

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
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

April 16 & 17 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. 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

Sharing of the Peace

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

Youth Forum

This week—Serving Easter Breakfast

Hot Easter Breakfast

8:00 - 10:45 AM

Plan to have Easter Breakfast with us. Egg Casserole, Fruit, Potatoes, Pastries, Juice, and Coffee are on the menu. If you are able to assist in making this meal for the congregation, we are looking for people to help on Saturday Morning for set-up, Sunday Morning Chefs, Sunday Morning Servers, Sunday Morning Clean-up crew, and Pastry Donations. Let us know how you might help make this Easter Morning time a shared celebration for all.

Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held after the 9:00 Easter morning service. It will be held in the green space, weather permitting. Come and have fun gathering eggs!

Alleluia!

This Week at Kountze Memorial



April 17 Sunday

Easter
7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM
Worship

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
No Children's Choir, Sunday School, Youth or Adult Forum today, but instead, join us for Easter Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt!

8:00—10:45 AM Easter Breakfast
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 Easter Egg Hunt

April 18 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

April 19 Tuesday

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

April 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

April 21 Thursday

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

April 22 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 24 Sunday

Easter 2
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Confirmation
9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Confirmation Celebration

Diaper Drive

We are having a diaper drive for the Bowari family. They need diapers size 1 and up (no newborn sizes please). If you would like to provide diapers, please bring them to church and put them in the large brown box next to the box for the Pantry box. Your donations will be appreciated.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Links to our giving page and Lutheran Disaster Response can be found in the Friday e-news or a checked marked "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" can be given to Kountze Memorial and we will make sure it gets to the right place. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 21

11:30 AM

Cost \$10

Please RSVP to the church office or to Jim Smejkal by Tuesday, April 19.

May is Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your

participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 24

9:00 AM.

Those Affirming their Baptismal Faith are :

Olivia Baker
Boe Di Lorenzo
Barrett Hinrichs
Collin Johnston
Drew Rasmussen

A cake reception will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall on this day. Cards and notes of encouragement in their continued faith journeys from the congregation are appreciated.

Celebrating our Graduates

Sunday, May 15

9:00 AM Worship Service

As in years past, the high school seniors will be blessed and presented with a quilt from the KMLC sewing group. All graduates who wish to be included in the video can submit 5 photos, to Pastor Shari by Monday, May 2 along with your written information for the bulletin. Please contact Pastor Shari with any questions. We want to celebrate all graduates at this time. If you are graduating this spring or have

graduated from college or any educational program in the last 6 months, let us know. Submit the following information to shari@kmlchurch.org: Name, Parents, Place attended, Degree, and Future Plans by Monday, May 9. Thanks for helping us to compile this information. Congratulations to all!

Baptism Seminar

Sunday, May 15

10:10 AM

If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, be sure to join us. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have. Please call the church office to register at 402-341-7761.

Vacation Bible School

June 13 - 17

5:30 - 8:00 PM - Dinner at 5:30 PM

Save the date! Kountze will be partnering with Morning Star Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School! Dinner will be served at the start, with learning through activities to follow. VBS will be held at Morning Start church (331 S. 85th St.). We will be looking for volunteers to help serve food, teach, and assist. If you are interested, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.



**Ordination of Adam Klinker
Held at Kountze Memorial
Tuesday, June 14**

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)

New Orleans is the Place for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!

KMLC youth in 6th through 10th grade, get jazzed to participate in the New Orleans 2024 ELCA Youth

Gathering, MYLE and the tAble! The Big Easy is filled with rich history, friendly locals, amazing food and great music. Mark your calendars for July 16-20, 2024, to join in this transformational faith formation event. MYLE and the tAble will take place immediately before on July 13-16.

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to Methodist Health Systems and the Women of the ELCA for their large donations of food and personal care items! We have exciting news at the Kountze Food Pantry! Beginning May 16 we will be returning to a guest choice, indoor service! This means a lot less heavy lifting and more fun for the volunteers. If you choose to join us, you will be expected to stand or sit at a station and offer our guests a choice in your category. There are 12 different stations at each shift. The first shift is from 10-11 and the second shift is from 11-1. In addition we will need greeters and carry out volunteers. You are welcome to sign up for both shifts. We all look forward to returning to normal!

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 using the following link:

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



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 202 **11:00:** 92

Wednesday: Not available at time of printing

Total: 321

Streaming: 65

Cox Cable: 150

Pantry Guests Served: 1381 (inc. 425 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 28

Offering: Not available at time of printing

The resurrected Jesus changes who we are.

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus
Monday	Luke 24:1-12	Jesus is alive
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Confidence in the resurrection
Thursday	Ezekiel 36:24-36	The renewal of Israel
Friday	Romans 12:1-8	The new life in Christ
Saturday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord is always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds



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Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). **John 20:16 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us joy in the good news of Jesus' victory over death that we may celebrate life in his name each and every day. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Christ is risen! Alleluia! For the power of resurrection to give life and for the gift of this food, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the words "Christ is risen" bring you joy. Alleluia!

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

- Our lives are influenced by those around us. How have others influenced who you are?
- How does believing in Jesus and his resurrection influence your life today?

Read: John 20:1-18.

John's resurrection account brings together important themes from the Gospel. John 1 begins as a new creation story, imitating the language of Genesis 1. This new creation—born again—language is continued on the lips of Jesus in John 3:3-8. The empty tomb experience takes place in a garden where Mary thinks Jesus is the gardener. The setting reminds us of the origins of human life in the Garden of Eden. In John 1:39 Jesus invites the disciples to "*Come and see*" where Jesus is staying. After the resurrection, Mary says to the disciples, "*I have seen the Lord.*" Mary's new birth as a follower of the resurrected Lord is seen in her recognition not only of Jesus but of her own identity and calling as a disciple. Jesus calls her by name and in that moment, she not only sees Jesus as her teacher, but her role as student and disciple. The resurrection for Mary is a very personal recognition of the resurrected Jesus and her new life as a disciple who has seen the Lord.

Discuss: How does the recognition of Jesus' resurrection impact your life of faith?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see in Jesus' resurrection, our calling as followers of the Lord and those who share love, hope, and good news with others. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone with love and hope in Jesus' name?

The word Easter means "spring." Easter ushers in new life. Plant an Easter Garden with colorful flowers like pansies, tulips, and petunias. If you buried or hid the word "Alleluia" on Transfiguration Sunday, display it in a visible place in your home during the Easter season or laminate it and place it on a stick in your Easter garden. As the garden grows during the fifty days of Easter, recall Mary in the garden with her Lord and remember that Jesus has given you a new identity as a follower of Jesus. When you look at your Easter Garden, say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31