

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 18, 2016

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT



Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the One born to save us from the power of sin and death, the God who comes to reconcile the world to Himself.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

LITANY

- ☐ At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,
- ☑ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ☐ We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives. O Emmanuel,
- ☑ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ☐ We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us. O Emmanuel,
- ☑ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ☐ We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment. O Emmanuel,
- ☑ **Surprise us by your coming.**
- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **Amen.**

All four candles are lit.

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

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: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
- ☑ *In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

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.*

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,



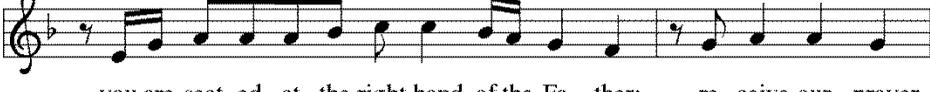
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



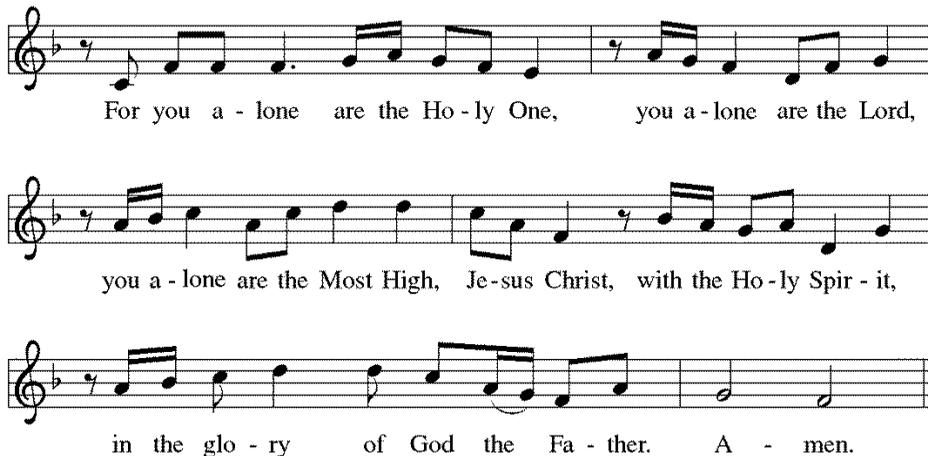
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- ☑ ***With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

MUSICAL OFFERING

Quem Pastores

Guy Ratcliffe, Arr.
 Kountze Handbell Choir

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

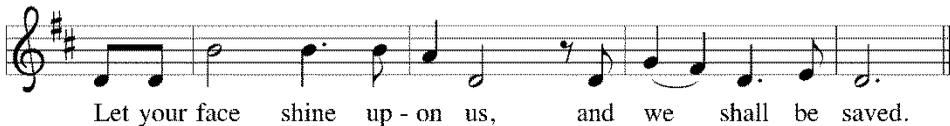
An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



Psalm 80:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray? 

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. 

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1 & 2

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

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.

☞ The Gospel of our 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, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lost in the Night

ELW 243

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: Ⓟ Lord, in your mercy,
 ☩ *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, LeClare Steffen, Dee Luchsinger, Darlene White

Sympathy: To the family and friends of Luthea Root

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

Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.
☩ *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

A Tiny Child will Come

D. Besig and N. Price

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

- ☐ ***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

- ☐ Savior of the nations, come.
- ☑ ***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.

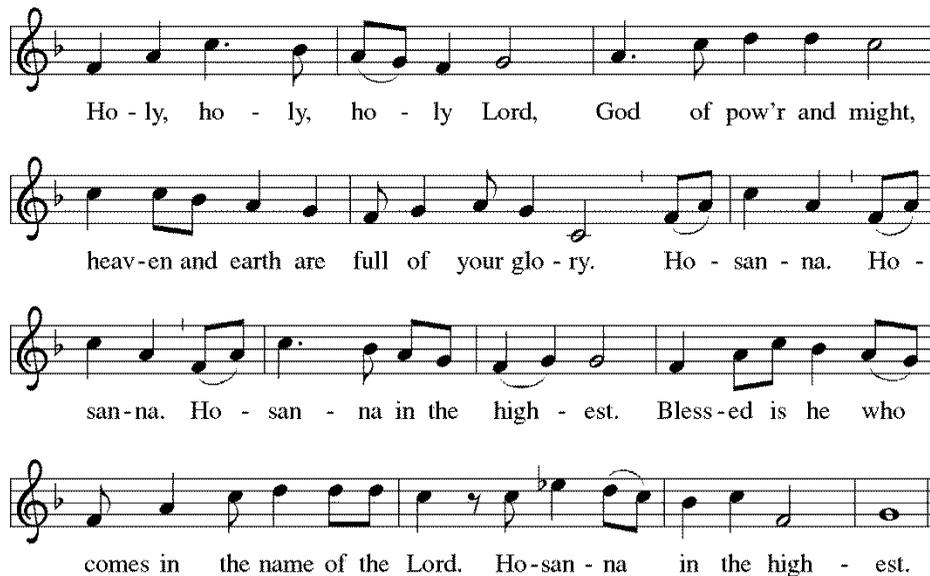
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The 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.

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.

*Creator of the Stars of Night
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ELW 245

ELW 265

(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.	Lorie Groenjes Scott Henneman Liz Pemberton
Lector	Mattie O'Kane
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Daniel Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Shirleen Collett Colleen Lenners Karen Wolf Sharon Anderson
Crucifer	Kai Johnson
Acolytes	Courtney Cameron Carly Cameron

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Ashley Sum
Ushers	Linda Johnson Ken Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin Julie King
Crucifer	Morgan Stouffer
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer Kolbey Burns

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, 12/21 for dinner from 6-7 PM and Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM.

KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS This week we need: beef

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: Are Icons "Idols"? **NEXT WEEK:** Christmas Day (No Forum)

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 memory of Wendy Cooper by Ken Cooper

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.