

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 41, Issue 10

November, 2021



Taking Down the Shingle ...

Forty is a good biblical number: Noah was in the ark 40 days; Moses lived 40 years in Egypt and was on Mt Sinai for 40 days. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. There are 40 days in Lent (not counting Sundays).

Now, after 40 years as a Pastor I am retiring. I will be without a call for the first time in my career. In so many ways I am looking forward to it: more time with Marcia, time for reading and writing, doing genealogy, putting my model railroad back together.

Having said that, I am also a bit nervous of retirement as I am sure many others have been. Part of me wonders what I will do with all the time on my hands; the other part hopes I have enough time to get all the things done for which I have planned.

I have been blessed throughout my ministry and you, here at Kountze Memorial, have added to that blessing. I have had the privilege of working with the outstanding staff we have. The Council, Endowment, and various committees/task forces have all shared in the exercise of our ministry together.

The pandemic has been and is a learning exercise for all of us: how to navigate in public, how to worship on-line, with a mask, minus breakfast. We are slowly inching our way toward normal. The truth, however, is that things will be permanently different.

When I was a senior at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN the Bishops came and told us bluntly: "Just because your graduating doesn't mean you'll get a church." There were too many pastoral candidates and not enough congregations! Now the Bishops meet with seniors and ask: "where would you like to serve." I've heard estimates that there are over 1,000 pastoral vacancies in the ELCA. I am proud that Kountze is contributing for candidates for ministry.

When I began my ministry, the church was an established fact. In the upper Midwest all you had to do was hang the sign "Lutheran" over the door and people came. Those days have passed. Now every congregation is a mission start and there will be plenty of work to do. We have to witness to Jesus Christ to a world that doesn't seem to care. In many ways we are just like the early church. It will be hard work. But you can and will do it. Kountze might also be in a position to help other congregations that are struggling.

In all things rest assured that the Holy Spirit will be busy here. God is faithful. He will bring you a new Pastor who will lead you into the future God has in mind for Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

In closing, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for the wonderful celebration of my 40th Ordination Anniversary. Thank you for the many cards, gifts and kind words. A special thank you to Pastor David deFreese for preaching and to Pastor Shari Duminy and the Worship and Music Committee and everyone else who helped for their work.

God's blessing to you all!

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

Advent

Mid-week Advent Services

The Days are Surely Coming.... will be our theme for Advent this year. We join with ELCA World Hunger in pondering the scripture from Jeremiah and Luke. Join us at 12:15 PM for our Eucharist Worship or at 6:30 PM for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22.

Advent Wreath Prayer Volunteers

Advent begins on the weekend of November 27 and 28. During worship we will gather around the Advent Wreath with song and prayer. If you as a family, couple, or single would like to share that prayer with the congregation at one of the weekend services, please sign up at <https://form.jotform.com/212975981639170>. The prayer for that time, will be sent to you.

WORSHIP with us...

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM:

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



Photo by Jake Madison

Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



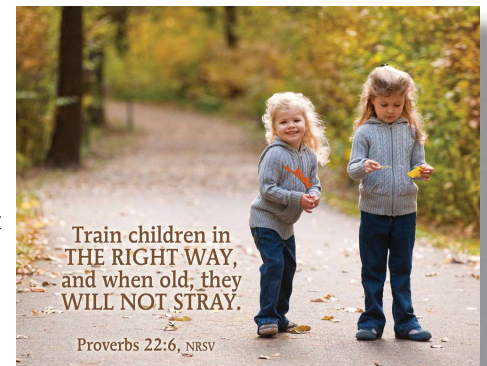
Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

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.

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. We also have 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.



Train children in
THE RIGHT WAY,
and when old, they
WILL NOT STRAY.

Proverbs 22:6, NRSV

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 \$210 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast 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, in memory, or in thanksgiving of.



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GROW with us...



Sundays, 10:10 AM

The Adult Forums in November will highlight the work of the Call Committee and next steps in the pastoral transition of Senior Pastor. A more detailed schedule will appear soon once call committee positions are confirmed and as we receive more information from the Synod.

Grief Seminar

Sunday, November 7, 2021

12:00 – 2:00 PM

GRIEF SEMINAR

Grief is difficult and especially during the holidays. If you have lost a relative or close friend, this would be an opportunity to share that grief with others and share how we can move through that grief. A light lunch will be served.

Please call the church office at 402-341-7761 to make a reservation.

150th

NE
NEBRASKA SYNOD ELCA

Followers of Christ is the prison ministry of your Nebraska Synod of the ELCA. It is the hands, feet, voice, and heart of Jesus making the presence and love of God known in Nebraska Department of Correctional Services facilities. Love changes even a stony heart, freeing people to live the life God made them for.

In 1997 Nebraska Synod Bishop Richard Jessen attended a Bishop's meeting in South Dakota. The agenda included a visit to St. Dymas, the prison congregation at the South Dakota State Penitentiary. Bishop Jessen

came back to the Nebraska Synod Council with the recommendation to have a similar ministry in Nebraska. The Synod Council issued a call to Pastor Bud Christenson. After Department of Corrections academy training, he started working at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln.

Pastor Bud visited congregations throughout the state to solicit support. Donations and visitors to worship were of great value to the ministry. After Pastor Bud, William Barth was the second pastor of Followers of Christ, followed by Pastor Bob Bryan. In 2019, Followers of Christ called Rob Corum as the current prison pastor.

Today, Followers of Christ (FoC) leads worship as part of a monthly rotation of Protestant ministries for 3 populations between the Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP) and the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW), as well as Bible Studies and small groups.

Afghan Resettlement Task Force



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We invite you to consider how we can as a church respond to the number of Afghanistan Immigrants that need to be relocated to the United States. In working with Lutheran Family Services, we will discern the ways that we can meet the needs in the weeks ahead. Please let Pastor Shari know by Wednesday, November 3, if this is a task force that you feel called to put some time and energy towards.

Please note as well that there will be an invitation to provide cash donations for these efforts through our annual Alternative Gifts program.

come grow with us!



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SERVE with us...

Kountze Food Pantry



Our Pantry is participating in the Thrivent's Give Thanks and Give Back Food Shelf Challenge! Our job is to collect at least 500 individual containers of non-perishable foods from November 1-30, 2021. The food drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier Gift,

courtesy of the Thrivent Member Network-Nebraska Region. This means the Kountze Food Pantry will not only benefit from the food, we will receive a matching gift of \$500! If you bring your contributions in a reusable canvas shopping bag, we can pass these on to our walking pantry guests.

Thank you to all who brought hygiene products for our holiday gift bags. Your generosity, together with a very generous partnership with St. Michael Lutheran Church, will provide enough kits for 400 people!

Please note: Family Fare receipts must be complete in order to be counted. Partial receipts cannot be submitted.

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

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Advent, Already?

By the time you're reading this article we will only be about thirty days from entering the season of Advent. After taking a year off from providing Advent meals, we are making preparations to provide a lunch and dinner meal option again this year (assuming things in the Covid world continue to ease). This is where you come in. We will need some volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We can always use volunteers to help put out placemats, pour drinks, run the dishwasher, etc. so no culinary experience is necessary. If you love to cook, we would be most happy to have you help us with one or all four meals. Please consider taking an hour or two this Advent season to volunteer before, during, or after one of the meals.

Lunch will be served from 11:00 AM - Noon and supper from 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

Please call the Church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org with any questions or to volunteer.

Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's Thanksgiving Day, November 25 (11:00 AM to 1:30 PM)

Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th Street)

Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon

Volunteers are needed to:

- set up the night before;
- donate pies/desserts; and
- serve food, greet, and/or

clean tables during the meal.



This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome.

Please contact Pr. Hall or the church office to volunteer.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts

LWR Mission Quilts create a tangible, lasting bond between the people who lovingly assemble them, and our neighbors around the world, who receive quilts in their greatest times of need. Our quilt group has packed up and sent 224 quilts they have made to Lutheran World Relief! We've also collected \$281 (and still counting) to send to LWR for postage. LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one quilt overseas is \$2.25, so thank you to all that contributed!

Since 2014, our quilts have been shipped to India, Serbia, Thailand, Bosnia, Montenegro, Ukraine, and El Salvador.

Our Personal Care Kits were sent to Lebanon and our New School Kits were sent to Mali.



Our sewing group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM if you would like to join them.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

Look What's Coming Up!

Advent Fair

Sunday, November 28

There will be crafts, cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, and fellowship. Make an Advent Wreath, ornament, gift bags, and more!

If you would like to share some of your best holiday cookies with the Kountze congregation, please sign up to bring a dozen, or more, of your favorite holiday cookies by calling the church office at 402-341-7761, or emailing kristin@kmlchurch.org.

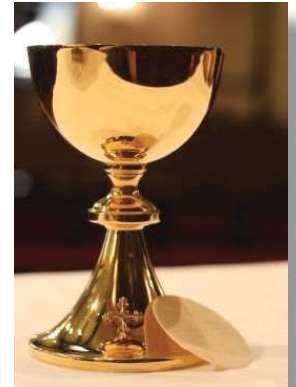
Join us!



First Communion

Congratulations to those receiving their first Communion on October 31, 2021.

Madelyn Aubry
Vance Aubry
Ryce Lee Brown
Harlow Elise Burton
Daylan Fleming
Ryelle Fleming
Andrew Caleb Hansen
Wayne Eugne Hardesty
Thomas Jensen
Bernadette Alyston Jones
Matilda Vivian Jones
Rilynn Krueger
Mila Ann Reilly
Zane Straney
Wyatt Wemhoff



First Communion Class



Children's Choir

9:20 AM

Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will attend the first part of the 9:00 service with their families, come forward for the children's blessing, and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.



2022 Summer Youth Trip Registrations

ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

July 24 – July 31, 2022

Grades 8 – 12

Pondering a God Beyond Measure – boundless – is the theme for the 4-day National Youth Gathering that takes place in Minneapolis, MN from July 24- 28, 2022. “I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is” – Ephesians 3:19 CEV.

We will extend our trip through July 31 to explore and serve in the Twin City area while possibly staying in a cabin on one of their 10,000 lakes. All 8th – 12th graders are encouraged to join in the journey. Your cost for the whole trip is \$450.00. Registration is due now with a \$150.00 non-refundable deposit. Please let Pastor Shari know your intention. Do not let finances keep you from signing up.

An extended registration date is January 5 with the cost of the trip increasing by \$50.00.



Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays, 10:10 AM

This year Youth Forum is open to all 7th – 12th graders. We meet most Sundays from 10:10 – 10:50 AM in the Youth Center. Although activities will be done together, there will be times where Jr High and Sr High will have discussion together within their groups.

The following is planned for November. Join us as you are able

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 7 | Serving |
| Nov. 14 | Youth Gathering Bible Study “God’s Boundless Love for Us” |
| Nov. 21 | Celebrate with Pr. Olaf |
| Nov. 28 | Game time! |

Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON)

Assembly

The annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly is a chance for youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders to gather from across Nebraska for a weekend of connecting with one another and connecting with God. LYON Assembly will be held 9:00 AM -6:00 PM on Saturday, November 20, at Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland and will feature community-building activities, worship, lunch, learning and serving. The theme this year is “Faith Over Fear,” and Psalm 34:4 is a guiding verse. Cost for the day is \$30.00. Transportation will be provided. Registration Forms and Fee must be turned into Pastor Shari by Thursday, November 4.

Confirmation Program

Confirmation in November continues with our in-person meetings from 6:00 – 7:45 PM on Wednesday evenings in the Kountze Fellowship Hall. We will be finishing our study of the Lord’s Prayer this month and having a Session on Discipleship “A Thankful Steward.”

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Wed. Nov. 3 | 6 th Petition |
| Wed. Nov. 10 | 7 th Petition and Doxology |
| Wed. Nov. 17 | Discipleship – “A Thankful Steward” |
| Wed. Nov. 24 | NO CLASS – A Blessed Thanksgiving to All! |



Siena Francis House

We give thanks to our partner in mission Siena Francis House who hosted our Confirmation families for a night of service on Wednesday September 29. We were able to hear a great presentation about many who experience homelessness in the Omaha area, what services are available, and what are hopes for the future. We then helped finish up organizing shirts



left over from their recent fundraising walk. We saw with our own eyes that many hands made quick work.

NEWS & Notes...



September 21, 2021

Motion and approval of the August minutes.

Motion and approval of Financial report given by Tim Backora. August had 5 Sundays and as such, giving was up and expenses were down. Year-to-date, we are still \$45,000 in the black.

Staff reports given and approved. Pastor Hall reported that the joint Thanksgiving meal with St. Peter's is a go for this year after last year's absence. The exterior window trim has been painted and the church doors have been restained.

Committee reports given. Christian Education reported that Sunday School and activities are in full swing. Congregational Activities is working with St. Peter's for a fall "coat drive" and is taking donations of new or gently used coats, hats, and gloves. Global Mission is looking for additional members. Outreach has 15 new members signed up for classes in September. Property Committee discussed possible railing near the lectern and near the choir loft, but no decisions have been made. Worship & Music has two worship leader training sessions in September.

Board reports given. Endowment Board will meet on October 26. deFreese Manor board reported the buyer has applied for HUD approval. The Nebraska Attorney General requires a 30-day notice to ratify the purchase agreement and to amend the articles of incorporation of Kountze Memorial, Inc (the owner of deFreese Manor). Ratification and article amendment vote is set for October 17. Notice has been given via the monthly newsletter, email, and bulletin. Parking lot negotiations are still on-going. KETV, LLC Board has received a recommendation from Lutz regarding KETV, LLC and access to the Servant Keeper program. Discussion was had by Council regarding KETV and the Servant Keeper program. No action was taken, Council requested Lutz recommendations, and the matter will be reviewed at the October council meeting. Council noted that a previous similar request was discussed at length by the Council. The Pantry reported that demand is up, and Friday's have picked up as well, and additional volunteers are needed.

Old Business. Council Retreat facilitated by Mary Lee Brock went very well. The Kountze Commons 501(c)(3) discussions are ongoing. The proposal of a new 501(c)(3) entity that would oversee and further the mission of Kountze Commons and will remain on the agenda.

New Business. Officer election results:
Vice President, Mike Jensen; Secretary, Jane Ross;
Treasurer, Tim Backora.

Committee election results: Christian Education, Ashley Sum; Congregational Activities, Steve Urlaub; Finance, Tim Backora; Global Mission, Bruce Nissen; Media and Technology, Steve Urlaub; Outreach, Jane Ross; Personnel, Mike Jensen; Property, Kate Jones; Social Ministry, Melissa Osentowski; Stewardship, Ann Miller; Worship & Music, Robin Perkins; Youth, Anne Dey.

Board election results: Endowment Fund Board, Mike Jensen; deFreese Manor Board, Jane Ross; Medical Clinic Board, Dr. Steven Hinrichs.

KETV Management Board, Kate Jones
Food Pantry, Jane Ross.

Installation of Council will occur at each service on Sunday, September 26. During the October 24 Forum the Council will do an introduction and listening session. Each Committee should draft a continuing resolution per the KMLC constitution/by-laws. Pastor Olaf will set up an exit interview with the Synod. Council discussed the formation of a Call Committee that will be composed of six voting members plus one alternate with additional voice-only members as needed.

Senior Pastor Call Committee:

1. Steve Urlaub (council),

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Alt. _____

Ann Miller (council, voice-only)

_____ (voice-only)

_____ (voice-only)

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:47 PM.

On Sunday, October 3, we celebrated those Kountze Pastors and Deacons who have served in ministry of the church. Former Bishop Rev. David deFreese, a son of the congregation, preached and a reception with cake and remembrances happened between services. Their notes of appreciation follow.

2020:

Deacon Jean Johnson - 20 years

I was honored to share the 20th anniversary of my ordination with my Kountze family on October 3. Thank you to Pastor Shari and Jim Smejkal for their hard work - and to the volunteers who planned, set up, put away, made food, did the slide show, and served in worship. It was a joy for me to read the cards that were left in my bag! I appreciate getting to spend my retirement years serving with all of you.



Pastor Deanne Lundahl- 35 years

Pr. Dee Dee was very happy to read your cards with her family. A shared family photo and butterfly cards were touching. The cards have been placed around her apartment. She feels loved by the Kountze family.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal - 40 years

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for the wonderful celebration of my 40th Ordination Anniversary. Thank you for the many cards, gifts and kind words. A special thank you to Pastor David deFreese for preaching and to Pastor Shari Duminy, the Worship and Music Committee, and everyone else who helped for their work.

2021:

Pastor Ashley Hall - 10 years

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Pr. Duminy, the members of the Worship & Music Committee, Council members, and anyone else involved in the celebration of ordination anniversaries on October 3. It was a wonderful day, filled with joy and countless cards. I felt very much affirmed and appreciated. This is a wonderful place to serve; thank you!

Pastor Paul Moessner - 45 years

Dear Saints of Kountze Memorial,
Thank you for including me in your observance of our anniversaries of ordination. Your many words, thoughts, and gifts help me look back with gratitude. You reminded me that God continues to use the seeds we planted together to yield fruit in our lives and in the lives of others.

Pastor Inba Inbarasu - 30 years

We sincerely appreciate our Kountze church family for their prayers and wishes on the 30th ordination anniversary.

Pastor Dean Bard - 40 years

Would like to thank everyone for recognizing his 40 year ordination anniversary.

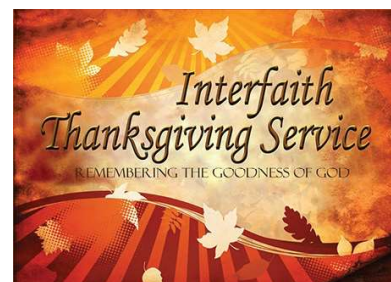
Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 21

5:00 PM

First Christian Church (6630 Dodge)

Kountze Memorial will once again be participating in the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Prayer Service. This has been a nearly 30-year old event and it arose out of the congregations that helped give birth to the ministries of Together, Inc. (Kountze Memorial was a constitutive partner in both the foundation of Together, Inc and the Interfaith Prayer Service). Please join us.



Kountze History from the



The Kountze Archives Committee New Members For This Committee Are Needed. Please Volunteer!

The Archive Committee Cl3.01.05 is one of the authorized congregational committees contained in the Bylaws of Kountze Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Archives Mission Statement:

Believing that the history of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church must be preserved so that the story of the past can be accurately understood by present and future generations. The charge and responsibility of the Archives Committee is to collect, appraise, and preserve all essential documents, records, minutes, and important papers - past and present - using the guidelines of the ELCA, traditional means and the latest technology.

The current church archives includes an archives room located adjacent to the basement youth room, an archives display case located in Fellowship Hall and wall display located by the Nursery for pictures of the senior pastors and a plaque with the names of all the called associate pastors. The Archives Committee stores all Kountze records including all church council minutes and other important historical records dating back to 1858, and the church's newsletters, some dating to the 1890's. Due to the age and fragility of some of these documents we scan them and digitally store them on the church computer which has been a huge task. These documents are contained in 106 large gray archive boxes located both in the church office and the archive room. The current inventory book includes 90 full pages of scanned documents.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a broken scanner capable of handling ledger sized documents, there has been no progress on completing the scanning of all remaining documents. The archive committee also serves as a source for people searching for information on their ancestors. We also have a large amount of photos and slides of past Kountze church events that need to be digitized. If you have an interest in history and would like to join this committee, please contact the church office at 402 341-7761 and the committee chairman will contact you.



Archives Room



Archives Display Case

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 9/1/2021.....	\$2,327,893.08
Principal Payment 10/1/2021.....	\$8,040.82
Interest Payment 10/1/2021.....	\$7,414.18
Balance 10/1/2021	\$2,319,852.26

Finances: September, 2021

	September	Year-to-Date
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 63,580	\$ 657,547
Expenses:		
Mission Support	\$ -	\$ 21,000
Christian Education:	\$ 538	\$ 1,892
Facility Costs:	\$ 19,102	\$ 109,011
Staff Compensation:	\$ 56,308	\$ 506,702
Worship & Music:	\$ 2,374	\$ 12,716
Parish Life:	\$ 947	\$ 2,985
Youth:	\$ 162	\$ 5,027
Office & Administration:	<u>\$ 8,257</u>	<u>\$ 52,482</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 87,688	\$ 711,814

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2021 - 9/30/2021)

Balance, 1/1/2021	\$ 50,000.00
Income:	
Donations:	\$ 60,034.83
Memorials	<u>\$ 1,020.00</u>
	\$ 61,054.83
Expenses:	
Aldi	\$ -
Costco	\$ -
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$ -
Family Fare	\$ -
Food Bank	\$ -
Other	<u>\$ 3,399.32</u>
	\$ 3,399.32
Balance	\$ 107,655.51

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



...to Søren and Don Johnson chipped out of the old mortar and tuck pointing on the section of the wall adjacent to the west side entrance.



Construction Loan

We currently have a construction loan with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. This loan (up to \$1.5 million) was authorized by the congregation to cover the costs of the sanctuary roof repairs and the repairs to the Stained Glass Windows. As of September 30 we have borrowed a total of \$949,021 and in September we paid interest on the loan of \$3,325 (YTD interest paid \$24,053). We have applied for yet another extension on the loan because of delays in completing the project

Pastoral Acts

(September 16 - October 15)

Funerals:

Gary D. Rodene, September 30, 2021

Wayne L. Houston, October 9, 2021

Live-streaming

In October we had some issues with the live-streaming of our 9:00 AM service. It turned out that our modem had to be replaced so that it was compatible with some upgrades to the system. We shouldn't have any more issues with it now.

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. (See below)

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.

Scriptures for Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Isaiah 9:1-2, 5-6:

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 63:1-17, 19:

For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name. ¹⁷Why, O LORD, do you make us stray from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage. ¹⁹We have long been like those whom you do not rule, like those not called by your name.

Isaiah 64:2-7:

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your

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Alternative Gifts, 2021

Those of you who are familiar with this program will be pleased to know that Alternative Gifts will again be offered by the Global Mission Committee to help our congregation share the true meaning of Christmas in their gift giving this Holiday. For those of you who aren't familiar, the Alternative Gift program is a way to help us reduce the materialism of Christmas and return to the true meaning: sharing God's love and message of hope to the world. Rather than buying yet another sweater, tie, or trinket for our family and friends whose material needs are already met, we can still show our love by supporting a cause that is meaningful to them, and that makes a life-changing difference to someone in need. The gifts that will be available this year are ones that will make a tangible difference in our community and the world. We hope to see you at the Alternative Gift table during Advent!

Here's how it works:

1. Choose a category and level of gift from the following list
2. Stop by the Alternative Gift table in Fellowship Lounge any of the 4 Sundays in Advent
3. OR mail your gift wish list to the church office with your check made out to Kountze
4. You will receive a gift card that describes the gift you purchased in someone's honor.
5. You then can offer that gift card to your friend or family member as a Christmas Gift.

Alternative Gift Wish List 2021

	Price	Quantity	Total
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	_____	\$ _____
Support for Afghan Resettlement Families in Omaha			
Provide dishes or pots and pans for an Afghan Family	\$20	_____	\$ _____
Provide sheets and towels for an Afghan family	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Contribute toward furniture for an Afghan family	\$100	_____	\$ _____
Total		_____	\$ _____

Advent Wreath Blessing continued from page 12

presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you

hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Calendar...

**November 1 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

November 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:30 PM Christian Education

November 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

November 4 Thursday

10:00 AM Patricia Elson's Funeral

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

November 6 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 7 Sunday

All Saints Sunday

Daylight Savings--fall back 1 hour

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:00 PM Grief Seminar

November 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

November 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due

Veterans Day

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

November 13 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 14 Sunday

Pentecost 25

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

November 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

November 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Organ Tuning

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

November 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

November 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Circle 5

November 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

November 20 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 21 Sunday

Christ the King

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

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

10:10 AM Pr. Olaf's Retirement

Celebration

10:30 AM Executive Committee

5:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service - First Christian Church

November 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Circle 3

November 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:30 PM Worship

November 25 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving

Meal @ St. Peters

November 26 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED - No Pantry

November 27 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 28 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall -

No Sunday School/Forums

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

November 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**Sunday
November 7**

We "fall
back" one hour
and return to
Standard Time
on Sunday, November 7, at 2 AM.
Be sure to set your clocks back one
hour before bed Saturday night!





1. Myrtle Hinrichs, A Jones, Cameron McCarthy, Sherry Nickel
3. Danna Grinnell, Anne Ozar, Robert Siffring
4. Lora Sarich
6. Kimberly Grassmeyer, Jane Kidder, Melissa Osentowski, Charlie Wachholtz
7. Patrick Kuehn, Tiffany Zaporowski, Corey Wagg
8. Randy Rolfe, Angela Svacina, Carol Herzog
9. Tyler Anderson, Gerald Clanton, Shirley Dietrich, Pamela Duffield, Leslie Hartmann, Paul Nippert, Carolyn Wheeler, Douglas Heim,
10. Robin Jones, Paulette Luetje, Katrina Venn, Tyler Willson,
11. Scott Dixon, Dean Vancaster
12. Zeya Klemmensen, Deanna Lundin, Christina Raber, Dannika Rees, Jeanne Schramm, Claire Smock, Ethan Ray
13. Anthony Jones, Kristine Olson, Eleanor Ward, Diana Wilkins
14. Sharon Anderson, Christopher Vawter
15. Blake Gittler
16. Robin Ferguson, Christopher Fischer
17. Collin Lundin
18. Dwight Kurbis, Hailee Kjeldgaard, Judith Ryan, Cole Schramm
19. Vanessa Bang, Antonio Costanzo, Linda Peltz, Braden Bonacci, Lynn Schneiderman, Jeanette Sikora, Sarah Willson
20. Kenneth Johnson, Garrett Zaporowski
21. Justin Diggins, Paul Gittler, Matthew Minturn, Stacy Martin
22. Katharine Lefebvre, Reida, Carol Stoltenberg, Derek Reichert
23. June Anderson, Kyle Johnson, Kent Rasmussen, Roberta Worm
24. Benjamin Brinkman, Emma Chand, Tristan Johnson, Kyra Peterson, Douglas Reed, Nick Wemhoff
25. Linda Filbrandt, Jacob Stier, Benjamin Svacina
26. Jeremy Lange, Dennis Beckman
27. Adam Arispe, Sean McLeod, Duane Retzlaff
28. Walter Nash, Donna Reinig
29. Albert Grage
30. Beverly Bannick, Carl Englert, Stefanie Ervin, Katie Harshbarger, Joshua Kellams, John Mertz, Debra Robinson

Book Group

Sunday, November 14

12:15 PM

Fellowship Hall Lounge

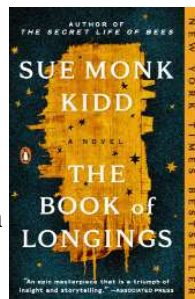
The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd

This is the fourth novel of fiction written by best selling author, Sue Monk Kidd.

The novel begins with the quote by the character, Ana. "I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus ben Joseph of Nazareth."

Ana is a young woman who had a curious mind and was ambitious and rebellious. She was blessed with gifts and talents bestowed on her by God which were better suited for men. Her father was the head Scribe and Counselor of their tetrarch. Ana was educated and her life was a struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place, and culture devised to silence her. When she met 18-year-old Jesus, her heart was awakened and she was able to share his spiritual and philosophical ideas. Their marriage unfolds in his home in Nazareth with his family. The book reveals an approach to the humanity of Jesus' Life.

Join us for a spirited discussion of the novel. The Book Group will not meet in December. Happy Holidays!



SECOND Annual Men's Chili Cookoff

Thursday, November 18

11:30 AM

Call the church office or email jim@kmlchurch.org to sign up by Tuesday, November 17. Let us know if you will be entering a pot of chili or just attending.

If you're entering a pot of chili, there is no cost; otherwise, suggested donation for the event will be a stuffed animal/ toy to be distributed by the Kountze food pantry as Christmas gifts for our young pantry guests.

Last year's winners were:

Dr. Jerry Fisher (1st place)

Chet Worm (2nd place)

Don Johnson (3rd place).

Come vote on your favorite chili. There will be prizes for the top three and a great time of fellowship for all.



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Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is televised live on Cox channel 13 and live streamed on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may watch the live-stream at anytime)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stained Glass Window Update

Just a brief update on our stained-glass windows. We don't have an actual install date yet but Bovard studios is getting ready to start extruding our aluminum frames. It sounds like most of the materials have arrived and they are putting finishing touches on the building addition where our frames will be assembled to ensure that when everything arrives here in Omaha that everything goes smoothly.

To the right is a picture of the template of the upper window on the East side that was just finished.

