

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	Janitorial Staff
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

August 13 & 14, 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.

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

Pastor Hall

Pastor Hall is not at Worship this weekend as he is presenting at the International Luther Congress in Thousand Oaks, California this week.

A Brief Update on our COVID Measures.

At this point we will continue with our present recommendations. We encourage you to stay informed and

take whatever protective measures you believe are necessary. These may include wearing a mask indoors and maintaining distance from others outside your own household. Because of several family health concerns among the staff, we do ask that you wear a mask when visiting in the church office. If you are experiencing symptoms, stay home, consult your health care provider, get tested, and follow the CDC guidelines.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones given by Marge Bock; given by Joe & Patt Council in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary (8/19)

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Tom Jensen in memory of loved ones

Holy Play

Through August 28

10:00 - 11:00 AM

All youth are invited to join in Summer Holy Play from 10 to 11 AM each Sunday morning through August 28. We will meet in the Link/Green Space unless otherwise noted. Different activities will be offered each Sunday with treats.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

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

Congregational Meeting

Next week: Dag Hammarskjöld: A Life of Public Service and Spiritual Awareness

7th - 12th Grade Youth

Sunday, August 14

10:10 to 10:50 AM

Join us for a time to gather. Bring your calendars and talk with your parents about your schedule for the fall. Many ideas have come forward and we want to get things scheduled for the first half of the school year. A time to share summer best and summer bummers with prayer will close our time. Join us!



This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 14 Sunday

Pentecost 10
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Holy Play
10:10 AM Youth Forum (7th—12th gr)
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting
12:15 PM Book Group

August 15 Monday

Good News Deadline
Scholarship Application Deadline
10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study

August 16 Tuesday

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

August 17 Wednesday

11:00 PM Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship

August 18 Thursday

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

August 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 20 Saturday

Blessing of Backpacks
5:00 PM Worship

August 21 Sunday

Pentecost 11
Blessing of Backpacks
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Holy Play
10:10 AM 5th & 6th Grade Gathering
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Register for Sunday School

Register online by going to <https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/SundaySchoolRegistration>. Links to registration will also be on the KMLC Parent and Friends Facebook Group. You can also stop into the Sunday School office to register your child there. All children, ages infant through 12th grade, should register for the 2022/23 Sunday School Year.

Scholarships

Application Deadline is August 15

The Scholarship Program makes funds available to any active member of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church who is a student enrolled and attending any post secondary education college or seminary. In order for a student to be deemed an active member of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, the student, or the student's parent/guardian, must be an actively communing and contributing member of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church as evident in their worship life. Applications for this scholarship can be found on the website at: Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church under tab Grow/Youth Ministries/Scholarships. The last day to submit an application this year is August 15. If mailed, the postmark must be August 15 or earlier. No applications will be accepted after that date.

Bible Studies Begin Again!

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Beginning August 15 & 17

Join Pastor Shari and others in the Fellowship Lounge. We will gather around the Word and explore how the Bible speaks to our lives today. We will try out a few different ways to approach study of the Bible before deciding as a group how to proceed. Looking forward to a weekly journey with you and your Bibles.

August Men's Lunch

Thursday August 18

11:30 AM

Kountze's Version of "How's That Made"

Cost is \$10.00

Did you ever wonder what it takes to outfit a new police car, ambulance, or firetruck? Join us and Ron Brown will share with us just what it takes to outfit new emergency vehicles with the latest in technology. Gone are the days that they just put a magnetic flashing light on top and plugged it into the cigarette lighter. Please call the church office or use the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to register by Tuesday, August 16.

Blessing of Backpacks

August 20 & 21

All students, teachers, professors, and school support staff are encouraged to bring their school bags to church for the Blessing of the Backpacks so the congregation of Kountze can surround you with prayer and blessings for an enriching, productive, and safe school year. In addition, we will be **collecting school supplies and backpacks** for school-aged guests of the Kountze Pantry. Donation boxes will be located at the welcome desk in the Fellowship Hall. Please **bring any donations by August 21**. Following the 9:00 AM service on the 21st, the youth of Kountze will be assembling these supplies to give out at the Pantry the following day. Meet in the link to put bags together while enjoying fellowship and a special treat.

A Gathering for 5th and 6th Graders

Sunday, August 21

10:10 AM

All are welcome to join us in the Youth Center between worship times! This will be a time to learn more about each other, play some games, have devotions, and share in prayer. We hope to see you!

Help Wanted – Night Manager

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of Night Manager. The individual would live on-site in the Church apartment and be responsible for the Kountze Campus after hours and when the facility is closed for inclement weather. Some light janitorial duties, opening and closing the building for worship services and special functions, verifying doors are locked, etc. Please call or stop by the church office to request a complete job description and submit an application and resume. Applications are due in the church office by August 21, 2022.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to teach and assist for the upcoming school year one week-end a month. We are in need of Preschool volunteers, Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers and assistants, and 3rd through 6th grade teachers and assistants. The lesson is prepared and scripted with all activities ready to go for that day. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. Your leadership would be greatly appreciated!

Sunday Morning Breakfast!

Could you assist once a month on a breakfast crew or bring 2 dozen pastries for the 5th Sunday of the month? We are also looking for individuals that would be on a list for people to call if they are not able to make it one weekend. Consider how you might help bring back this popular ministry for our congregation. Sign-up is located on the welcome desk.

Confirmation Orientation for Youth & Parents Wednesday, August 24

6:00 PM

Parents and students are invited to attend an orientation meeting on Wednesday, August 24 starting at 6:00 PM with a meal. We hope to be finished with our meeting time by 7:00 PM. Registration will take place during this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please be sure to register by August 26. This will help our planning for the year to come so we can get the information for the Confirmation year to you. The registration form can be found at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/confirmation/confirmation-ministry-reg-form/> The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7th and 8th graders. A time to begin to affirm their baptismal faith will begin in person on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:00 PM beginning with a meal. Class time each Wednesday night will be from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. During the year we will take a one week break on November 23 and December 28 and will finish our year of study on April 12.

Baptism Seminar

August 28

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 you might have. Please call the church office to register. Please reach out to Pastor Shari Duminy with any questions or concerns.

Back to School Celebration

August 28

10:10 AM (following the 9:00 AM service)

The youth of Kountze and their families are invited to a Back-to-School Celebration, hosted by the Christian Education Committee. Join us in the Green Space for games, snacks, fellowship, and fun. We encourage you to bring a friend to this event. The more, the merrier! Let's show others just how great our Kountze Sunday School community is.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is asking you to clean your home pantries! Yes, we are collecting any and all odd (not expired) food items. We have an "extras" section of the pantry, where guests get to choose from an assortment. This allows our guests the chance to get a few things they normally wouldn't have access to. Good items to donate are: jelly, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, mayonnaise, seasonings, cooking oil, flour etc. We also continue to collect hygiene products. We are especially in need of bar soap or body wash. Remember, we can once again reuse dry, clean plastic grocery bags. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Kountze Food Pantry! Please continue to sign up in the Meeting Room A in the Fellowship Hall, or at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 40

Sunday: 9:00: 97 **11:00:** 71

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 216

Streaming: 69

Cox Cable: Not Available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: 1018 (inc. 285 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 9

Offering:

\$18,749.89 (Regular)

\$1,684.88 (Specials)

\$1,083.96 (Debt Reduction)

Living a life of compassion for those in need.

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

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division
Monday	Jeremiah 23:23-29	God's word is like fire
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Faith in God
Wednesday	Psalms 37:27-33	Trust the Lord
Thursday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Friday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 82	Justice to the weak
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the sabbath



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Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who want compassion and justice to guide our lives, give us faith and courage to live and speak truth with love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of justice and mercy give you peace and good courage.

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

- When was there a time you felt you were treated unfairly?
- God demands a commitment to justice. What does this mean to you?

Read: Luke 12:49-56.

There is a history of domestic and global violence. Today's news reminds us that there are still divisions and violence. In this reading, Jesus' call for fire and division represents God's demand—not request—for justice. Biblical faith, both Old and New Testament, reveal a God who cares enough to judge, to condemn, to divide, yes, even to kill Egyptians in the Red Sea to protect God's people. Christianity stands for something. That means it stands against something, too. Jesus can be critical and outraged. He notes that people are able to read the signs of the weather, but what about the signs of discrimination around them? Everyone seems to have their own standards and their own causes. This can blind people who think they know God. Jesus will have none of it. Following Jesus does not permit a blind eye to violence and discrimination, whether it is in the first or twenty-first centuries. The good news is that God's kingdom promises to make all things new.

Discuss: How have you or someone you know experienced discrimination?

Pray: **God of justice, help us to see the times we live in and pursue compassion and fairness for all through Christ Jesus, the one who died that we may live for others. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show compassion for those who are weak and needy?

Hebrews 12:1 speaks of being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses and encourages us to get rid of everything that slows us down from following Jesus. On a sheet of paper write a list of things people do or say that do not show ways Jesus would like us to act towards others. Some examples: belittling or bullying others, lying about something, stealing, or cheating. Take a moment to read over your list and then crumble it up and throw it away. Then pray: **Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we are unkind and thoughtless about the needs of others; help us to follow you in love. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17