66
Christian Education:	\$ 362.08	\$ 4,762.63
Facility Costs:	\$ 13,314.75	\$ 144,109.34
Staff Compensation:	\$ 47,141.93	\$ 577,131.34
Worship & Music:	\$ 5,602.86	\$ 28,515.67
Parish Life:	\$ 3,424.68	\$ 26,061.11
Youth:	\$ -25.00	\$ 1,222.06
Office & Administration:	\$ 2,330.72	\$ 36,030.63
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 75,818.68</b>	<b>\$ 884,499.44</b>



## 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.

For those tuba/euphonium players who are interested in playing along, registration is at 1:00 PM with rehearsal at 2:00 PM. Bring your own music stand. There is a \$10 participation fee for all players. For more information, contact Nate Griffith at 402-980-6121.



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Rev. Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Associate Pastor

## Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is  
televised live on Cox channel 13 and live  
streamed on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may  
watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our website  
at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



At the heart of love, is hope, but without love there is no hope. The Advent and Christmas seasons begin the year anew and ground us in hope. The hope that is made possible through Emmanuel- God with Us. The hope that is made real through God doing a new thing, that the prophets have long foretold. Such as John the Baptist reminds by proclaiming, "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:5-6, NRSV). Hope is abundant in this time of year, so long as we make space for it. To come to the manger and be filled with awe and hope. To be fully present with, and for God's beloved, and not overly caught up in the busyness of the seasons and schedules. Hope is cultivated as we gather together and meet each other where we are at, as signs of God's love being cultivated with, for, and through God's beloved.

### Questions for Reflection:

- How might this month that is the shortest in terms of daylight hours in the northern hemisphere, bring hope?
- How might light shine in the darkness as signs of God's hope being cultivated now today?
- What are two or three ways that you will cultivate hope this month? How will these ways bring hope to you? To others?