

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 Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 14 & 15, 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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

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.

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 our graduates; given by John & Lynn Schneiderman in celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary

Children's Choir **Ages K-6th Grade** **8:30 AM**

Barb Carlsen will lead 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.

Celebrating our Graduates **Sunday, May 15**

9:00 AM Worship Service

We celebrate with the following high school graduates this year: Torin Edwards, Tyler Johnston, Eli Kopp, Ryan Lampman, Hadley Rief, Henry Rief, Dessire Waller, Jacob Weiland. A few of these graduates are also getting their Associate Degrees from Community Colleges as well. Congrats to all! Join us for a cake reception between services on Sunday. If you brought cards or notes of congratulations, there will be gift bags to place them in on the welcome desk during this time.

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).

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Sunday School Talking Points

Today we will review how Jesus returned to his disciples several times after dying on the cross. While Jesus did this to show he was the Messiah, it also gave his followers peace and the encouragement to live their lives as God intended. We will study the Ascension of Jesus and how the end of Jesus' earthly ministry is the beginning of our ministry. Ask your children what Ascension means. What activity did we do to explore the idea of Ascension? Review with your children the times Jesus appeared to his followers. What does our earthly ministry look like? What can you do this week to spread the word of God?

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—Graduate Reception in the Fellowship Hall

Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Sunday**—Graduate Reception in the Fellowship Hall

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 of the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have.

Global Mission

Global Mission is collecting good used or new bath towels and shower curtains with rings for refugees in Omaha. There is a great need for these items according to Nancy Meyer when she visited Restoring Dignity, an organization that helps collect for refugees. A box will be in the fellowship hall the weekends of May 14-15 & 21-22. Thank you for thinking of our local refugees.

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 15 Sunday

Easter 5
Good News Deadline
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:30 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Baptism Seminar
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Congregational Life Committee

May 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
10:30 AM Kimberly Samuels Funeral
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 17 Tuesday

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

May 18 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Synod Delegate Meeting

May 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Christian Education Committee
7:00 PM Circle 5

May 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 21 Saturday

8:00 AM May Service Project for the Youth (CJH Clean-up Day)
5:00 PM Worship

May 22 Sunday

Easter 6
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

Men's Lunch

Thursday, May 19

11:30 AM

Cost: \$10

The men's lunch meets the third Thursday of every month @ 11:30 AM. We enjoy lunch, usually a short presentation, and time for fellowship. We try to keep the lunch and presentation short so that even if you're working, you can still join us. Our May lunch will have a

brief taped interview of Pastor Wick talking about the 135th Kountze anniversary. Please call the church office or email your reservation to jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, May 17.

May Service Project for the Youth of Kountze
Saturday, May 21, 2022 (Please register by May 12)
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM - Breakfast & Lunch Included
Carol Joy Holling Camp

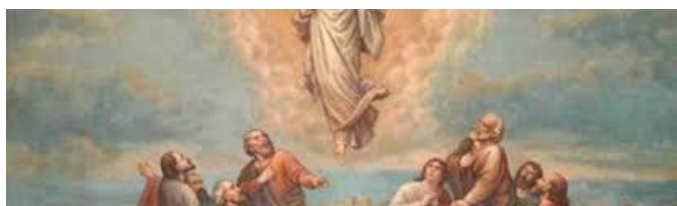
Follow Signs to Check-in Location

Join us at Carol Joy Holling Camp's Annual Work Day! We need your help to get our site ready for the more than 1,500 campers that will be arriving during the summer. Bring friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Individuals and groups are welcome, and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes and gloves. Kids are welcome with parent supervision. **Questions?** Contact Gera at GSchultz@NLOM.org or 402-944-2544.

Ascension Day Festive Eucharist
with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
held at Kountze Memorial

Thursday, May 26

6:30 PM



KMLC will host the joint Eucharist with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on the Feast of the Ascension. ELCA Nebraska Synod Bishop Brian Maas will preach and preside. All are welcome!

New Member Class

June 5

12:15 - 2:00 PM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or think you would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next 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. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors. New members will be received on Sunday, June 26.

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 Star 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

6:00 PM

More information to follow.

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)

Congregational Life Volunteers Needed

If you enjoy cooking and serving meals, the Congregational Life Committee would like to share the good times in the kitchen with you! If you would like to serve in this way, please contact the church office or Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org).

Kountze Food Pantry

This is it! Your Pantry is moving back inside this month on May 16! We are very excited, but we need your help. We are very short handed and desperately in need of volunteers. We have a job for every ability level. 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: 10—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: 28

Sunday: 9:00: 144 **11:00:** 70

Wednesday: 12:15: 11 **deFreese Manor:** 5

Total: 258

Streaming: 59

Cox Cable: 167

Pantry Guests Served: 802 (inc. 423 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering:

\$14,788.00 (Regular) \$1,353.05 (Specials)

\$1,672.50 (Debt Reduction)

God's ways are not our ways.

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

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	James 1:2-16	Trials and temptations
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's words are powerful
Friday	Proverbs 3:5-8	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the counselor



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When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." Acts 11:18 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to love one another and to seek to understand before we seek to be understood for the sake of Jesus Christ and the reign of God he brings. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Praise God for this gift of food and all that we have been given. Praise God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a heart filled with mercy.

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

- When you feel confused and need guidance, what do you do?
- The Bible makes it clear that God's ways are not our ways. What does this mean to you?

Read: Acts 11:1-18.

Peter was telling a church of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem about what took place that led him to accept Gentiles (non-Jews) into the church. The Jerusalem church was critical of Peter. He had to give a clear, step-by-step description of what he had experienced. To discern or understand how accepting Gentiles into the church as the will of God was not easy. Peter himself had received the message three times. It was hard for Peter to grasp what had happened and it was hard for both Peter and the early church to discern the ways of God. It is still difficult for us today to understand God's ways as being fundamentally different than our ways. God's ways have never been easy for followers of Jesus. Reading the Bible, prayer, meditation, and faith-filled conversations with others in the church guide us as we seek to understand the ways of God and the path that God wants for us as followers of Jesus.

Discuss: What helps you be open to God's ways to guide your life?

Pray: **God of love and faithfulness, help us to see as you see, to judge as you judge, and to show mercy as you show mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

Psalm 148 calls on us and all of creation to give praise to God. *"Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created"* (v. 5). Go for a walk and look around at God's beautiful creation. When you return draw a picture of your favorite scene or make a list of God's creations you saw while on the walk. Finish by praying: **Dear God, I praise you for _____. I thank you for _____. In Jesus name, Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35