

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

February 11 & 12, 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Robert & Pat Ranney in memory of Pat's sister

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.

Children's Choir Second Floor Music Room

Sundays, 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. The children's choir will be singing on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19. We hope that all of our children can be here to sing. Thank you!

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:

In class, we will begin learning about Jesus' journey toward the cross as we prepare for Easter. The first lesson will focus on the birth and growth of Jesus.

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:** Congregational Meeting
Next week: Bible Study

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*

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

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

Week: Lenten Preview



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!

Bowling Down Barriers

Faith Formation Adventure

Sunday, February 19

2:45 - 5:00 PM

Grades 4 - 6

Maplewood Lanes

3030 N 101st St, Omaha

Cost is \$20 (Includes pizza & bowling shoes - pay at door)

Call the church office or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org to register no later than **Sunday, February 12**. Come join the fun and meet youth from all across the Omaha Metro area.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 12 Sunday

Epiphany 6

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—Congregational Meeting

12:15 PM Book Group

February 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

February 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

February 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 19 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

February 20 Monday

President's Day

OFFICE CLOSED

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

6:00 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Lounge. This coming week we will share time with Vicar Gretchen in exploring an element of Discipleship. We will look at what it means to be a part of Community.

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, February 14

12:00 Noon

Augustana Lutheran Church

For Info & Reservation call Faith at 402 734 4629

February Men's Lunch
Men's Lunch February 16
11:30 AM

Our speaker is from the Douglas County Historical Society, "Omaha's AUTO-Biography" is a look at our love affair with the motor car. From automobile production, to racing, to drive-in dining and movie theaters... we will hit all the stops" Invite a friend and RSVP by February 14.

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

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.

Journey to Denver

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Registration is extended until **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.

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>



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 22
Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM
Lenten Meal:
Lunch: 11:00 AM
Dinner: 5:00 PM
Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 29
Sunday: 9:00: 148 11:00:75
Wednesday: 12:15: 9 **Confirmation:** 6
Total: 261
Streaming: 54
Cox Cable: 212
Pantry Guests Served: 902 (inc. 262 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17
Offering:
\$24,874.83 (Regular) \$1,767.66 (Specials)
\$1,283.56 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus comes to bring reconciliation.

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Working together for God
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Thursday	Genesis 33:1-17	Jacob and Esau meet
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalms 119:1-8	The law of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-19	Transfiguration of Jesus



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So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you have shown us the way to love and mercy; help us to share your love and power of reconciliation with all through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a gift of life that sustains us during the good times and the difficult times through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God bless you with long life and happiness.

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

- What do you do when a personal relationship is not going well?
- How does your faith help you when you are struggling in a relationship?

Read: Matthew 5:21-37.

When Jesus is teaching here, he can sound like he is undermining the law and substituting other rules to live by. However, what he is doing is not rejecting the law, but intensifying its intended outcome. The law is to preserve life for one's neighbor, one's community, and oneself. The commandments give a baseline of how to care for one another, but Jesus says, "You can do more." We are not to stop caring for our neighbor until reconciliation and understanding between one another happens. Life without fear, intimidation, or destruction is the goal for all relationships. Jesus is particularly hard on men. The patriarchal system of his day made it easy for men to abandon a woman and take another. To that Jesus says, "No!" Jesus seeks personal and public relationships that are life-giving, just as God's law is intended to be life-giving (Deuteronomy 30:16).

Discuss: Where in society or in your own relationships do you see a need for God's reconciling power?

Pray: **Life-giving God, help us to treasure the gift of life and relationships so that we may seek ways not to harm people but to nurture one another through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve others in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help restore a broken relationship?

Passing the peace is a Christian practice used in worship since the early church to experience the reconciling power of God in Christ. Historically, it is offered prior to Holy Communion in recognition of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:23-24). However, sharing God's peace is meant for more than just a worship service. The peace of God, forgiveness, and acceptance of one another is part of our daily lives. Greet others daily with the peace of the Lord. As a reminder, before meals this week light a candle and say: **The peace of the Lord be with you.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9