

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 4 & 5, 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.

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 Service Project:

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!

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:** Time with Vicar Gretchen **Next week:** Congregational Meeting

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Presentation of 2023 Congregational Budget **Next Week:** Annual Meeting

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 5 Sunday

Epiphany 5

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

February 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

6:00 PM Executive Committee

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

February 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 11 Saturday

2:00 PM Building Use

5:00 PM Worship

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

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.

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

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.

**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.

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



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 22

Sunday: 9:00: 108 **11:00:** 69

Wednesday: 12:15: 8 **Confirmation:** 7

Total: 214

Streaming: 85

Pantry Guests Served: 1,011 (inc. 333 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$13,250.32 (Regular) \$4,264.82 (Specials)

\$843.99 (Debt Reduction)

The power of knowing Christ crucified.

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	1 Peter 4:12-16	Suffering as a Christian
Friday	James 1:2-8	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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When I [Paul] came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us your wisdom to see in the cross of Christ the path of love, humility, and service to others above all else. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us strength to care for the needs of others as you care for us each and every day. In the name of Jesus, our crucified Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you take delight in the wisdom of God through our crucified Lord Jesus Christ.

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

- What motivates people to show they are more powerful than others?
- How does God show wisdom and power through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

The Corinthian church was a divided church. Some thought they had superior wisdom or superior spiritual gifts. Paul rejects such claims by focusing on God's wisdom revealed through Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified and died a criminal's death at the hands of earthly powers. Those who believe they have superior wisdom and gifts totally miss the point and rely on human standards—human wisdom—not God's. Paul's own ministry demonstrates the wisdom of God that seems like foolishness to the world. Paul did not use impressive speech. He used the message of Christ crucified, a message made powerful by the Holy Spirit, not human rhetoric. To be truly "spiritual," and therefore a blessing to the church, one needs to be grounded in spiritual wisdom that understands the power of the cross. This power can look like weakness. The very standards the arrogant use to feel superior shows their dependence on the powers and wisdom of the current age, not the power and wisdom of God through Christ crucified.

Discuss: Being forgiven can look like weakness. How can it be a powerful gift to the life of the church?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see that in the death of Jesus your power is present to guide our daily lives and bring faith, hope, and love to all the world. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help people who feel put down by others?

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too! God is present in our daily lives. The home is where people are connected in intimate daily settings. Where we call home can be diverse. Matthew 5:15-16 reminds us that we don't hide the light of a lamp under a basket. We place it where "it gives light to all in the house." Jesus tells us we are the light of the world and invites us to shine our light so that others may see our good works and give glory to God. Light a candle each day this week. While you gaze at the light, think or talk about what "good works" (v. 16) you have done that day and how what you did gives glory to God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37