

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

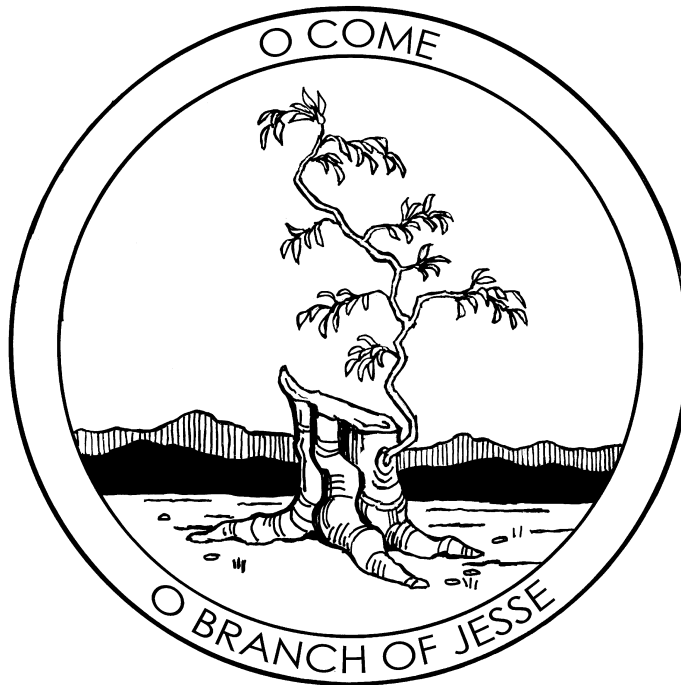
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

December 8, 2019

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 approaching light of Christ. 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

C Amen.

P Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

C we open our hearts to you, Lord God.

Search us and know us.

Reveal all that we keep inside.

To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.

Make us reflections of the radiant love

of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Beloved children of the God, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on us. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW 264

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people. As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,

C let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

We light the second candle.



- 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!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ And also with you.

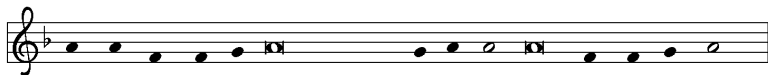
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



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

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

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.

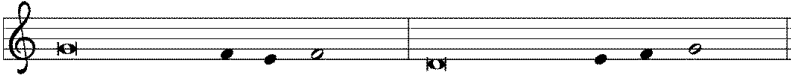
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play 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



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 a- | mong 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 wa- | ter 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. A- | men. 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.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY 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.*”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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

Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*”

ELW 249

THE NICENE CREED

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

G 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.

(stand)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the birth of Ellowyn Rose Hansen, daughter of Matthew & Megan Hansen

Illness: Richard Bock, Joe Bonfante, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Jan Falk, Rev. Harry Fink, Samuel Garrett, Susie Henry, Dolores Hiatt, Rosann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, son of Lynn & Nancy Meyer, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Mary Olson, Nick Robinson, son of Debbie Robinson, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woolsley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

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.



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Prepare ye the Way”

Hal H. Hopson

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

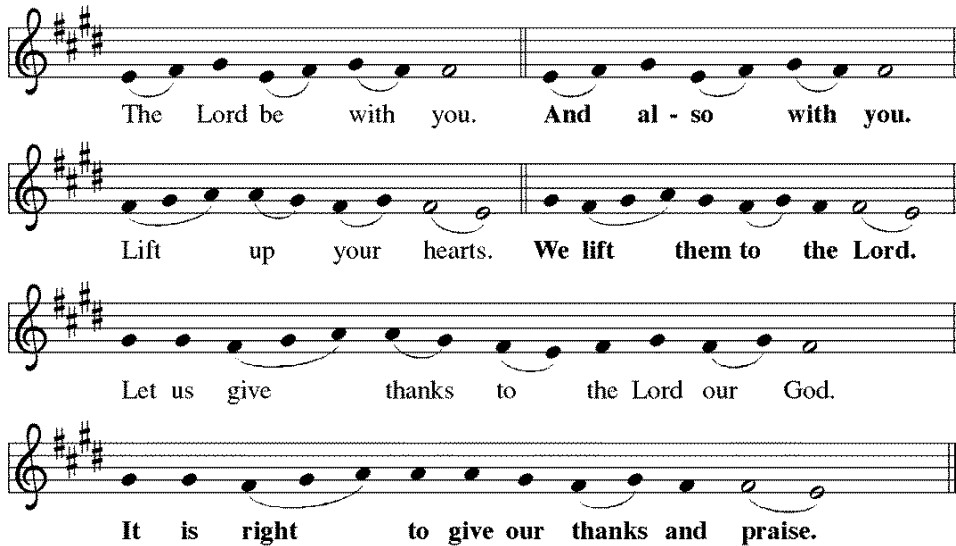


God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Giver of every good thing,
- ☑ we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.

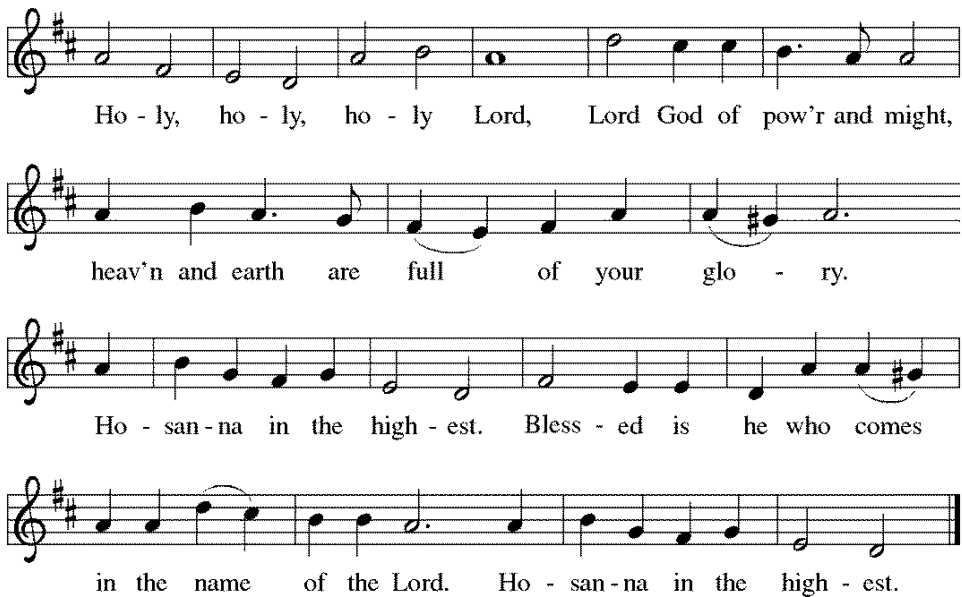
HOLY COMMUNION



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.

PREFACE FOR ADVENT

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

G **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 Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table.

G **Feast at the banquet of hope and love.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is **intinction**, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

ELW 256

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

ELW 490

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God of abundance,

G **we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING

(sit)

BLESSING

- ☞ May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, one God, the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Christ is with you.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

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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 Slaight	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	Kathy Englert
Ushers	Kathy Englert Theresa Gruber
Comm. Set-up	Donna Reinig

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Scott Henneman Jerry Clanton Kevin Larkowski Jill Gittler
Lector	Jon Natvig
Ushers	Bob Woodworth Glenn Anderson Dan Collett Marcy Madison Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Ted Kaasch
Greeters	Sharon Anderson Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson Dannika Rees

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller Lowell Harms
Lector	Jacob Rump
Ushers	Linda Hoagland Ken Johnson Lee Johnson Norm Sack
Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards Communion Assistant



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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December 7 & 8, 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 hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 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:** Pastor Chandran Paul Martin, ELCA Missionary (India) **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Fellowship time)

ALTERNATE GIFTS Check out the Alternate Gift insert that is in your bulletins beginning this weekend. Find a cause or organization that would be the best gift for your friends and family.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor. The choir will be singing this Sunday during Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us on Sundays 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 Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

December 8 Sunday

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-6)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr) - Christmas Program Rehearsal
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum

December 9 Monday

9:00 AM Sewing Group (note additional date)
 10:00 AM Pantry

December 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
 11:30 AM Property Committee

December 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
 11:00 AM Advent Lunch
 12:15 PM Worship
 5:00 PM Advent Dinner
 6:30 PM Worship
 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (note add'l. date)

December 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due
 9:30 AM WELCA Board
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 14 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Candlelight Carol Service
 Prelude begins 4:40 PM

December 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline
 No Sunday School
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 8:15 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Christmas Program
 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
 10:10 AM Cast Party in Joyful Sounds Studio
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum - Fellowship
 10:30 AM Executive Committee

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

ADVENT MEALS AND WORSHIP Wednesdays, December 11 & 18. Lunch served from 11:00 AM—noon. Worship is at 12:15 PM. Dinner will be served from 5:00—6:15 PM. Worship is at 6:30 PM.

KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY The Kountze Food Pantry could really use donations of toilet paper. We would love to have this vital item available for our guests, but the expense is significant and we have not had the funds available. Any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated. The Kountze Food Pantry is collecting register receipts from Family Fare stores. For every \$100,000 in receipts returned, Kountze Food Pantry will

receive \$1,000. Many people are unaware that the Pantry food is, for the most part, purchased, not donated. One of our vendors is Family Fare, so your receipts will be added to the Pantry purchases and we can reach \$100,000 in a short time. Please bring receipts to the office or place in receptacle at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS FOR KOUNTZE PANTRY Our Food Pantry holiday meal bags will be distributed in December; 300 in total. This year's holiday food items include:

fully cooked ham (3 lb)	cranberries jellied/whole (14 oz)
corn (15 oz)	stuffing (13 oz)
green beans (15 oz)	mashed potatoes (13 oz)
pineapple tidbits/chunks (20 oz)	cream mushroom/cream chicken (10 oz)
fruit cocktail/mixed fruit (14 oz)	quart shelf sustainable milk.

These items will be placed in a reusable tote with a Christmas card and a prayer square. The approximate cost of the 2019 holiday meal bag is \$25. The food items have been changed from previous years to help maintain the cost yet provide additional food items. This project is accomplished by the generous support of Kountze Memorial and Saint Michael Lutheran members and friends. You are invited to make a financial contribution for this annual holiday give away. Your gift can be given through the offering, please designate to the holiday meal bags or through the on-line giving page (<https://www.kmlchurch.org>). Should you have any questions or want to discuss ways to support the pantry, please contact Susann Henry, director of the Food Pantry. You can contact Susie at 402-341-7761 or susannfrances@gmail.com

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM) Reception following. Nursery care will be provided. Please join us as we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas! The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture, Communion, Carols, Choral Anthems, Handbell Music, Brass and String Quartets, Organ, Piano, Flute, and more. The beautiful Christmas tree and candlelight will help illuminate the words of the angels, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." May this be the song in our hearts! A cheese and dessert reception will follow the service. Join us for this special evening of hope, joy, and fellowship!

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, December 19, 11:30 AM. Suggested donation: "Project Santa" gift - see following: We will have a special Holiday meal. There will not be a cost of the meal this month but please consider bringing a new and unwrapped toy for the Open Door Mission's "Project Santa." Project Santa provides toys to needy boys and girls so that everyone will have gifts on Christmas morning. Candace Gregory, President/CEO of the Open Door Mission will be our speaker. Please RSVP to the Church office by Monday, December 16 or to jim@kmlchurch.org. Project Santa Toy Needs: Toddler Toys, Art Sets for All Ages, Small and Med. Lego Sets, ALL Sports Balls, Board Games and Puzzles (Especially for Children 8+ and Family Time), Dolls (single and sets), \$10.00 Gift Cards for Walmart and Target, Play-Doh Sets, Cars (All sizes, especially Matchbox and Hot Wheel sets), Makeup and Shaving Kits for Teenagers, Alarm Clocks and Ear Buds for Teens

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>.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 56
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 182 11:00: 85
Midweek - Noon: 27 Evening: 62
Total: 412
Pantry Guests Served: 351
Medical Clinic Guests Served: (Thanksgiving)
Offering:
\$20,626.50 (Regular) \$42,878.23 (Specials)
\$1,646.00 (Phase 2)



Dorothy Cross will have her 90th birthday on Tuesday, December 17.

If you would like to send her a birthday card, please send it to:

Mrs Dorothy Cross
6809 N 68th Plz Apt 206 -A
Omaha NE 68152

Advent is the season of peace.

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 11:1-10	The peaceful kingdom
Tuesday	Romans 15:4-13	Good news for Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Thursday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's people will celebrate
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:16	Final greeting of peace
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	A prayer for guidance for the king
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist



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The 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. **Isaiah 11:6 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who bring peace and hope to the world, guide our steps to walk in your peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this food. May this gift of love strengthen us to live lives of hope and peace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May 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. (Romans 15:13)

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

- What is something you are concerned about or that worries you?
- What is something you see in the world around you that gives you a sense of peace?
- Jesus comes to bring peace. How do you experience the peace that Jesus brings?

Read: Matthew 3:1-12.

In the Bible the wilderness is a place of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. With John the Baptist, something most dramatic is happening in the wilderness: preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives, the ultimate experience of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. John sounds harsh with words of judgment, not peace and hope. However, God's work of judgment is its own act of preparation that we may be made new. God's judgment condemns sin, death, and evil so that they may be destroyed. That is our great hope. Name places and situations in our world today where we gladly let the life of sin and death be swallowed up in forgiveness and peace.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, come into our lives and put an end to all that is within us that is not part of your kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2). The word repent in Greek means to change one's mind or purpose. John the Baptist wanted people to repent and live a life that "bears fruit" (v. 8). Leading a Christian life means being fruitful and bearing good fruit. Think about what this means. In what ways can people tell that you are a bearer of good fruit?

This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath in our homes. They are the candles of Hope and Peace. Today's candle reflects the peaceful kingdom.

Say: This is the second week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope and Peace. [Light two candles]

Read: The 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. (Isaiah 11:6)

Respond: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives peace.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope and peace. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11