

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

November 27, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

ADVENT WREATH HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

ELW 257 vs. 1

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

Text: *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

- ☞** We praise you, O God,
☞ for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

(light the first candle)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

ELW 436 vs. 1-2

**1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.**

**2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.**

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- ☞ **By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace.

Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122 (read responsively)

¹I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have

stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Are Waiting for Jesus”

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

THE NICENE CREED

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God, in your mercy,
 G hear our prayer.

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

Prayers This Week: Marge Grabow, Pr. Bob Johnson

On-going Care: Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Chris Meyer, Lara McCormick, Debra Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*— Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Come, Emmanuel, Come”

by Don Besig & Nancy Price

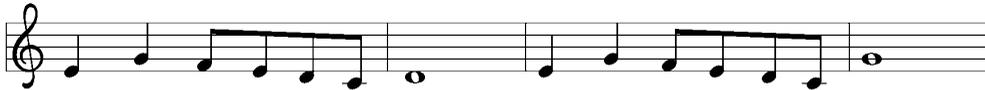
(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

ELW 814

sing three times



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Eternal God,
- ☑ you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

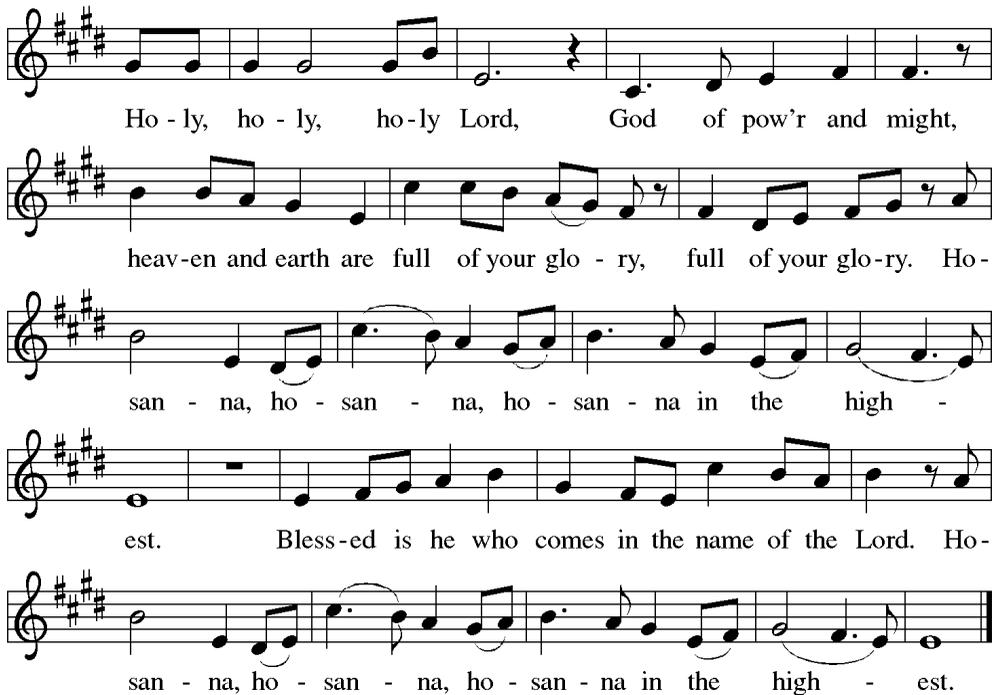
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: ...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ With this bread and cup ...
We look with hope for his coming.

- ☑ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit ...
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ All praise and glory are yours, ...
one God, now and forever.

- ☑ **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

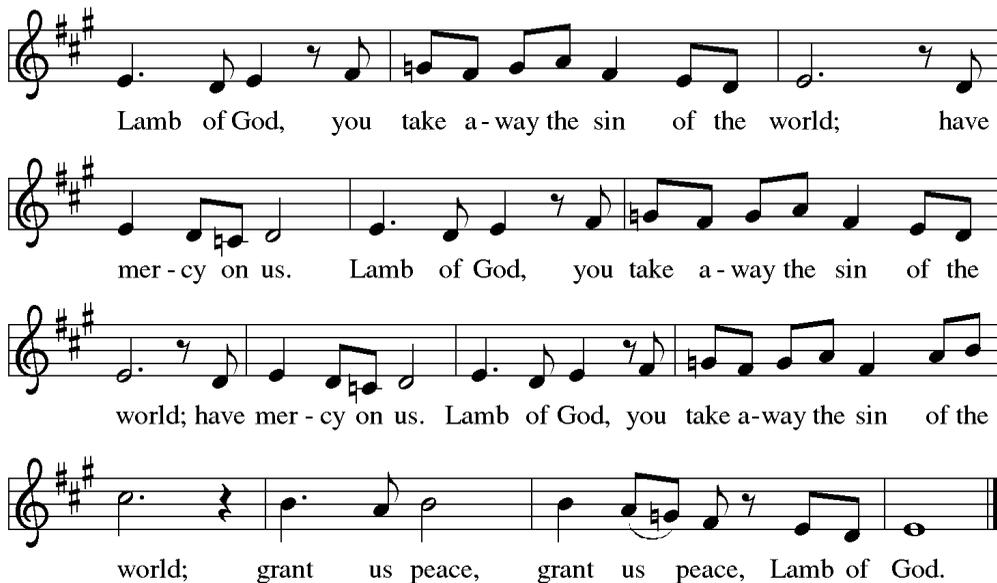
- ☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come, do not fear!

C Here is your God, who has come to save you.

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

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

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

ACS 949



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Refrain
Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Faithful God,

☩ **in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244 vs. 1, 2, 4

**1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.**

**2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.**

**4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!**

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722;
tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Christ is near.

☩ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

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

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 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). This week: Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM in Youth Center

7th - 12th 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.

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-6th gr)

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

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 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 87th 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 to register your children preschool - 5th grade. 6th - 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



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

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