

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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
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

November 19 & 20, 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.

Today at Kountze

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.



Welcome to Louis Flake, our new Night Manager. Louis became a member of Kountze Memorial in June of this year and is a volunteer in the Pantry on Mondays and Fridays and helps with the assembly of the Good News or other mailings we have. He will probably be moving into the apartment sometime in December. Louis will be a good addition to our Kountze Staff.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God given in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's 60th birthday.

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.

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). This week: Christmas Program Rehearsal

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM in Youth Center

7th - 12th graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** No Forum—LYON Assembly—Mia Valquier and Pastor Shari are attending the NE Synod LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska) Assembly in Kearney, NE this weekend **Next week:** Advent Fair

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Updates—Call Process, Stewardship, etc. **Next week:** Advent Fair

Celebrating God's Generosity
Stewardship Intent Day
Saturday, November 19
Sunday, November 20



As we continue to ponder the ways that we can respond to God's generosity, we prepare our hearts and minds for Stewardship Intent day. Thank you for the many ways you respond to what God is doing in our midst. Intent cards are

Jewish Muslim Christian **Interfaith Thanksgiving**

"The Road Home"

Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Hosted By:
First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68132

Coffee, sweets, and reception
to follow Service
Child Care available

available from the Ushers if you didn't bring it from home.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 20 Sunday

Christ the King

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 (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

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

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

November 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

5:30 PM Donor Committee

6:00 PM Bible Study

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

November 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 23 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study

12:15 PM Worship

November 24 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peters

November 25 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

November 26 Saturday

9:30 AM Decorate for Advent

5:00 PM Worship

November 27 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall - No Sunday School/
Forums - join us

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 (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

We are exploring Gratitude. Enter through the Farnam Office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

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:

- cook &/or carve turkeys on Tuesday,
- set up the night before,
- donate pies/desserts, and
- serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal.

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's 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. You can also sign up on SignUp Genius - use the QR code on this page. **Note:** when signing up for pies, please add the number of pies you intend to bring. Thanks. **Note #2:** The cost of turkeys this year are almost double of what we had budgeted (over \$900 instead of \$500). If you would like to help offset the cost of the turkeys, we would appreciate it. You can put a check in the offering plate, donate online, etc. Please put "turkeys" in the memo line. Thanks!



Advent Fair

Sunday, November 27

10:00 AM—Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. **Please bring** diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

Advent Meals

Lunch 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper from 5:00 – 6:30 PM

We are once again making preparations to provide lunch and dinner meals again this year. This is where you come in, we will need some volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We can always use volunteers to help put out placemats, pour drinks, run the dishwasher, etc. so no culinary experience is necessary. If you love to cook or just want to join in the fun we would be most happy to have you help us with one or all four meals. Please consider taking an hour or two this Advent season to volunteer before, during, or after one or more of the meals. Please call the Church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org with any questions or to volunteer.

Kountze Food Pantry & WOWT

Stuff the Bus Food Drive

Thursday, December 1

We are honored to have been chosen as one of two pantries to be recipients of the WOWT Stuff the Bus Food Drive! While this is very exciting news, and we are grateful, it will require a good deal of work and many hands. The receiving event will take place on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. We need volunteers to sort and store canned goods at Kountze beginning at 9:00 AM in two-hour shifts. We also need two kind souls at a time to man the drop-off site at the NP Dodge building at 87th and Dodge St. beginning at 7:00 AM. We also need competent forklift drivers. If you are willing to help us fulfill our mission to "Feed the Poor, in Christ's Name," please sign up at the following link:

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

Parent Night Out

Friday, December 2

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at KMLC

High School and Middle School youth will keep your children active while you take some time for yourself. A meal will be served and activities are provided. Pastor Shari will be present as youth of all ages connect with one another for a fun time together. Email shari@kmlchurch to register your children preschool - 5th grade. 6th - 12 graders, let Pastor Shari know if you can assist during this time.

Sr. High Lock-In

for ELCA Omaha-wide Churches and Friends

Friday night, Dec. 2

10:00 PM to 7:00 AM at KMLC

Cost is \$5 and a snack to share. Sign up with Pastor Shari by Wednesday, November 30. We are bringing back the Search of the Holy Grail!

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, November 26

9:30 AM

If you would like to help decorate for Advent, a small crew will be here and would really appreciate any help you can give them.

Advent begins November 26-27

In addition to the Saturday/Sunday services, we will gather for midweek services beginning November 30. See below for the schedule.



Alternative Gifts

November 27—December 18

When you give someone an Alternative Gift, you triple the blessings: The person who receives the gift not only feels your love and generosity, they will be honored that you gave them a gift that truly makes a difference in someone's life. You will also feel the blessing of giving a gift that represents God's love and compassion for all people and rejects the commercialization of Christmas. The third blessing is for the child or family who benefits from your gift of food, medicine, education, or a step towards self-sufficiency. An order sheet will be in your bulletins beginning next Sunday, November 27.

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, & 21

Eucharist at 12:15 PM

Vespers at 6:30 PM featuring Marty Haugen's musical setting, *Holden Evening Prayer*. The pastors' reflections at these services will follow the theme "Holy Darkness."

Candlelight Carol Service

Saturday, December 17

5:00 PM; Prelude 4:40 PM

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing and worshipful reflection. Nursery is provided and join us for a dessert reception following the service.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18

9:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services

4 PM, 7 PM (Livestream & Cox Cable), and 11 PM

Christmas Day Service

10 AM (*Please Note: Only one service Christmas Day*)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 19

Sunday: 9:00: 137 11:00: 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 7 Confirmation: 6

Total: 236

Streaming: 56

Cox Cable:

Pantry Guests Served: 944 (inc. 356 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 10

Offering:

\$6828.30 (Regular) \$26093.35 (Specials)

\$272.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are witnesses of God's faithfulness.

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

Sunday	Luke 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Monday	Malachi 4:1-2a	The great day of the Lord
Tuesday	2 Thess. 3:6-13	Warning against idleness
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Thursday	Psalms 33:1-9	The greatness of God
Friday	Hebrews 3:1-6	Jesus is greater than Moses
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king



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O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. Psalm 98:1 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Lord Jesus; come Holy Spirit, give us courage to bear witness to your love and faithfulness with songs of joy during the good times and the bad times. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a sign of your faithfulness that gives us strength to endure all things through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you peace during the good times and the bad times.

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

- What are some scary or troubled times you have experienced?
- When bad things happen, who do you turn to? What do you do?

Read: Luke 21:5-19.

Luke's Gospel is written after Roman soldiers demolished the Jerusalem temple in 70 A.D. Jesus' followers were not to pin their hopes on the glory of the temple or on anything in life that seems to promise security and stability. Jesus warns that there will not be an end to daily struggles. There will continue to be wars, earthquakes, plagues and famines. Jesus could have added hurricanes, floods, droughts, and more examples of instability. Truth itself has always been under assault, making life even more unstable. In the meantime, what do we do? We announce the truth of Jesus and God's promises that will not be conquered. We live as witnesses to the truth of God's final conquest in Christ and faithfully endure life-threatening occasions. Troubled times—whether in the first or twenty-first century—are an opportunity to speak the truth of God's love and faithfulness in Christ.

Discuss: In what ways have you experienced God's love and faithfulness in difficult times?

Pray: **Almighty God, as we experience scary times, give us faith to trust in your promise of victory over sin and death and the confidence to speak the truth in love through Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage those who experience difficulties in daily life?

Psalm 98 calls on all the earth to *make a joyful noise*. This week take a walk outside and look at God's creation around you. When you return home, draw a picture or write a list of things you saw. Then make up your own tune to use as you sing these words: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things (v. 1a).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43