

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

December 28 & 29, 2019

5:00pm, 9:00am, & 11:00am

LESSONS and CAROLS SUNDAY



LESSONS
and
CAROLS

PRELUDE

Jean Johnson, Organist

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

GATHERING CAROL

“The Bells of Christmas”

ELW 298

OUR NEED for a SAVIOR

LESSON

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Father, Son † and Holy Spirit, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we are not perfect.

We have said and done things we regret.

**We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.**

**We have resisted your call
to be your voice in the world.**

Forgive us, loving God.

**Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.**

P Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C Amen.

CAROL

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PROMISES of a SAVIOR

(sit)

LESSON

A Just Lawmaker

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Joy to the World"

ELW 267
Verses 1 & 4

LESSON

A Righteous King

Isaiah 11:1-9

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.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW 282
Verses 1 & 4

LESSON**The Lord's Servant****Isaiah 42:1-10a**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

ELW 287
Verses 1-3 & 5

THE GIFT of a SAVIOR**LESSON****God with us...****Matthew 1:18-25**

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 word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277

LESSON

... in humility ...

Luke 2:1-7

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..

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

Verses 1 & 3

LESSON

... making us children ...

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

ELW 294

LESSON

... of God.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“All My Heart Again Rejoices”

ELW 273

Verses 1 & 3

OUR RESPONSE to the SAVIOR

LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

CAROL

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268
Verses 1 & 3

NICENE CREED

📖 With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

🙏 **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.**

(continued on next page)

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C 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 congregation 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.



OFFERING MUSIC

“Change Ring on Divinum Mysterium”

Gramann

Dawn Beckwell, Cymbells

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“From Heaven Above”
Verses 10 & 12

ELW 268

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you.

12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God,

C you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we will use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS

“From Heaven Above”
Verses 13 & 14

ELW 268

13 My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:

14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")*

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your Name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Love has come: God's love for all people.
- C** Come and eat, for Christ invites us.

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(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

- 1 **When Christmas morn is dawning I wish that I could be
there by the manger-cradle God's Son, newborn, to see,
there by the manger-cradle God's Son, newborn, to see.**
- 2 **How kind of you, our Savior, for us to come to earth.
Oh, may we not by sinning despise your lowly birth.
Oh, may we not by sinning despise your lowly birth.**
- 3 **We need you, O Lord Jesus, to be our dearest friend.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life's end.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life's end.**

Text: Elisabeth Ehrenborg-Posse, Barnsänger, 19th cent.; tr. Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Emmanuel, God with us,**
- ☑ you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

- P** Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✠ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.
- C** Amen.

SENDING CAROL

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

**God rest ye merry gentlemen Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy**

**In Bethlehem, in Israel This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary Did nothing take in scorn
Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy**

**Fear not then, said the Angel Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior Of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him From Satan's pow'r and might
Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy**

DISMISSAL

- P** Glory to God in the highest!
- C** Peace to God's people on earth!
- P** Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jean Johnson, Organist

✠ ✠ ✠

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
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Kayla Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal
	Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Jim Smejkal

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.

Lector	Paul Rath
	Karen Fannin
Ushers	Bob Woodworth
	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Marcy Madison
	Mark Mahaffey
	Gary Westerman
	Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson
	Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Anna Kidder
Acolytes	Jane Kidder
	John Groenjes

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.

Lector	Kay Wise
	Ashley Sum
	Pam Johnson
Ushers	Linda Johnson
	Ken Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Norm Sack
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards
	Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 28 & 29, 2019

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 worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 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 Join us for a continental breakfast this morning and then next Sunday for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8:00-11:00 AM prepared by Jim West and the 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 (Fellowship time) **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Fellowship time)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS were given to the glory of God by Bob & Sandy Fonda in memory of their parents and in honor of their grandchildren, Catelyn, Gwen, Patrick, and Brynn; in memory of Luther Meilahn by wife, Carole Meilahn (not listed in the Christmas bulletins)

TELEVISION MINISTRY for Christmas Eve was provided to the glory of God in thanksgiving for God's many blessings by Mary Olson.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FORUM

No Sunday School: December 29 & January 5
January 12: Sunday School & HS Forum resumes

December 29 Sunday

No Sunday School
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM -11:00 AM Continental Breakfast
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum - Fellowship

December 30 Monday

No Pantry

December 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 1 Wednesday

New Year's Day
 OFFICE CLOSED

January 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 4 Saturday

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

January 5 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 No Sunday School
 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)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum - Fellowship

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.

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 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 Sundays, January 19 & 26, 2020, from 12:15—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. New members will be received on February 2. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by January 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you

KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY Thank you so very much to all who contributed to the holiday bag giveaway for the Kountze food pantry! It was a very successful event thanks to your generosity! Looking forward, the food pantry is in need of canned fruit. This is a major expense every week, and it is also the favorite category of our guests. We do like to spread a little joy where we can!

SIMPLY GIVING Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you need to indicate this change to the office or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. Please send an email to noni@kmlchurch.org or complete a new Simply Giving form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

PARKING... On a regular basis we run out of handicapped parking spaces on Sunday mornings. In order to ease this situation, please use the east parking lot (by the handicapped entrance) only if you have a mobility issue. Those who are physically able are asked to use the west parking lot. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Saturday, January 4, 4:30-5:00 PM in the Bride's Room near Sanctuary and Sunday, January 19, 10:00-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Lounge. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Yesterday's Youth will be taking our yearly winter break, for weather related reasons. We will not be meeting in January or February. You will not want to miss out, when we return on March 3!! Stephen Sieberson will be our speaker. He will be discussing his new book, so mark your calendars for the first Tuesday in March!! Stay tuned for some very exciting news and changes. Stay warm and keep safe during these colder winter months!

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Join us on Thursday, January 16, 11:30 AM. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. Watch the bulletin and weekly e-news for more information. Please RSVP to the Church office by Tuesday, January 14 or to jim@kmlchurch.org.

BAPTISM SEMINAR If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, please join us on Sunday, January 27 at 10:10 AM. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have. Please call the church office to register at 402-341-7761.

CJH CAMP EARLY BIRD SAVINGS! Register for CJH Camp before January 31, 2019 and get \$50 off a full-week session and a drawstring bag! You can register online at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:10 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 26, 2020. 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 12, 2020.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER EDUCATION Hospice volunteers provide companionship for individuals living with terminal illnesses and their families. Volunteers choose the hours they are able to serve and determine the geographical location in the metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and the surrounding area. Volunteer education will take place on February 20, 24, and 27 and is sponsored by CHI Health at Home Hospice, VNA Hospice, and Hospice House—The Josie Harper Residence. If interested, please call: VNA Hospice: Celeste Feuerbach at 402-930-4143. CHI Health at Home Hospice: Mary Pendell at 402-898-8239. Hospice House: Tina Geistfeld at 402-343-8600.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 65

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 222 11:00: 124

Christmas - Eve: 844 **Day:** 83

Total: 411

Pantry Guests Served: 383

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 38

Offering:

\$17,068.04 (Regular) \$5,943.80 (Specials)

\$3,845.00 (Phase 2)



All financial gifts to Kountze Memorial need to be in the church office by noon on December 31, 2019 or postmarked no later than that date. Thank you.

The coming of Christ triggers hostility.

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

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Tuesday	Matthew 25:31-46	The great judgment
Wednesday	Psalms 103:1-5	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Thursday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Jesus the high priest
Friday	Exodus 1:15-2:10	Moses is born to a slave people
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh



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A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more. **Matthew 2:18 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear merciful God, bring your comfort and protection to all who experience violence and suffering, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food; may all who hunger be blessed with the food you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May our God and the Lord Jesus Christ, lift you up and carry you all the days of your life. (Isaiah 63:9)

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

- Tell or think about a time when you or someone you know needed to be protected or comforted.
- How can you be a responsible member of the church and society in the face of ongoing violence in our nation and world?
- Why is the shocking slaughter of the children described in Matthew 2 an important part of the Christmas story?

Read: Matthew 2:13-23.

Christmas time is a wonderful opportunity to sing Christmas hymns, see beautiful lights and contemplate peace on earth. However, Matthew 2 brings us back to the daily fears and violence that continues around us. Innocent children are slaughtered because a king fears for his power. The slaughter of innocent children continues to this day. The holy family flees to a land that once enslaved God's people, yet there the family is protected. People seek protection today as refugees in historic numbers. Christ's birth is powerful because sin and death remain realities. Christ's birth brings violence from those who fear God's design and rule. The life of the church is the life of faithful and courageous opposition to all powers that are an affront to the salvation of God in Christ. In the midst of unfairness and violence, in what ways can Christians respond with truth and peace? How does the message of Christ's birth and return from Egypt give you courage to live each day as a child of God? **Pray: O, Holy Jesus, your path of love and salvation brings hope to a world that needs saving. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.**

A refugee is one who leaves their country because they encounter danger in their lives. Herod wanted to destroy Jesus. For this reason, Jesus' family fled to Egypt and became refugees. When refugees enter a new country, they are in need of compassion and care. There are many Christian organizations providing food, language lessons, and housing for refugees. Become familiar with refugee needs and take action through prayer and donations to support them.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18