

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 43, Issue 11

December, 2023



Happy New Year! - Why Wait?

No, you're not confused about the date – but neither am I! December 3 is the first Sunday in **Advent**, which means in the liturgical world of the church, we're beginning a new year. And it's one of the times in the church calendar **when what's happening inside the church and what's happening outside the church can feel really at odds.** Outside the church the holiday season is already in full swing – Thanksgiving kicks off the Holiday Season (capital H, capital S!). Even as you're reading this, trees and lights and decorations are going up everywhere; people are sending out invitations to Christmas parties; cookies, fudge, and goodies galore tempt us on a daily basis; some of us are finishing up our shopping while others are just putting together their lists of who to buy gifts for.... It's a bustling season full of merriness... outside the church. But inside the church we are in a more somber season – a **season when we pay attention to the deepening gloom in the world and long for the coming of a Savior**, a season when we're focused on waiting and aching for a change in our lives.

Advent inside the church versus Christmas outside can make for a weird month of December – a time when we can feel impatient with the liturgy, or out of sync with the world around us. But we do our best to fit it all in. To stay faithful to the liturgical seasons, but also make some space for Christmas concerts and children's pageants. And to make it more complicated, this year the way the dates fall we only really have 3 weeks to fit it all in! How do we actually get it all done – and still find time to slow down, reflect and pay attention to the need for Jesus?

That is why **I love our Advent theme this year: Why Wait?** Because while it's true that Advent is about waiting, watching, longing for a Savior – it's also about recognizing the immediacy and gift of NOW. Now God is among us, now the world is ready for a Savior, now the Good News of great joy is proclaimed: God with us, come now! Why wait?! Here



is my invitation to you this December: live into the tension. Don't try to make it go away – notice it, embrace it, and let the tension teach you something about the tension of living as a child of God in this world. We are out of sync and at odds. But we're also part of this world. We live a "now but not yet" reality with the Kingdom of God. So be awake to the juxtaposition of Advent and Christmas – and wait expectantly for God to meet you, here and now.

I invite you to join us this Advent and Christmas season at Kountze. And to make a point to invite someone else to join you – someone hungry for newness in their life now, someone anxious and out of sync themselves with the season, someone who hasn't been to church in a long time but who might need to hear the Good News that God has come to us. Invite someone to come with you to church this season – why wait?

Pastor Lucy

WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This 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.

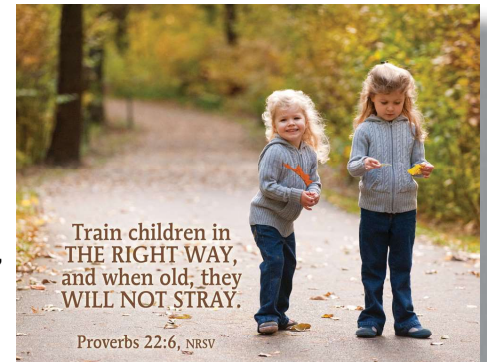
Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked "flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



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. We also have 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.



In this issue...

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- Alternative Gifts
- Candlelight Carol Service
- Children's Book Collection
- Children's Christmas Program
- Go and... Be Present
- High School Retreat
- Merry Tuba Christmas Concert
- Message of Gratitude
- New Member Classes
- Norma's Nursery
- Poinsettias
- Progressive Dinner & White Elephant Gift Exchange (grades 7-12)

GROW with us...



10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

- Adult Forum**
- November 26: Fellowship
 - December 3: Advent Fair
 - December 10: TBD
 - December 17: TBD
 - December 24: Fellowship
 - December 31: Fellowship

New Member Classes

January 14 & 21

10:15 AM



If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please consider joining our new member classes (please plan to attend both classes). New members will be received on Sunday, January 28. Please call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

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.

Please consider attending. More information can be found at <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering> Please let one of the Pastors know if you are interested so we can help you make connections for your trip. Madeline O'Kane is the primary leader for those from Kountze Memorial and Immanuel in Bellevue.



Advent Meals & Worship

December 6, 13, and 20

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship: 6:30

Join us for Advent meals followed by Worship. (Read Pr. Wynard's article regarding our theme for this Advent)

We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals. All meals are free will offering.

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 and time for fellowship.



SERVE with us...

Kountze Food Pantry



We are excited to partner with the SpartanNash Foundation, which is our local Family Fare stores. Through November 5, shoppers have the opportunity at checkout to consider donating \$1, \$5, \$10, or rounding up to the nearest dollar. 100% of the funds raised will go

directly to the Kountze Food Pantry.

We are still collecting canned soup for the Pantry. Please consider picking up an extra can or two and placing them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

As always, we can use your volunteer help! Please sign up at the link below if you would like to serve at the Kountze Food Pantry.

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

Food Pantry Report (1/1/2023 -10/31/2023)

Income:

Grants	\$	2,775.00
Donations:	\$	38,114.06
Memorials	\$	<u>20,133.98</u>
	\$	61,023.04

Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	3,965.72
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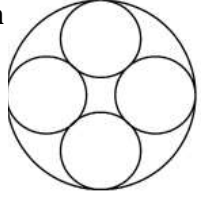
Regular Expenses

Aldi	\$	-
Costco	\$	1,295.33
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$	-
Hy-Vee	\$	-
Dollar Tree	\$	34.82
Family Fare	\$	16,893.97
Food Bank	\$	-
Walmart	\$	2,029.49
Sam's Club	\$	918.81
Other	\$	<u>1,427.64</u>
	\$	26,565.78

Balance \$ **34,457.27**

A Message of Gratitude for this Thanksgiving

Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is now its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity! This status will open up more opportunities for grants and partnerships to fulfill the mission of "Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, Tend the Soul."



Thank you to the individuals and foundations who generously gave the dollars to build the Kountze Commons building. The overall project costs were \$10,500,000 and soon the debt will be less than \$1,000,000.

Thank you to the Kountze community and their dedication to making this building possible to carry out such a beautiful mission.

Thank you to our partners within KCCOC – the Kountze Food Pantry, the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic, Methodist Community Health Clinic, and Lutheran Family Services. Their service to the whole person is such a gift to our community.

Thank you to all of the volunteers. KCCOC is a community space to serve the community but much is run by the community through volunteers for the Pantry and professional medical volunteers for the Healing Gift Free Clinic.

Thank you to our Board of Directors. We begin this new phase with dedication and devotion.

We are eager to continue the amazing work within KCCOC and to build more partnerships to use every ounce of this space to better serve the community. Please come seek us out with your ideas, time, and dollars as we continue to fulfill and elevate our mission. I am excited for my roles for both KCCOC and the church as we continue to serve our neighbors.

Happy Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Jill Conway
Executive Director
Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center

NEWS & Notes...



October 17, 2023

Meeting called to order. Previous minutes approved. Meeting agenda adopted.

Financial report by Tim Backora. September income was increased due to the window celebration.

Staff reports given and approved by Council.

Committee reports given and approved by Council.

Council Retreat committee to meet Thursday 10/19.

Global mission: wrote request for \$2,000 to give to American Church in Berlin specifically for feeding refugees. Outreach: 7 new members in worship on Sunday. Discussion of ads vs mailers for advent worship; We'll ask everyone to wear nametags on Reformation Sunday. Property: grant request approved for the digital sign; engineering firm to check beam. Social ministry: will need help for Thanksgiving meal at St. Peters. Stewardship: pledge card created. Worship & music: need volunteers for Ushers, choir, altar, and flower delivery. Ministry fair to be discussed at the retreat.

Board reports: Endowment to meet at the end of October. Clinic has made progress on finding a new nominee, Mary J. Fike, for the board; request to include financial status in council report in the future. Discussion of finding out where funds come from and writing thank you's in the future for both clinic and pantry. KCCOC 501(c)3 status has not been approved by IRS, awaiting this approval to access funds.

Old Business. We need to create a ministry site profile in order to begin the process of calling a new Associate Pastor. Discussion of what we are looking for in our retreat. Request for all council members to submit top 3 things to talk about at retreat, what questions need to be addressed, and what recommendations you have for each topic.

New Business. Administrative assistant: Pr. Lucy and Debbie have interviewed a candidate who would be a great fit. Open house event 11/14, late in day to avoid invading patient privacy.

Motion and approval to adjourn the meeting by a voice vote. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Decorate for Advent

Saturday, December 2

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Purchase a Poinsettia for the Altar

Place your order by
Sunday, December 17

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the church. Christmas poinsettias are a special way to honor or remember loved ones. The cost of the poinsettias this year is \$10.00 each. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please contact the church office or fill out a bulletin insert and either mail it to the church office with your payment (cash or check made out to Kountze Memorial) or drop it in the offering plate during Worship. Please include payment with your order. Poinsettias are available for pickup after the 11:00 PM service on Christmas Eve or after the 10:00 AM worship service on Christmas Day.

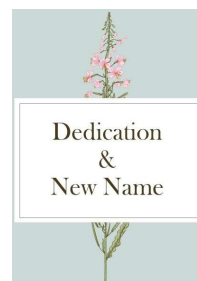


"Norma's Nursery" Open House

Sunday, December 3

10:00 - 11:00 AM

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



The Materialism of Christmas



How can we focus on Christ’s love as we approach the upcoming Christmas season? Is it possible to reduce the stress and materialism associated with this holiday? Another sweater for Grandpa; another pair of earrings for Mom...do we really need all this “stuff”? Alternative Gifts is a way of honoring our friends and family by sharing Christ’s love with those most in need. Instead of buying a gift that may not be needed, you can make a donation to change someone’s life here in Omaha or around the world. You’ll receive a card that explains your choice to honor the true meaning of Christmas. You can give your friends, family, children’s teachers, and neighbors this card instead of a physical gift. Alternative Gifts share the true meaning of Christmas; and they’re easy to wrap!! Read through the “wish list” of Alternative Gifts offered this year at Kountze. Mark your choices

and bring it to the Alternative Gifts table in Fellowship Hall during forum time each Sunday of Advent: Dec. 3, 10 and 17th. Your Christmas will be more meaningful because you gave gifts that share Christ’s love with others.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Alternative Gift Wish List 2023

Hope for Families in Omaha and Abroad	Price	Quantity	Total
Support for the Kountze Afghan refugee family in Omaha	\$20	_____	_____
Fees for a girl to attend School around the world	\$40	_____	_____
School supplies for a child around the world	\$10	_____	_____
A month of food for an orphaned child	\$25	_____	_____
A share of a tent to house a refugee family	\$25	_____	_____
Vaccinations for a child around the world	\$30	_____	_____
Water filter for a family with no access to clean water	\$30	_____	_____
Animals			
Ten chicks to build an egg business	\$10	_____	_____
Fruit tree seedlings to preserve soil and bear fruit	\$10	_____	_____
Honeybees for wax, honey and pollinating.	\$20	_____	_____
A Pig to provide meat for a family	\$30	_____	_____
A goat to provide milk for a family	\$50	_____	_____
Kountze Pantry			
Provide one bag of food for a family in Omaha	\$20	_____	_____
Provide two bags of food for a family in Omaha	\$40	_____	_____
Provide a week’s groceries for a family in Omaha	\$75	_____	_____
Kountze Free Clinic			
Provide supplies for the free Clinic	\$15	_____	_____
Provide medicine for the free Clinic	\$30	_____	_____
Total		_____	_____

Would you like cards explaining each item you’ve bought so you can give it as a gift?

_____ YES, I’d like cards

_____ NO, I don’t need cards



If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

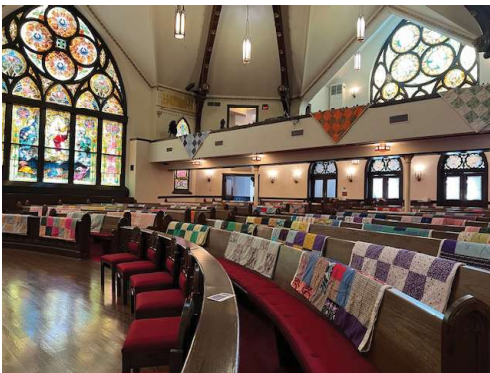
Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11:00 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!



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.

KMLC Book Group

The Book Group will not meet in December. Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. The selection for January is *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabelle Allende and will be discussed January 14, 2024



Men's Lunch

The Men's Lunch Chili Cook-off was a huge success and a good time was had by all! There were six chili entries and it was a close race, but the winners were:

3rd Place: Steve Jacobson

2nd Place: Larry Camenzind

1st Place: Jerry Fischer

Those that didn't bring chili

brought toys for our youngest Pantry guests for Christmas.

We won't meet in December but be sure to join us on Wednesdays for Advent meals and Worship. We'll get together again on Thursday, January 18. (Don't tell anybody, but that's Jim's birthday. Shhhh!)



Annual Merry Tuba Christmas Concert Sunday, December 10

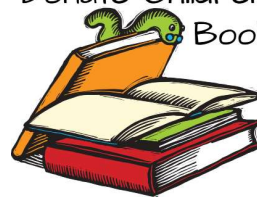
3:00 PM

Kountze Memorial

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



Donate Children's Books



Collecting Children's Books

New or Slightly Used
Through December 18

The WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Board is asking our women's circles, as well as the congregation, to bring new or slightly used children's books for our Pantry. We will be collecting until December 18. Please leave your children's books in the Pantry Box located in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

Sewing Group

Our sewing group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. This year they sent 164 quilts and 27 care kits to Lutheran World Relief!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

Look What's Coming Up!



Sunday School

Ages 2 yr-6th gr

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Sunday School will not be held December 24, 31, or January 7. Sunday school will resume January 14. We will continue with the rotation model.

Children's Choir

Sundays, 9:10 AM

(following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6 - Choir

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room. Choir will not be held December 24, 31, or January 7. Sunday school will resume January 14.

Annual Advent Fair

December 3

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. Please bring diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17

9:00 AM

Rehearsal, December 16, 9:00 – 11:00 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.

Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

10:10 AM

Join us between worship services each Sunday morning in the Youth Room.

Dec. 3 Advent Fair

Dec. 10 Bible Study – Created to Be (prep for ELCA Youth Gathering)

Dec. 17 Carols and Cookies with Residents at deFreeze Manor

Dec. 24 Merry Christmas! Enjoy the day in worship and with your families.

Dec. 31 Games

Confirmation Program

During December, the Confirmation Youth will be assisting with our Advent Worship at Kountze Memorial.

The youth and their families can enjoy our Advent Meal and then attend Worship at 6:30 PM. At 6:20 PM, the youth will prepare to usher or acolyte for Worship.

Middle School Gathering

Nebraska Synod (MSG) is planned for January 13-14, 2024 in several locations across the synod. Choose the site closest to you or travel to a new location to meet new friends. Registration deadline is January 1, 2024. Watch for details coming VERY SOON!

Upcoming Youth Events

PreK- Grade 6

Dec. 17 9:00 AM - Christmas Program. "Wrap Party" to follow.

Grades 6-8

Jan. 13 -14 NE Synod Middle School Youth Gathering

High School:

Jan. 19 – 21 High School Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Grades 7-12

Dec. 10 5:00 PM – Progressive Dinner with White Elephant exchange

Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Christmas Gift Exchange

Grades 7 - 12
Sunday, December 10
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.

2024 Summer Youth Trip

ELCA Youth Gathering
December 1 - 24

During the season of Advent, we ask that you check out the Advent Sponsor Tree in the Fellowship Hall to help youth attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering this summer. Please take an

envelope with the amount that you are able to give and print your name on it. Place your donation in the envelope and then place it in the offering plate or bring it to the office. The trunk of the tree will have a URL code on it if that form of giving is preferred. If you give online, please take the envelope, write your name on it, and place in the offering plate and note "online donation". We appreciate your consideration and generosity.

Be sure to mark your calendars for other NOLA awareness events where we will be uplifting the culture of New Orleans:

Feb. 18	Cajun Meal and Music Bingo from 4:30 to 6:00 PM
March 31	Easter Breakfast
May 12	Beignet Breakfast

Pantry Service Project

Friday, January 12
5:00 PM

Mark your calendars for service, food, and fun! Students of all ages are invited to volunteer in the pantry, followed by a meal and movie in Fellowship Hall.

RECHARGE - High School Retreat

Carol Joy Holling Camp

January 19 - 21

Theme: (un)Equal

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

-Revelation 22:31

All 9th - 12th graders, are invited to join together as we dive into this past summer's theme, "UnEqual." This retreat will serve as a good reminder to campers who attended camp about the things they learned during their time there and how they can continue to implement those lessons into their lives. For campers who may not have been able to attend camp, this retreat will serve as a way for them to experience camp and what we learned this summer in a condensed and meaningful way.

Along with the lessons, we will learn about God's love, and will also experience some favorite camp activities, God's creation, and of course, fellowship! See the tentative schedule below for some examples of activities that your camper will get to participate in. Note: Rotations may include night hikes, creative arts, board games, team-building, and other camp games. The cost of the retreat is \$100 per camper and includes lodging, meals, and programming on Friday through Sunday. Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>

Tentative Schedule

Friday, January 19

7:00 PM	Check-In	8:30 AM	First Word	10:00 PM	Worship
7:30 PM	Village Time and Snack	9:00 AM	Rotation	10:30 PM	Devotional
8:00 PM	Big Group Games	10:30 AM	Rotation		
9:00 PM	Full Group Activity	12:00 PM	Lunch		
10:00 PM	Worship	1:00 PM	Bible Study		
10:30 PM	Devotional	2:00 PM	Rotation		
		4:00 PM	Rotation		
		6:00 PM	Dinner		

Saturday, January 20

7:30 AM	Wake up	7:00 PM	Rotation		
8:00 AM	Breakfast	8:30 PM	Full Group Activity		
		9:00 PM	S'moresgasbord Campfire		

Sunday, January 21

7:30 AM	Wake up
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	First Word
9:30 AM	Full Group Activity
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Departure

CALENDAR

December

December 1 Friday

9:00 AM Pantry
10:00 AM Marilyn Larkowski
Funeral

December 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
9:30 AM Decorate for Advent
2:00 PM Diggins/Drickey Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

December 3 Sunday

Advent 1
Advent Fair
Homebound Communion
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
10:00 AM Nursery Open House
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

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

7:45 AM VNA Christmas Program
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
5:30 PM Progressive Dinner & White
Elephant Exchange (gr 9-12)

December 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Advent Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese
Manor

5:00 PM Advent Dinner

4:00 PM Executive Committee

6:30 PM Worship

December 14 Thursday

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 15 Friday

Good News Deadline
3:00 PM Project Embrace Christmas
Party
5:00 PM Pantry

December 16 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Program
Rehearsal
5:00 PM Worship
5:00 PM Candlelight Carol Service
Prelude begins 4:40 PM

December 17 Sunday

Advent 3
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Children's Christmas
Program
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

December 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

December 20 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Advent Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

December 21 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

December 22 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED (at noon)

December 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 24 Sunday

Advent 4
Christmas Eve
9:00 AM Worship (no 11:00 AM)
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
4:00 PM Worship
7:00 PM Worship
11:00 PM Worship

December 25 Monday

Christmas Day
OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Worship

December 26 Tuesday

OFFICE CLOSED

December 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

December 28 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 29 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 30 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 31 Sunday

Christmas 1
New Year's Eve
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

Advent & Christmas

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship: 6:30 PM

December 24

Advent 4: 9:00 (no 11:00 AM)

Christmas Eve: 4:00, 7:00, 11:00 PM

December 25

Christmas Day: 10:00 AM



1. Becky Anderson, Marlys Duin, Soren Johnson, Kim Neville, Ashley Sum
2. Dianne Bruckner, Kolbey Burns
3. Clay Cameron, Michele Eakins, Carol Gleason
4. Brett Bailey, Gary Clatterbuck
5. Dale Broekemeier, Hailey Ingram, Inna Weedman, Alan Woster, Jim Marcum
6. Dale Ervin, Aage Jensen, Nicholas Natvig
7. Arlene Hirsh, Delores Kocourek, Neil Stier
8. Lowell Harms, Tara Capellupo, Debby Woosley, Madison Duffield
9. Jan Bowder, Craig Hill, Tyler Johnston, Renee Osborn, Norm Sack, Scott Saxton, Jeffrey Watts
10. Talen Costanzo, Sydney Kinish, Kirk Krisor
11. Robert Burt, Zachary Stoj, Diane O'Connor
12. Zachary Johnson, David Roethemeyer, Edward Jenkins, Emma Ryder
13. Hal France, Donna Moessner, Sandy Lundholm
14. James Camenzind, Emily Drickey, John Georgeson, Madelyn Hinrichs, Tanner Klemmensen, Susan Mollner, Bill Pemberton
15. Claire Bossman, Ronda Nelson, Jaya Winther
16. Gary Dietrich, Leigh Freeman, Gage Hansen
17. Carla Ohm
18. Carly Headley, Larry Jacobsen, Craig Johnson, Benjamin Williams
19. Charlie Campbell, Bill Christensen, Corey Reimers
20. Rich Fogleman, Eric Rees
21. Steven Hansen, Landon Putnam
22. Torin Edwards, Julie Green, Erin Marek, Lindsay Neill, Suzanne Schueler, Bev Troxel
23. Debra Larsen, Corey Lynch, Lynn McKeeman
24. John Groenjes, Charles Jr Martis
25. Kathe Andersen, Carson Ohm, Ashley Rusch, Randy Titus
26. Nancy Rodene, Gary Westerman, Holly Willert, Ingrid Furby, Lara McCormick
27. Emilio Arispe, Tanya Kosola, Colleen Sorensen, John Waterman, Zach Zellmar
28. Kathryn Dean, Charles Misbach, Elizabeth Portrey, Dorothy Stanzel, Leon Tuite, Joel Woosley
29. Shane Hallowell, Arthur Land, Linda Swartz
30. Monica Albers, Kara Di Lorenzo, Benjamin Myers
31. Jeffrey Baker, Brianne Minturn

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 10/1/2023	\$1,838,352.31
Principal Payment, 11/1/2023	\$7,615.9
Interest Payment, 11/1/2023	\$5,855.03
Balance, 11/1/2023	\$1,830,736.41

Finances: October, 2023

	<i>October</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 80,531.14	\$ 879,049.82
Expenses:		
Mission Support:	\$ 17,222.00	\$ 60,277.00
Christian Education:	\$ 590.88	\$ 6,854.39
Facility Costs:	\$ 11,039.14	\$ 149,158.92
Staff Compensation:	\$ 52,192.96	\$ 524,460.12
Worship & Music:	\$ 2,930.00	\$ 30,864.67
Parish Life:	\$ 525.84	\$ 19,674.18
Youth:	\$ 115.30	\$ 8,882.09
Office & Administration:	<u>\$ 4,790.65</u>	<u>\$ 48,741.23</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 89,406.77	\$ 848,912.60

Pastoral Acts

(October 16 - November 15, 2023)

Baptisms:

Titus Rodwin Andronicus Pummer,
October 29

Soane Colette Olson, November 12

Funerals:

Tom Holcombe, November 11

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
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Omaha, NE 68131-3616
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Fax: 402-341-4841
E-mail: info@kmlchurch.org
Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate
Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox channel 13
and live streamed on our website at
<https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our
website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GO AND...BE PRESENT

As we await and celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that God is present and shows up. The babe in the manger, God Incarnate, is God's gift of deep love for us. We are invited to pause, be still, and be fully present in this holy season. Society calls us to a different place where busyness, spending, and rushing about are marks of success. God, in Christ, offers another way: Emmanuel – God with us.

Questions to Consider:

- What can I add to this season that would truly allow me to pause?
- What tradition do you have that nurtures being present at this time of year?
- As you are on the GO, how are you going to practice being present?

Prayer: Emmanuel, you are present with us. Help us be present with each other. Amen.

Suggested Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257)

Learn More at nebraskasynod.org/go-and/

Ready, Set, Go! In the Great Commission, Jesus calls us to GO. We are taking those words to heart.

In June the Nebraska Synod embarked on a year-long focus to "Go and...". We invite you to be part of this call to GO! and lean in as God's people called, gathered, and sent to "Go and...".

Together, all 90,000 members of the ELCA Nebraska Synod will be focused on responding to Christ's sending in the Great Commission, to Go and..., and to really live out the joy and hope.