

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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	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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 3 & 4, 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

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of Lois Carlsen, by her children and grandchildren; given by Barb Chrisman in memory of her mom, Lois Soll

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Paul & Carol Carlson in celebration of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, September 4.

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Week:** Welcome Vicar Gretchen **Next week:** Rally Day

### We Welcome our Part-Time Vicar!

You will find Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp at Kountze Memorial most Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. She will be installed this weekend, September 3 and 4. To help celebrate her entering into ministry with us, we ask that you join us for

- a celebration potluck on Saturday, September 3 at 6:00 PM.
- or join in during Fellowship hour on Sunday, September 4, and enjoy a piece of cake and express your words of welcome during Fellowship

### Flower "Vases" Needed

If you buy the large cans of juice, we are in need of the empty cans to use when we deliver flowers. The cleaned cans can be put on the counter by the back office door and we'll put them to good use. Thanks!

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### September 4 Sunday

Pentecost 13  
Homebound Communion  
Installation of Vicar Gretchen  
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 Welcome Vicar Gretchen

### September 5 Monday

Labor Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

### September 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### September 7 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### September 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

### September 9 Friday

5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Pantry

### September 10 Saturday

3:00 PM Jensen & Bennett Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

### September 11 Sunday

Pentecost 14  
Rally Day  
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir  
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast  
10:10 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Sunday School  
(2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:15 AM New Member Class  
12:15 PM Book Group  
3:00 PM Tri-Faith Walk

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Be A Sunday School Teacher Assistant!

Experience the joy of watching our children learn the stories of God's people. You can help once a month or however often you'd like. The opportunity to work with Preschool, K—2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and 3<sup>rd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> graders are available. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org). Your leadership would be greatly appreciated!

### Register for Sunday School

Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/SundaySchoolRegistration>. The link can be found 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade, should register for the 2022/23 Sunday School Year.

### Be a Part of the Breakfast Crew!

Join with others in bringing back this popular ministry for our congregation. We encourage 4 more people who would like to get to know and work with others in the congregation once a month to make and serve breakfast from 8:00 to 11:30 AM. There are just 3 more places for bakers to bring 2 dozen muffins or pastries every other month, and 1 opening as a crew leader from 8:30 to 11:00 AM for Continental Breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month. What a blessing this service will be for you and the congregation! A huge thank you to all who have stepped up! We will serve breakfast each Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM beginning on Sunday, September 11.

### Lift Your Voice in Song!

#### Kountze Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir will have its first meeting/rehearsal Wednesday, September 7 from 7 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 11. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

### Bible Studies Continue

**Mondays, 6:00 PM or  
Wednesdays, 11:00 AM**

#### Enter Through the Farnam Office Doors

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.

### Confirmation

**Wednesdays, beginning September 7  
6:00 PM—7:15 PM**

The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a time to begin to affirm their baptismal faith. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Shari.

## Children's Choir

Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 11

Second Floor Music Room

9:15 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to work with our Children's Choir again this year. Students in grades 6-8 may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

## New Member Class

September 11 & 18, 10:15 - 11:30 AM (Note time change)

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next New Member class. Childcare is provided. Please call the church office to register and let us know if you need childcare. God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service

Sunday, September 11, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Tri-Faith Center (13136 Faith Plaza)

Join us at the Tri-Faith Campus. There will be a time for walking, Food Trucks, live performances, and family-friendly exhibits. Our day of service will focus on learning about our siblings of the Abrahamic Faith. Please register at [walk@trifaith.org](mailto:walk@trifaith.org). If you are able to give a donation, please do so. Get on your walking shoes to learn and connect with our larger faith community!

Lutheran Women Omaha,

Tuesday, September 13, 1200 Noon

Bethel Lutheran Church

For info & reservations call Faith at 402 734 4629.

September Men's Lunch

Thursday September 15

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost is \$10.00

This month we will learn more about the Tri Faith Initiative. Our speaker is Erik Servellon, the Vice President of Operations and Development for the Tri Faith Initiative. Please call the church office by Tuesday September 13 to make your reservation or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. We hope you'll join us.

## Mark Your Calendars for the Kountze Memorial

"Old Fashioned Church Picnic/Potluck"

Sunday September 25, 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Everyone is invited to attend the all Church picnic/potluck. There will be lots of activities for young and old alike. The Church will provide the fried chicken or macaroni & cheese and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or desert to share with everyone. You're also encouraged to "Bring Your Favorite Blanket" to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations while enjoying our green space between the Church and Commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall. A buffet style lunch will begin at 11:30 AM, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space and, what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes?! Join us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 1:00 PM. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk to let us know how many will be attending and if you can provide either a side or dessert. You can also call the church office or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to RSVP.

## 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: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 127 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 229

Streaming: 49

Cox Cable: 169

Pantry Guests Served: 1551 (inc. 417 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering: 8/14

\$10,253.45 (Regular) \$5,145.92 (Specials)

\$1,130.00 (Debt Reduction)

Offering: 8/21

\$10,346.95 (Regular) \$1,430.19 (Specials)

\$687.40 (Debt Reduction)

Offering: 8/28

\$18468.5 (Regular) \$1070.59 (Specials)

\$1162.5 (Debt Reduction)

## Love for all the saints.

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Psalms 82:1-5	A plea for justice
Thursday	John 15:12-17	Jesus the true vine
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

taking  
faith  
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

*When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. Philemon 1:4-5 (NRSV)*

### A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to treat all people with respect and honor that together we may bring healing to the church and to society, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks for this, our food. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and give you peace and courage.

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

- What words would you use to describe your family?
- Who do you consider to be your brother/sister in Christ and why?

*Read:* Philemon 1:1-21.

This letter truly focuses on the power of the law of love. Paul gives us the founding principle to free the lives of others. Onesimus was a runaway slave who was imprisoned with Paul. Philemon was his master. Philemon had the legal right to have Onesimus killed as his runaway slave. However, Paul is requesting Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother, just as Paul has treated Onesimus as a son. He uses language of being part of the same family. Paul wants a brother in Christ to treat a slave not as property but as a saint, that is, a fellow believer in Christ. Paul could have demanded this of Philemon, but the law of love makes Paul's approach one of free consent, not domination. With Philemon free to make the call, Onesimus can be freed to be a brother, a fellow heir with Paul and Philemon. Through the gospel of Christ, the law of love heals broken relationships in church and society.

*Discuss:* How can caring for one another in the body of Christ bring freedom and fairness to all people?

*Pray:* **Loving God, free us to care for others as you care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

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

Jesus said, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). This isn't easy. It means that we sometimes have to do things that are hard or that we don't want to do. Think or talk about what this means for you. Make a small cross out of pipe cleaners or wire and carry it in your pocket this week as a reminder of Jesus' words. Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, free me of all that keeps me from following you.**

**Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10