

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 04, 2016

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

LITANY

- P** At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- P** We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- P** We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for your coming.**
- P** We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives. O Emmanuel,
- C** **Prepare us for 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.**

Two candles are lit.

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah *Verses 1 & 2*

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

- P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
- C** *John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

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,



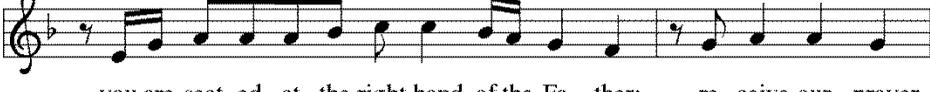
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



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 our hearts, Lord God,
 ☑ ***to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

In today's reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

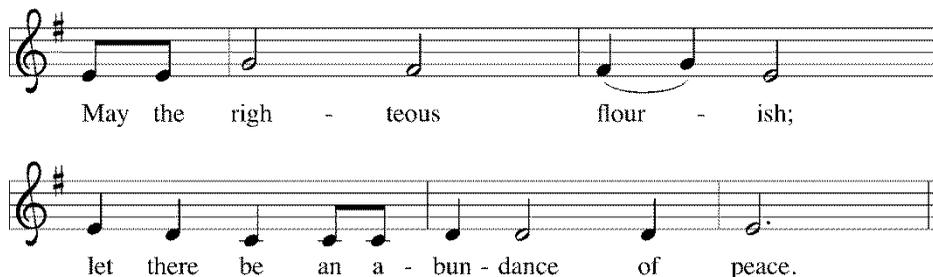
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19



Psalm 72:7

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

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- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. 
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen. 

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises

to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1 & 4

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 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

☞ 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

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

ELW 249

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: Anne Forslund, Dee Luchsinger

Sympathy: To the family and friends of Gary Lundeen; to the family and friends of Rev. Dr. Donald Reed, father of Melea Headley; to the family and friends of Atsuko Rief, mother of Jeff Rief

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

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul O. Manz

(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.

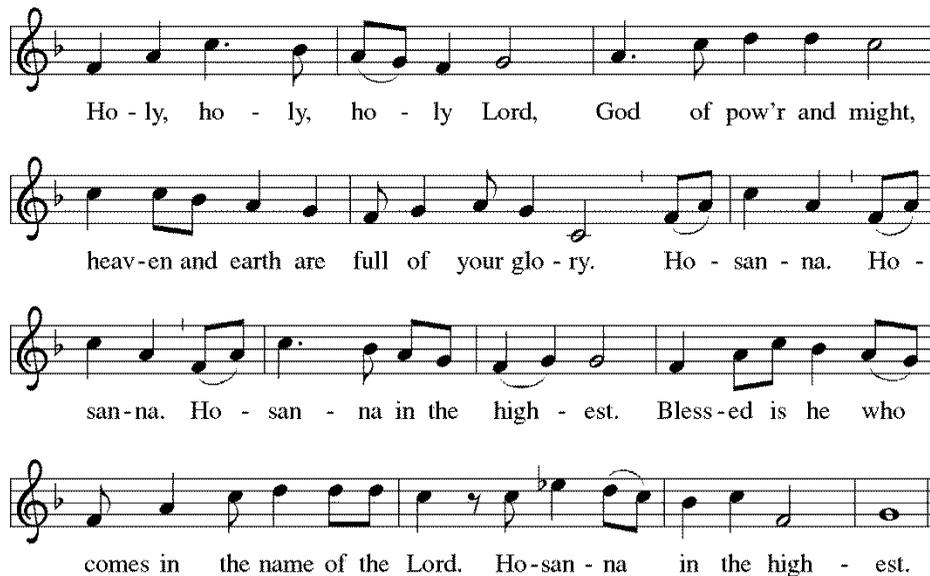
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW 254
ELW 239

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* ELW 256

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

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jeff Perkins Pam Johnson
Lector	Colleen Lenners
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	Anthony Bonacci
Acolytes	Carter Wachholtz Britten Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum June Anderson
Lector	June Anderson
Ushers	Linda Johnson Ken Johnson Julie O'Doherty Norm Sack
Greeters	Rosemary Tessin Julie King
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolyte	Jackson Barrett Charlie Campbell

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, 12/7, 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

(Continued on page 2)

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: St. Athanasius, On the Incarnation **NEXT WEEK:** Building Update

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!

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, 12/4, 12 PM. We'll meet in the church office conference room and then Pr. Hall will lead the participants to the Nave to walk through the liturgy.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of our founding pastor, Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, and our charter members Augustus Kountze, Clementine Kountze, Adeline Ruth, Daniel Redman, Eliza Redman, Joseph Redman, Mary Jane Redman, Uriah Bruner, George Stark, Catherine Brobst, George Herzog, and Dr. Augustus Roeder, and Frederick and Lida Schneider on the occasion of the 158th Anniversary of our church's founding (December 5, 1858) by Ian Hartfield.

(Continued on page 2)

Advent is a season of hope.



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 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice crying in the wilderness
Tuesday	John 1:19-28	The testimony of John the Baptist
Wednesday	Romans 15:4-13	Gospel for Jews and Gentiles
Thursday	Isaiah 11:1-10	Peace at last
Friday	Hosea 14:1-9	Repentance brings blessing
Saturday	Psalms 72	A prayer for guidance
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And the Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope.
Romans 15:4 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare the way for you in our lives and in our world by being people whose hope is in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for all you have prepared for us to share and eat and enjoy. Help us to prepare the way for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you great joy and peace as you trust in God. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope. (Romans 15:13)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Tell about something that you hope will happen.
- How does your faith influence what you hope for?
- John the Baptist prepared people to meet Jesus. Who has been a “John the Baptist” figure in your life by helping you to know Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

In the second week of Advent light the first and second Advent candles and say these words. Say: This is the second week of Advent. We light our second candle to remind us that this is the season of hope. Jesus came to bring us hope, and we live in hope for him to come again. [The candles are lit.] Read: Romans 15:4-13. Pray: God, in this season of hope, make us patient and cheerful, and help us to live at peace with one another as we follow Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Set aside time to prepare Christmas cookies and treats to give away to friends and neighbors. After the gifts of food are packaged, pray for those who will receive them

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Gather with others and use the following Christmas Tree Blessing during the Advent season.

Leader: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of God’s goodness and all that is beautiful. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus’ presence with us as the light of the World. He was the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse to become a branch that gives us shelter.

Read: Isaiah 11:1-3a.

All: **God of all creation, we thank you for this tree. Bless us as we gather around it. May it light up our hearts with your love, joy, and peace, and may the gifts placed under it remind us of the great gift of your Son Jesus. Amen.**

After the blessing, have each person tell about their favorite Christmas tree decoration or Christmas tree story.

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(Continued from page 1)

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.

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 in the blessed gifts of the Eucharist, word and song!

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.

For additional information about upcoming calendar events, please visit our website, www.kmlchurch.org

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

December 4 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 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)
 10:10 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)
 12:00 PM Baptismal Seminar
 7:00 PM MS & HS Girl’s Bible Study
 9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

December 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
 12:00 PM Endowment Committee

December 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 12:00 PM Yesterday’s Youth

December 7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
 5:30 PM KETV Management Board
 6:00 PM Advent Dinner
 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer
 7:30 PM Adult Choir

December 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board Meeting
 11:30 AM Property Committee
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 9 Friday

9:15 AM Christmas Pantry Bag Assembly

December 10 Saturday

9:00 AM Children’s Program Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Worship

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)
 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: 56

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 217 11:00: 119

Midweek - Noon: 12 **Advent Worship:** 57

Total: 461

Pantry Guests Served: 382 (280 Adults — 102 Children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

Offering:

\$43,429.54 (Regular) \$5,980 (Specials)
 \$3,080 (In the City for Good)

(Continued from page 1)

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the glory of God in memory of Joe Pavlis

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.