

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

Dec. 31, 2016 and Jan. 01, 2017

5:00 PM, 9:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

LESSONS and CAROLS SUNDAY



LESSONS
and
CAROLS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

DIALOGUE

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- C** ***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***
- P** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- C** ***We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.***
- P** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- C** ***In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.***
- C** ***Amen.***

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

- C** ***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart, prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.***

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

GREETING

- P** The grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son given to us be with you all.
- C** ***And also with you.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O Lord God,
- C** ***you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING (9 & 11 AM)

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head

Richard D. Row, Arr.

Travis Shaw, Soloist

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

The King Will Come from Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

☞ ***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!***

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

SECOND READING

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Annunciation to Mary

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. 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.

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

G *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul
shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian
folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, para.

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

In 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.

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

☞ *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

Text: North American, 19th cent.

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds Go to See the Savior

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,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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.

A The word of the Lord.

☞ *Thanks be to God.*

☞ *Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!*

Text: Polish Carol

FIFTH READING

John 1:1-14

The Mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of 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.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
verses 1, 4

ELW 272

☑ ***Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.***

***O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.***

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, st. 1; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

(stand)

NICENE CREED

**☩ We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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: Patsy Chrisman, Edie Goodwin, Dee Hiatt, Dee Luchsinger, Steven Olson, LeClare Steffen, Darlene White

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 CHRISTMAS 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

MUSICAL OFFERING (9 & 11 AM)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Rachel P. Mohlman, Arr.
Travis Shaw, Soloist

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Child is This?
verses 1, 3

ELW 296

- ☑ ***What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!***

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!***

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God with us:
- ☑ ***You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ ***And also 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.***
- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...and join their unending hymn.
- ☑ ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...
...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- ☑ ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***
- ☐ With this bread and cup...
...We look with hope for his coming.
- ☑ ***Come, Lord Jesus.***
- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit...
...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- ☑ ***Come, Holy Spirit.***
- ☐ All praise and glory are yours...
...one God, now and forever.
- ☑ ***Amen.***

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

P Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

G *Amen.*

(sit)
HYMN DURING COMMUNION *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

ELW 275

G *Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

(stand)
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P On this day, O God,

G *you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- ☞ **Amen.**

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

- ☞ ***Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"***

Refrain

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"***

***Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!*** ☞

***Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.*** ☞

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Glory to God in the highest!
- ☞ ***Peace to God's people on earth!***
- ☞ Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- ☞ ***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. _____

- Ushers Joe Councill
 Jim Comfort
 Janice Falk
 David Forrest
 John Georgeson
 Jeff Perkins
 Jeff Senn
 Fred Wachal
 Chad Wachholtz

- Greeters Darlene Anderson
 Lennea Davis
 Carol Hyland
 Lori Senn

- Crucifer Kai Johnson
 Acolytes Carter Wachholtz
 Britten Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Norm Sack
 Deb Hinrichs
- Ushers Dudley Syre
 Adam Klinker
 Linda Hoagland
 David Jesberg
- Greeters Peggy Johnson
 Myrna Carter
- Crucifer Morgan Stouffer
 Acolytes Rachel Stouffer
 Charlie Campbell

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 card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ is closed today, but join us next Sunday for a hot, breakfast buffet 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.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN BERLIN Four years ago, in anticipation of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Kountze Memorial established a sister congregation relationship with the American Church in Berlin, Germany. At that time, our Endowment Fund pledged \$10,000 a year for five years to support their mission, a “thank offering” for our Reformation heritage. In recent years, two KMLC Lutherland Pilgrimage groups worshiped at ACB, Pastors Hall and Inbarasu have visited there, their Pastor, Steve Kienberger, spent a weekend with us, and ACB youth accompanied our youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. We have enjoyed an enriching relationship of mutual support. At worship on Sunday, January 1 (9 & 11 AM), **Travis Shaw**, the choir director at ACB since 2010, will bring greetings and thanks and sing two vocal solos. Travis is a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and he studied music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. His college barbershop quartet, Waterstreet Junction, won the first ever Collegiate Quartet Competition in 1992. Consequently, they were offered a job singing in an American Musical Revue in the former East Berlin Friedrichstadt Palast theater in 1993, and he has been in Berlin since that time. Currently, he performs, conducts choirs, and teaches voice lessons.

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

THIS WEEK: New Year's Day (No Forum) **NEXT WEEK:** Building Update

YOUNG MOTHERS Join us again on Sunday mornings beginning 1/8, 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.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday
January 29, 2017
10:10 AM
Fellowship Hall



Jesus the Savior enters a world filled with violence and grief.



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 2:13-23 | Escape to Egypt |
| Monday | Jeremiah 31:15-17 | Hope for your future |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 49:13-18 | The Lord comforts the people |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 60:1-6 | Nations will come to the light |
| Thursday | Hosea 11:1-11 | Out of Egypt I called my son |
| Friday | Matthew 2:1-12 | Wise men worship Jesus |
| Saturday | Psalms 148 | Praise the Lord |
| Sunday | Matthew 3:13-17 | The baptism of Jesus |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD was truly merciful, so he rescued his people. He took them in his arms and carried them all those years. Isaiah 63:9b (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, as you protected the infant Jesus, so rescue us and all those in need, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for being with us and guiding the way, for meeting our needs each and every day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be loving and merciful to you. May God lift you up and carry you all your life. (Isaiah 63:9)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Tell about a time when you experienced pain.
- A time of great sadness came to the town of Bethlehem soon after the visit of the wise men. How have you been comforted in your sadness or pain?
- How does faith in God carry you through times of sadness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:13-15.

While Jesus was still very young, his family fled to Egypt to escape from King Herod. There are many people in our world today who are forced to flee their homes because their countries have become unsafe for them—we call these people refugees. Talk together about what it would be like to be a refugee and leave your friends and possessions behind. Conclude with the following prayer:

Dear God, please comfort and sustain all refugees in our world. Help them through their times of hardship and protect them as you protected the infant Jesus. Amen.

SERVICE

While a young child, Jesus and his parents were refugees and had to flee to Egypt. The plight of refugees continues to this day. Find a way to support local refugees residing in your community or refugees in your host country by creating care packages or simply making a financial donation to help them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 148 calls on all of God's creation to offer praise. Read the psalm and then name aloud different parts of God's creation, and give praise to God. For example, "For Norwegian pine, praise the Lord. For crashing waves, praise the Lord. For beautiful Poinsettias, praise the Lord."

Conclude by saying together the Lord's Prayer

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KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS We continue to 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.

SIMPLY GIVING If you participate in the Simply Giving program and you changed your giving/pledge amount for 2017, please turn in a new Simply Giving form so we can make that change for you. Forms are available at the Welcome Desk or click the link below. Unless your banking information has changed, it's not necessary to turn in another voided check. Please call the church office with questions.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, 1/19, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial. Cost: \$10. All Men of KMLC are invited. Please RSVP to the church office (402-341-7761) or to Ian Hartfield (ian@kmlchurch.org) by Wednesday, 1/18. This Month we'll welcome KMLC member Justin Perkins via Skype. Justin is serving in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Argentina and Uruguay. He will be with us to share about his wonderful and unique experiences serving in another country.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER LUNCHEON, SUNDAY, 1/29, 11:30 AM All current Sunday School teachers are invited, as well as those interested in teaching Sunday School. We will meet in the meeting room off the Fellowship Hall. During our time together we will preview the spring curriculum and discuss ideas for the spring. Please RSVP to Katie Larson at katie@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761 so we can plan accordingly.

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

Sunday January 1, 2017

New Year's Day
9:00 AM Worship

Monday January 2

New Year's Day observed
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday January 3

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday January 4

Mission Trip Early Bird Registration Due
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 5

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Saturday January 7

Homebound Communion
4:30 PM Blood Pressure Checks
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday January 8

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 Book Group
7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study
9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Next Weekend's Lessons

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Christmas Eve Attendance: 1,060

Christmas Day Attendance: 84

Midweek - Noon: 3

Total: 1,147

Pantry Guests Served: No Pantry

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 43

Offering:

\$46,251.10 (Regular) \$31,229.18 (Specials)
\$190,405.00 (In the City for Good)

(Continued from page 1)

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Don and Louise Vanzago by Rod and Linda Nord.

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.