

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Interim Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
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
Kayla Slight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 1 & 2, 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 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 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. 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.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and

monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Mary Ann Johnson's birthday given by Bob Johnson

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Bob & Mary Ann Johnson in celebration of Bob's 55th ordination anniversary

Adult Forum Sundays, 10:10

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. This week we are welcoming Pr. Steve, our congregation's Interim Senior Pastor. Please join us.

Youth Forum Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—A New Year – how will you meet it?

KMLC Refugee Resettlement Task Force “Epiphany Tree”

Kountze is co-sponsoring a refugee family through Lutheran Family Services, which means we will provide all the items needed for an arriving family. Starting Jan.8, please stop by the “Epiphany Tree” and select an ornament listing one or more of the various furniture and household items needed that you would

Today at Kountze, *continued*

like to donate. Bring your donations and place them in the box in Fellowship Hall **by January 30**. If you need help transporting larger furniture items, we will arrange for volunteers to help. Just as the Magi

came from afar, so do our new neighbors. Thank you for your generosity and answering Christ's call to offer hospitality to those in need.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 2 Sunday

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Youth Forum

10:10 AM Adult Forum—Welcome Pr. Griffith

January 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

January 6 Thursday

Epiphany of Our Lord

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 7 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 8 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 9 Sunday

Annual Reports are Due

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

Ongoing and Coming Soon

Confirmation Resumes

Wednesday, January 5

6:00 PM

Confirmation in January continues with our in-person meetings from 6 – 7:45 PM on Wednesday evenings in the Kountze Fellowship Hall. Our focus turns to Worship and the Sacraments.

'22 Stewardship Campaign

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Due to all the fall personnel changes, our Stewardship Campaign is now during our time After Epiphany. We look to this time and join the Refugee Resettlement Task Force in pondering the gifts that the Magi brought to the newborn King, Jesus. It is the hope of the Congregational Council that you will consider your pledge of time, talents and treasures toward Kountze for the coming year. The timeline for our Stewardship Campaign is the

following:

- Mailing Stewardship letter and Pledge cards on January 6
- Stewardship Temple Talk during worship on January 8 & 9
- Returning your Pledge Cards before January 31

Sunday School will resume on January 9. We will start of 2022 by learning about, and celebrating, Epiphany.

New Member Class

January 16 & 23 (please plan to attend both sessions)
12:15 - 2:00 PM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, please consider attending this New Member class. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please call the church office to register and let us know if you need childcare. You may also register on the attendance card in your weekly bulletin. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors. New Members will be received on January 30.

Ongoing and Coming Soon *continued*

Men's Lunch Resumes

Thursday, January 20

11:30 AM

After taking the month of December off, the Men's Lunch will resume. Please call the church office on Tuesday, January 18 to make a reservation or email jim@kmlchurch.org. This month's program / speaker TBA (To Be Announced) please watch the weekly bulletin.

Project Linus Event

Friday, January 28

6:00 PM

Happy New Year! The Christian Education Committee's resolution for 2022 is to do more service projects for our community. Each month we will have a different project for you to give of your time and talents. For January, we will be making blankets for Project Linus. This charity gives children with severe illnesses or trauma a security blanket. We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall on January 28 at 6:00. A chili and hot dog dinner will be provided. In addition to needing volunteers to make tie blankets, we need donations of prewashed fleece or cotton material. Please sign up for this event by calling the church office at 402-341-7761 so that we have enough food and materials on hand. Contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org with any questions.

Kountze Food Pantry

Kountze Food Pantry is once again collecting gloves,

mittens, and hats! There is always a need in the winter months. Please leave your donations in the pantry box in Fellowship Hall or in the office. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by our guests!

Please note: Family Fare receipts must be complete in order to be counted. Partial receipts cannot be submitted.

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Year End Giving

The church office will be closed on December 31 in observance of New Years Day. All financial gifts to Kountze Memorial that you wish to be on your 2020 giving statement should be in the office by Thursday, December 30, 2021 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2021.

Simply Giving

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you need to indicate this change to the office or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. Please send an email to noni@kmlchurch.org or complete a new Simply Giving form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 13, 2022

10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Committee and Boards Reports for the year need to be into Office Manager, Debbie Bogue by January 9. Thank you to each one for your efforts to complete the reports by this date. It allows for the staff time to get it printed and assembled along with all the other weekly task that continue to be done.

Annual Reports will be distributed at Worship the weekend of February 5 and 6.

On Sunday, February 6, Treasurer Tim Backora will lead a review of the budget during Adult Forum time.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: Christmas Day—no 5:00 PM Service

Sunday: 9:00: 64 **11:00:** 37

Wednesday: not available at time of printing

Total: 101

Streaming: 12/24:73 **12/26:** 57

Cox Cable: not available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served:465 (inc. 172 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: closed

Offering:

\$16,414.00 (Regular) \$16,964.96 (Specials)

\$5,407.00 (Debt Reduction)

God lives among us with grace and truth.

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

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Israel will return to its own land
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:8-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Zechariah 8:14-17	God's promises to Zion
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Visions from the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus



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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:

Dear God, our hearts sing with gladness for your grace and truth that blesses us each day through Jesus, the Word that became flesh and lives among us now. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of this food, a reminder of your care for us each and every day through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you every day and in every way. (Ephesians 1:3)

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

- Talk or think about the people that support you in your daily life.
- Who has mentored you in the Christian faith? How has that person mentored you?

Read: John 1:1-18.

As beautiful as the birth story in Luke is, there is something very powerful about John's account. It is the message of Jesus' entry into our world and lives that is not connected with specific moments. John's account has a timeless and cosmic quality to it that captures the imagination. Not everything about us is marked in time and in a location like Bethlehem. It might be the death of a loved one or an enduring crisis. During such moments, what we need most is God's grace that accepts us, God's light that shatters darkness, and God's truth that heals relationships. What we need to know is that God's Word has entered our lives and world [become flesh] and lives among us now, during our highs and lows and everything in between. This light, grace, and truth stands with us in Christ Jesus, not just as individuals, but as God's whole people.

Discuss: Where do you hope for God's healing power in the world? In your life?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope, peace, and compassion for others through Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share God's grace with someone?

During the twelve days of Christmas, we remember that St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He was devoted to the Christ child. During these twelve days, we remember the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If you have a nativity scene set up in your house, consider leaving it out until Epiphany on January 6. Place the white Christ candle (from the Advent wreath) near the scene. Light the candle and take a moment to meditate on the birth of Jesus.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22