

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Dean W. Bard, Interim Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul Moessner, Interim Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

December 11, 2016

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

LITANY

- P** At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Open us up to your coming.**
- P** We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Open us up to your coming.**
- P** We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Open us up to your coming.**
- P** We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Open us up to your coming.**
- P** Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.
- C** **Amen.**

Three candles are lit.

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah Verses 1, 2, & 3

ELW 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: YIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING

- P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
- C** *Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

GREETING

- P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
- C** *And also with you.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



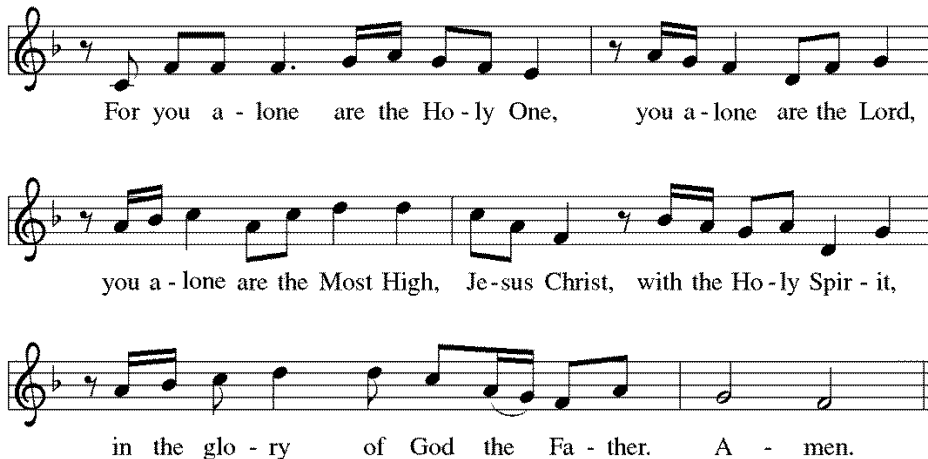
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,
 ☑ ***and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

WORD

(sit)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL OFFERING

During the sacrament of baptism we are given the responsibilities to live with our children among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teacher them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer. Why? So that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

This offering is just the beginning, but it is a way for our children to share the message of Christ's birth using their voices and their efforts. We hope you will enjoy and appreciate our children's offering—as an offering, not a performance, we ask that you hold your applause and thank the children after service.

READING

Mia Valquier

John 1: 1, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1 – Elise and Lillian Willson

Verse 2 – Claire and Leah Henneman

Verse 3 – Bella Kuehn

Verse 4 – Congregation

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
 your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save,
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

READING*Violet Fannin, Claire Henneman, Leah Henneman***Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

O Come, All Ye Faithful**READING***Bella Kuehn, Drew Rasmussen, Alexa Hartfield***Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Angels We Have Heard on High

READING*Dayvie White, Riley White***Luke 2:8-14**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria**READING***Barrett Hinrichs***Luke 2:15-20**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Away in the Manger**READING***Elise Willson, Collin Johnston, Lillian Willson***Matthew 2:1-11**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Joy to the World**READING***Grace Albright**The Christmas Story
by Leanne Guenther*

Silent Night

Verse 1 – Children

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

Verse 2 – Congregation

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!*

Verse 3 – Congregation

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

APOSTLES' CREED

**☒ 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
G *hear our prayer.*

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

Illness: Edie Goodwin, Dee Luchsinger, Darlene White

Sympathy: To the family and friends of Jon Eversoll, friend of Amanda Zasada; to the family and friends of Anne Forslund; to the family and friends of Robert Jones, father of Mark Jones

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Justin Perkins (Young Adults in Global Mission), Argentina/Uruguay; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

P *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

P Savior of the nations, come.
G *Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,', 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -', 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who', and 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☞ *Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☞ Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.
☞ *Amen.*

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

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.

*Let Streams of Living Justice
Lost in the Night*

ELW 710
ELW 243

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ God for whom we wait,
☑ ***you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
☑ ***Amen.***

HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
☑ ***Thanks be to God.***

POSTLUDE

✝ ✝ ✝

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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Nebraska Synod, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a part of the worldwide Lutheran Church body. We invite you to join us regularly for worship and for a variety of opportunities for growth and service. If you are a new resident in the community and are looking for a church home, we invite you to join this faith community. If you are new here, welcome. If you are “newly returned,” we rejoice with you. If you are a member of long-standing, we celebrate your ministry and your faithfulness.

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Dean W. Bard	Interim Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Interim Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Katie Larson	Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
Ian Hartfield	Director of Congregational Life
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
John Bogue	Building Superintendent
Tim Walker	Chef/Assist to the Bldg Super
Søren Johnson	Assist to the Bldg Super
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Danny Bos	Handbell Director
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Susie Henry Scott Henneman
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Daniel Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Shirleen Collett Edie Goodwin Karen Wolf Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Soren Johnson
Acolytes	Kenyon Martis Clara Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs Lowell Harms
Ushers	Linda Johnson Ken Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin Julie King
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Lily O'Kane Grace Penrod

ADVENT MEALS/WORSHIP 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 on Wednesdays, 12/14, 21 for dinner from 6-7 PM and Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Join us on Tuesday, 12/6, 12 PM for lunch and a gift exchange game. Bring a small, wrapped ornament or gift if you would like to participate in the festivities. Please RSVP to the church office. Contact Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033) if you have questions. All ages are welcome.

WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE

HOLY COMMUNION All who are baptized and trust in Christ's



presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table today. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Ushers will direct you. Communion is by intinction: you will receive the Host in your hand; you may then dip the Host into the chalice. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags and children's bibles and bulletins are available. We also provide a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a variety of toys, games, and books for young children. Parents may watch the service via the TV screen.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

ATTENDANCE CARDS Please fill out the cards found in your bulletin. If you are a guest, please fill out the additional information, so we can meet your needs. Then, put the cards in the offering plates. Thanks.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES are available. Please speak to an Usher if you would like to have a large print bulletin or to use a listening device.

WELCOME DESK Our Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall has become a center for hospitality with volunteers on hand each Sunday to help with event information, sign-ups, payments, answering questions, etc. Be sure to check out this resource if you have questions and to stay up to date on events and activities happening at Kountze Memorial. If you'd like to volunteer to help at the Welcome Desk, please contact Ian (402-341-7761 or ian@kmlchurch.org). Amanda Zasada and Sheri Tipton are also available if you need help on Sunday mornings in the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS & ETERNAL CANDLE If you would like to provide altar flowers or the eternal candle in honor or memory of someone or some special event, please put your name on the flower chart in the Narthex by the drinking fountain. Altar flowers are \$20 and the eternal candle is \$7.50.

NEW MEMBER CLASS Are you interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church? Or do you know someone who has expressed an interest in learning more? If so, please let us know on the registration card in your bulletin and we'll let you know when the next class will take place. The next class will be held on February 12 & 19 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors. We look forward to hearing from you.

E-NEWS AND E-NEWSLETTER If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the membership card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us for a hot, breakfast buffet each Sunday served from 8-11:00 AM prepared by Chef Tim and his volunteers. The suggested donation for breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM.

THIS WEEK: Building Update **NEXT WEEK:** Are Icons "Idols"?

YOUNG MOTHERS Join us on Sunday mornings for some fresh brewed fun in the Fellowship Lounge between worship services for "Frappy Hour." Come meet other young mothers in the congregation for coffee, conversation, fellowship and fun. For more information, contact Meeghan Hartfield at ma_hartfield@yahoo.com or call 402-212-8145.

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS Advent is a time of preparation for the gift of love incarnate with the birth of Jesus Christ. A table is set up during the Forum time on each of the Sundays in Advent and also in the Narthex for the Saturday evening services on 12/3 and in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, 12/17 after the Candlelight Carol Sing Service. Please see the insert in your bulletin for more info. There is something for everyone. Come to our table and purchase your Alternative Gifts!

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in honor of Donna Moessner's birthday by Pastor Paul.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday for Sunday School on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday week in the Youth Center at 10 AM.

Advent is a season of joy.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	A messenger is promised
Tuesday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The Lord's anointed one
Wednesday	Matthew 9:27-31	The blind receive sight
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-8	The lame walk
Friday	Luke 1:5-25	The birth of John announced
Saturday	Psalms 146:5-10	God lifts up those bowed down
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	Immanuel – God with us

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk. People with leprosy are being healed, and the deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news. Matthew 11:5 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, give us joy as we wait for you in faith and hope. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We praise you, O God, for you are good and faithful. You meet our needs of body and soul and fill our lives with joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who gives sight to the blind and who raises the dead, give you joy now and always. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Tell about a time you have been filled with joy.
- In what way does Jesus' ministry stated in Matthew 11:5 describe what joy is like?
- How does Jesus' ministry bring joy to the world?

DEVOTIONS

In the third week of Advent light the first, second, and third Advent candles and say these words.

Say: This is the third week of Advent. We light our third candle, the candle of joy. Jesus' birth and earthly ministry gives us reason to be joyful. He came to save us from our sins and bring us back to God. [The candles are lit.]

Read: Isaiah 35: 1-10.

Pray: God, as we draw nearer to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill us with joy and gladness. Help us to share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. Amen.

SERVICE

As you plan to give gifts to others, prepare a Christmas gift of non-perishable food items to donate to a local charity for an individual or household in your community.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place figures from a nativity scene in different parts of your house. Each day, have household members move them closer towards the manger scene, so that they arrive on the day before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, place the baby Jesus figure into the nativity scene.

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MEN'S LUNCHEON Please make plans to join us for our special Christmas Men's Lunch next Thursday, 12/15 from 11:30 AM-1 PM at Crave in Midtown Crossing, 200 S. 31st Ave. Free parking is available in the parking garage. We will have a private room, so let them know you are with Kountze when you arrive. Our meal will consist of soup, bread, a choice of either 1.) baked penne with roasted tomato sauce, Italian sausage, pulled chicken, and fresh & shredded mozzarella, OR 2.) Gochujang Shrimp Rice Bowl fried rice finished with fried egg, gochujang glazed shrimp, OR 3.) Chopped Chicken Salad dried cherries, spinach, romaine, bacon, avocado, citrus vinaigrette, almonds, fontina, as well as Italian lemon cake for dessert. We are still working on a program, but there will be plenty of good food and fellowship! Plus, there will be wonderful views of Turner Park! Cost for lunch is \$15 per person. Please bring cash. Please RSVP to me or the church office by, this Sunday, 12/11 or as soon as possible.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING Saturday, 12/17, 5 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM) with a reception following. A free-will offering will be taken and nursery care will be provided. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing and worshipful reflection. Journey to the manger through beautiful scripture readings, sacred poetry, congregational singing and special musical offerings from the Kountze choirs, handbells, brass, woodwinds, strings, harp and more. We look forward to this opportunity to gather together to welcome the birth of Jesus! Please join us!

KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS This week we need: beef stew, canned chicken, Spam, 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. Thanks.

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

December 11 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship/Children's Musical Offering
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
1:30 PM Saint Michael Christmas Bag Delivery
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

December 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Building Committee

December 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Advent Dinner
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 PM Candlelight Carol Sing Rehearsal
7:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

December 15 Thursday

Good News Deadline
Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
5:30 PM KETV Management Board
7:00 PM Circle 5

December 17 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship/Candlelight Carol Sing (Prelude begins at 4:30 PM)

December 18 Sunday

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

Next Weekend's Lessons

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Saturday Attendance: 37

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 226 11:00: 114

Midweek - Noon: 10 **Confirmation:** 72

Total: 459

Pantry Guests Served: 337 (223 Adults — 114 Children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 40

Offering:

\$10,334.79 (Regular) \$3,968.75 (Specials)
\$1,899.50 (In the City for Good)

JOIN US FOR...

Christmas Eve Services

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

The 7:00 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 channel 13.

Christmas Day Service

10:00 AM