

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 22 & 23, 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 given by Don & Laura (Larsen) Strazdas in honor of their wedding (1/23); given by James Holzer & Tracey Saklar in memory of Lorri Esnough and Chris Saklar

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—Join the Adult Forum to learn about

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Refugee Resettlement in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or
shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Thank you all for your generosity in welcoming our new neighbors! We are well on our way to gathering all the furniture and household items needed to set up an apartment for our sponsored family. **We still need a dining room table and 6 chairs, and one or two more sets of bunk beds.** We don't know who our family is yet, but we have committed to a family of 10, and we are almost ready! If you have signed up to donate items, please bring them to the

collection box in Fellowship Hall **by January 30** so we can inventory everything. If you have agreed to donate furniture, Jerry Fisher will be calling to arrange pick-up. **Volunteers are needed to help move furniture.** This is an excellent way to get young people involved in this important mission. There will also be opportunities for you to volunteer to help the family after their arrival. The Task Force will be presenting during forum time on January 23. If you have questions or donations before then, feel free to call Jonna Holland: 402-669-4575. It's a blessing to see this amazing response from our congregation!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM New Member Class

January 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
11:30 AM Endowment Board
7:00 PM Circle 3

January 26 Wednesday

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

January 27 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry
6:00 PM Project Linus Event

January 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 30 Sunday

Epiphany 4
Receive New Members
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

Sunday School Talking Points

In today's Sunday school lesson, we learn the Parable of the Mustard Seed. The mustard seed is very tiny, yet can grow to 10 feet or more. Birds can perch in the branches and they also build nests there. The students will be presented a visual representation of the mustard tree, birds, and nests in the Godly Play presentation.

The children will see how our faith is compared to the tiny seed. When planted and cared for, it grows exponentially. Ask your children to repeat the lesson in their own words. See if they can name three ways to grow their faith. How can they plant a seed of faith in others?

'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. Please return your Pledge Cards before January 31.

New Member Class Continues

January 23

12:15 - 2:00 PM

New Members will be received on January 30.

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.

Free at-home Covid-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

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**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

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>

Camp Carol Joy Holling

Register by January 31!

\$50 off any full-week session & CJH Camp socks

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 pair of socks.

This summer, campers will explore the hopeful and saving story of God and God's people. They will experience the good news of God's generous and merciful power in their lives. Just as God was loving and faithful at the time of creation, in the life of Israel, and through Jesus Christ, so God continues to be in this world now. KMLC Camp Week is June 12 -17.

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 2022
10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall**

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: 15

Sunday: 9:00: 68 **11:00:** 41

Wednesday: 12:15: 7 **Confirmation:** 11

Total: 142

Streaming: 103

Cox Cable: 258

Pantry Guests Served: 0 (snow day & holiday)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$6,507.00 (Regular)

\$1,143.53 (Specials)

\$979.50 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus sets us free.

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

Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth
Monday	Nehemiah 8:1-10	Ezra reads God's law to the people
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	One body, many parts
Wednesday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of deliverance
Thursday	Leviticus 25:1-17	The year of jubilee
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christian freedom
Saturday	Psalm 19	God's glory in creation and the law
Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected

taking
faith
home

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"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, for your message of freedom that is more desired than gold and sweeter than honey, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 19:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food that strengthens the body and your word that strengthens our souls, we thank you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of Christ Jesus bless you and release you from all your burdens.

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

- What is something that bothers you and makes you feel weighed down?
- How do you think Jesus can help you when you have a problem?

Read: Luke 4:14-21.

Short and sweet, this is Jesus' first sermon recorded in Luke: *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* What Luke wants us to know about the good news of Jesus is found in the words of Isaiah 61:1-2. The Spirit of God rests on Jesus. Jesus has good news for the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed. The *"year of the Lord's favor"* is the year of jubilee announced in Leviticus 25. It keeps society from unraveling into unlimited wealth for some and perpetual poverty for others. Every fifty years slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and lands lost to debts would be returned to ancestral owners. In recognition of the use and abuse of power and wealth, the year of jubilee allowed for fresh starts. That is what Jesus brings to us, a fresh start that releases us from poverty, from whatever bondage limits our life, whatever blinds us, whatever weighs us down. As we continue to read Luke, this opening sermon will clarify who Jesus is and what he is doing for all.

Discuss: How can Jesus give you a fresh start if something has been bothering you?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for freeing us to serve you with thanksgiving and our neighbor in love, through Christ Jesus who preaches good news for all. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how does knowing Jesus free and encourage you to serve others?

The *"year of the Lord's favor,"* mentioned in Luke 4:19 is a community experience of forgiving debts mentioned in Leviticus 25 and known as the Year of Jubilee. Create a *Jubilee Jar* this week and place things you and others worry about into it. At the end of the week, read what you wrote and then pray: **Dear God, I thank you for being with me and giving me and others a fresh start each day through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30