

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaughter	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

November 26 & 27, 2022

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshipping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for 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

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God given by Tom Holcome in memory of wife, Jean

#### Kountze Café

**Sundays from 9:30—11:00 AM**

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast (this Sunday) and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

#### Children's Choir

##### Second Floor Music Room

**9:15 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)**

##### Grades K-5 - Choir

##### Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

#### Sunday School

**Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). This week: Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall

#### Youth Forum

**Sundays, 10:10 AM in Youth Center**

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** No Forum—Advent Fair: join with others in the fellowship hall with ways to prepare for Christ's coming **Next week:** Help with the Sunday Christmas Program

### 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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

### Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a 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

Our 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 attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

**Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.**



## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Advent Fair **Next week:** Advent Preview

### Advent Fair

#### Sunday, November 27

##### 10:00 AM—Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### November 27 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall - No Sunday

School/Forums - join us

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

### November 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Bible Study

### November 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### November 30 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch

11:00 AM Bible Study

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Advent Dinner

6:30 PM Worship—Holy Darkness

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

### December 1 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### December 2 Friday

Parent's Night Out

5:00 PM Pantry

### December 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

### December 4 Sunday

Advent 2

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Bible Study

#### Mondays, 6:00 PM or

#### Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Lutheran World Relief Advent Study: Keep Watch and Prepare. Enter through the Farnam office door.

### Advent Meals

#### Lunch 11:00 AM - Noon

#### Supper from 5:00 - 6:30 PM

We are once again making preparations to provide lunch and dinner meals again this year. 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 or just want to join in the fun 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 or more of the meals. Please call the Church office or email: [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) with any questions or to volunteer.

### Kountze Food Pantry & WOWT

#### Stuff the Bus Food Drive

#### Thursday, December 1

We are honored to have been chosen as one of two pantries to be recipients of the WOWT Stuff the Bus Food Drive! While this is very exciting news, and we are grateful, it will require a good deal of work and

many hands. The receiving event will take place on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. We need volunteers to sort and store canned goods at Kountze beginning at 9:00 AM in two-hour shifts. We also need two kind souls at a time to man the drop-off site at the NP Dodge building at 87<sup>th</sup> and Dodge St. beginning at 7:00 AM. We also need competent forklift drivers. If you are willing to help us fulfill our mission to "Feed the Poor, in Christ's Name," please sign up at the following link:

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

### **Parent Night Out**

**Friday, December 2**

**6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at KMLC**

High School and Middle School youth will keep your children active while you take some time for yourself. A meal will be served and activities are provided. Pastor Shari will be present as youth of all ages connect with one another for a fun time together. Email [shari@kmlchurch](mailto:shari@kmlchurch) to register your children preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 6<sup>th</sup> - 12 graders, let Pastor Shari know if you can assist during this time.

### **Sr. High Lock-In**

**for ELCA Omaha-wide Churches and Friends**

**Friday night, December 2**

**10:00 PM to 7:00 AM at KMLC**

**Cost is \$5 and a Snack to Share**

Sign up with Pastor Shari by Wednesday, November 30. We are bringing back the Search of the Holy Grail!

### **Advent Begins November 26-27**

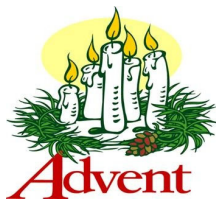
In addition to the Saturday/Sunday services, we will gather for midweek services beginning November 30. See below for the schedule.

### **Decorate for Advent/Christmas**

**Saturday, November 26**

**9:30 AM**

Come and help adorn our church for the Advent/Christmas season. A group of dedicated and capable volunteers will be here to let you know how you can help.



### **Alternative Gifts**

**November 27—December 18**

When you give someone an Alternative Gift, you triple the blessings: The person who receives the gift not only feels your love and generosity, they will be honored that you gave them a gift that truly makes a difference in someone's life. You will also feel the blessing of giving a gift that represents God's love and compassion for all people and rejects the commercialization of Christmas. The third blessing is

for the child or family who benefits from your gift of food, medicine, education, or a step toward self-sufficiency. An order sheet will be in your bulletins beginning next Sunday, November 27.

### **Wednesdays in Advent**

**November 30, December 7, 14, & 21**

**Eucharist at 12:15 PM**

**Vespers at 6:30 PM**

Featuring Marty Haugen's musical setting, *Holden Evening Prayer*. The pastors' reflections at these services will follow the theme "Holy Darkness."

### **Tuba Christmas**

**Sunday, December 11**

**3:30 PM**

**Kountze Memorial**

**Free to the Public**

### **Candlelight Carol Service**

**Saturday, December 17**

**5:00 PM; Prelude 4:40 PM**

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing and worshipful reflection. Nursery is provided and join us for a dessert reception following the service.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 18**

**9:00 AM**

### **Christmas Eve Services**

**4:00, 7:00 (Livestream & Cox Cable), and 11:00 PM**

### **Christmas Day Service**

**10:00 AM (Please Note: one service only) - Watch for information regarding livestream and Cox Cable**

### **Saturday, New Year's Eve**

**December 31**

**5:00 PM Worship**

### **Saturday, New Year's Day**

**January 1, 2023**

**10:00 AM Worship (Please Note: one service only) - Watch for information regarding livestream and Cox Cable**

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday: 23**

**Sunday: 9:00: 149 11:00: 57**

**Total: 229**

**Streaming: 73**

Some numbers not available due to early printing because of Thanksgiving.

*Advent is the season of hope.*

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The coming of salvation
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5	Peace that lasts forever
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14	The day when Christ returns
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-7	The great faith of God's people
Thursday	Psalms 125	A song of trust in God
Friday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 122	A song of praise
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord



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O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! **Isaiah 2:5 (NRSV)**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the light of the world, guide our steps to walk in your light. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we eat and drink with thankful hearts this day, for all that you provide every day and in every way. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May all go well with you and may peace be within you, through Christ our light and our salvation.

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

- Talk or think about a time you were waiting for someone or something with excitement.
- Advent means *arrival* or *coming*. How do you get ready for the coming of Jesus?
- In dark times Jesus brings light and hope. How do you experience hope?

*Read:* Isaiah 2:1-5.

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation of God's action to redeem and save the world. That is Isaiah's message, too. Isaiah sees what others do not. Isaiah sees Jerusalem as the highest mountain, but Psalm 125:2 sees other peaks as higher. Isaiah sees the people walking in the paths of the LORD's teaching, but before and after Isaiah 2, judgment is announced for the people's disobedience. Isaiah sees weapons of violence and destruction that are turned into farming tools, but the nations of Israel and Judah were utterly destroyed by its neighbors. The message of Isaiah is a message of hope that the Christian faith holds to while brokenness and sin are still seen every day of our lives. What hope do you cling to as a follower of Jesus?

*Pray:* **Come Lord Jesus, come and bring peace between nations. May we see the light of your glory in all the world. Amen.**

In Psalm 122:8 it says: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." During this season of hope, list ways you can give hope to those who are sad or anxious and help them to feel "the peace within." How will you choose to let your light shine through acts of service to others during the four weeks of Advent?

Set up or make an Advent wreath for your home. There are four candles in a circle on the wreath and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God. The four candles are often blue to signify the hope of the Advent season. The center candle is white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This first week you will light one candle.

*Say:* This is the first week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of Hope. [Light one candle]

*Read:* O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

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

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19