

## 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)

January 14 & 15, 2023

*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

**Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God** Christin (Williamsen) & Conner Koerperich in honor of their marriage Saturday

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of David Carlsen by his children and grandchildren

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Sharon Arispe in honor of her dad, Donald Hirsh, in celebration of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

### Kountze Café

**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 and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

### Nursery

**Sundays, 8:45 AM—Noon**

**Children 0—2 years**

Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it. We are 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 e-mail [Nursery@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Nursery@kmlchurch.org) or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

### Sunday School

**Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: The Ark and the Tent

In January, we will be focusing on stories from the Old Testament. In this lesson, the students will learn about how Moses encountered God's presence on the mountain and in the tent.

### 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. 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. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

### 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 9:00 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.**



## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Youth Forum

#### Grades 7—12

7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Catching up and sharing current events **Next week:** Bible Study

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall

##### 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Fellowship **Next Week:** Spiritual Direction

### New Member Class

#### January 15 & 22

##### 10:15—11:30 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please attend the New Member classes held this week and next (please plan to attend both classes). Childcare is available. New members will be received on January 29. Hope to see you there.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### January 15 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord  
Good News Deadline  
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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:15 PM New Member Class

### January 16 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
OFFICE CLOSED  
10:00 AM Carol Duncan Funeral  
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### January 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### January 18 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

### January 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5  
6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

### January 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### January 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### January 22 Sunday

Epiphany 3  
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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:15 PM New Member Class

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Class

#### Wednesdays

##### 6:30 PM

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Wednesday evening beginning again on January 4 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the church.

### Bible Study

#### Mondays, 6:00 PM or

#### Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

We will explore Epiphany Themes as we unwrap the present of Christ in our lives. Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

### Men's Lunch

#### Thursday, January 19

##### 11:30 AM

### Fellowship Lounge

#### Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Our speaker John O'Keefe, BA, PhD is a Professor of Theology and Journalism at Creighton University. He has recently finished a documentary film "The Last Prairie – The Nebraska Sandhills". John will talk to us about what inspired the making of the movie and we will get a chance to watch it (movie is about an hour long). Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 17.

## What is Spiritual Direction?

How does it differ from therapy or pastoral counseling? What might be the benefits of meeting regularly with a spiritual director? How do you go about finding and forming a relationship with a spiritual director? Come to the January 22 Adult Forum led by Vicar Gretchen to explore the answers to these questions and more.

## Annual Report

**All Committee Chairs:** Please have your report to Debbie in the church office no later than Sunday, January 22. Thank you!

## 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. 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! Friends are welcome to join our group.

## 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 Wednesday January 25. **\*\*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.

**Ladies, Mark Your Calendars  
Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat  
Exploring Spiritual Practices  
Theme: Open My Heart, Lord  
Saturday, February 18  
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM**

## Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- someone(s) to make mini quiches on **Saturday**
- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 2 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**
- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

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 are able to serve.

## Dinners for 8

### Sign up by Sunday, January 29

We are providing an opportunity to get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months. Placed in a group of 8 people, you will decide to eat out or do potluck at a host home. It is the hope that you will meet each month for a meal for the months of February, March, and April. Through meal and conversation our relationships with one another can grow as we continue the work of Christ at Kountze Memorial. Groups will be formed with those interested and notification of the groups will be distributed by February 1! See you around the table!

## 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>

## Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 36

**Sunday: 9:00:** 145 **11:00:** 76

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 11 **Confirmation:** 6

**deFreese Manor:** 5

**Total:** 279

**Streaming:** 80

**Pantry Guests Served:** 996 (inc. 293 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 26

**Offering:**

\$20,403.27 (Regular)      \$6,880.91 (Specials)

\$3,568.56 (Debt Reduction)

*Baptism leads us to speak of Christ to others.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servants
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Romans 10:5-17	Salvation is for all
Thursday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Jeremiah's call and commission
Friday	Colossians 4:2-5	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalms 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God



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*"You know the message he [God] sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced. Acts 10:36-37 (NRSV)*

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

Dear God, we thank you for the ministry of Jesus that began with his baptism and announced that he is your Son and the Beloved. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, we thank you that through your glory and strength, you give us food from your creation and send us out in Jesus' name. Amen. (Psalm 29:1)

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

May you go forth knowing you are a beloved child of God.

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

- What gives you strength and confidence to do things each day?
- What does it mean to you that you are God's beloved child?

*Read:* Acts 10:34-48.

Just prior to Peter baptizing Cornelius (a Roman soldier) and others in his household, Peter speaks and says he now realizes that all—not just Jews—are acceptable to God. Peter speaks of Jesus and his ministry that began with the baptism of John and Jesus' anointing "with the Holy Spirit and with power" (v. 38). Jesus' baptism by John is not the same as our baptism, but Peter does make a clear connection. The same Holy Spirit that is at Jesus' baptism is also at our baptism. As Cornelius and his group heard Peter's sermon about Jesus, the circumcised believers present were amazed that this non-Jewish community had received the Holy Spirit. Because of that, Peter was compelled to baptize all of them. Jesus' baptism leads to his public ministry just as our baptism leads us by the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to what God has done and continues to do through Christ our Lord. Our own baptism and that of others creates an opportunity to witness to the Christian faith.

*Discuss:* How does a baptism give someone an opportunity to speak about the Christian faith?

*Pray:* **God of power and might, just as Jesus received the Holy Spirit and power in his baptism, empower us in ours to speak of your saving work through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you show the Christian faith through actions and words?

Jesus' baptism by John leads Jesus into his public ministry filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Since the New Testament, baptism has initiated our life in Christ to go out into the world in Jesus' name. Make a list of how you would like to be empowered by God to do good and to bring God's healing power to others. Bless one another with these words: **Go out in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit with the peace of God meant for all.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**