

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 8 & 9, 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

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. This week Q & A with Transition Senior Pastor Steve. Please join us.

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—Serving in the World – join us as we drop a gift off to special residents of deFreese Manor.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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

Sunday School Talking Points

Epiphany means “to reveal”. In today’s Sunday School lesson, we will learn about the Magi visiting newborn Jesus and how this is considered the time when our Lord was revealed to the world. In introducing Jesus to the Magi, it teaches us how his arrival, and his word, are important to all people.

Your child will be taking home the gifts of the Three Kings: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Ask your child why these gifts are important and what they represent.

We will also be making a craft based on the Three Kings. You can talk with your children about how the Magi began their journey, worshiping newborn Jesus, and the reasons they did not return to Herod as planned.

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-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum—Q & A w/Pr. Steve
12:15 PM Book Group

January 10 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

January 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 14 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 15 Saturday

Good News Deadline
Middle School Youth 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-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
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

'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 Temple Talk during worship on January 8 & 9
- Mailing Stewardship letter and Pledge cards on 2nd week in January
- Returning your Pledge Cards before January 31

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.

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.

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.

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: Snow Day

Sunday: 9:00: 35 **11:00:** 31

Wednesday: 12:15: 9 **Confirmation:** Zoom

Total: 75

Streaming: 99

Cox Cable: 226

Pantry Guests Served: 599 (inc. 169 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0

Offering:

\$13,513.00 (Regular) \$69,546.27 (Specials)

\$942.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' baptism points to a way of life.

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

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana



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*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. **Luke 3:21-22a (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Lord Jesus, come, Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our baptismal life and feed us with your power to believe that we are loved by God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May the gift of this food strengthen us to live in peace and faith in Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know you are loved and precious.

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

- When have you received criticism that helped you?
- How can the judgment of another—or of God—be a blessing to you?

Read: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

In this passage we receive important themes that will continue later in the Gospel. In Luke (and Acts written by Luke), the Holy Spirit plays a large role in connecting Jesus with the church and the church with God. At Jesus' baptism, he is doing something that often happens during significant moments in his ministry in Luke: he is praying. Prayer and the work of the Spirit belong together for Jesus and for us as we are brought into the work of his eternal reign. John the Baptist speaks of a winnowing fork that separates wheat from chaff. As Luke continues to tell the story of Jesus, that separation is not about divine vengeance, but a judgment that cleanses us from our chaff, our sin, and leads us to be the church, the wheat in the world that feeds the world with God's grace. John's vision of Jesus, like ours, will change and grow. In Luke 7:19 John is perplexed by Jesus' words and actions and wonders if Jesus is the one, or should he (and we) look for another Messiah. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' baptism points to our baptism and a life of prayer, repentance, forgiveness, and growth in Christ.

Discuss: How does baptism free you to pray, seek forgiveness and grow in faith and love?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, may we grow in grace as we live out our baptismal life with prayer, humility, and the desire to serve you and the world in love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how does your way of life show God's love to others?

Jesus' baptism sets the stage for the beginning of his ministry, just as our baptism establishes our life as a follower of Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he was also praying. Use prayer as a way to recall and live your baptism. Dip your fingers into a bowl of water, make the sign of the cross on your or another's forehead or hand, and say: **[I am/You are] baptized and God's beloved child.** Then close by praying the Lord's Prayer and any other prayers you may wish to add.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11