

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

January 21 & 22, 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

Pr. Steve is not with us at Worship this weekend as he and Mary Kay are on vacation. He'll be back next weekend.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Patt & Joe Councill in honor of our grandson, Joey Councill's Eagle Court of Honor

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.

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: The Ark and the Temple

In January, we will be focusing on stories from the Old Testament. In today's lesson, we will learn about the building of the Temple and how it reflected the meaning of God's presence.

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

7th - 12th 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:** Bible Study **Next week:** Fun and games

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

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

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 8:45 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*

New Member Class Continues

Sunday, January 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 class this Sunday. Childcare is available. New members will be received on January 29.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 22 Sunday

Epiphany 3
Annual Report 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-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:15 PM New Member Class

January 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study

January 24 Tuesday

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

January 25 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

January 26 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Christian Education Committee

January 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 29 Sunday

Epiphany 4
Receive New Members
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 AM Kountze Cafe - 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

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

6:00 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening 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.

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 Committee Reports

Due January 22

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

Jumping with Jesus Through Life's Highs and Lows 4-6th graders

Friday, January 27

6:45-9:00 PM

Altitude Trampoline Park

5575 N 90th St

Cost: \$20

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>**

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th 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.

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.

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!

Pantry "Souper" Bowl

The Kountze Women of the ELCA are collecting soup and peanut butter from now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 12. There is a large bin in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!

Ladies, Mark Your Calendars

Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat

Exploring Spiritual Practices

Theme: Open My Heart, Lord

Saturday, February 18

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10

The KMLC Scholarship Program

Application Deadline: March 1

Funds are available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university, or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church web site at www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MARCH 1, 2023. **Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your

applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by email to info@kmlchurch.org

Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

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

2nd 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

3rd Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

4th 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.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

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 e-mail Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

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: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 144 11:00: 78

Wednesday: 12:15: 0 Confirmation: 0

Total: 253

Streaming: 43

Cox Cable:

Pantry Guests Served: 219 (inc. 82 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$40128.53 (Regular) \$1288.8 (Specials)

\$26030.11 (Debt Reduction)

The power of God changes and heals lives.



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

Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-4	A new day is coming
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Divisions in the church
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Lamentations 3:19-32	God's love endures
Friday	James 1:12-18	Trial and temptation
Saturday	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	Trust in God
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount

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*From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." **Matthew 4:17 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord, may the light of your goodness and mercy be brought to all corners of the earth, heal lives, and restore hope through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we see in this meal your light that shines brightly in the world; strengthen our lives and give all people hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and mercy of God protect you in times of trouble. (Psalm 27:5)

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

- When is a time you have seen or been involved in a protest? Describe the protest.
- What kind of protest do you think Jesus would be part of in our world today?

Read: Matthew 4:12-23.

In February, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Thousands of Russian protestors were arrested. Kings and rulers past and present do not take kindly to dissenters. John the Baptist was a dissenter and disrupter of the status quo. He challenged Herod Antipas and eventually paid the ultimate price. Jesus, too, was a disrupter. His call to follow led Peter, Andrew, James, and John to leave their jobs, their families, and their families' economic stability to follow him. Jesus disrupted the daily lives of his followers. Jesus' call to repent is more than a moral change of heart. Repentance is a changed way of seeing and thinking about life. Jesus calls us to the kingdom standards of the rule and power of God, not to our own accepted standards. Jesus leads his followers into a world in need of good news preached and where lives need to be healed. In today's world, it may sound like foolishness, but it is the very power of God at work in the world (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Discuss: How have you been called to tell good news and bring healing to others in the name of Christ?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see you at work in the world and to follow you above all else so that mercy and healing may touch lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

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

Epiphany is a season during the church year that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world. The psalmist in Psalm 27 reminds us that God is present in times of danger and when we feel afraid. Write a list of fears you may have for yourself or for others. Think or talk about those fears. Each day this week, read the list you have made. Add to the list if needed. Then light a candle and pray: **Lord, you are my light and my salvation. When I cry aloud, be gracious and answer me. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12