

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	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
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 2 & 3, 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 worshiping, 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 the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

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. 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. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

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 8:45 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. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

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.



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of the marriage of Janet Diggins and David Drickey given by Barb Chrisman

Kountze Café

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 and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)
Grades K-6**

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us again next week in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms. This week, join us for our Annual Advent Fair from 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Advent Fair

Next Week: Bible Study – Created to Be (prep for ELCA Youth Gathering)

Advent Focus

This first week of Advent has us focusing on the theme, “Come Now.” During Sunday worship we will use the Gospel text. On Wednesdays, we turn to the prophet Isaiah.

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Advent Fair

Next week: TBD

Norma’s Nursery Open House

Sunday, December 3

10:00—11:00 AM

Stop by the Nursery sometime between 10:00 & 11:00 AM for our nursery renaming event.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

December 3 Sunday

Advent 1

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 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:00 AM Norma’s Nursery Open House

10:00 AM Advent Fair

December 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 6 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Advent Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

December 7 Thursday

12:00 PM Endowment Meeting

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 10 Sunday

Advent 2

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

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

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

3:00 PM Tuba Christmas Concert

5:00 PM Progressive Dinner & White Elephant Exchange (gr 7-12)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Advent Meals & Worship

December 6, 13, and 20

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship: 6:30

- Mark your calendars and join us for Advent meals followed by Worship.
- We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals.
- All meals are free will offering.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, December 7

2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

Annual Merry Tuba Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10

3:30 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the Public. It will be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Progressive Dinner and

White Elephant Christmas Gift Exchange

Youth in Grades 7-12

Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 PM

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Bring a White Elephant Gift to exchange. We will be transported to 4 homes in the area for Appetizers, Salad, Main Dish with Side, and

Dessert. RSVP ASAP with the Church Office so plans can be made for a fun evening together with other church members willing to host our group. It will be an evening to remember.

Candlelight Carol Service
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 16
Prelude begins at 4:40 PM
Service 5:00 PM
Reception Following
Nursery Care will be Provided

The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of sacred scripture and poetry, congregational carols, handbells, brass, organ, and piano. Please join us following the service for a lovely reception.

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17
9:00 AM

We are excited again, to hear our children sing and tell the story of Christ's birth. The children (grades prek-6) will present the Christmas story with music. The children should arrive by 8:25 that morning. The children in kindergarten through sixth grade will have a special practice on Saturday, December 16 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Carlsen at carlsen.barbara18@gmail.com. Following the

Christmas program, there will be a "wrap party" for the children during Sunday School time. We will have a small magic show, treats, and games. The kids always work so hard during this time and this will be a fun reward for their dedication.

Christmas Ushers Needed

If you will be here on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day, we could use your ushering help. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Nave for you to sign up if you're able to help. We also need help from Lectors and Communion Assistants. Call the church office or sign up on SignUp Genius for Lector and Communion Assistant. Thanks!

ELCA Young Adult Gathering
Young Adults (19-25-year-olds)
July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans

An ELCA Young Adult Gathering will take place at the same time as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Each group will have separate daytime offerings followed by a joint Evening Program. As this is a new event, plans are still being made. We hope you will consider attending this event. Please contact Pr. Shari or the church office if you are interested in attending. For more info or to register, go to

<https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering>

Kountze Food Pantry

This month the Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss, or flossing picks. Please place donated items in the marked box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone for donating soup in October! We can always use more grocery bags. We use both plastic and paper. Please sign up with the link below if you would like to serve at the Kountze Food Pantry.

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

If you haven't turned in your Statement of Intent cards, it's not too late. Additional cards can be found in the back of the Nave and in the Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Desk. If you didn't receive a magnet, be sure to pick one up this weekend when you return your pledge card.

GO AND BE



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 121 **11:00:** 54

Wednesday: 12:15: 7 **Conf:** 4

Total: 220

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: 762 (inc. 253 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$11,614.36 (Regular) \$370,308.72 (Specials)

\$350.28 (Debt Reduction)

Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:13-16	A call to holy living
Thursday	Psalms 147:7-11	Praise for God's care
Friday	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	The Thessalonians' faith
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news



© 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.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Restore us. O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **Psalm 80:19 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of awesome power, give us hearts filled with hope and gladness as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man.
Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for food and drink that gives us strength for the day and hope for the future through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord's face shine on you with hope through Christ Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- As you look to the future, what are some of your hopes?
- God came to us in the form of baby Jesus. How did this bring us hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 64:1-9.

Advent is a season of hope, that is, waiting and longing for what is not yet present. It is more than a season; it is a way of life for God's people. This is dramatically seen in Isaiah 64. We want the sense of awe to witness the presence of God that descends from the heavens above. It is as grand as mountains quaking and nations trembling. The divide is vast that separates us from the righteousness and power of God because of our brokenness, our sin. Our hope is not in our goodness but in the everlasting love of God who remembers us like a parent caring for a child. In Jesus we see our hope in God realized. As our God descends in the form of a babe, we hope and believe God has not forgotten us or left us to our own self-destructive ways. We are left in awe at the love and goodness of God that we not only see in Bethlehem, but also at the end of time when we witness *"the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory"* (Mark 13:26). Hope with a sense of awe is healthy for daily life and for our faith in God in Christ.

Discuss: What do you hope for during this Advent season as we await Christ's coming?

Pray: **Almighty God, your glory is seen in all that you do; give us eyes to see the hope we are given through the coming of Jesus as a baby and as the Son of Man at the end of time. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone to live with hope in the future?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make an Advent wreath and decorate it with evergreens. Place four candles on the wreath. Place the wreath on a counter or table where you can gather each week during Advent to light the candles. The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week, we light one candle, the candle of hope. Think or talk about what hope you imagine when you read Psalm 80:3: *"Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved."*

Light the first candle of hope and

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8