

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 28 & 29, 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

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.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Bruce & Barb Nissen in honor of Barb's mom, Nita Mueller, for her 90th birthday; in gratitude for granddaughter, Mara's 5th birthday, given by Kimberly Grassmeyer

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.

Welcome New Members!

Today we welcome new members. Come to the Fellowship Hall during Adult Forum time and introduce yourself to them if you haven't already. Thank you again to John Fox Florist for providing boutonnieres for the new members.

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 Prophets

The Prophets focuses on who a prophet might be and what they do. The students will be examining Old Testament prophets, focusing on Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the 12 minor prophets.

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:** Fun and games **Next week:** Time with Vicar Gretchen

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:** Welcome New Members
Next Week: Presentation of 2023 Congregational Budget

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!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

January 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Bible Study

January 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 1 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

February 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 3 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 4 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

February 5 Sunday

Epiphany 5
Holden Deposit Due
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 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. Bible Study will not take place on February 6 through April 12.

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.

KMLC Camp Week is June 18—23! Invite your family and friends to join you for a week at camp.

February Service Project

Sunday, February 5

10:10 AM (during Sunday School)

The Sunday School children will be making Valentine's Day cards for the residents of deFreese manor as the February Service project. Come creative and ready to brighten the day of our neighbors!

Pantry "Souper" Bowl

Now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 12

The Kountze Women of the ELCA are collecting soup and peanut butter. There is a large bin in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, February 14

12:00 Noon

Augustana Lutheran Church

For Info & Reservation call Faith at 402 734 4629

Open My Heart, Lord

A Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat

Exploring Spiritual Practices:

Relational Prayer with Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp

Zentangle with Diane Harpster of dianeharpsterart.com

Body Prayer with Emily Wageman

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall

(enter west office door on Farnam or handicap entrance from west parking lot, by orange tower)

Saturday, February 18 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost is \$10 day of the retreat

◆ Salad Luncheon provided ◆ Supplies for all Spiritual Practices provided ◆ Childcare can be provided as requested ◆ Diane Harpster Art will be able to purchase during the event. Join us as we spend time learning new faith practices that can be continued through the Season of Lent, as we take time to share our faith journeys as women of the church. Please register by Wednesday, February 8 to the church office, sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk, or email info@kmlchurch.org - Name, email, or phone number (only used to notify of event changes), and if you need child care.

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

• 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**

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 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 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: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 142 11:00:74

Wednesday: 12:15: 8 Confirmation: 6

Total: 255

Streaming: 72

Cox Cable:

Pantry Guests Served: 1248 (inc. 474 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$10376.53 (Regular) \$3081.28 (Specials)

\$617.5 (Debt Reduction)

God is wisdom, power, and joy.



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

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount
Monday	Micah 6:1-8	True obedience
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Message of the cross
Wednesday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the Plain
Thursday	1 Samuel 17:31-49	David and Goliath
Friday	Exodus 4:1-17	Moses' miraculous power
Saturday	Psalms 15	Life of the blameless
Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light

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For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:22-24 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of wisdom, power, and joy, help us to see and believe that in Christ and his crucifixion you have established an eternal kingdom that will bless us now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this gift of food strengthen us to show fairness to all, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you through Christ our crucified and risen Lord. Amen. (Micah 6:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ the crucified one free you to live in peace and joy.

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

- How would you describe someone who is wise and powerful?
- Where we see weakness and foolishness, God can see strength and wisdom. How is this good news for us?

Read: Matthew 5:1-12.

This passage is called the Beatitudes, a description of true bliss, holiness, and joy. It begins the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). These words open Jesus' first public preaching and set the stage for Jesus' God-giving and life-saving work. It is a startling opening statement. Jesus reverses standard understandings of who is blessed in life. When things go well it is easy for us to say, "I am blessed." However, Jesus extends blessings not to the well-off, but to those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and others. Jesus says they are blessed and experiencing some form of God-given bliss now and will also experience a reward in heaven. In society we often struggle for power, recognition, and wealth. Jesus knows that God's standards are not the same. True glory, true wisdom, true joy in life is to experience daily life with a deep-seated compassion based on justice, kindness, and humbleness (Micah 6:8).

Discuss: Where in your life have you seen or experienced compassion based on God's standards?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, open our eyes and our hearts to see the true joy of a life lived in relationship to you and in care of others through Christ Jesus, the crucified one. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you bless someone by doing an act of kindness?

Micah was a great prophet in Israel who lived long before Jesus was born. A prophet is a teacher and one who proclaims God's will. The people asked him what God required of them. Micah told them the Lord requires them to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Each day this week take time to sit in silence and consider your actions towards others. Ask yourself, "Where did I show justice, kindness, and mercy?" Then light a candle and pray: **Dear God, give me the desire to seek justice, kindness, and walk humbly each day with you and with all people. In Jesus' name, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20