

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Steve Jacobson	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Theresa Gruber Kathy Englert

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder Steve Jacobson
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Lector	Bailey Gittler
Ushers	Joe Councill Jim Comfort Janice Falk John Georgeson Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Chad Wachholtz Dave Forrest
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert Jinette Cswercko
Crucifer	Clara Kidder
Acolytes	Anna Kidder Communion Assistant

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	June Anderson Ann Miller
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Adam Klinker Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Peggy Johnson Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Charlie Campbell
Acolytes	Rachel Stouffer Anna Kotula



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 5 & 6, 2018

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshipping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Then join us each Sunday morning for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8:00—11:00 AM prepared by our kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** No Forum **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Lavern Larkowski by Kevin & Terrie Larkowski

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Additional poinsettias were given to the glory of God in memory of Sandra Johnson by Curt Johnson and in memory of Debra Enholm by Donna & Ed Nimerichter. If you would like to take a poinsettia—or two—home today, they are in the Link area between the church and the Commons. Please help yourself and enjoy.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR No Children's Choir this Sunday. Join us again each Sunday beginning January 13 from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K— 5th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL No Sunday School this Sunday. Join us again each Sunday beginning January 13 on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 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 No Forum this Sunday, but join us again each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM beginning on January 13.

January 6 Sunday

Epiphany
 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)

January 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
 12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Confirmation
 7:40 PM Worship

January 10 Thursday

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

January 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 13 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 10:30 AM Executive Committee
 12:00 PM Book Group
 12:15 PM New Member Class

HOLY COMMUNION All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. 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, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

ATTENDANCE CARDS All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA 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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held January 13 & 20, 2019 from 12:15—2:00 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare and if you have food restrictions when you register.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING If you haven't turned your Estimate of Giving and Opportunities to Serve cards to the office yet, it's not too late. Just a reminder that if you are giving your offering through Simply Giving and have changed your giving amount for 2019, we need you to email Steve Jacobson (steve@kmlchurch.org) or complete a new Simply Giving form (a new voided check isn't necessary) and put it in the offering plate or return to Steve in the church offering plate. We are unable to change your giving amount without having something in writing. If you're not currently using electronic giving but would like more information about this safe and reliable method to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account through Simply Giving, you can download a form from our website or pick one up at the Welcome Desk. You can always call the church office for more information as well.

ATTENTION 8th GRADERS - For 77 years, young people have served as acolytes in worship through the Order of Saint John (OSJ) at Kountze Memorial, providing leadership for our worship experience. OSJ members carry the processional cross, torches, gospel book, and banner. In addition, OSJ members light candles, as well as assist the pastors at baptisms and Holy Communion. Since it is your Confirmation year, the Order of Saint John

sponsors invite you to train to assist in the Sunday church services. Please contact an OSJ Sponsor to arrange a training time: Jeff or Robin Perkins at papioperkins@cox.net or 402-339-5384; Tom Steffen at 4freefalling@gmail.com or 402-321-3666; Jill Gittler at jill@centertrophy.com or 402-689-4521.

HERITAGE SERIES Begins again on Wednesdays, January 16, 23, & 30, 6:00 PM. Our reading of the concluding chapters of Herbert McCabe's, *The Good Life: Ethics and the Pursuit of Happiness*, resumes in January. All are welcome. The book is available for purchase online or copies of the chapter are available from the church office.

MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, January 17, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP by January 15) at Kountze Memorial. Please join us for the first men's luncheon of 2019. This month our speaker will be from Youth Emergency Services (our neighbor across the street). Come learn about the important services they provide Omaha's youth. Please RSVP to the Church office or to jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday January 15.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE First Central Congregational Church (421 S. 36th Street), Friday, January 18, 6:00 PM—complimentary soup supper; 7:00 PM—Worship. This service began a few years ago as a cooperative between Lutheran Campus Ministry at Creighton and St. John's parish (Creighton); this is the first year we are expanding to a city-wide event! All are welcome.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 19 through 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 20. Middle school youth in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders from across the Nebraska Synod are invited to take part in the 2019 Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering. It will take place at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, Nebraska, starting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 19 and concluding at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 20. The theme this year is "Rooted," and participants will explore Colossians 2:6-7. Hip hop artist AGAPE* and spoken word poet Joe Davis will be guest artists for the weekend. Cost is \$65. For more information, please speak with Marcia Roynesdal.

LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHOIR welcomes new and returning members to the Spring Concert Season! Rehearsals begin with a retreat on Sunday, January 20, 2-5 PM at Faith Lutheran Church, 1551 S.70th St., Lincoln. This spring the choir is pleased to welcome our new conductor and artistic director Ms Julia Marble. Our concert theme is "Christ, Light in the Darkness" and Julia has chosen music that speaks to His grace, peace and hope. Come join us on this musical journey!

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 12:15 PM (immediately following 11:00 AM service). Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptism liturgy with you. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761. The next session will be held on March 10.

2019 ALTAR FLOWERS, ETERNAL CANDLE, & BROADCAST SIGN-UP Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle. Donating altar flowers is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary. You can sponsor a broadcast in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone's birthday, anniversary, etc. The cost of sponsoring one broadcast is currently \$175.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:10 AM
In the Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 34

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 199 11:00: 92

Midweek - Noon: 6 **Evening:** 0

Total: 331

Pantry Guests Served: 269

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 27, 2019. You can pick it up that Sunday or during the week. It will also be available on our website, www.kmlchurch.org and click on "About Us". All items to be included in the Annual Report should be in to the office by Sunday, January 13, 2019.



Jesus' birth is for all the world.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men come to worship Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to the light
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's mission to the Gentiles
Wednesday	Daniel 2:17-49	Nebuchadnezzar's dream
Thursday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Friday	1 John 1:1-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7	Prayer for a righteous king
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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[T]hat is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **Ephesians 3:6 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and strength, may we bring our lives before you with treasures of the heart just as the wise men came before Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Like Wise Men three from far away, we come to Christ with joy this day. To our Provider and our King, gifts of thanks and praise we bring! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you and guide you to Christ today and fill you with joy and peace.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is the furthest you have traveled from home?
- What have you learned by traveling away from home?
- In the story of the wise men from the East coming to pay homage to baby Jesus, God is announcing that in God's Son, salvation is brought to all. How does God's action in Jesus help you look at and appreciate different customs and cultures you have seen?

Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

This passage lifts up important themes for Epiphany Day. The Apostle Paul expresses humility at being included in God's plan of salvation, a plan that includes the Gentiles, therefore, all people of the earth. Just as the wise men from the East represent those people not from Israel, so God's love reaches far beyond any national boundary. For foreign wise men to follow a star and reach Bethlehem, too, represents the greater mystery of God's work in a little one born to a peasant family to be worshiped by the rulers of the earth. The visit of the wise men changes everything. Strangers become family. Rulers are humbled. The humbled are exalted, and through the birth of Jesus, God's love reaches the ends of the world. Think about ways you have seen God's love reaching the ends of the earth today.

Pray: God of the nations, you unite all the people of the earth through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to recognize in the face of others your saving work for all people. Give us hearts to share the mystery of your will and your love with all that you have made through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Matthew 2:9-11, the wise men followed a star and "when they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy" (vv. 9b-10). They entered the house where the star stopped and saw Mary and the child. They knelt, honored, and worshiped Jesus and gave him gifts. God guided the wise men to Jesus with a star. What guides you to Jesus today? Name ways you can be a "star" to guide others to Jesus through your actions and words.

Epiphany is an older tradition than Christmas for recognizing the birth of Jesus. Many places around the globe have some form of a Three King's Cake, an Epiphany cake or bread that is made to celebrate the visit of the wise men and honor Christ's birth. In the Spanish-speaking world it is called "*Rosca de Reyes*." Buy or make a Three King's Cake or bread and enjoy this treat as part of your Epiphany Day celebrations.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12