

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

March 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 in honor of Anna Kidder's 20th 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 9:00 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:

Through the month of March, the Sunday School students will continue to learn of Jesus' life and his progression to the cross. Over the four weeks of March, the children will hear of Jesus' temptation in the desert, learn of Christ as a healer and parable-maker, study the time Jesus enters Jerusalem and shares bread and wine with the disciples, ending with the culmination of Jesus on the cross and the meaning of Easter.

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:** Assisting with Sunday School **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:** Pondering the Crucifixion, Part 1 **Next**

Week: Pondering the Crucifixion, Part 2

Table Theology on March 12

Herbe Sainte in Aksarben

1934 South 67th St in Aksarben

6:30 PM

Young adults are welcome to join for dinner and discussion with others from across Omaha. RSVP to Greta at OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

March Service Project

The Sunday School is collecting items for the Nebraska Humane Society for the March service project. Items can be brought to church and left in front of the Sunday School office. A list of donations can be found on the Human Society website and include standard items of food, treats, toys, blankets, and more. Items to be gathered also include many recyclable items such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, and plastic coffee containers.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 12 Sunday

Lent 3

Daylight Saving Time—spring ahead 1 hour

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

12:15 PM Book Group

6:30 PM Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology

March 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board—Classroom

March 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

4:30 PM Executive Committee

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

March 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

March 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

March 19 Sunday

Lent 4

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

12:00 PM First Communion Class (1 of 2)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Tuesday, March 14, 12:00 Noon

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

For info, call Faith, 402 734 4629. Reservations are required

First Communion Classes

Sundays, March 19 and 26

12:00 PM (following 11:00 AM service)

A light lunch is served before the hour long class.

If your child is around second grade, or has expressed a curiosity about what it means to receive Communion, they are encouraged to join this class. First Communion will be taken on Maundy Thursday, April 6. Please RSVP to Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org.

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.

Kountze Pantry

Thanks to all of you who helped us save receipts from Family Fare! The good news is we raised thousands of dollars. The bad news is the program has ended, so we no longer need the receipts. The Kountze Food Pantry is in the process of partnering with Family Fare in a new reward program.

We are still collecting hygiene products for our guests, especially feminine supplies and shaving razors and cream. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Our Lenten Focus "Unfinished"

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:

- March 12 Called by God
- March 19 Called to Attentiveness
- March 26 Called to Regret
- April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday, Called to Experience God's Presence
- April 9 Easter Sunday, Called to Resurrection

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 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 Digital Devotions are also available on our church website, through links in the weekly e-news or use the QR code below. 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. Please remember that there is **No Parking** in the Methodist parking lot to the north of our handicapped entrance on Wednesdays - or any week day - from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. You may park on Farnam Street at the meters for 25 cents per hour, in our parking lot on the west side of the building, or in the deFreeze parking lot.

Menu for March 15

Tomato Basil or Broccoli Cheese Soup
Pulled Pork Sliders
Dessert

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

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Trivia

LOCAL Beer, Patio, and Kitchen at Village Point

17305 Davenport St

Tuesday, March 28

7:00 PM

Come be a part of an OLYA trivia team in this social outing!

RSVP to Greta at OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com.

Worship Assistants Needed

Holy Week & Easter Worship Assistants are Needed

We are in need Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers for Holy Week and Easter - and Sundays in general. If you are already serving as Communion Assistants and/or Lectors, please sign up on SignUp Genius or call the church office (402-341-7761) to sign up according to your availability. If you are willing to serve as an Usher, please contact Jim (jim@kmlchurch.org or call the church office. If you aren't currently serving as a Communion Assistant or Lector but would like to, please contact Debbie in the church office (402-341-7761) to sign up or to get a link to the SignUp Genius Page. We will be glad to walk you through a short training session before you serve. Thanks in advance for serving in this way.



We have received several phone calls again recently to let us know that emails and text messages are being sent out that say they are from one of our pastors and that they need a favor. When the email

or text is responded to, they ask for Amazon gift cards. Please know that the pastors nor the church office will email/text saying we need a favor and give no other information. Just block that email/text. It is not from Kountze.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 134 **11:00:** 75

Wednesday: 12:15: 28 **6:30:** 61

Total: 332

Streaming: 55 (inc. Wednesday)

Pantry Guests Served: 1030 (inc. 357 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$18,777.94 (Regular) \$3,760.69 (Specials)

\$1,028.56 (Debt Reduction)

God changes enemies into followers.

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

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Thursday	1 Samuel 24:1-15	David spares Saul's life
Friday	Romans 12:14-21	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalms 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind



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For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Reconciling God, we thank you for reuniting us with you and with all the people of the world through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, give us thankful hearts for this meal. We pray for all to have enough to eat for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

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

- What characteristics do you look for in a friend? When is a time you felt you were an outsider?
- How does God's care for you feel a bit surprising, even when you know you have done something wrong?

Read: John 4:5-42.

In John 3, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus who is a male, a Pharisee, and a Jewish insider. In John 4, Jesus speaks to someone (by contrast), who is a woman, a Samaritan, and an outsider in her own community. For a Jew, a Samaritan is an enemy worthy of being excluded, but Jesus expands God's reconciling work by speaking to a Samaritan woman who is a community outsider. Jesus gives a visible example of what John 3:16 means for the church. God's love for the world brings unlikely disciples into the church who witness to Jesus. Jesus' followers are to have a real relationship to him as Savior. (The Samaritans are the only ones in John's Gospel who call Jesus "Savior.") The follower's relationship includes reaching out to others with the love of Jesus. The woman tells the people to "*Come and see*" Jesus (John 4:29). They do and respond that "*we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world*" (v. 42). The woman witnesses to Jesus so others may know him as Savior.

Discuss: How do you reach out to others with the love of Jesus?

Pray: Lord God, help us to see Jesus as the Savior of the world and to see our neighbor as worthy of your love. Help us to show your love to our neighbors. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you reach out to someone who seems to be an outsider in the community?

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. This week think or talk about the homeless and their needs. Add a donation for the homeless to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

Pray: Loving God, we often forget about the needs of others. Help us to think of the homeless and how we can help fulfill their needs. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41