

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 25 & 26, 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.



Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by the Jensen family in honor of their Aunt Mary Alice's 100th 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.

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.

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:

As we continue on the journey toward Easter and learning about the life of Christ, we will study Jesus' baptism and blessing. We begin learning about Jesus' journey to the cross two weeks before the Lenten season starts as we will be doing the stations of the cross on Palm Sunday and there will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday. This give the children the opportunity to hear the story of Jesus, his life, and the journey towards the cross in its entirety. In addition to hearing the lesson and reading the corresponding Bible story, the students will complete an activity to reinforce the lesson of the day.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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 & Games **Next week:** What's New? – in our lives and current events

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Music of the Lutheran Tradition; Handel **Next Week:** Music of the Lutheran Tradition; Schütz

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

Table Theology

Sunday, February 26

6:00 PM

Beacon Hills in Aksarben

RSVP to OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

March 1 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

March 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

March 3 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 4 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

March 5 Sunday

Lent 2

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

Journey to Denver

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

Middle School Lock-In

Grades 6 –8

Friday, March 10, 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 11, 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35 per Camper

Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/lock-in>

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.

Quilts & Kits Headed to Turkey

Lutheran World Relief has created a special video that shows faith in action as their warehouse team prepares a shipment of LWR Mission Quilts, Personal Care Kits and Baby Kits to be delivered to Turkey. They extend deep gratitude to the quilters and kit-makers. Because of the commitment to making quilts and kits year-round, Lutheran World Relief is sending these valuable resources and bringing hope to our neighbors who have lost everything. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR0BE75v4J4>

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>

Our Lenten Focus "Unfinished"

UNFINISHED – Out of the Depths is written by Dr. Michael J. Chan and will be our focus for Wednesdays in Lent on the book of Jonah. He says, "Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, he is prone to wander from his Creator in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future. This temptation is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky ventures, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God does. God meets us in those liminal, Lent-like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy." Join us as we explore these themes:

- March 1 Jonah 1:17; Psalm 139; Intercepted and Redirected
- March 8 Jonah 2; Psalm 130; God in the Depths of Chaos
- March 15 Jonah 3; Obedience and Preservation
- March 22 Jonah 4; Faithful and Unfinished
- March 29 Matthew 8:23-27 (cf. Mark 4:34-41; Luke 8:22-25); Jesus, a New Jonah

UNFINISHED – Discovering God's Call in Not Yet is written by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox and will be our focus for Sundays of Lent. She writes, "The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again."

We will be using the lectionary readings to focus on the following themes:

- Feb. 26 Called to Values
- March 5 Called to Openness
- March 12 Called by God
- March 19 Called to Attentiveness
- March 26 Called to Regret

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2

Called to Experience God's Presence

Easter Sunday, April 9

Called to Resurrection

UNFINISHED Digital Devotions are also available on our church website, through links in the weekly e-news or use this QR code. There are a few options that you might find helpful:



- Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- Weekly Sunday Lectionary - Children and Family Ideas
- Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- Daily Unfinished Devotional
- Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos

Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox writes of this weekly practice: "One way that we can lean into and honor this space between no longer and not yet is to engage in spiritual practices that both invite us to be attentive to God's present-tense call and nourish God's relationship with us. This Lent, you are invited into the spiritual practice vocare, a practice designed to help you discover and embrace various ways that God calls you in everyday life so that even amid the not yet, you can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good."

Beginning on Ash Wednesday with a reminder of our shared, called, baptismal life and culminating on Easter Sunday with the call to practice resurrection, each week will add a new guiding word of the vocare practice and practical ways to engage vocare in your personal life, your circle of relationships, and your congregation. You won't want to miss the chance to honor the space between no longer and not yet!"

Wednesdays in Lent

Meals Served 11:00 AM – Noon & 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship—12:15 & 6:30 PM

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert. Meals are free will offering.

Menu for March 1

Choice of Chili or Chicken Tortilla Soup

Assorted Quesadillas

Dessert

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 149 **11:00:** 75

Wednesday: 12:15: 58 **6:30:** 74

Total: 383

Streaming: 84 (includes Lenten service)

Pantry Guests Served: 0—Snow Day/Holiday

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0—Snow Day

Offering:

\$42,234.48 (Regular) \$2,473.91 (Specials)

\$2,987.50 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus conquers evil.

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

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	First sin and its punishment
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Adam and Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Don't worship idols
Thursday	Ephesians 6:10-17	The whole armor of God
Friday	Hebrews 2:5-18	Exaltation through humiliation
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world



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Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Matthew 4:10-11 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, it is difficult to face the evil within and around us. Thank you for facing and conquering the power of sin through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of steadfast love and mercy, we thank you for this meal and all that you do to care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you from all evil and give you peace through Jesus Christ.

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

- When you are going through difficult times, who supports you?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good and bad times? Explain.

Read: Matthew 4:1-11.

After his baptism, Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness, a place of testing and identity formation. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is adamant and without compromise. We, on the other hand, find it easy to compromise goodness in the presence of evil by tolerating comfort over justice, worship of false gods, and powers that hurt others without grieving us. In a world where little compromises lead to major sins and disappointments, it is good to know that our Savior faced down evil and won. Evil is real and does real damage to God's creation, including human beings and their relationships. The good news is that as fallible and susceptible as we are to evil, God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

Discuss: How does Jesus' victory over Satan give you strength and courage to live each day?

Pray: Eternal God, you who never give up on us and always oppose evil, we thank you for your steadfast love and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to someone who feels alone?

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. Decorate an Almsgiving Box to collect money for those in need during Lent. Place the box in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. This week rather than eating out, place money that you might have spent in the box to give to others.

Pray: Loving God, thank you for giving us daily bread. Help us to give to others so that they may also be given daily bread. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17