

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor

Eric Haitz, Deacon

H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68131-3616

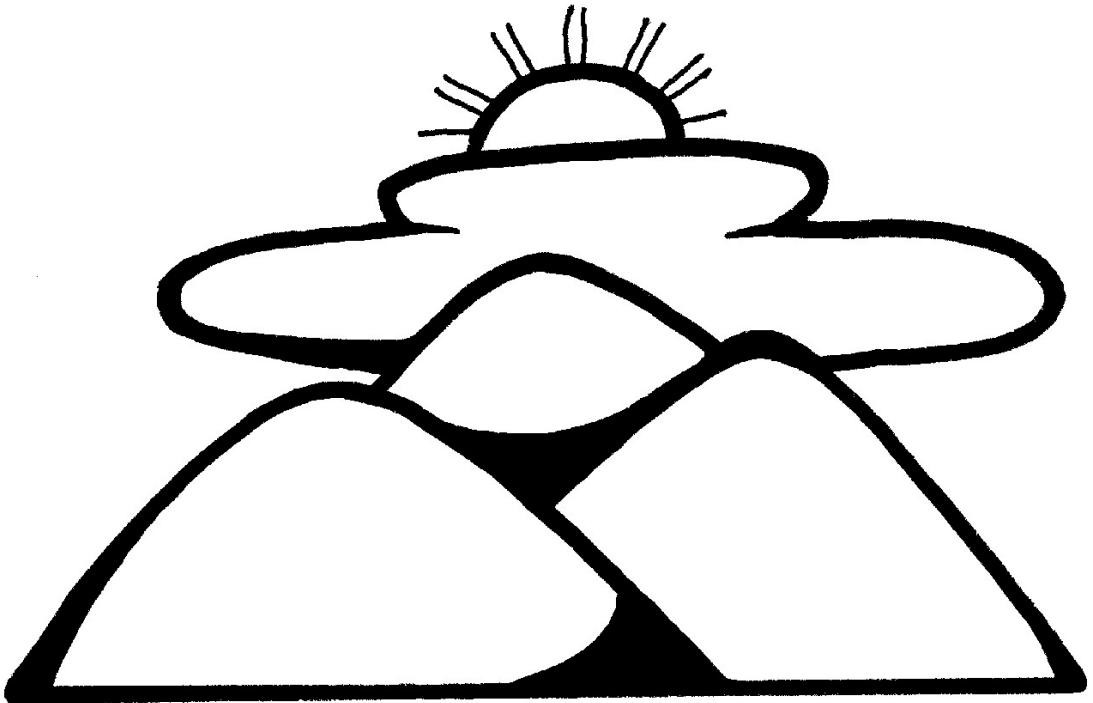
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

November 30, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

☞ **Amen.**

- ☞ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- ☞ Long-expected God,

☞ **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.**

We reach for swords and spears,

reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance,

and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,

that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

- ☞ God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

☞ **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239 vs. 1

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND PRAYER

- ☐ We light on candle for one God, the one who comes to us as a baby, swaddled and wailing. We light one candle for one hope, one light, one salvation.
- ☑ We light one candle to say YES to the invitation to participate in the story of God's people.

(light the first candle)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes. | 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes. |
| 2 Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky. | 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face. |
| 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings. | |

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- ☞ **By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 164

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace.

Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of

the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 (read responsively)

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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, in the back of the entrance hall, available to those who prefer to stay with their families. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.

SERMON

Deacon Haitz

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Now, O God

ACS 902



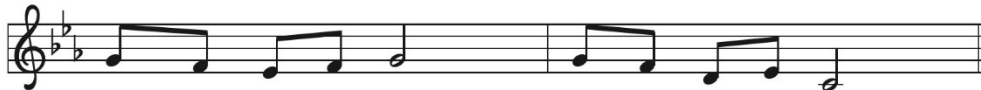
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ Let us confess together the faith of the Church.
- ☑ **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: **L** God of grace,
 C **hear our prayer**

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

Prayers this week: Mark Robinson

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Nina Castro, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Dale Grundman, Larry & Michele Hunzeker, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Sharon Miley, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliott, husband of Dannika Rees; 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, nephew of Steph 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

Other Prayers: *Seminarians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **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. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. You may use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Emmanuel, Come

music by Don Besig
words by Don Besig & Nancy Price

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Text © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

- L** God of every good gift,
C we offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR ADVENT

- 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'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

L O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. ...
... The earth is full of your glory.

C The earth is full of your glory.

L O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. ...
... The earth is full of your glory.

C The earth is full of your glory.

L We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed ...

... Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks ...

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in song:

The earth is full of your glory.

C The earth is full of your glory.

L O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. ...
... The earth is full of your glory.

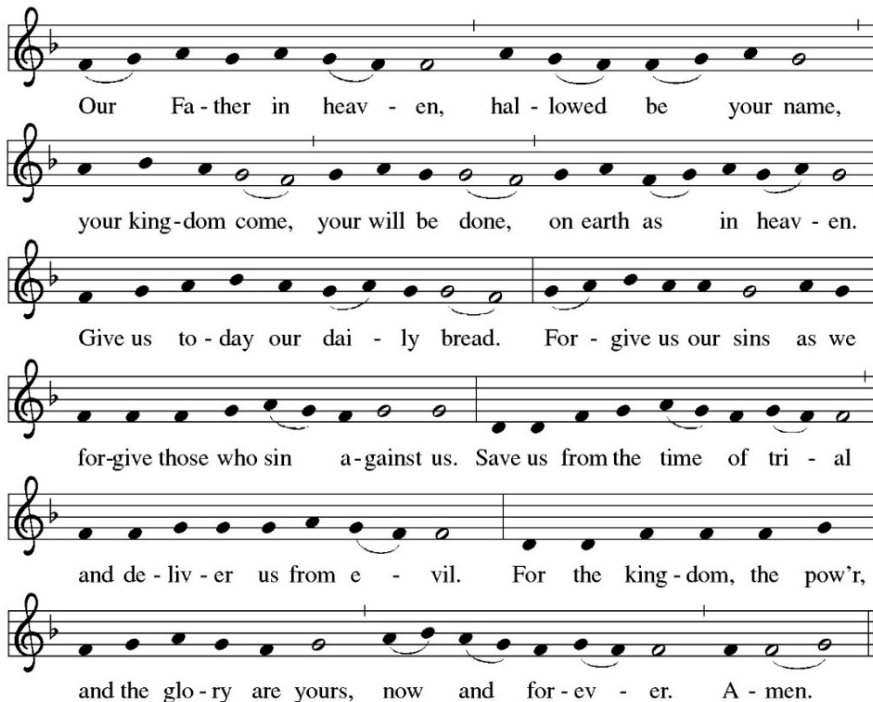
C The earth is full of your glory.

L Amen, and amen.

C Amen, and amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ Come, receive what God has promised.

☞ Here is life. God is with us.

(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. If you cannot or choose not to receive the wine, know that the sacrament and God's promised forgiveness are complete in either element.*

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

2 I lay in fetters, groaning;
you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me
as earthly riches fly.

3 Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Composite

Eat This Bread

ELW 472 (sung 3 times)

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst."**

Text © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
Text: Taizé Community
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(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Christ Jesus,

C you have fed us with love incarnate, and we are utterly changed. Send us forth from this meal
to be forces for change in this world, as we find the YES within each of us. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ May God Most High bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;
May God the Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;
And may God the Holy Spirit ✠ remind you, again and again, that you are never alone,
and that you are loved beyond measure.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Keep awake.
☛ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

November 29 & 30, 2025

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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of her father, David Penning.

Children’s Choir & Children’s Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. The children will be practicing for the Christmas Program and then they will not meet from December 14—January 4.

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

No breakfast next Sunday (5th Sunday of the month). We'll have cookies & coffee. For you as you enjoy the Advent Fair. We'll see you again next Sunday for a full breakfast!

Sunday Breakfast – Come Lend a Hand!

Do you enjoy the smell of coffee brewing, lively conversation, and helping people start their Sunday with a good meal? The Kountze Breakfast Committee is looking for a few more helping hands for setup and cleanup on Sunday mornings. We especially need volunteers on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month, and we're also looking for “subs” who can fill in when regular helpers are unavailable. You'll work side by side with experienced volunteers, learn the rhythm of the kitchen, and share in the fun and fellowship that happens behind the scenes. If you'd like to know more or try it out, please contact Sherri Labedz at 402-578-

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 or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it 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 plates 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, *continued*

4331 and learn what it's like to serve in this simple but very meaningful ministry. Thank you for considering being part of the Sunday Breakfast team!

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. No Sunday School from December 14—January 4.

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

You are invited to grab breakfast and bring it to the Youth Center each week during the Sunday Faith Formation hour. This week—enjoy the Advent Fair

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

Nov. 30: Advent Fair

Dec. 7: TBD

Advent Alternative Gift Market

Sundays, Now - December 14

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Saturday December 13 (after the Candlelight Carol Service)

Plan to shop now! Shop next door to the Kountze Café area beginning November 23. Shop ELCA Good Gifts for different monetary gifts that fight hunger and transform lives. Shop physical handmade gifts from Global Mamas that support women and their families in Ghana. Donate to the Kountze Memorial Healing Gift Free Clinic and/or our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry to help local families in honor of your family and friends.

Advent Fair

Sunday, November 30

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 the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be collecting toiletries with an emphasis on 3 in one wash, razors, deodorant, lotion, toothbrushes, and toothpaste for the Kountze Pantry guests.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 30 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Alternative Gift Market

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 Advent Fair

December 1 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 3 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Advent Dinner

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.

Timothy

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

December 4 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

December 7 Sunday

Advent 2

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

4:30 PM Mission Trip Info Meeting

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Pledge Cards

You should have received a letter and pledge card in the mail for our Imagine stewardship campaign. Please bring those pledge cards back in December and put them in the designated box in the narthex or mail them back to

the church office in the envelope provided. Contact us with questions - we'd be happy to help. And THANK YOU for your generous gifts - they empower us, together, to do even more than we could imagine toward God's work in our community and around the world!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 7

Grades 7-12

5—8:30 PM

Please join us for our Annual Progressive Dinner! Invite friends and plan for an evening of fun as we travel to host homes for our meal, and return to Kountze for dessert. We will depart from the church at 5 PM and plan to return by 8:30 PM. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier at sheila@kmlchurch.org

Summer Mission Trip Info Meeting

Sunday, December 7

4:30 PM

Candlelight Carol Service

Saturday, December 13

Prelude 4:30 PM

Service 5:00 PM

The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church! We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of sacred Scripture and poetry, congregational carols, communion, and choral, handbell and instrumental music. Please join us for this special evening as we journey through Advent and celebrate the birth of our Savior! Nursery care will be provided. Cheese and dessert reception following the service, and shop the Alternative Gift Market.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14

9 AM

The kids are working hard to learn some of your favorite Christmas hymns. Come learn about the story of Christmas as told by our students!

"Noisy Offering"

Sunday, December 14

We will have a "Noisy Offering" competition between the elementary students, youth groups kids, and the adults. Save up your change and we will have containers to pour your coins into. All the proceeds will go towards the ELCA Good Gifts program.

Merry Tuba Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14

3:00 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

The concert is free and open to the public. Bring your friends. It's 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.

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6–12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Contact Sheila Valquier to register (can use the QR Code)

\$50 deposit required at registration

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth in grades 8 through 12 and their adult leaders. In 2026, we will gather in Pittsburgh for service, learning, worship, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith while learning from our neighbors in Pennsylvania. We will work as a team to raise funds to offset the cost. Presence and participation at fundraising events required. Scholarships are available.



Contact Sheila

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.

Pantry Dinner in a Bag: Check out the insert in your bulletin and prepare a bag/bags for our Pantry. These kits are designed to be budget-friendly and easy to prepare, containing shelf-stable ingredients and a recipe card. A different recipe card will be in your bulletin now through Advent, and you can find more recipes online if you would like to pack a bag, or two, or six for our Pantry guests.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Nov. 20—Wednesday, Nov. 26

Saturday: 28

Sunday: 9:00: 154 11:00: 84

Wednesday: 12:15: Not available at time of printing

Total: 266

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 969 (inc. 216 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering:

\$24,533.84 (Regular) \$8,369.18 (Specials)

\$1,127.15 (Debt Reduction)

Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The coming of salvation
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5	Peace that lasts forever
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14	The day when Christ returns
Wednesday	Jeremiah 29:10-14	Seventy years in Babylonia
Thursday	Psalms 125	A song of trust in God
Friday	Romans 15:1-6	Please others, not yourselves
Saturday	Psalms 122	A song of praise
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. **Isaiah 2:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week: Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the light of the world, guide our steps to walk in your light. Amen. (Isaiah 2:5)

Mealtime Prayer: Dear God, may we eat and drink with thankful hearts, for all that you provide for us every day and in every way. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give: May God bless you with hope all your days.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something you hope for during this time of year?
- Advent means arrival or coming. How do you get ready for the coming of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 2:1-5.

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation of God's action to redeem the world. That is Isaiah's message, too. Isaiah sees what others do not. Isaiah sees Jerusalem as the highest mountain, but Psalm 125:2 sees other peaks as higher. Isaiah sees the people walking in the paths of the LORD's teaching, but before and after Isaiah 2, judgment is announced for the people's disobedience. Isaiah sees weapons of violence and destruction that are turned into farming tools, but the nations of Israel and Judah were utterly destroyed by its neighbors. Even while brokenness and sin are still present, the message of Isaiah is one of hope that the Christian faith announces each Advent.

Discuss: What hope do you hold on to as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, come and bring peace between nations. May we see the light of your glory in all the world. 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 find a way to give hope to someone who is feeling sad or anxious?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set up or make a circular Advent wreath. Place four candles on the wreath and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God. The four candles are often blue to signify the hope of the Advent season. The center candle is white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Leader: **This is the first week of Advent. Advent means coming. We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the Candle of Hope.** [Light one candle]

All: **O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!** (Isaiah 2:5)

Leader: **Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope.**

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12