



KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 37, Issue 11

December, 2017



On Sunday, December 3rd, we begin the **Season of Advent**, a time of preparation that serves a dual purpose: we prepare for the coming of Christ in the manger and for the coming of Christ the King in all his glory. Each year, it seems, we have to remind ourselves that there even is such a season as Advent. No sooner does Halloween come and go than we are in the full swing of the Christmas Season. Thanksgiving Day has become but a slight detour on the calendar heading us straight for Christmas. We have already had the infamous Black Friday (*the name Good Friday was already taken*) and the traditional start of the “shopping season” — but this year was just like previous years: the shopping started in earnest weeks, actually months, before.

It seems Advent is only celebrated in the church and I suspect that is a good thing, a very good thing. This four-week season (*shorter this year since the Fourth Sunday in Advent is also Christmas Eve*) hasn't been reworked by our culture or by anyone or anything else. We gather in our normal worship space, marvel at the beauty of the sanctuary at this time of year, we light a special candle on a wreath ... and then a second candle ... then a third ... then a fourth. Our anticipation grows as the light from the wreath grows brighter and brighter.

I grew up with mid-week Advent worship services —

complete with special coin folders! These special services have come to mean much for me as we sing the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service, as we hear Scripture and reflect just a bit on them. I notice that even the grumpiest amongst us are in good moods and that is reflected by the meals we share prior to the service.

Our mid-week Advent worship service tradition continues this year starting Wednesday, December 6th (7 PM) again using Holden Evening Prayer. We will sing of the joyous light of heavenly glory. We prepare for Him who is the Light of the World. We will have three dialogue sermons: December 6th on “*Shepherds*”; December 13th on “*Joseph*”; December 20th on “*Mary*.”

And, of course, we eat! We enjoy the gift of good food but more importantly we enjoy each other's company, recognizing that we are gifts of God to each other.

No one will argue that our priorities have become misplaced at Christmas. We have indeed forgotten the primary reason for this season. But the Season of Advent — as well as our mid-week Advent services — gives us the opportunity to spiritually and physically call a halt to it all and to focus our hearts on the One who is coming: Emmanuel. God with us. God for us.

***Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;
the light no darkness can overcome;
Stay with us now, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness,
and shine within you people here.***

Pastor Olaf

Advent and Christmas Worship at Kountze Memorial

Join us for...

Advent Meals and Worship

Wednesdays, 12/6, 13, & 20

Dinner from 6:00—7:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM

In this season of preparation for Christ's coming, a place has been prepared for you, to hear the promise, see the signs of the times in Christ's light, and share your hopes and dreams one with another. We are invited to make Wednesday evenings in Advent a place apart for our minds and souls. Join us.

Christmas Eve Services

4:00, 7:00, & 11:00 PM

The 7:00 PM service will be live streamed on our website (<http://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>).

It will also be televised on Christmas Day at 9:00 AM on Cox channel 13

Christmas Day Service

10:00 AM

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 on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is also available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



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 now also livestream the service right from your computer on our church website. Go to 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 and Eternal Candle Sign-up

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50.

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle each week in 2017. Donating altar flowers 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.

The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.



Your Help Is Needed!

Saturday, December 16, 5:00 PM

Candlelight Carol Sing

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 11:00 PM.

We need ushers for the large special services we have in December!

Duties will be explained! If you can help, please speak with Pastor Olaf.

Worship Leader Training:

Saturday, February 10, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Join us for training for Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Usher. All current servers and those who wish to serve in the future are encouraged to attend. Please call the church office to register.

In this issue...

- Advent Bible Study
- Advent Fair, Meals, & Schedule
- Alternative Giving
- Blessing of the Advent Wreath & Christmas Tree
- Candlelight Carol Sing
- Children's Christmas Program
- Christmas Schedule
- Pantry Food Bag Event
- Poinsettias for the Altar
- Sunday School Dates
- Yesterday's Youth

GROW with us...

Faith in Action

Lutheran World Relief Quilts

217 quilts and 22 personal care kits were shipped to Lutheran World Relief this year from Kountze. The destination of these items will be tracked by the shipping label. In the past, our quilts have gone to India, Serbia and Thailand since we started tracking them.

Brown Transfer generously contributes all the shipping charges this first week in November.

The quilt group welcomes anyone able to tie a knot or tear a sheet. We meet the second Wednesday of every month in the morning. We use sheets for the back and filler and are in need of larger sheets we size to 64"x 84". We could also use donations of cotton material for the tops. The sewing machines we use can sometimes be temperamental, so if you have one that is no longer used, please contact the church office.



December Adult Forum

Join us Sunday Mornings in
the Fellowship Hall
10:10-10:50 AM

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 12/3 | Advent Fair |
| 12/10 | "Family Ministry and the Whole Household of Faith" |
| 12/17 | TBA |
| 12/24 | No Forum |
| 12/31 | No Forum |

Advent Bible Study, Christmas: The Prequel Led by Pastor Moessner

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20, 10:30 AM

Each of the four Gospels begins differently. Only two tell of Jesus' birth. Yet each helps us know why the story we celebrate at Christmas has such importance for us, indeed for all creation.

New Member Classes

Sunday, January 14 & 21

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Members received January 28.

If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next classes will be held January 14 & 21 from 12:00—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions.

Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card



or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare and if you have any food allergies.

Campus Ministry

Thursday, December 28th

Godfather's Pizza on 67th Street from 7 - 9 PM

All high school graduates from the last few years (not just those currently in college) who are going to be in the Omaha area are invited to share some FREE PIZZA and visit with other young adults from your church and other Lutheran churches in Omaha. We are inviting young adults to join us at Godfather's Pizza on 67th in Aksarben Village. Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry from the Omaha Metro is sponsoring this event and buying the pizza. This is a chance to meet some other students, make some connections with young adults from other campuses and campus ministries, and give you a break from your parents who keep making all those incredible demands on your time over semester break! You can even invite your pastor or church youth director to come with you!



You do not have to RSVP in order to decide to attend at the last minute, but we'd love to hear from you in advance if you plan on attending. Just e-mail Pastor Jim Holthus at this address: lootr@hotmail.com. You can also find this event on our Facebook group at NeMO and comment there. We look forward to seeing you.

SERVE with us...

\$143,847 in Alternative Gifts at Kountze



One dollar goes a long way in a country like Tanzania or Haiti. Can you imagine what can be done with \$143,847? That is the total amount donated by our incredibly generous Kountze Congregation during the Alternative Gift Market since 2004. And of that total amount, over \$18,000 of the gifts were

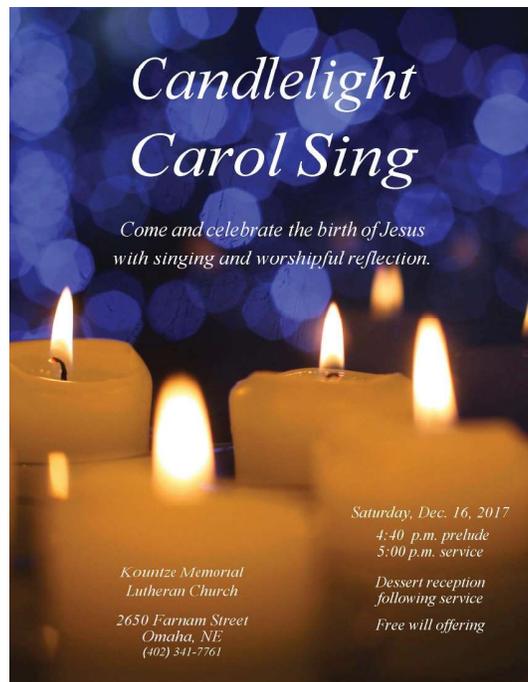
directed to the Kountze pantry to feed our neighbors in need here in Omaha, and over \$10,000 went to support the work of the Kountze Free Healing Clinic. From chicks to start an egg business, to malaria nets, to school fees, your generosity has changed the lives of thousands of people across the globe as well as here at home.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment of the Alternative Gift Market is to help us put Christ's love back into our Christmas giving. We all complain about the commercialization of Christmas. Alternative Gifts help us spread the love that is the true meaning of God's gift to us on the first Christmas morning. Giving a gift that changes lives connects both the giver and the recipient to God's love. Alternative Gifts can be part of teaching our children the true meaning of Christmas as well. Options are available that fit a child's budget. A gift of \$5 or \$10 that changes a life is so much more meaningful than buying another "trinket" for teachers, coaches, parents and grandparents.

Again this year, on **Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24**, the Global Mission Committee will be in the Fellowship Hall between worship services to offer Alternative Gifts. All your favorite causes to support will be available: Kountze Pantry and Healing Gift Free Clinic, refugee tents for UNHCR, and items from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog, such as fruit trees, water filters and food for orphaned children. The full "wish list" will be available in the bulletin and in the Fellowship Hall during each Sunday in Advent. Get your shopping list ready and prepare to spread God's love while helping to change lives.



Candlelight Carol Sing
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 16 at 5:00 PM
(prelude begins at 4:40 PM)
Reception following
Nursery care will be provided



Children's Music

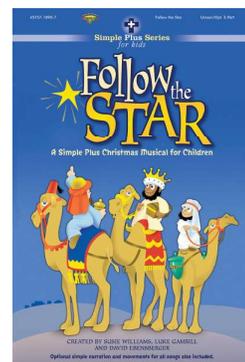
Children's Music:

Our Sunday School Christmas Program

"Follow the Star" to Bethlehem on Sunday, December 17, at the 9:00 AM service.

Our children's Christmas program is in the rehearsal stage. We need ALL children who are participating to attend ALL Sunday morning rehearsals (entire Sunday School time) in December. We must start at 10:00 AM. We are also practicing our songs during the Children's Sermon time during the 9:00 AM service. Our DRESS REHEARSAL is Saturday, December 16, 9-11:00 AM. There is also a Saturday rehearsal for those with speaking parts, Saturday, December 9, at 9-10:30 AM.

Our children will also sing one piece from our musical at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

Look What's Coming Up!

Confirmation Corner - For 7th and 8th Graders and Parents
Wednesday Evenings

Advent Worship - December 6, 13, 20, 7:00 PM

7th and 8th Graders will serve as *ushers* and *acolytes*

Wednesdays evenings will resume January 10. We will look at The Apostles' Creed.



Parents — and All Adults! Martin Luther said: A "god" is the term for that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need...Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say that is really your God. [The Large Catechism]

Do our actions - what our kids see as our source of security and meaning in life - prove or contradict the religious words we say?



Advent Fair

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
10:00 AM—1:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy homemade chili while making an Advent Wreath, ornaments, and other Christmas crafts. It is a time for fellowship and fun, and a wonderful way to begin the Advent season.



Important Sunday School Dates for December.

12/3 Sunday School will not be held. Please enjoy family time at the Advent Fair.

12/10 Sunday School will meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio to rehearse the Christmas Program.

12/16 Saturday, Program Rehearsal, 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

12/17 Christmas Program, 9:00 AM service.

12/24 No Sunday School. Pre-school care provided between 9:00 and 10:10 AM.

12/31 No Sunday School. Pre-school care provided between 9:00 and 10:10 AM.

1/7 Sunday School will restart



The Thanksgiving Pot Luck was Friday, November 10th. It was a great time to celebrate all that we have, and give thanks for, with our fellow church members.

Thank you for all the delicious side dishes you contributed to make a delicious meal for all. Special thanks to Terri Larkowski and Judi Boe for making the turkeys.

NEWS & Notes...



October 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, with devotions and a word of prayer from Terrie Larkowski.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and accepted.

The September Financial Report was presented and a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the treasurer's report.

Staff reports were reviewed and accepted.

Pr. Roynesdal thanked Pr. Hall, Steve Jacobson, and all involved in the planning and execution of the marvelous joint installation and dedication service on October 8. There was a lot of enthusiasm about the dedication of the new building. Delight and appreciation for all the work that went into the capital campaign and the actual construction of the building has been expressed.

We are seeking a new chef for Sunday breakfast. Contact with the Culinary Institute at Metropolitan Community College to see if there might be some interest among students or alumni of that program.

Work continues on facilities maintenance with both the old and new buildings, thanks to the Property Committee, especially the expertise of Paul Sum.

Seeing children playing on the grass in the new greenspaces has been a delightful experience. Use of the new building's link space for confirmation classes has also been a blessing.

KMLC's volunteer support of the Nebraska Marathon, which went right past our doors, has been rewarded with a \$1,000 donation.

The first steps toward a new Youth Committee have been taken. Nicole Campbell, Clara Kidder, Michael Jensen, Sheila Valquier, Tiffany Stouffer, and Shannon Picha have all expressed an interest in being part of the committee.

The Oct. 29 commemoration of the Reformation approaches. It has been decided that tickets are not needed. All are welcome and the Nebraska and Western Iowa synods are hoping for a packed house.

Things continue to go well with Sunday School and plenty of volunteers to help with classes and the upcoming Christmas program.

Selections for health insurance plans are coming up. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to maintain the present

selection of benefits.

A grant application for the Healing Gift Free Clinic and the pantry was proposed, providing a new method of disbursement for those entities. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved for clinic and pantry to pursue the grant and for the grant monies to be directed to clinic and pantry.

Committee and Board reports were presented.

ELCA priorities campaign: A national appeal has begun for the ELCA to sponsor its work and mission.

Broadcast of Christmas Eve services: Exploring possibilities with Cox.

Sponsorship of service broadcasts: Pr. Roynesdal is looking into the possibility of finding people willing to provide an offering that would pay for the broadcast of the 9:00 AM Sunday worship services.

Hy-Vee gift cards: Another potential fundraiser might be a Hy-Vee gift-card program which provides a percentage kickback to the church. Pr. Roynesdal will explore further.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Council immediately and unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:56 PM, with the Lord's Prayer.



Saturday, January 20, 2018, 11 AM
Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland
NEW in 2018: 1 mile walk, 5K or 10K runs

This winter event is packed with adventurous running, wonderful Lazlo's food, amazing Empyrean beer and a FREE stocking hat! You don't want to miss this one.

Funds raised from this event support the camp scholarship fund at Carol Joy Holling Camp. No child is ever turned away because they can't afford the fee. In 2018, around 300 kids will attend camp with scholarship support.

Register before December 15 and use promo code "EARLYBIRD" to get \$5 off at <https://www.classy.org/event/empyrean-trail-run/e144743>.

Blessing an Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree

In the German and Scandinavian traditions of Christianity, the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree became important symbols of the Advent and Christmas Seasons. These symbols can also be important opportunities for families to pray together, to discuss the Christian message of the season, as well as to share family stories. Blessings and prayers (i.e., devotions) around the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree are common and available from many Lutheran resources.

Here are two:

Blessing the Advent Wreath

The blessing of an Advent Wreath

takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the



First Sunday of Advent. All may make the sign of the cross as a parent/leader says:

☞ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (☞) ***Who made heaven and earth.***

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read. These readings may be done by the children.

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☞ ***Thanks be to God.***

With hands joined, a parent/leader says:

☞ Let us pray: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

☞ ***Amen.***

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

(whether done on Christmas Eve or when the tree is put up earlier).

With the family gathered, all may make a sign of the cross. A parent/leader says:

☞ Let us pray: O God, who made this holy night [or, if done before Christmas Eve: this holy season] shine with the brightness of new light. Bless this tree which we adorn with lights to honor him who comes to enlighten us. Let us see in this tree your beautiful simplicity and humble strength. Let this tree remind us of our responsibility for the care of your good earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

☞ ***Amen***



*Worship With Us
in Advent*

Wednesdays,
December 6, 13, 20
7 PM
Dinner
(free-will offering)
6 - 7 PM

Purchase a Poinsettia for the Altar

Place your order by Sunday, December 17

Please include payment with your order

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the church. Christmas poinsettias are a special way to honor or remember loved ones. The cost of the poinsettias this year is \$7.00 each. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please contact the church office or fill out a bulletin insert and either mail it to the church office with your payment (cash or check made out to Kountze Memorial) or drop it in the offering plate during Worship.

Poinsettias are available for pickup after the 11:00 PM service on Christmas Eve or after the 10:00 AM worship service on Christmas Day.



THOUGHTS TO PONDER ... These thoughts are from an article “Singing the faith for our children” by Eileen Smith, a Deacon at St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wayne, New Jersey. It appeared in the November 2017 issue of the Lutheran Forum Letter. The entire article is available from Pastor Olaf.

Why must the church accommodate?

It certainly isn't a new phenomenon, this secularization of Sundays. In 1998, John Cardinal O'Connor of the New York Archdiocese, commenting on the dearth of altar servers gone to sports, was quote in The New York Times [15 May 1998]: “Why is it religion that must always accommodate?” It may not be new, but it certainly seems to be accelerating. Tobin Grant notes that from 1990 to 2014, the “drop in religiosity has been twice as great as the decline of the 1960s and 1970s” [“Corner of Church and State,” Religion News Service, 27 Jan. 2014]. Why do we exchange the gift of something so precious as worship for the transient activities that now fill our Sunday mornings?

In a conversation with a parent, I asked after her son, an engaging young man I had worked with on a confirmation project. There's an old joke about a congregation which suffered an invasion of squirrels; the pastor finally got rid of them by confirming them, and then they never returned. This young man was like that, and I had not seen him in quite some time. His mother responded, “He plays soccer. You know, that's a commitment, too.” I realized from her words that for many, church attendance is no more important than any other extracurricular activity that begs for time. Time is finite, so we prioritize, carving out hours for those things we must do, such as school and work. We allocate the remaining free time to those activities that seem to gain us some benefit, be it something pleasurable or beneficial. Some parents see sports as the key to their child's future, a college scholarship. Some parents have said that their child simply doesn't like attending church and they need to pick their battles. Some think sports will keep their child safe from the dangers of drugs and other harmful activities.

Disappointment

I've heard parents point to a sense of disappointment in the church and its leaders. We've all heard stories or have even known people involved in scandals of sex or money, leading to a loss of trust in those who lead in the church. These scandals have provided excuses to empty the pews. Yet there have been scandals in high school and college sports as well. In a quick Google search of “school sports scandals” I came up with a hit, “Top 25 College Sports Scandals,” which included gambling, alcohol, and sexual misconduct. Consider Penn State. Joe Paterno was an iconic figure and students were heard to lament that Joepa let them down. Yet the stands remain full at the Penn State games.

Some have even said that God disappoints. Pointing to the cruelty of war and social injustice, natural disasters, poverty and hunger, they question God's hand and hold him accountable, as if by staying away from church they're sending a message.

There is no small irony that we are quick to hold others to the second table of the law [commandments 4-10], that which relates to how we would treat our neighbor, but seem quick to forget the first table [commandments 1-3], how we are to love, honor, and worship God, sanctifying the holy day, having no other gods before God.

Our children's future

Whatever the reason we absent ourselves and our children from worship, whatever the solution may be, the reality is that we are making decisions in the present that will affect our children not only today, but well into their future. These decisions seem to be focused on keeping children happy and occupied in the present and preparing them for what is thought to be a successful future—college, a career. But we are not preparing them for life. The hymns that our children are hearing on ball fields may last no more than four quarters or nine innings. As they carry forward into adulthood the habit of replacing church with other activities, they will find their choices to be ephemeral, guaranteed to disappoint.

Our children are missing out on being a part of a community where hymns connect us to our past, help us in the present, and give us a glimpse of our eternal life. Through God's gift of hymnody, He has given us the witness of saints gone before us who sang—Moses and Miriam praising God for their safety, the Psalmist pouring out his fears and even anger in prayer, Paul and Silas singing hymns of praise while imprisoned. God gives us the witness of his Son, singing a hymn before entering the garden to meet his betrayer. He gives us a glimpse of our future in heaven in the vision of the saints of God singing their hallelujahs.

Our children are not learning theology for they are not in church to sing the hymns that teach us the faith—who God is and how he acts in our lives, what he has done for us in the sacrifice of his son. We are sending them out without the anchor of the church, leaving them ill-equipped to handle the trials that will surely touch their lives.

If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized or would like a pastoral visit, please be sure to let the church office know, at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org. The pastors, eucharistic ministers or altar guild (flower deliveries) would be more than happy to call on you at any time. Thank you.

Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound

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



Contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or via email at info@kmlchurch.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Blood Pressure Checks

Saturday, December 2
4:30-5:00 PM
Bride's Room near Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17
10:00-11:00 AM
Fellowship Lounge



Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Yesterday's Youth

Tuesday, December 5, 12:00 PM

Cost is \$4.00

Please join us for a Christmas celebration. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped, \$5 Christmas item or ornament, for our exchange game. Lunch will be festive Christmas finger foods and Christmas cookies!! Please RSVP by Friday December 1, to the church office. Any questions call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. See you there!!



Women's News

- The Christmas Tea will be Friday, December 1 at noon. The program will be the Immanuel Bell Choir. No reservations are required and there is no cost.
- Thanks to the Kountze Women who prepared sandwiches and cookies for the Christmas Tea.
- Thanks also to the women for bringing bars and cookies for the Advent Fair and the Advent suppers—they are much appreciated.
- Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet December 12 at noon at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for a carol sing. The free will offering will be for the Salvation Army Heat Fund. If interested in attending, call Carole at 402-339-2056 by December 10.
- There will not be a Board meeting in December.



Book Group

No Meeting in December

Join us again on Sunday, January 14, 12:00 PM



KMLC Men's Luncheon

We take a break during December and will get back together on January 18.

Pastoral Acts

(October 16 – November 15)

Baptisms:

Emily Marie Jensen, November 12, 2017

Funerals:

Ruth Larsen, October 17, 2017
Donald Lamphere, October 31, 2017
Paul Lux, November 7, 2017
Barbara Zarp, November 13, 2017

Calendar...



December 1 Friday

12:00 PM Women's Christmas Tea

December 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
9:30 AM Decorate for Christmas
4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
5:00 PM Worship

December 3 Sunday

Homebound Communion
Advent Fair
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

December 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth
5:30 PM Marketing Task Force

December 6 Wednesday

10:30 AM Advent Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Advent Dinner
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 7 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
5:30 PM Personnel Committee

December 9 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
5:00 PM Worship

December 10 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

December 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
10:30 AM Advent Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Advent Dinner
7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 14 Thursday

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Property Committee
12:00 PM Circle 4 (offsite)
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 15 Friday

Good News Deadline

December 16 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
5:00 PM Candlelight Carol Sing Prelude
begins 4:40 PM
5:00 PM Worship

December 17 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Children's Christmas Program
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:30 AM Executive Committee
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

December 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:30 PM Church Council
7:00 PM Circle 3

December 20 Wednesday

10:30 AM Advent Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Communion @ deFreese Manor
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Advent Dinner
7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 21 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
5:30 PM KETV Management Board
7:00 PM Circle 5

December 22 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON

December 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 24 Sunday

Christmas Eve
No Sunday School
9:00 AM Worship
4:00 PM Worship
7:00 PM Worship
11:00 PM Worship

December 25 Monday

Christmas Day
OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Worship

December 26 Tuesday

OFFICE CLOSED

December 27 Wednesday

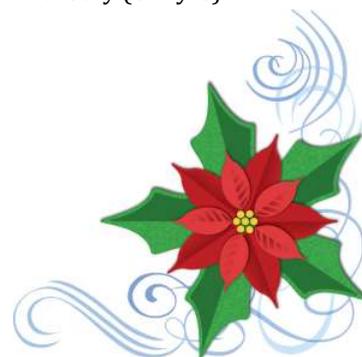
12:15 PM Worship

December 30 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
Breakfast (offsite)
5:00 PM Worship

December 31 Sunday

Hagge Wedding
New Year's Eve
No Sunday School
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)





1. Rebecca Anderson, Julie Bishop, Marlys Duin, Søren Johnson, Kim Neville, Ashley Sum
2. Dianne Bruckner, Kolbey Burns
3. Clay Cameron, Michele Eakins, Carol Gleason, Brad Nord
4. Barbara Andersen, Gary Clatterbuck, Troy Dougherty
5. Dale Broekemeier, Inna Weedman, Alan Woster
6. Brad Cochran, Dale Ervin, Jery Inbarasu, Aage Jensen, Nicholas Natvig
7. Arlene Hirsh, Delores Kocourek, Neil Stier
8. Madison Duffield, Lowell Harms, Tara Strauss, Frank Walczar, Debra Woosley
9. Jan Bowder, Craig Hill, Jenny Johnston, Renee Osborn, Norman Sack, Scott Saxton, Jeffrey Watts
10. Sydney Kinish
11. Robert Burt, Eunice Grunberg
12. Phyllis Green, Zachary Johnson, David Roethemeyer, Ronald Stadie
13. Hal France, Donna Moessner, Luke Woosley
14. Marjorie Andres, James Camenzind, Maggie Day, Emily Drickey, John Georgeson, Madelyn Hinrichs, Susan Mollner, William Pemberton, Susan Sanders, Tiffany Stienblock
15. Ryan Daugherty, Lori Grisso, Ronda Nelson
16. Gary Dietrich, Leigh Freeman, Gage Hansen
17. Dorothy Cross, Carla Ohm
18. Larry Jacobsen, Craig Johnson, Benjamin Williams
19. Charlie Campbell, Bill Christensen
20. Andrew Darr, Richard Fogleman, Jamie Freier, Mary Gruber, Eric Rees
21. Steven Hansen
22. Justin Bailey, James Bodnar, Julianna Green, Erin Marek, Melanie Reida-Sample, Suzanne Schueler, Beverly Troxel
23. Steven Duffield, Debra Kee, Debra Larsen, Barbara Larson, Corey Lynch
24. Charles Martis III
25. Kathe Andersen, Carson Ohm, Ashley Rusch, Randy Titus, Ed White
26. Nancy Rodene, Gary Westerman, Holly Willert
27. Emilio Arispe, Jonathan Fullner, Tanya Kosola, Robert Nelson, Colleen Sorensen, John Waterman, Zachary Zellmar
28. Kathryn Dean, Elizabeth Portrey, Dorothy Stanzel, Leon Tuite, Joel Woosley
29. Jane Bos, Shane Hallowell, Arthur Land, Linda Swartz
30. Monica Albers, Kara Di Lorenzo, Rodney Edwards, Deborah Ricks
31. Jeffrey Baker, Peter Kassay-Farkas, Brianne Minturn, Linda Siffring

2017 Holiday Meal Bags Through Food Pantry



The Food Pantry will be distributing holiday meal bags to pantry guest households in December. This year's holiday meal bag costs \$18.50. The reusable tote will include:

- fully-cooked ham (3 lbs.)
- instant mash potatoes (13 oz.)
- corn or green beans (14.5 oz.)
- yams/sweet potatoes (15 oz.)
- jellied or whole cranberries (14 oz.)
- chunk or tidbit pineapple (20 oz.)

Also this year, a prayer cloth will be included...thanks to the Kountze Memorial Prayer Shawl group and the Saint Michael Stitch Sewers.

The goal is to distribute 500 bags which will be accomplished by the Kountze Memorial and Saint Michael Lutheran congregations.

Your financial generosity to support this holiday meal bag project is sincerely appreciated. Know that your on-going support helps to provide shelf stable food for around 300 households weekly. Thirty-five percent of the weekly guests are children.

Weekly Items Needed for Pantry

In addition to the special items for the Christmas bags, we still need: beef stew, canned meats, spaghetti/pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, oatmeal, and canned fruit.

Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions or would like to help work in the Pantry on Mondays. Thanks for your generous support of our Pantry.

KMLC College Scholarships

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application.

Applications can be picked up after the first of the year in the Church Office, or downloaded at www.kmlchurch.org.

Applications are due March 1. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted.

Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year.

Check the January Good News and bulletins for more info. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 402-341-7761.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam St
Omaha, NE 68131-3616

Phone: (402) 341-7761
Fax: (402) 341-4841
E-mail: info@kmlchurch.org
Web: www.kmlchurch.org

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE 68131
Permit 238

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule:

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox Cable Ch. 13 and
live streamed on our website.



Beginning in December, we will be welcoming sponsorships for the weekly televised broadcast of our worship service. You can sponsor a broadcast in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone's birthday or anniversary, etc. The cost for sponsoring one broadcast is currently \$175 (it may increase in the new year).

Six services are available for sponsorship in December (5 Sundays + Christmas Eve). Sponsorship forms are available in the church office.