

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate 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 15 & 16, 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 by Myrtle Weible in appreciation of Sarah Jewel and Debbie Bogue; given by Tom Holcombe in memory of wife, Jean Holcome's birthday

Children's Choir **Ages K-6th Grade**

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Adult Forum **Sunday, 10:10**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Full Communion Agreements of the ELCA

Sunday School **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

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

All 7th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!
This Sunday—Youth Gathering Bible Study

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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.

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 January 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 like to donate. Bring your donations and place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall **by January 30**. If you need help transporting larger furniture items, we will arrange for volunteers to help. There is a list of needed items in the January Good News. 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 9 Sunday

Middle School Gathering
5:00 PM Worship

January 16 Sunday

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-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Executive Committee
12:15 PM New Member Class

January 17 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
OFFICE CLOSED
PANTRY CLOSED
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

January 18 Tuesday

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

January 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

January 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

January 21 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

January 22 Saturday

Larsen & Strazda Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

January 23 Sunday

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-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM New Member Class

Sunday School Talking Points

Children learn through storytelling and parables are stories with a moral lesson. Over the next six weeks, the Sunday School students will be focusing on a parable a week. To begin, they will hear the Parable of the Good Shepherd.

In this Parable, the Shepherd leaves his flock to search for one missing sheep. It illustrates the love God has for each of us, no matter how insignificant we may seem. The Shepherd (God) keeps us from harm, shows us the way, and gives us access to the Kingdom.

To illustrate and reinforce the lesson, after watching the story unfold using the Godly Play materials, the students will have the opportunity to use the materials on their own to further deepen their understanding of the lesson. There will also be two craft activities they can choose from to help reinforce the moral of the Parable. Ask your child to retell the story using these materials.

'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:

- Stewardship letter and pledge cards are in the mail
- Return your Pledge Cards before January 31

Men's Lunch

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 come join us and get to know Pr. Steve Griffith.

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 tal-

ents. 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>

Simply Giving

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, you need to indicate this change to the office/make the changes yourself online, or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, 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: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 134 **11:00:** 55

Wednesday: 12:15: 10 **Confirmation:** 11

Total: 234

Streaming: 94

Cox Cable: 282

Pantry Guests Served: 818 (inc. 247 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$31,094.00 (Regular) \$5,166.40 (Specials)

\$52,442.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's abundant goodness brings joy.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5	Jerusalem will be saved
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Psalms 16:7-11	Song of trust in God
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:10-13	Healing after punishment
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 36:5-10	Human sin and God's goodness
Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth



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How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:7 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, your love and faithfulness brings joy; may we use our gifts so that others may see Jesus as the source of your abundant goodness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for this food, a sign of your constant love for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of abundant love give you joy.

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

- Think of a friend of yours. How does that person bring you joy?
- Epiphany reveals God's saving grace in our lives. Where have you seen God's handiwork?

Read: John 2:1-11.

The wedding at Cana contains Jesus' first public sign of his glory. The full intent of the sign is not completely disclosed for his hour has not yet come. His hour of glory that shows the depth of God's love and mercy will happen with his death on a cross. This first sign points to a deep understanding of Jesus' whole ministry. It is about abundance that brings joy. The amount of wine Jesus provides from the water jars was excessive, and it tasted very good. Wine in the Bible was meant to gladden the heart. It was associated with a future divine banquet as well as daily hospitality and celebration. The sign of changing water into wine at a wedding feast introduces Jesus' ministry as overflowing with goodness, joy, and love. It turns our shame and embarrassment (like a bridegroom's shame for running out of wine) into simple delight without limits, without measure. It leads us to long for more of what Jesus has in store for us.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's abundant love in your life?

Pray: **God of love, give us joy in your presence that we may be a sign of your love to others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. 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 abundant goodness by using your gifts and talents to care for others?

The wedding at Cana reminds us of how the Bible uses weddings and feasts to express the joy that God intends for us. To experience this joy during the Epiphany season, plan a special meal this week and invite friends. Begin by reciting Psalm 36:7-8: *How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.* During the meal talk about what these verses mean to you. End by reciting the verses again.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21