

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 21 & 22, 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 given by Joshua Schwieger & Katie McShane-Schwieger; given in memory of Cynthia Sacks

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored by Karen Bonneau in honor of Shirley Bonneau's birthday.

### **Children's Choir End of Year Celebration**

**Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**9:20 AM**

Come forward for the Children's Blessing as usual and then go to the upstairs choir room where we'll celebrate a great year of choir! We will return for Communion. We will look for you again this fall for another year of praising God with song! Be sure to invite your friends to join choir with you.

### **Sunday School End of Year Celebration**

**Sunday, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

We are having an "End of the School Year Celebration" with games, crafts, and food in the Green Space, weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have the party in the Sunday School room. Be

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

sure to join us on June 13 - 17 for Vacation Bible School at Morning Star Church (331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> St.).

### Youth Forum

**Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

All 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—Check-in for the last gathering of the School Year

### Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Sunday**—Survey of the Gospel of Luke

### 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 is in the fellowship hall this weekend, May 21-22. Thank you for thinking of our local refugees.

### 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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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 Year End Celebration  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr) Year End Celebration  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### May 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### May 25 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### May 26 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord  
1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:30 PM Ascension Day Liturgy

### May 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### May 29 Sunday

Easter 7  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 30 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)  
OFFICE CLOSED

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## 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!

## Omaha Storm Chasers Faith and Family Night Saturday, July 23

**5:05 PM**

**Please RSVP by May 27**

The Omaha Storm Chasers are hosting a Faith and Family Night. There will be a post-game concert by Cory Asbury (American Christian Musician). Gates open at 4:00 PM and the first pitch is at 5:05 P.M. They are offering \$15 tickets for groups of 10 or more. If you're interested in a Kountze group outing, please call the church office or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org). In order to reserve seats together. Watch for more details on the event, possibly a pre-game tailgate with hotdogs and chips.

## **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.

## **Service Project for the Youth of Kountze**

The volunteer activity for June will be assisting in making decorations for the VBS at Morningstar.

## **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. 85<sup>th</sup> 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, Reception to Follow**

By the grace of God and the call of the Church, Adam John Klinker is to be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Brian Maas of the Nebraska Synod, presiding The Rev. Dr. H. Ashley Hall, preaching. Color of the day is red. After three years as vicar at Augustana Lutheran in Genoa, Nebraska, Adam has been called to serve at First Lutheran, Avoca, Nebraska.

## **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**

The Kountze Food Pantry has moved back inside! It is wonderful to once again welcome our guests into our beautiful facility. This also means there are many volunteer opportunities for every desired level of participation. You can serve for 1 hour, for the whole pantry service which goes from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM, or any combination that best fits your schedule. We also need people at 8:00 AM to unload the delivery trucks. Volunteers can even serve by picking up donated bread and pastries from Rotella and Hy-Vee. You will find a sign up notebook outside the kitchen in Meeting Room A of Fellowship Hall, or you may sign up at the following link:

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

## **Thank you**

Thank you to all who have so willingly made desserts and/or prepared salads for the funeral lunches over the last few months. The families truly appreciate the effort. If you would like to help with funeral lunches, whether baking, making salads, or helping serve/clean-up, we could really use your help. Please call the church office if we can add you to our call list. Also, if you'd like to join the prayer chain, you may also let the church office know.

**Note:** If you haven't picked up your bowls/pans yet, they can be found on the counter in the Fellowship Hall by the back office door.

## **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 35

**Sunday: 9:00:** 135 **11:00:** 89

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 13

**Total:** 272

**Streaming:** 60

**Cox Cable:** 147

**Pantry Guests Served:** 881 (inc. 306 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 11

**Offering:**

\$7,301.12 (Regular)

\$1,675.53 (Specials)

\$732.00 (Debt Reduction)

*God leads, we follow.*

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

Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the counselor
Monday	Acts 16:9-15	Paul travels to Macedonia
Tuesday	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	River of life
Wednesday	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust God
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Numbers 6:22-27	Blessing for the people
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples



*“When she [Lydia] and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us. Acts 16:15 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, help us to understand how you lead us each day to care for others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Thank you, God, for giving us food; for the food that we eat and the friends that we meet. Thank you, God, for all that you do. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be gracious to you and bless you and make God’s face to shine upon you. (Psalm 67:1)

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

- Do you make your own decisions or rely on others to help you make decisions? Explain.
- When is a time you felt God was leading you in your life and/or relationships?

*Read:* Acts 16:9-15.

Congregations are urged to establish vision and mission statements and make plans accordingly. In the midst of such important planning, it is important to remember who is in charge, who is doing the actual leading. We may take aim at ministry objectives, but when we arrive at the goal or destination, hopefully, we recognize that God was there awaiting our arrival. In Acts 16, Paul and his fellow missionary friends believe they are led by a vision of a man from Macedonia to go there. When they arrive, it is not a man, but a group of women whose hearts are opened, and it is Lydia who opens her home to them. Whether it is Paul in his day or we in our day, it is good to remember that it is not we ourselves who bring God to people.

*Discuss:* How have you shared your faith with others as Lydia did?

*Pray:* **God, just as you led Paul to Macedonia, lead us each day that we may bring joy and the good news of Christ to waiting hearts. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, where do you sense God is leading you to serve others?

Psalm 67 is a prayer reminding us that God blesses us and continues to bless us. Think or talk about ways you and those you know have been blessed by God. Pray the Psalm by inserting your name or that of another and say: **God, our God, has blessed \_\_\_\_\_. May God continue to bless \_\_\_\_\_; let all the ends of the earth worship our God. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26