

## 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 Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
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)

**December 24 & 25, 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

### Kountze Café

#### Christmas Day & New Year's Day

#### 11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Kountze Café

We will be taking a break on Sundays, December 25 and January 1. A fellowship time of coffee and Christmas cookies will follow our 10 AM Worship on those days. Beginning again January 8, join us each Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM 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.

### Nursery

The KMLC Nursery officially opened Sunday, December 11, and will be open every Sunday from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services. We need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to email [Nursery@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Nursery@kmlchurch.org) or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

### Sunday School

#### December 25 & January 1:

- No Sunday School. Preschool will be provided during the 9 AM service.

### Youth Forum

#### Grades 7—12

No Youth Forum on Christmas or New Years, but join us again on January 8 at 10:10 AM for a time of community, learning, and serving. On January 8 we will be assisting with Sunday School.

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

No Youth Forum on Christmas or New Years, but join us again on January 8 at 10:10 AM

### 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.

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



## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### December 25 Sunday

Christmas Day NOTE SERVICE TIME CHANGE  
10:00 AM (in person, TV, & Livestream)  
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

### December 26 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

### December 28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### December 30 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### December 31 Saturday

New Year's Eve  
5:00 PM Worship

### January 1 Sunday

Christmas 1  
New Year's Day  
9:00 AM (TV & Livestream only)  
10:00 AM Worship (Note time)  
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

### January 2 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

### January 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### January 4 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### January 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### January 6 Friday

Epiphany of Our Lord  
5:00 PM Pantry

### January 7 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### January 8 Sunday

Epiphany of Our Lord  
Homebound Communion  
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)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM Book Group

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology

Sunday, January 8

6:30 PM

Place TBA

For latest information join on Facebook, or email  
omahalutheranyoungadults@gmail.com

### Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and  
Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

Dec. 26 & 28 No Study

Beginning January 9 & 11 we will explore Epiphany Themes as  
we unwrap the present of Christ in our lives.

### Middle School NE Synod Gathering

Grades 6-8 and Adult Leaders

Saturday, January 14, 10:00 AM to

Sunday, January 15, 1:00 PM

Held at First Lutheran Church in Kearney

This year's theme is "Lean on Me" with theme verses: Isaiah  
41:13 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. Registration Rates: Last  
Chance registration by **December 26**: \$68. Please return the  
registration form with payment to Pastor Shari to get  
registered.

### Confirmation

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Wednesday evening beginning  
again on January 4 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During  
the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the  
church.

### New Member Class

January 15 & 22

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial  
and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation,  
please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office  
if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

### Carol Joy Holling High School Retreat

For 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders

January 21-22

1:00 PM Saturday - 1:30 PMish Sunday

Cost is \$50 per person and register by January 13 at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>

### Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders will take place  
July 10-15, 2023. (This is a change from Sunday to Friday to a  
Monday to Saturday.) Registration is extended till **January 29**  
for \$400.00 and **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will  
be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in  
suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service  
projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study

and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer!

### **Jumping with Jesus Through Life's Highs and Lows**

**4-6<sup>th</sup> graders**

**Friday, January 27**

**6:45-9:00 PM**

**Altitude Trampoline Park**

**5575 N 90<sup>th</sup> St**

A Trampoline Park formation adventure for youth from across Omaha's Lutheran Congregations will gather for fellowship, creative learning, and lots of jumps! Friends are welcome as long as they register. Treats and water provided. Register and pay Pastor Shari by Wed. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. \*\*You must fill out Altitude's jump waiver on their website or this link: <https://altitude.active8pos.com/public/waiver/video?loc=OMAHA>

### **Carol Joy Holling Camp 2023**

Register for camp by January 31 and **receive \$50 off and get a free CJH Camp Beanie**. The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a CJH Camp Beanie.

### **2022 Contribution Note**

In order for your offerings to be counted toward your 2022 giving, it needs to be in the office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2022.

### **Join our Kountze Café Team!**

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 8 – 11:30 AM. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Continental Breakfast: 2 people to set up from 8-9 AM, 3 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM. The grocery lists are established, who might be willing to shop and get the supplies to the church by Saturday morning? There are also opportunities to make mini quiches on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month and French Toast Bake the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you might respond.

### **Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle & TV Broadcast**

The new sign up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210. Donating altar flowers or the Eternal candle or providing a church broadcast is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.

### **Kountze Pantry**

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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

### **Peace Light from Bethlehem**

For the past 700 to 1,000 years, an oil lamp has burned continuously in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, above the place where Jesus was believed to have been born. Every year since 1986, a child from Austria has traveled at the beginning of Advent to obtain the flame, and with the help of Austria Airlines, transports the flame – called the Peace Light from Bethlehem – across Europe. Since 2000, the Peace Light has also been making its way to North America each year, with New York's JFK Airport as its transfer point. This simple but extraordinary project is intended to promote peace, harmony, and unity among all peoples of the world – of every race, ethnicity, and creed. Thanks to St. John's Catholic Parish at Creighton University, the Peace Light now burns at Kountze and will continue through Epiphany. It will be used each time we light the Advent wreath. As you gather for Advent worship, may it remind us of the peace of Christ that we share with and receive from others throughout our daily lives. For more about the project, visit [peacelightnorthamerica.org](http://peacelightnorthamerica.org) to view where the peace light is traveling and available across the US this year. Also, check out this video of last year's Peace Light Arrival Ceremony at JFK Airport <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG0B01LgzAs>

and another video on its previous sharing across the US <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz7RDj7TE04>

### **Holden Village**

**July 22 – 29, 2023**

Save the date and watch the bulletin and Good News for more information. Contact Pastor Duminy with any questions you may have or to let her know if you intend to go on the trip by Tuesday, January 3. We need to submit a reservation list by January 5-

---

### **Worship with us this Christmas Season!**

#### **New Year's Eve**

5:00 PM

Lessons and Carols

#### **New Year's Day**

9:00 AM

NOTE TIME CHANGE  
(Pre-recorded for TV and Livestream only)

10:00 AM

Lessons and Carols (in person)

---

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 153

**Sunday: 9:00:** 174 **11:00:** 45

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 6:30:

**Total:** 372

**Streaming:** 101

**Cox Cable:**

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1076 (inc. 363 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 21

**Offering:**

\$20,107.12 (Regular) \$7,282.88 (Specials)

\$2,147.00 (Debt Reduction)

*The glory and power of God is here.*

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

Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Monday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Let Zion rejoice
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-12	God has spoken by a Son
Wednesday	Isaiah 62:6-12	Salvation of Zion
Thursday	Psalms 97	The glory of God's reign
Friday	Titus 3:4-7	Maintain good deeds
Saturday	Psalms 98	Sing praises to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
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.

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14 (NRSV)***

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of hope, peace, joy, and love, we thank you for your glory, power, and might as shown to us in the humble birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who feed shepherds and kings alike, we thank you for this food, a sign of your glory, power, and might that is shown to us in Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the glory of Jesus' birth shine brightly in you today.

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

- How does someone overcome the fear of darkness?
- How does Jesus bring you from fear and darkness into joy and light?

*Read:* John 1:1-14.

John's introduction of Jesus points to a world of contrasts between darkness and light, that is, between the power of fear and deception and the light of God that brings grace, and truth. The arrival of Jesus, the Word that became flesh and now dwells among us, sheds light on what true power and real life looks like: it's the glory of grace and truth. Grace is that divine gift of underserved kindness. In John truth is more than facts. It is a way of life lived in relationship to Jesus, who is "*the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). Jesus comes to shed light on that which brings God's glory and creates goodness and life. Through the Word that became flesh, all created life has come into being. Powers that live in darkness are not life-giving. The good news to hear this Christmas—and always—is that Jesus' light overcomes darkness. Jesus is the source of all that is life-giving, that which is full of grace and truth for all. It is the power worth knowing and trusting.

*Discuss:* Where have you seen the powers of darkness at work in the world? Where have you seen the powers of grace and truth at work in the world?

*Pray:* **God of glory and might, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who brings your grace and truth to conquer all the darkness of sin and evil. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others to have hope in the God of grace and truth?

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

*Leader:* ***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*** (John 1:5)

*All:* **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Lessons & Carols