

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

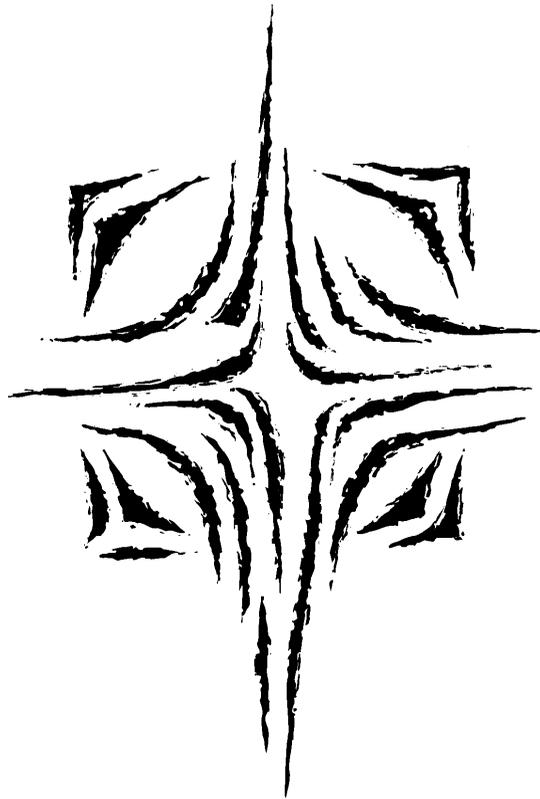
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

December 25, 2022

10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY



As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

GATHERING

Please stand when you hear the Sanctus bells ring

(stand)

INTROIT

- P** To us is born a child and to us is given a son: his dominion is on his shoulders and he will be called angel of great counsel.
- G** **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has worked wonders.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288

**1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- G** **And also with you.**

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

GLORIA

“Glory to God in the Highest”

Assisting minister



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

All



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



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



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;

(continued on next page)



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray . . . All-powerful and unseen God,
- ☑ **the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:6-12

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord, A City Not Forsaken.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion,

“See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”

¹²They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 97 (read responsively)

¹The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

²**Clouds and darkness surround the Lord,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God’s throne.**

³Fire goes before the Lord,
burning up enemies on every side.

⁴**Lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**

⁵The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶**The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord,
and all the peoples see your glory.**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!
Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.

⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O Lord.**

⁹For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰**You who love the Lord, hate evil!**

God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.

¹²**Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?”



☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others."

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

☐ The Gospel of our Lord

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

ELW 263

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.</p> <p>2 Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.</p> <p>3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!</p> | <p>4 From God's heart the Savior speeds,
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.</p> <p>5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.</p> <p>6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!</p> |
|---|--|

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397;
Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

(stand)

THE NICENE CREED

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

**☩ 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 of grace,
C hear our prayer.

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this 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

MUSICAL OFFERING

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679 vs. 1&3

**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of abundance,
G receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

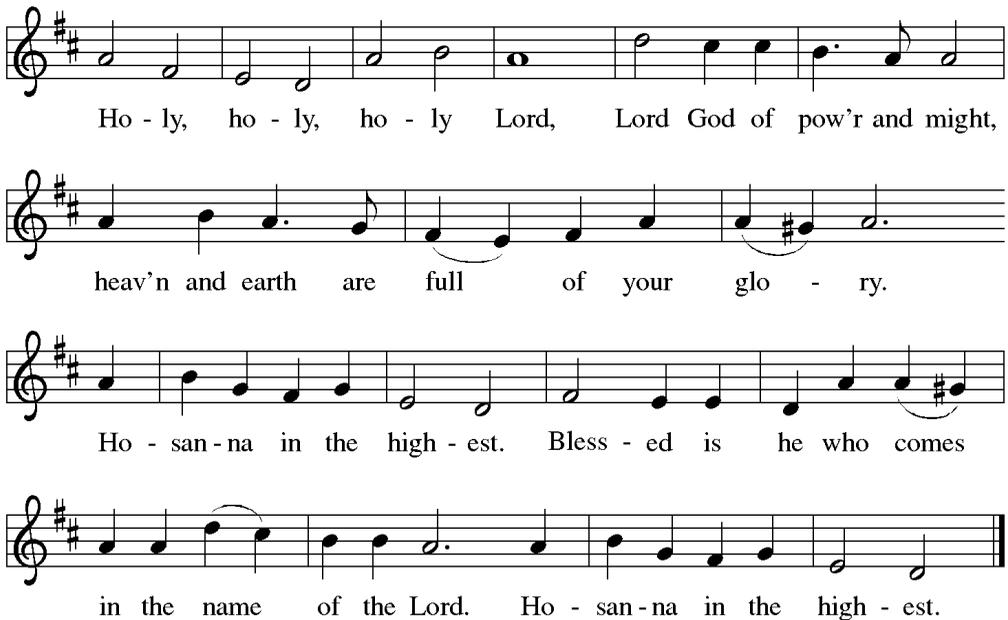
- ☐ Lift up your hearts.
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**

- ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

- ☐ 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...
...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup...
...We look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit...
...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** All praise and glory are yours...
...one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.**

LAMB OF GOD

- C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us!**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us!
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Glory to God in the highest!
- C** **Come to the table of peace.**

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God our redeemer,
- C** you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

- P** Let your servant now depart in peace, O Lord,
- C** For your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation that you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.</p> <p>4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DISMISSAL

☞ Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Poinsettias are Given to the Glory of God...



In Memory of:

our beloved son, Randy Anderson Szemplenski	Dean & Darlene Anderson
Uncle Tom Sullivan	Brett, Jack and Grandma Kathe Bailey
Grandma Marge Sullivan	Brett, Jack and Grandma Kathe Bailey
Grandma Jane Bailey	Brett, Jack and Grandma Kathe Bailey
loved ones	Marge Bock
Dwaine Carlson	Ellie Carlson
loved ones	Ellie Carlson
Dar & Lois Soll	Barb Chrisman
Pauline Brager	Barb Chrisman
Bill Jr, Dorothy, Bill III Chrisman	Barb Chrisman
Laura Chrisman	The Chrisman Family
Dale & Jean Clatterbuck and Bill Lepper	Gary & Debi Clatterbuck
Lawrence & Marion Cooke	Warren Cooke
Edward & Betty Coufal	The Coufal family
Myron Klug	The Coufal family
Tim Daugherty	The Coufal family
Joe & Thelma Councill, Ed & Marie Debus	Joe Councill family
Jackie and Stephanie McCoy, Lou & Pat Granneman	Joe Councill family
Vern McAleer and Kathy Stauffer	Joe Councill family
Tim Daugherty	Linda, Ryan & Rebecca Daugherty
Mom, Dad, Sheryl & Jan	Barb Donelson
Gigliatti Family members	Robert & Patty Ellison
Ellison family members	Robert A. Ellison
Loved ones	Gloria Erickson
John & Bernetta Johnson	Mary Jo Fike
Kelcey Renae Fike	Mary Jo Fike and family
Randall S Fike	Mary Jo Fike and family
Dad, Rocco Fili	Caleb Fili, Sarah & Josh Kellams
Dorothy & Wayne Fischer	Jerry Fischer & Marsha Vance
Sharon Fonda	Bill Fonda
Eugene & Mildred Fonda	Bill Fonda
Granddaughter, Hannah Rief	Leigh & Vicki Freeman
our parents	Leigh & Vicki Freeman

Curt wife, Marge Grabow
 Bob and Gayle Ringo..... Tom & Theresa Gruber
 Bob & Delores Gruber Tom & Theresa Gruber
 Mary Rose Griber..... Tom & Theresa Gruber
 Stan & Mary Jane Hansen..... Len & Janice Hansen
 Ben & Lorine Nelson Len & Janice Hansen
 Evan Hardy.....Alex & Karen Hardy
 Cynthia Sacks Henry, Frida, Lens & Evan
 Lorri & Tommy Enough..... James Holzer & Tracey Saklar
 loved ones..... Duane & Penny Hovendick
 Elaine Drcikey Husband, Kids & Grandkids
 Janet Woodhull Young and Byron WoodhullSteve & Karen Jacobson
 Evelyn, Norris, & Brian JacobsonSteve & Karen Jacobson
 Loved ones..... The Jensen's, Muchmore's, and Luczynski's
 Gerhard & Cecilia MollerKen & Linda Johnson
 Laura & Albin JohnsonKen & Linda Johnson
 Geri Laney and Carol OlsonKen & Linda Johnson
 Marilyn & Jack BakerKen & Linda Johnson
 Joe Kubat Jack Kubat
 Cathy Zinn Marie Kubat
 Wayne and Sonyarae Simmonds daughters Sherri, Terri and Sandi Labeledz
 Terry Labeledz Frank & Sherri Labeledz
 Jan McReynolds Frank & Sherri Labeledz
 Stan and Bernice Labeledz..... son, Frank and daughter-in-law Sherri Labeledz
 beloved brother, Peter Andrew Miller Ann Miller
 my grandparents, Moe & Andrew Miller and Andy & Helen Ann Miller
 Ruth Nielsen Bruce & Barbara Nissen
 our grandparents..... Bruce & Barbara Nissen
 Donna Olson Steve Olson
 Russ Olson..... Steve Olson
 Rick Picha Wife and Children Picha
 our parents Robert & Pat Ranney
 Pat's sister, Jean..... Robert & Pat Ranney
 Kathryn Swoboda..... The Reed/ Goenjes Family
 John Groenjes The Reed/ Goenjes Family
 Lola Reed The Reed/ Goenjes Family
 Marjean Sack Norm Sack
 Margaret Sack..... Norm Sack

Barbara Saklar	Tracey Saklar and Kris Placzek families
Charles & Augusta Laushman	Tracey Saklar and Kris Placzek families
Joy Beavers	Tracey Saklar and Kris Placzek families
Chris & Nadine Saklar	Tracey Saklar and Kris Placzek families
Family & Friends	Laurine Savine
Lee Sealer.....	Judy Sealer
M. Eugene & Barbara Tollefson.....	David Tollefson
Brandon Kamphaus	David Tollefson
Noel Tollefson.....	David Tollefson
Dorothy Cross	Tunzer Family
Raymond & Edna Krog.....	Marsha Vance & Jerry Fischer
my father, Sam Weigel	Erica Weigel
Carl, Mae, Susan & Chris Johnston	The West Family
my father, Edward White	Allyson White
my grandparents, Gifford & Alice Anderson and John & Margaret White	Allyson White
my beloved husband, Don.....	his wife, Vickie Wichert
our beloved sister, Kaye Bock.....	Vickie Wichert and Dean & Darlene Anderson
Brother of Dick Sievers	Dan & Karen Wolf
Our Parents.....	Sara & Chet Worm
Bill and Joanne Worm.....	Worm, Jones, Miranda Carreto, and McLaren families
CPL Jeremy Jones.....	Worm, Jones, Miranda Carreto, and McLaren families
Janet & Joey Woster	Alan & Jenna Woster
J. Robert Wallin.....	Lyn & Charlie Ziegenbein

In Honor of:

All of the Kountze Pastors, Staff, and Volunteers	Debbie Bogue
Pantry & Clinic Volunteers.....	Dale & Tina Broekemeier
Our Grandchildren	Gary & Debi Clatterbuck Clatterbuck
our grandchildren, Joey, Jackson, Lilly, Samantha, and Ty.....	Patt & Joe Councill
Our Grandchildren	Bob & Sandy Fonda
Parents of our 13 grandchildren.....	Ken & Linda Johnson
Joe Kubat & Cathy Zinn.....	Jack & Marie Kubat
Kountze Pantry Volunteers.....	Jane & Ralph Ross
Musicians	Laurine Savine
Volunteers	Laurine Savine
our children and grandchildren	Pat & David Studts
Matt & Aelea.....	Alan & Jenna Woster
Randy & Autumn	Alan & Jenna Woster

Alice Pickinpaugh Grandkids and Great-Grandkids
Ethan, Markus, Sam, Henry, Ken & Kai.....Grandma & Grandpa
my mother, Darlene White.....Allyson White

Love Gift by:

Jacqui Johnson Family

Diane Jones

The Stephens Family



If you would like to take a poinsettia home, you may pick it up on January 1 after the 10:00 AM service or later in the week (January 3 or after from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM until they are gone). Please enter through the church office doors.

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 Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 24 & 25, 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

Kountze Café

Christmas Day & New Year's Day

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Kountze Café

We will be taking a break on Sundays, December 25 and January 1. A fellowship time of coffee and Christmas cookies will follow our 10 AM Worship on those days. Beginning again January 8, join us each Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM 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.

Nursery

The KMLC Nursery officially opened Sunday, December 11, and will be open every Sunday from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services. We need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to email Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

Sunday School

December 25 & January 1:

- No Sunday School. Preschool will be provided during the 9 AM service.

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

No Youth Forum on Christmas or New Years, but join us again on January 8 at 10:10 AM for a time of community, learning, and serving. On January 8 we will be assisting with Sunday School.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

No Youth Forum on Christmas or New Years, but join us again on January 8 at 10:10 AM

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.

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



This Week at Kountze Memorial

December 25 Sunday

Christmas Day NOTE SERVICE TIME CHANGE
10:00 AM (in person, TV, & Livestream)
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

December 26 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

December 28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

December 30 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 31 Saturday

New Year's Eve
5:00 PM Worship

January 1 Sunday

Christmas 1
New Year's Day
9:00 AM (TV & Livestream only)
10:00 AM Worship (Note time)
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

January 2 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

January 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 4 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

January 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 6 Friday

Epiphany of Our Lord
5:00 PM Pantry

January 7 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

January 8 Sunday

Epiphany of Our Lord
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
12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology

Sunday, January 8

6:30 PM

Place TBA

For latest information join on Facebook, or email
omahalutheranyoungadults@gmail.com

Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and
Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

Dec. 26 & 28 No Study

Beginning January 9 & 11 we will explore Epiphany Themes as
we unwrap the present of Christ in our lives.

Middle School NE Synod Gathering

Grades 6-8 and Adult Leaders

Saturday, January 14, 10:00 AM to

Sunday, January 15, 1:00 PM

Held at First Lutheran Church in Kearney

This year's theme is "Lean on Me" with theme verses: Isaiah
41:13 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. Registration Rates: Last
Chance registration by **December 26**: \$68. Please return the
registration form with payment to Pastor Shari to get
registered.

Confirmation

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening beginning
again on January 4 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During
the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the
church.

New Member Class

January 15 & 22

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial
and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation,
please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office
if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

Carol Joy Holling High School Retreat

For 9th - 12th graders

January 21-22

1:00 PM Saturday - 1:30 PMish Sunday

Cost is \$50 per person and register by January 13 at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th - 12th graders will take place
July 10-15, 2023. (This is a change from Sunday to Friday to a
Monday to Saturday.) Registration is extended till **January 29**
for \$400.00 and **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will
be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in
suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service
projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study

and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer!

Jumping with Jesus Through Life's Highs and Lows

4-6th graders

Friday, January 27

6:45-9:00 PM

Altitude Trampoline Park

5575 N 90th St

A Trampoline Park formation adventure for youth from across Omaha's Lutheran Congregations will gather for fellowship, creative learning, and lots of jumps! Friends are welcome as long as they register. Treats and water provided. Register and pay Pastor Shari by Wed. Jan. 25th. **You must fill out Altitude's jump waiver on their website or this link: <https://altitude.active8pos.com/public/waiver/video?loc=OMAHA>

Carol Joy Holling Camp 2023

Register for camp by January 31 and **receive \$50 off and get a free CJH Camp Beanie**. The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a CJH Camp Beanie.

2022 Contribution Note

In order for your offerings to be counted toward your 2022 giving, it needs to be in the office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2022.

Join our Kountze Café Team!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew on the 3rd and/or 4th Sunday from 8 – 11:30 AM. The 2nd Sunday Continental Breakfast: 2 people to set up from 8-9 AM, 3 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM. The grocery lists are established, who might be willing to shop and get the supplies to the church by Saturday morning? There are also opportunities to make mini quiches on the 2nd Saturday of the month and French Toast Bake the 4th Saturday of the month. Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you might respond.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle & TV Broadcast

The new sign up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210. Donating altar flowers or the Eternal candle or providing a church broadcast 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. The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.

Kountze Pantry

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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

Peace Light from Bethlehem

For the past 700 to 1,000 years, an oil lamp has burned continuously in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, above the place where Jesus was believed to have been born. Every year since 1986, a child from Austria has traveled at the beginning of Advent to obtain the flame, and with the help of Austria Airlines, transports the flame – called the Peace Light from Bethlehem – across Europe. Since 2000, the Peace Light has also been making its way to North America each year, with New York's JFK Airport as its transfer point. This simple but extraordinary project is intended to promote peace, harmony, and unity among all peoples of the world – of every race, ethnicity, and creed. Thanks to St. John's Catholic Parish at Creighton University, the Peace Light now burns at Kountze and will continue through Epiphany. It will be used each time we light the Advent wreath. As you gather for Advent worship, may it remind us of the peace of Christ that we share with and receive from others throughout our daily lives. For more about the project, visit peacelightnorthamerica.org to view where the peace light is traveling and available across the US this year. Also, check out this video of last year's Peace Light Arrival Ceremony at JFK Airport <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG0B01LgzAs>

and another video on its previous sharing across the US <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz7RDj7TE04>

Holden Village

July 22 – 29, 2023

Save the date and watch the bulletin and Good News for more information. Contact Pastor Duminy with any questions you may have or to let her know if you intend to go on the trip by Tuesday, January 3. We need to submit a reservation list by January 5-

Worship with us this Christmas Season!

New Year's Eve

5:00 PM

Lessons and Carols

New Year's Day

9:00 AM

NOTE TIME CHANGE
(Pre-recorded for TV and Livestream only)

10:00 AM

Lessons and Carols (in person)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 153

Sunday: 9:00: 174 **11:00:** 45

Wednesday: 12:15: 6:30:

Total: 372

Streaming: 101

Cox Cable:

Pantry Guests Served: 1076 (inc. 363 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$20,107.12 (Regular) \$7,282.88 (Specials)

\$2,147.00 (Debt Reduction)

The glory and power of God is here.

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

Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Monday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Let Zion rejoice
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-12	God has spoken by a Son
Wednesday	Isaiah 62:6-12	Salvation of Zion
Thursday	Psalms 97	The glory of God's reign
Friday	Titus 3:4-7	Maintain good deeds
Saturday	Psalms 98	Sing praises to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt



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And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of hope, peace, joy, and love, we thank you for your glory, power, and might as shown to us in the humble birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who feed shepherds and kings alike, we thank you for this food, a sign of your glory, power, and might that is shown to us in Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of Jesus' birth shine brightly in you today.

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

- How does someone overcome the fear of darkness?
- How does Jesus bring you from fear and darkness into joy and light?

Read: John 1:1-14.

John's introduction of Jesus points to a world of contrasts between darkness and light, that is, between the power of fear and deception and the light of God that brings grace, and truth. The arrival of Jesus, the Word that became flesh and now dwells among us, sheds light on what true power and real life looks like: it's the glory of grace and truth. Grace is that divine gift of underserved kindness. In John truth is more than facts. It is a way of life lived in relationship to Jesus, who is "*the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). Jesus comes to shed light on that which brings God's glory and creates goodness and life. Through the Word that became flesh, all created life has come into being. Powers that live in darkness are not life-giving. The good news to hear this Christmas—and always—is that Jesus' light overcomes darkness. Jesus is the source of all that is life-giving, that which is full of grace and truth for all. It is the power worth knowing and trusting.

Discuss: Where have you seen the powers of darkness at work in the world? Where have you seen the powers of grace and truth at work in the world?

Pray: **God of glory and might, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who brings your grace and truth to conquer all the darkness of sin and evil. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others to have hope in the God of grace and truth?

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

Leader: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.** (John 1:5)

All: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Lessons & Carols