

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

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Omaha, NE 68131

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www.kmlchurch.org

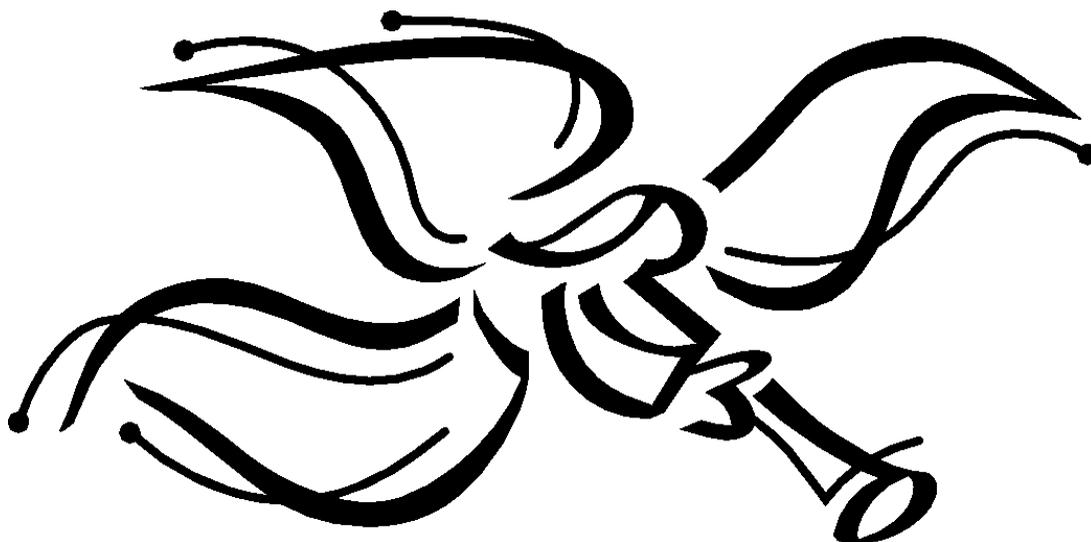
December 31, 2022

January 1, 2023

5:00 PM

10:00 AM

LESSONS and CAROLS



GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

GATHERING CAROL

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW 275 vs. 1-3

- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 3 **Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3;
Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

OUR NEED for a SAVIOR

LESSON

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "*Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?*" ²The woman said to the serpent, "*We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'*" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "*You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening

breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "*Where are you?*" ¹⁰He said, "*I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*" ¹¹He said, "*Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?*" ¹²The man said, "*The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.*" ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "*What is this that you have done?*" The woman said, "*The serpent tricked me, and I ate.*" ¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "*Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.* ¹⁵*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.*"

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

📖 Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

🙏 Amen.

📖 Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

📖 God of life,

🙏 **you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

📖 Hear the good news: We are the children of God and heirs of god's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

🙏 Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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>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

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.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O Lord God,
- C** you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PROMISES of a SAVIOR*(sit)***LESSON****A Just Lawmaker****Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "*If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.*" ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "*They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.*"

L Word of God, Word of Life.**C** Thanks be to God.

**1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

LESSON

A Righteous King**Isaiah 11:1-9**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.**

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2;
Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

LESSON

The Lord's Servant

Isaiah 42:1-10a

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

THE GIFT of a SAVIOR

LESSON

God with us...

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*" ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"*Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,*" which means, "*God is with us.*" ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"</p> | <p>2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|--|

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

LESSON

... in humility ...

Luke 2:1-7

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.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

**1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

LESSON

... making us children ...

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “*Abba! Father!*” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“*In the Bleak Midwinter*”

ELW 294

**1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.**

**2 Heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

**3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

LESSON

... of God.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL*“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

OUR RESPONSE to the SAVIOR

LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

CAROL

"From Heaven Above"

ELW 268 vs. 1&3

**1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:"**

**3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free."**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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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.

G 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.

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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!



OFFERING MUSIC

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268 vs. 10 & 12

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you.

12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of abundance,
- C** 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

- 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.

PREFACE FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268 vs. 13 & 14

13 My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:

14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

tune of "Away in a Manger" ELW 277

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your Name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

- ☩ 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

- ☩ Glory to God in the highest!
- ☩ Come to the table of peace.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487

- 1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!
- 3 What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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“The First Noel”

ELW 300 vs 1-3

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.
- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Refrain
- 3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Refrain

Text: English traditional

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ God our redeemer,
☞ **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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ Almighty God, who send the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.
☞ **Amen.**

SENDING CAROL

“Go Tell It on the Mountain ”

ELW 290

Refrain

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!</p> | <p>2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. <i>Refrain</i></p> |

Text: African American spiritual, refrain;
John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

David Gerard, *piano (5:00 PM)*
Mark Jones, *organ (10:00 AM)*

✠ ✠ ✠

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

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December 31, 2022 & January 1, 2023

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

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 9:00 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.



Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Karen Bonneau in appreciation of TV ministry workers, pastors and office staff

Kountze Café

New Year's Day

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Kountze Café

We will be taking a break this Sunday. A fellowship time of coffee and cookies will follow our 10 AM Worship. 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 e-mail Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

Confirmation Class

January 4

6:30 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening beginning again on January 4 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the church.

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology Sozo Coffeehouse (1314 Jones St, Omaha)

Sunday, January 8

6:30 PM

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

Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

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

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

Lutheran Women Omaha(LWO)

Rejoice Lutheran Church

Tuesday, January 10,

12:00 Noon,

For questions or reservations, call Faith 402 734 4629

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.

Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

2nd Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- someone(s) to make mini quiches on **Saturday**
- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 3 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM

3rd Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

4th Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**
- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

Do you like to shop? The grocery lists are established,

but we need someone willing to shop for groceries and deliver them to the church by Saturday morning. This can be split by more than one person/family.

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 are able to serve.

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.

Holden Village

July 22 – 29, 2023

Register by January 3

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.

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>

Attendance & Giving

Christmas Eve: 4:00: 258 7:00: 199 11:00 93

Christmas Day: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 615

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: closed

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 4

Offering:

\$9,001.28 (Regular) \$20,587.99 (Specials)

\$7,088.16 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus enters our world of fears and insecurities.

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Tuesday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Jesus the high priest
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Isaiah 41:2-10	Israel assured of God's help
Friday	1 Chronicles 28:19-21	David encourages Solomon
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus



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Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Redeeming God, give us comfort to know your love and compassion to care for others as you love us through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks and praise for your goodness, mercy, and steadfast love that brings forth food from the earth to give us strength and health. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the presence of God fill you with mercy and steadfast love. (Isaiah 63:7-9)

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

- How do you tend to treat others when they are worried or afraid?
- How do others help you move beyond your fears and worries?

Read: Matthew 2:1-13.

The Christmas season deals honestly with our broken world and lives. Jesus and his parents experience a world that displays fear, threat, pain, and death, even for little children. The coming of Jesus makes it clear that it is in suffering that God's perfect work of love takes place (Hebrews 2:10). Joseph has to flee with his family to protect them from political powers that want the status quo, not salvation. The holy family experiences a life similar to all refugees who know too well what it means to leave their own homeland to seek refuge. Even the family's return to Bethlehem gets derailed by ongoing threats that redirects them to a new residence in Nazareth. Our Savior experiences the instability, fear, hate, and insecurities all too common in life. There is a judgment here on all of us when we contribute to the fears and insecurities of others while we seek our own advantage, our own security. Our Savior comes to save us from our misguided longings and fears.

Discuss: How does faith in Christ free you from your fears and insecurities that get in the way of caring for others?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you that you enter our world and our lives to turn our fears into compassion and insecurities into trust through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help refugees and others who live without enough food or shelter?

As you read Psalm 148, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. On a separate piece of paper list all those things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148, for instance, the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters! Think or talk about how each of the things from God's creation on your list can praise and glorify God (for example, the sun and moon by shining and sea monsters by splashing with joy).

Say: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 148:1)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12