

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 22 & 23 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 worshipping, 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.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Tom Holcombe in memory of wife, Jean; Altar flowers last week were given by Marge Bock

Eternal Candle last week was given to the glory of God by Bruce & Barb Nissen

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).

Sunday School Focus This Week

The Great Family—In this lesson, we learn about Abraham and Sarah venturing into an unknown place, questioning if God would be there with them. While unsure, they put their faith in God to lead them and found his promises to be true.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM in Youth Center

7th – 12th graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** Fun and Games: We gather around games to learn more about one another **Next week:** Ministry Fair and at 10:40 AM, Summer Trip meeting with 8-12th grade parents.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

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

Blessing of the Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Saturday & Sunday, October 22 & 23

LWR Mission Quilts create a tangible, lasting bond between the people who lovingly assemble them, and our neighbors around the world, who receive quilts in their greatest times of need. Since 2014, our quilts have been shipped to India, Serbia, Thailand, Bosnia, Montenegro, Ukraine, and El Salvador. Our sewing group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM if you would like to join them. Talk to Chris Kendall if you have questions. There are offering envelopes in the pews to help defray shipping costs for the quilt. The first leg of the journey has been donated by Magnum (formerly Brown Transfer) LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one quilt overseas is \$2.25.

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.

First Communion Class

Sunday, October 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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

October 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
11:00 AM Endowment Board
12:30 PM Circle 3

October 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

October 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship (Bishop Johnson preaching)
6:00 PM Potluck

October 30 Sunday

Reformation
First Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship (Bishop Johnson preaching)
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Thursday, October 27

7:00 PM

Brazen Head Pub, 319 N 78th St

Reservation under "Greta". All who are in their early 20's on up are welcome to join this gathering with meal and discussion.

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 Eisenhauer, 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's

Thanksgiving Day, November 24

11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th Street) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Volunteers are needed to:

- a) set up the night before;
- b) donate pies/desserts; and
- c) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal.

This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. Contact Pr. Hall, Jacob Rump, Anne Dey or the church office to volunteer.

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: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 129 **11:00:** 81

Wednesday: 12:15: 11 **Confirmation:** 5

Total: 251

Streaming: 53

Cox Cable: Not available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: 1446 (inc. 447 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$9,781.75 (Regular) \$820.70 (Specials)

\$732.40 (Debt Reduction)

Prayer and humility.

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

Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray
Monday	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22	Jeremiah prays to the Lord
Tuesday	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Paul's instruction to Timothy
Wednesday	James 4:5-10	Surrender to God
Thursday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Friday	Matthew 23:1-12	The example of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 84:1-7	The joy of worship
Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus visits Zacchaeus



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.

"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'" **Luke 18:13 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of amazing grace, we thank you that we can be honest with you, knowing our broken lives are made whole in your love through Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for all the ways you strengthen us, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus rescue you from any harm, any where, any time.

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

- How would you describe a life lived with humility?
- When you pray, what requests or confessions do you make to God?

Read: Luke 18:9-14.

This parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is a story of contrasts with a caution. The Pharisee offers a prayer of thanksgiving. However, he seems to be praying to himself as he demeans another soul. The tax collector, on the other hand, does not look around for comparisons; he doesn't even look up. He beats his breast with sorrow and, in so doing, gains the favor of Jesus. The tax collector's words, *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"* (v. 13), have been handed down throughout the centuries as a model prayer for us all. As an act of repentance and humility, the caution is for us not to praise the posture and prayer of the Pharisee, saying to ourselves, *"Thank God I am not like that person!"* Repentance and humility promote a way of life that does not draw attention to oneself nor claim to have the sole possession of what is true, right, and beautiful. Living faithfully does not give us bragging rights. This parable leads us away from judgment and toward openness to the presence of God and others.

Discuss: In what ways can you show repentance and humility in your life of prayer?

Pray: **Merciful God, give us faith to trust in you with a humble heart, to confess our brokenness to you, and to care for others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you pray for the needs of others?

Luke 18:13 is one of the foundational texts for the Jesus Prayer. This prayer has been widely taught in the Orthodox Church as a monastic prayer but is not only limited to monks and clergy. It is a prayer for all people of all ages. This week, kneel as a sign of humility and pray the Jesus Prayer: **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.**

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