

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 40, Issue 11

December, 2020



Advent and Christmas

We begin the Seasons of Advent and Christmas with trepidation. The pandemic is spreading more rapidly. The numbers contracting covid-19 as well as deaths are on the increase. In some ways we will have an idea what our Christmas celebrations will be like in light of our limited Thanksgiving celebrations. These are difficult days.

We have all heard the good news about progress with the vaccines. There is no quick fix to this pandemic. It will go on through this winter and spring. But there now seems to be a glimmer of hope.

The church seasons of Advent and Christmas are all about hope. A few days after Christmas is the Festival of the Holy Innocents (December 28th), when we contemplate King Herod's attempt to eradicate the new born Messiah. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18)

Herod did not succeed in eradicating Jesus. This pandemic will not either. Advent and Christmas will be different this year but they will happen. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus, perhaps seeing our need for a Savior more than ever this year.

We will have four mid-week Advent Worship services:

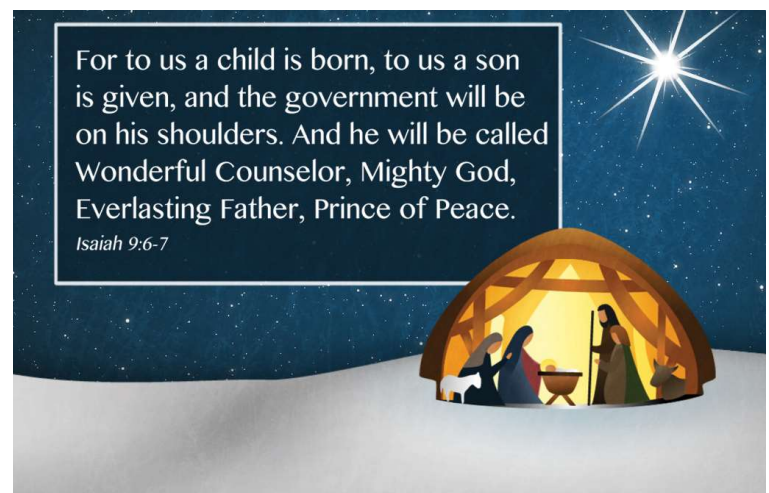
- December 2 "Adventuring into Advent"
- December 9 "On Being Prepared"
- December 16 "Mary's Song"
- December 23 "Joseph"

Paul Rath will serve as Cantor for Holden Evening Prayer. These services will be in-person and livestreamed at 6:30 PM. Those wishing to be in-person should register by the Tuesday prior to the service and again enter through the west Kountze Commons doors.

On Christmas Eve we will have two services at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Christmas Day worship will be at 10:00 AM. Seating will be limited so you must register with the church by Tuesday, December 22. Again, you will enter through the west Kountze Commons doors.

Christmas will happen. We will celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal



WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

If you plan to attend Worship in person on Saturday at 5:00 PM or Sunday at 9:00 AM, please call or e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the date you want to attend.

The plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

Saturday: Enter through the handicapped entrance on the northeast corner of the church building.

Sunday: Enter the church through the Kountze Commons Link Doors on the west side of our facility.

Please Note: In order to maintain physical distancing, no one will be admitted without a confirmed reservation.



Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can now also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.



If You are Hospitalized...

If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This 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.

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$200 per week for December but will be raised to \$210 beginning in January, 2021.

You can sign up for a date by calling the church office and/or mail your check to the church and note what it is for, and who it is in honor of, in memory of or in thanksgiving for.



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- Youth Forum

SERVE with us...

Kountze Alternative Gifts 2020

Alternative Gifts have been a tradition at Kountze for 16 years, carrying out God's love to the world with over \$170,000 in donations. Not only does Alternative Gifts feed the hungry and heal the sick, this program also helps us to give gifts that avoid materialism and honor the true meaning of Christmas. Alternative Gifts will again be available this year during Advent, although as with most things in this time of pandemic, we will need to get creative. Instead of setting up a table in Fellowship Hall, we will take your "orders" through the mail. We will need to scale back the number of choices available to manage the workflow. The options for your gifts this year are the Kountze Pantry and the Weber Free Healing Clinic. These two have always been the most popular options in the Alternative Gift program and they are central to our mission at Kountze. For those of you who still want to donate towards goats and chicks and other causes, you may do so directly through the ELCA at their website: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

If you would like to support Alternative Gifts this year, this is the procedure beginning November 29 through December 20:

1. Complete the Alternative Gift Wish List
2. Write your check to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
3. Mail your list and your check to
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131
4. We will process the wish lists each week and mail you the cards and inserts for you to share as gifts.

If you have questions about this, please call or email Jonna Holland, 402-669-4575 or jholland@unomaha.edu

Kountze Pantry

| | |
|--|------|
| Provide one bag of food for a family in Omaha | \$15 |
| Provide two bags of food for a family in Omaha | \$25 |
| Provide a week's groceries for a family in Omaha | \$50 |

Kountze Free Clinic

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Provide supplies for the free Clinic | \$10 |
| Provide medicine for the free Clinic | \$25 |

Congregation Votes to Call Associate Pastor

At a special congregational meeting on November 22, in-person and via Zoom, the congregation voted 80 to 7 to call Pastor Shari Duminy as Associate Pastor. She now has 30 days to decide whether or not to accept the call. If she accepts, we hope to have her begin her duties on January 1, 2021.

Kountze Food Pantry

Need Personal Care Items

The Food Pantry is collecting personal care items for Christmas bags. We need: FULL SIZE shampoo and conditioner, razors and shave cream, toothpaste, brushes and floss, bar soap or body wash, and toilet paper.

Volunteers Needed:

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;
9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is very much in need of volunteers. We have the facility professionally sanitized twice per week, after each pantry. Hand sanitizer, gloves and masks are provided. The Pantry itself is closed to the public. Guests are served in the open air from the garage door. There is a table barrier between the volunteers and guests. Jobs are available that do not involve direct contact with the guests. If you, or any family members on school break, would like to help. Please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits

Ken and Chris Kendall shipped 161 quilts, 16 care kits, and 12 school kits in November.

FYI: Chris received a mailing from LWR that said the Beirut shipment was definitely saved, protected enough to even prevent chemical damage. Great news!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



Sunday School lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page. In addition, there will be pintables and activity suggestions that complement the

lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Youth Forum

In Person: The youth group will meet in-person on the green space on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month held in the green space next to the church and the link. The meeting on the 1st Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share. (Must be non-COVID related). The link doors will be unlocked during our meeting time, and I will also have key to the exterior gate. We will maintain good physical distancing during our in-person meetings.

Zoom: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Mike Jensen will send out the link to the meeting. The Zoom meetings are approximately 30 minutes in length.



Calendar...



December 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 2 Wednesday

6:30 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 3 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 4 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 5 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 6 Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Online or
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - In
person

December 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

December 9 Wednesday

11:00 PM Property Committee

6:30 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 11 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 13 Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Online or
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) -
Zoom

10:30 AM Executive Committee

12:00 PM Book Group

December 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

3:30 PM KETV Board

6:00 PM Congregation Council

December 16 Wednesday

6:30 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 17 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 20 Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Online or
Reservation Only

10:00 AM Sunday School - Online

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12) - In
person

December 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 23 Wednesday

6:30 PM Worship - Reservation Only

December 24 Thursday

Christmas Eve

OFFICE CLOSED (at noon)

4:00 PM Worship

7:00 PM Worship

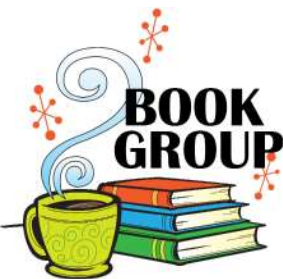
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Pledge Cards

If you haven't returned your pledge cards yet we ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Kountze's mission and ministry for the coming year, as well as addressing our debt, and return your pledge cards to Kountze as soon as possible either at worship or by mailing them to the church. Thank you!

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 may go online and make this change yourself, or indicate this change to the church office in writing 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, please call the church office.



December 13, 10:15 AM

The KMLC Book Group does not usually schedule a meeting in December, but with fewer activities for the holiday due to the pandemic this year, we will meet on December 13 following the 9:00 AM church service. We will gather in the link - connector in the Commons - at 10:15 AM. Rather than select a book for the group to read, we will have a book chat and share what everyone

has been reading.

Best wishes for a safe Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

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December 25 Friday

Christmas Day
10:00 AM Worship

December 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship - Reservation
Only

December 27 Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Online or
Reservation Only
10:00 AM Sunday School - Online
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
- Zoom

December 28 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

December 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

Poinsettias, 2020

Please place your order by Sunday, December 13

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Giving a Christmas poinsettia is a special way to honor or remember loved ones. The cost of the poinsettias is \$10.00 each. You may also simply give a gift of love to honor someone special.

Poinsettias are available for pickup after the 7:00 PM Service on Christmas Eve or after the 10:00 AM Worship Service on Christmas Day.

If you would like to order a poinsettia and you're attending worship in person, please fill out the form included in your bulletin and either mail it to the church office with your payment or drop it in the offering plate during Worship.

If you're not attending in person, you may

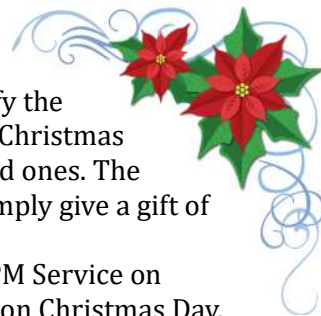
1. call the church office or e-mail debbie@kmlchurch.org and let us know if the poinsettia is in memory/honor of someone or a special event. You can mail your check or go to the giving page of our website (<https://www.kmlchurch.org/#>) to make your payment for the poinsettia. or
2. you can just go to the giving page of our website (<https://www.kmlchurch.org/#>). Toward the bottom of the page you'll find "poinsettias" and there is a space for you to add the name/names of those you want to be remembered or honored and then you can pay online.

Kountze Bell

The church bell is tentatively scheduled to be reinstalled on December 8! Listen for the clanging!



Before. Hopefully we can show the "After" picture in January.



Kountze Commons Update

Brothers and Sisters in Faith,

This is a very exciting time for Kountze Commons, and I am writing you to share in this excitement of all that Kountze Commons has accomplished in the last few months!

Kountze Commons is working diligently to provide services to those who need it most as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to meet the growing need and demand for services, the Kountze Food Pantry has expanded its pantry services by adding additional hours that guests can come and receive food. The expanded hours occur every Friday from 5 to 7 P.M. on top of regularly scheduled Kountze Food Pantry hours every Monday. Each week, the Kountze Food Pantry has seen an increase in people who utilize its food pantry services. When the Friday Pantry hours began, just **four** households showed up for food. Last Friday, October 23, **254 individuals** (including members of their households) were served at the Kountze Food Pantry. On Monday, October 19, **473 individuals** were served at the Kountze Food Pantry. **The Kountze Food Pantry reports serving an average of 700 to 900 people each week!**

The Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic and Pharmacy continues its operations throughout the pandemic. When the pandemic first started, we were serving approximately 10 to 12 patients each week in person so as to keep our patients and volunteers safe. We are now serving approximately **20 patients each week** as we are slowly increasing the number of people we are serving in person. The pharmacy continues to provide medications to another **20 unique individuals** (not overlapping with patients seen at the Clinic) each week. **Total served is approximately 40 unique individuals each week.**

We continue to expand and collaborate through our partnerships to provide truly **integrated** care to those who need it most! The Kountze Food Pantry, Methodist Community Health Clinic, and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic are partnering to offer FREE FLU SHOTS during the Kountze Food Pantry operation hours on Monday. We have translated these Flu Shot Notices and other associated Kountze Food Pantry and Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic materials into Spanish so that we can also provide these crucial services to those who need it most in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways!

Finally, Kountze Commons continues to raise money for the “In the City for Good” Capital Campaign. So far, specifically the Debt Reduction Task Force and I have raised **\$268,175, including program grants and Capital Campaign gifts! Of that total, \$158,175 has been specifically raised for the Capital Campaign and counting!**

We are anticipating approximately \$540,000 in grant funding at the end of this year into 2021 in program grant funding for Kountze Commons!

A key component of our vision is maximizing efficiency and effective use of resources by using volunteers, sharing resources, and collaborating with community partners in a community effort to serve the **whole** person.

This community effort means that Kountze Commons’ partnerships are integral to sustainability of the project. Responsible stewardship of resources has been and remains a critical component of this project. The overall capital project costs are \$10,500,000. To date, over \$7,000,000 has been raised in gifts and pledges including individual and foundation support and \$2.2 million contributed from the Kountze Church Endowment. However, **\$2.7 million remains to be secured**, down from \$3.1 million at the start of this year, and is currently financed through a Mission Investment loan provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

We are incredibly blessed to have so many people in the congregation invested in our ministries who care so deeply about the services we provide to people in Omaha who need them most. What an example of the hope of the Kingdom of God and an expression of God’s love!

THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers who dedicate so much of their time, resources, and for your commitment to serving those in need as the hands and feet of Christ. Your support will help ensure that Kountze Commons can continue to offer life-sustaining ministries to our brothers and sisters in need, and is an affirmation of the mission of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. If you plan to give to the Kountze Commons Capital Campaign, please make your check out to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church with the memo as “Debt Reduction” so it will show up on your giving statement! Finally, for more information about Kountze Commons please visit our VERY OWN WEBSITE at www.kountzecommons.org, or contact Taylor Brown, Executive Director at 402-830-1477 or taylor.kountzecommons@gmail.com!

Taylor Brown
Executive Director
402-830-1477
taylor.kountzecommons@gmail.com

Prepare For Year-End With A Tax-Deductible Gift

This year has been a challenging one for our congregation, especially those that work year-round on the front lines to serve our neighbors in need. As our church has stepped up to respond to rising rates of hunger and illness and unemployment, you have responded with faithfulness and generosity. Thank you so much.

We know that many of you will carefully consider your charitable giving plans as we near the end of the calendar year. This is also an important time to meaningfully support our congregation and equip us for future ministry. As you plan ways to give, we encourage you to consider opportunities that can help you make the most of new policies and your assets.



IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

What if you could make the impact of your generosity even greater?

Writing a check might be the simplest way to make a gift. But it can also be the least tax-efficient. Even in 2020, a direct gift from your IRA might be the right tool if you're over 70½ and thinking about how to make a difference.

Why should I make a gift from my IRA? I thought I didn't have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) this year.

You're right – RMDs are waived this year under the provisions of the CARES Act passed in March. If you're someone who will itemize deductions, a gift of cash might be a better alternative if you don't have other assets available like appreciated stock or grain. But if you're over 70 ½ and your allowable deductions won't exceed \$13,700 if you're single, or \$27,400 for a married couple filing jointly, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a good option. You'll give away pre-tax dollars completely tax-free and effectively lower your IRA balance, which in turn reduces future RMDs.

How do I make a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

The first thing to remember is that the check must be written to Kountze Memorial by your investment company or bank where the IRA is held. The tax advantage will be lost if you deposit an intended QCD into your account and write a new check to the church or ministry you want to support. The maximum allowable amount is \$100,000 per year.

NOTE: A QCD will be reported as a normal distribution on IRS Form 1099-R. Be certain to provide your tax preparer with documentation of the gift from the charity for proper reporting on your tax return to avoid taxation.

- **Gifts of appreciated assets**

Gifts of appreciated assets: Gifting an appreciated security directly to Kountze Memorial may allow you to maximize your gift while avoiding capital gains taxes and reducing your taxable income.

- **Life-income gifts**

Life-income gifts: These gifts can provide meaningful tax deductions for donors who face increased tax burdens due to income changes or other liquidity events. A life-income gift, like a charitable gift annuity, provides a tax deduction in the year it is established, partially tax-free future income and a gift to the ministries that matter the most to you.

- **You can Endow your giving**

The CARES Act introduced a unique provision in 2020 allowing an individual to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for the tax year. Did you know that you can give directly to Kountze's Endowment Fund? Most gifts to our Endowment come from bequests but the Endowment also receives gifts from living members!

NEWS & Notes...

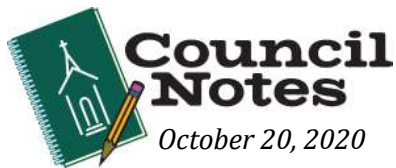


Pr. Hall will continue to post videos for this multi-week study on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube until December 13. We'll take a pause until early January when Pr. Hall will select a new topic. Watch your bulletin and the January Good News for more information.



If you haven't seen any of "The Freedom of a Christian" videos that Pr. Hall has posted, it's not too late to do so. The YouTube link to the videos is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChtalSdEjyMBKlZjbGGlyfA/>

The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: www.elca500.org.



October 20, 2020

Previous minutes approved.

Financial Report given by Tim Backora and approved by Council. People continue to support the church and its mission during the Covid19 pandemic. The 2021 budget process is underway, the Budget Committee will be smaller than in years past.

Staff reports given and approved by Council.

Committee reports given and approved by Council. Congregation Activities reported that the parking lot picnic went well. Outreach looking for additional volunteers to reach out to church members during the pandemic. Stewardship has met and is working on pledge cards. Worship & Music reported the addition of Saturday evening services.

Board reports given and approved by Council. Endowment set to meet later this month. DeFreese Manor Board is set to meet soon and is looking to fill the Service Coordinator position at the manor. KETV, LLC reports that they renegotiated the terms of the existing loan with MIF, which will lower the monthly payment to \$15,500 over a

25-year term. The Food Pantry is very busy and is in need of additional volunteers. They have arranged for flu shots for those visiting the pantry.

Old Business. Q & A with Pastor Shari Duminy will be delayed for one week. Council Retreat is scheduled for November 13-14th. Discussion was had regarding reopening services and planning for Christmas services. Christian Education, Worship & Music, Youth, Outreach, and Property will meet to discuss options and alternatives for Christmas activities.

New Business. Endowment grant requests: Global Mission (missionary support), Property (stained glass window repair), Media & Tech (2021 broadcast), Kountze Commons executive director position (Taylor Brown) were all approved by council.

Congratulations to Steve & Jen Urlaub on their new baby Louis Steven!

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:15 PM



Birthday Blessings

1. 12/01 Rebecca Anderson, Marlys Duin, Soren Johnson, Kim Neville, Ashley Sum
2. 12/02 Dianne Bruckner, Kolbey Burns
3. 12/03 Clay Cameron, Michele Eakins, Carol Gleason
4. 12/04 Barbara Andersen, Gary Clatterbuck, Troy Dougherty
5. 12/05 Dale Broekemeier, Hailey Ingram, Inna Weedman, Alan Woster, James Marcum
6. 12/06 Brad Cochran, Dale Ervin, Jery Inbarasu, Aage Jensen, Nicholas Natvig
7. 12/07 Arlene Hirsh, Delores Kocourek, Neil Stier
8. 12/08 Madison Duffield, Lowell Harms, Tara Strauss, Debra Woosley ,
9. 12/09 Jan Bowder, Craig Hill, Jenny Johnston, Tyler Johnston, Renee Osborn, Norman Sack, Scott Saxton, Jeffrey Watts
10. 12/10 Sydney Kinish
11. 12/11 Robert Burt
12. 12/12 Phyllis Green, Zachary Johnson, Edward Jenkins, Emma Ryder
13. 12/13 Hal France, Donna Moessner, Luke Woosley, Sandra Lundholm
14. 12/14 James Camenzind, Emily Drickey, John Georgeson, Madelyn Hinrichs, Susan Mollner, William Pemberton, Susan Sanders, Tiffany Steinblock
15. 12/15 Ryan Daugherty, Lori Grisso, Ronda Nelson, Jaya Winther
16. 12/16 Gary Dietrich, Leigh Freeman, Jack Greguska, Gage Hansen
17. 12/17 Dorothy Cross, Carla Ohm ,
18. 12/18 Carly Headley, William Jacobsen, Craig Johnson
19. 12/19 Charles Campbell, William Christensen
20. 12/20 Andrew Darr, Richard Fogleman, Jamie Freier, Mary Gruber, Eric Rees
21. 12/21 Steven Hansen
22. 12/22 Justin Bailey, Torin Edwards, Julianna Green, Melanie Reida-Sample, Suzanne Schueler, Beverly Troxel
23. 12/23 Steven Duffield, Debra Kee, Debra Larsen, Jennifer Urlaub, Lynn McKeeman
24. 12/24 Holly Bartek, Johnny Groenjes, Charles Martis
25. 12/25 Kathe Andersen, Carson Ohm, Ashley Rusch, Randy Titus
26. 12/26 Nancy Rodene, Gary Westerman, Holly Willert, Ingrid Furby, Lara McCormick
27. 12/27 Emilio Arispe, Jonathan Fullner, Tanya Kosola, Colleen Sorensen, Roy Waterman, Zachary Zellmar
28. 12/28 Kathryn Dean, Charles Misbach, Elizabeth Portrey, Dorothy Stanzel, Leon Tuite, Joel Woosley ,
29. 12/29 Shane Hallowell, Arthur Land, Linda Swartz
30. 12/30 Monica Albers, Kara Di Lorenzo, Rodney Edwards, Benjamin Myers
31. 12/31 Jeffrey Baker, Brianne Minturn, Linda Siffring, John Martin

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Loan Balance, 11/1/2020 | \$2,742,218.77 |
| Principal Payment 11/1/2020..... | \$6,430.09 |
| Interest Payment 11/1/2020 | \$9,024.91 |
| Balance, 12/1/2020 | \$2,735,788.68 |

Finances: thru October, 2020

| | <i>October</i> | <i>Year-to-Date</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total General Fund | | |
| Income: | \$ 54,340 | \$ 746,706 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Benevolence | \$ - | \$ 32,500 |
| Christian Education: | \$ - | \$ 2,252 |
| Facility Costs: | \$ 11,599 | \$ 128,486 |
| Staff Compensation: | \$ 47,941 | \$ 475,948 |
| Worship & Music: | \$ 327 | \$ 5,511 |
| Youth: | \$ - | \$ 173 |
| Parish Life: | \$ 569 | \$ 7,149 |
| Office & Administration: | \$ 4,400 | \$ 49,672 |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 64,836 | \$ 701,690 |

In addition, **\$29,224** was awarded to our Seminarians, with another \$10,000 to be awarded at a later date. These monies come from the Seminary Scholarship Fund.

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2020 - 9/30/2020)

Balance, 1/1/2020 \$ 51,520.26

Income:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Donations: | \$ 83,336.10 |
| Memorials | \$ 42,897.94 |
| NE CARES Grant | <u>\$ 62,000.00</u> |
| | \$ 188,234.04 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Costco | \$ 198.70 |
| Hidden Valley Ind. | \$ 9,474.86 |
| Family Fare | \$ 19,934.74 |
| Food Bank | \$ 10,320.80 |
| Other | <u>\$ 2,355.94</u> |
| | \$ 42,285.04 |

Balance \$ 197,469.04

The Food Pantry relies on your financial donations! Please be alert to the weekly needs of this important ministry!

Kountze History from the



Part 2 - Spiritual Sons and Daughters of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Archives Committee Needs Your Help!

When last month's article on Sons and Daughters of Kountze Church was written it listed 24 pastors who had entered the ministry. We could not verify that Theodore Pflueger or Robert Rath had graduated from a Seminary or had been ordained. If anyone has information on these two men please notify the church office.

We also found that Rev. John K. Shirck, ordained in 1947 and the brother of Rev. Robert Shirck had not been listed. The November 1954 Newsletter indicated Kountze pastor Walter Traub preached the dedication sermon at Rev. Shirck's new beautiful \$107,000 church building, St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Des Moines, IA. This increases the Kountze total to 25 Spiritual Sons and Daughters. If you know of any others that were missed, please notify the church office.

We found an interesting article about one of our Spiritual Sons in the November, 1944 Newsletter.

Yule Spirit Elusive

Captain Ernest Hauge, Chaplain on Saipan, voiced the feelings of two thousand men that gathered for Christmas services in these words, "The Christmas spirit is hard to come by out here. I almost feel I might as well be celebrating the 4th of July." The men gathered to worship midst a setting of palm trees, natives, and a glaring tropical sun. The real treat of the day was a 14-inch Christmas tree received in the mail by Lt. Montana Reese of Rapid City, SD. The men streamed into his tent until late at night pleading, "Please let me smell it." Capt. Hauge was pastor of First Lutheran Church, Sioux City IA, prior to his enlistment.

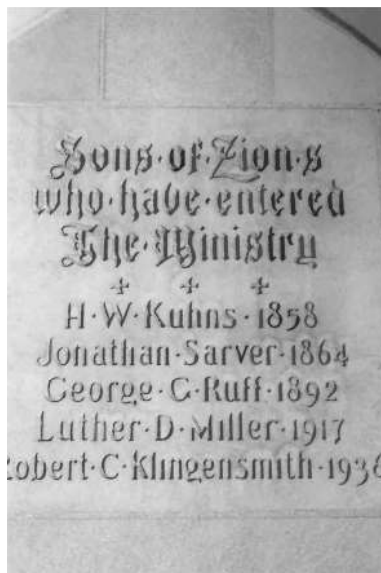
Rev. Hauge was confirmed at Kountze in 1925 and was ordained in 1935. His parents, Iver and Anna Hauge celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Fellowship Hall on February 21, 1954. Iver was born in Hardenger, Norway and immigrated to America in 1899 at the age of 21. We are sure Pastor Olaf will be happy to hear this since he seems to be pretty proud that he is also a Son of Norway.

December 5, 2020 - Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church will celebrate their 162nd Anniversary

In 2013, three members of the Kountze Archive Committee visited Greensburg, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of Kountze founding pastor the Rev. Henry Welty Kuhns. While at Greensburg they spent the day researching Pastor Kuhn's family history and visited the church he grew up in, Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church. When we entered the church vestibule it was engraved on the wall that Pastor Kuhn's parents, John and Susanna Welty Kuhns, donated the lot that the church was built on and that the Rev. Henry Welty Kuhns was ZION'S FIRST SPIRITUAL SON IN 1858.



Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Greensburg, Pennsylvania



Sons of Zion's who have entered
The Ministry

Blessing an Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree

In the German and Scandinavian traditions of Christianity, the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree became important symbols of the Advent and Christmas Seasons. These symbols can also be important opportunities for families to pray together; to discuss the Christian message of the season, as well as to share family stories. Blessings and prayers (i.e., devotions) around the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree are common and available from many Lutheran resources. Here are two:

Blessing the Advent Wreath

The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. All may make the sign of the cross as a parent/leader says:



L Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read. These readings may be done by the children.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, a parent/leader says:

L Let us pray: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R Amen.

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

(Whether done on Christmas Eve or when the tree is put up earlier).

With the family gathered, all may make a sign of the cross. A parent leader says:

L Let us pray: O God, who made this holy night [or, if done before Christmas Eve: this holy season shine with the brightness of

new light. Bless this tree which we adorn with lights to honor him who comes to enlighten us. Let us see in this tree your beautiful simplicity and humble strength. Let this tree remind us of our responsibility for the care of your good earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R Amen.



Carol Joy Holling Camp 2021

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS

Register by January 31!

The Early Bird \$50 discount only applies to full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp, but all campers registered by January 31 will receive a lanyard.



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Omaha NE 68131
Permit 238

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

Worship Times

You may worship in person by confirmed reservation only (call or e-mail no later than noon on Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend). Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change.

You can also tune in on Sundays at 9:00 AM on Cox channel 13 or watch our live streamed service any time at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

A bulletin is available on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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