

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 Slaight | 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 29 & 30, 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 worshipping, 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. 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 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 Jensen for her 7th birthday and Thomas Jensen for his 9th birthday by their parents

Children's Choir Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen is 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. This week we welcome new members.

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—State of Young People and Religion – a study by Springtide Research Institute

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our congregation, all the household items and furniture for our refugee family have either been already donated, or commitments have been made. To those who have already dropped off their items, THANK YOU! For those who have signed up or called offering items, now is the time to bring them to the Fellowship Hall. We hope to learn who our family is by February 15 and get the apartment set-up and the family moved in yet that week. Volunteers are

still needed to help move furniture! Please call Jerry Fisher at 402-981-5765 to let him know if you have a truck or a strong back. If you missed your chance to donate items, we still need gift cards for grocery stores. You may drop those off in the church office – please mark them “for refugees”. Volunteers are also needed to help with mentoring and transportation for the family. We are putting together a team so that we can support the family’s adjustment to life in Omaha. Go to LFSneb.org and click on “get involved” OR call Jonna Holland 402-669-4575 to learn more. Together we are blessed to offer hospitality to our new neighbors! We hope to have information on our family sometime in February.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 30 Sunday

Epiphany 4
Receive New Members
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

January 31 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
2:30 PM Clinic in Classroom

February 2 Wednesday

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

February 3 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 4 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

February 6 Sunday

Epiphany 5
Homebound Communion
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

The Parable of the Sower is a simple story with a powerful message. In the parable, we see a sower scattering seeds in four different areas of the earth. First, the birds eat the seeds as soon as they are thrown, leaving nothing to even begin growing. Then, the seeds are scattered on rocks where they do not have the nutrients or space they need to sprout roots. Next, the seeds are thrown onto soil crowded with thorns, blocking the sun and choking the seedlings. Lastly, the seeds are sown in fertile soil with the correct growing conditions to sprout, grow, and thrive.

In today’s lesson, we will be learning about what the sower, soil, and seeds represent in our lives. Ask your children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss what makes type of environment helps our seeds of faith grow.

‘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.

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. If you don't have access to a computer, you can order tests via a hotline at 1-800-232-0233.

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

Thank-you for all the hats, scarves and socks for the Pantry guests. We are still in need of adult men's gloves. We are also collecting toilet tissue. Our biggest need is for volunteers! Several key helpers will be flying south for the winter and we could really use your help!

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.



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

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 - 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

Service Project for the Youth of Kountze Project Linus Event

**Postponed until Friday, February 11
6:00 PM**

This charity gives children with severe illnesses or trauma a security blanket. We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall. A chili and hot dog dinner will be provided. In addition to needing volunteers to make tie blankets, we need donations of pre-washed 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.

Join us on February 25 in preparing meals for the YES House located in our community at 26th and Harney. Watch the bulletin and e-news for more information.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 108 **11:00:** 63

Wednesday: 12:15: 6

Total: 208

Streaming: 90

Cox Cable: 249

Pantry Guests Served: 1186 (inc. 297 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$14,513.00 (Regular) \$1,736.68 (Specials)

\$1,653.00 (Debt Reduction)

God sustains and delivers us.

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

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| Sunday | Luke 4:21-30 | The prophet Jesus is rejected |
| Monday | Jeremiah 1:4-10 | The Lord chooses the boy Jeremiah |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | The gift of love |
| Wednesday | Luke 2:25-32 | Simeon praises the Lord |
| Thursday | Ezekiel 2:1-10 | The Lord chooses Ezekiel |
| Friday | Amos 5:6-15 | Choose good, not evil |
| Saturday | Psalms 71:1-6 | A prayer for God's protection |
| Sunday | Luke 5:1-11 | Jesus calls the first disciples |

taking
faith
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." **Jeremiah 1:8 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus that others may see in us our faith in you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal; may this gift of food remind us of your care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.

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

- How do you feel when you want to be part of a group but are not invited to join? Explain.
- When have you been challenged to oppose others and speak what you believe?

Read: Luke 4:21-30.

Most of us want to be liked. Because of that, it is easier to follow the crowd than stand up for what is right, or in the case of Jesus and the prophets of the Old Testament, to stand up for God's word that opposes the preferences of the masses. God specifically tells Jeremiah not to fear those who receive his message as commanded by God (Jeremiah 1:7-8). Jesus boldly reminds his townspeople that God and the prophets of old had shown mercy to foreigners and enemies of Israel. Jesus must have known that was not a popular message. It is a reminder for us that popularity is not the goal of life. Faithfulness to God's rule and God's word is what we are to follow. The good news is that God goes with us to sustain and deliver us from evil, just as God did for Jeremiah and Jesus. That did not mean an easy life for either of them. However, there is a peace and confidence God gives that no crowd will ever provide.

Discuss: How has God sustained you during a time you felt unfairly criticized for what you believe?

Pray: **God of truth, justice, and mercy, give us your word daily that we may follow you faithfully and trust in you and you alone, through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show God's love to those who are less popular?

Epiphany is a time for public expressions of the Christian faith. This includes caring for those who are treated poorly, even bullied. Think of people who are picked on or criticized by others. It is an act of the Christian faith to speak up against those bullying others. Light a candle and say a prayer for your own courage to speak for those who are demeaned or otherwise persecuted.

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