

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

October 15 & 16, 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

This Week Pr. Griffith is attending the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Dumbarton United Methodist church in Washington DC where his wife served as Senior Pastor before coming to Nebraska.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Vinn Stephens; in honor of Joan Jacobson-Trotter on her 90th birthday given by her daughter, Lynn McKeeman

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Vinn Stephens

Kountze Café

Sundays from 9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast (this Sunday) and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast. Note: Muffin Tins needed for Kountze Cafe mini quiches. If you have a pan or two that you could part with, let us know. It will allow for less baking time on Continental Breakfast Mornings.

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

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

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

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 Focus This Week

The Bible—In preparation for the upcoming Bible Sunday at Kountze, the students will continue their lessons on the Bible for a deeper appreciation of the lessons we learn from it.

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

7th – 12th graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** Bible Study: Learn about the Early Church as we study the Book of Acts this year. **Next week:** Fun and Games: We gather around games to learn more about one another

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Reception for Paul Sum **Next week:** Bible Sunday (Fellowship)

First Communion Classes

Sundays, October 16 & 23

12:15 PM (after 11 AM worship)

If your child has shown curiosity in learning about Holy Communion, then you are invited to participate in this class. A light lunch will be served. First Communion will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 30, at the 9:00 AM service. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Omaha Campus Ministries Evensong &

Chili Cookoff

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

10405 Fort St

5:00 PM Chili Cookoff and Silent Auction

6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service

Festivities include a chili cookoff with cinnamon rolls, silent auction, Holden Evening Prayer worship. We're grateful to Jerry Fischer who will represent us in the chili cook-off. Come and join us for a fun evening with worship and good food!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

October 16 Sunday

Pentecost 19

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM First Communion Class

October 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Bible Study

October 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

October 19 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

October 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

October 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 22 Saturday

11:30 Women's "Lutherfest" Luncheon

5:00 PM Worship

October 23 Sunday

Bible Sunday

Blessing of Quilts

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM First Communion Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Nursery Coordinator

Join the staff at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church by becoming the Nursery Coordinator. Sunday morning and some evening hours are required. Childcare skills are required with a joy for being with newborns to 2-year-olds. The Job Description and Application can be viewed at: <https://files.constantcontact.com/8c919081201/5694d574-321a-414c-bdd1-78153e280ad7.png?rdr=true> You can also contact Kristin Boe or Pastor Shari for more information.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, October 20

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Our October speaker is Ron A. Simkins, Ph.D. Ron is a Professor of Theology and Classical and Near Eastern Studies at Creighton University. Ron has led many Archeological digs to the Holy Land. He will share with us information on some of his work in this field. Please call the church office by Tuesday,

October 18 to make your reservation or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. We hope you'll join us.

Women's "Lutherfest" Luncheon

Saturday, October 22

11:30 AM

Presented by Kountze WELCA

All women are welcome. Bring a friend. Please call the church office by Monday, October 17, to make your reservation or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 23

9:00 AM

Each year, through generous donations, we are able to provide an age appropriate Bible for children ages 2 and 4, and those in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7. The Bibles will be distributed in the Bride's Room off the Narthex before the 9:00 AM service. The children will then process into the church at the beginning of the service, holding their Bibles. Those who do not receive a Bible this year, are welcome to join the procession and have a small treat to collect as well.

Reformation Sunday

October 29 & 30

We invite you to wear RED for the day as we celebrate our Lutheran Heritage and ponder the important work of theologian Martin Luther and those who continue the work that salvation comes to us in grace through faith in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Nebraska Synod Bishop, Scott Johnson, will be preaching during our Saturday and Sunday worship times.

- **Saturday:** Join us for a potluck. Bring a dish to share
- **Sunday:** A cake reception instead of a continental breakfast to welcome Bishop Johnson and to celebrate those taking their First Communion will be part of fellowship time.

Sunday School Serving Project

Sunday, October 30

10:10 AM

October's service project will be to gather items for the Kountze Food Pantry to make Thanksgiving bags for the guests. We are accepting donations of boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, cans of cranberry sauce, and cans of vegetables. Please bring these items to the Sunday School office to be packed by the Sunday School students.

Ministry Fair

Saturday, October 29, 6:00 PM

Sunday, October 30, 10:15 AM

Look for information and connections after Saturday and between Sunday services. Opportunities to share your passions and skills with Kountze Memorial can be explored. We give thanks for how you are already a part of the ministry in this place.

All Saints Sunday - Exploring Grief

Sunday, November 6

10:10 AM and 12:30 PM

We will have two opportunities to connect with Dr. Don Eisenhower, a Master Certified Coach on Grief. Through Zoom Sessions, we will explore the grief that is in our midst. The Adult Forum time will be thinking about the communal grief we experienced these past few years. A special session at 12:30 PM will explore the grief experienced through the death of a loved one. A light lunch served. If you are attending the 12:30 session, please let the church office know or sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Worship Assistant Training

Sunday, November 13

10:15 AM

Join us for training of Communion Assistants, Lectors, Greeters, and Ushers. All current servers are welcome to attend for a refresher course. If you are interested in learning more about Worship Assistants, please contact the church office to register or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for considering serving in this way.

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 Fellowship Hall, or at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 42

Sunday: 9:00: 139 **11:00:** 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 12 **Confirmation:** 4

Total: 257

Streaming: 52

Cox Cable: 176

Pantry Guests Served: 714 (inc. 279 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$16,432.96 (Regular) \$2,065.03 (Specials)

\$2,166.56 (Debt Reduction)

Do not lose heart.

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

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| Sunday | Luke 18:1-8 | Parable of the persistent widow |
| Monday | Genesis 32:22-31 | God renames Jacob |
| Tuesday | 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 | Paul's instruction to Timothy |
| Wednesday | Psalms 31:19-24 | A prayer for protection |
| Thursday | Ephesians 3:7-13 | Paul's ministry to the Gentiles |
| Friday | Hebrews 12:1-12 | The example of Jesus |
| Saturday | Psalms 121 | Assurance of God's protection |
| Sunday | Luke 18:9-14 | A Pharisee and tax collector pray |



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, for those lives torn by injustice and pain, give us faith to pray always and to trust in you, through Jesus Christ, the one who comes in glory at the end of time. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of this food and that you neither slumber nor sleep but watch diligently over us to keep us safe. Amen. (Psalm 121:4-8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus keep watch over you and protect you always.

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

- Talk or think about a time when you or someone you know faced something that was unfair.
- What gives you courage to go on when unfairness seems to win time and again?

Read: Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus is telling us in this parable: *"Keep the faith; keep praying for the reign of God; don't become complacent with an unjust world."* This parable of the persistent widow is a good example of why we should not use Jesus' parables as analogies comparing God to us. We certainly don't want to see God as an unjust judge. The point is that if even an unjust judge can give in to the persistence of the widow, how much more will our merciful God listen to and respond to our cries for help. What begins as a call to pray constantly, ends as a focus on faith itself. When Christ, the Son of Man returns, will he see faith on earth? Faith is expressed as a constant prayer to God for the justice and mercy of God.

Discuss: When is a time you have prayed without ceasing for God's justice and mercy?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, come into our world and into our lives that we may pray without ceasing for your power and justice and not lose heart. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week and the theme, who do you know that is "losing heart" and how can you pray for them?

In Genesis 32:28 God changes Jacob's name to *Israel* which means, *"you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."* We don't often see our lives of faith as wrestling with God, yet that is exactly what God honors and expects from us. This week, question God in your prayers, asking, "Lord, how come . . . ?" Let this questioning of God's intent be an example of building a strong and trusting relationship with God. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14