

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 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renee Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and family

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:

Camp Sunday
Sunday, March 26

Staff from the camp will be present during the Christian Education hour (10:00 to 11:00 AM) to share information and lead camp activities. We encourage parents to attend with their youth. We will start our time together in the Link. It is the hope that youth from KMLC (K-12th grade) will attend camp at Carol Joy Holling this summer. Due to a gift to our church, we are able to pay for the cost of camp at Carol Joy Holling this year. Register your child for camp and let the church office know so we can get the payment to the camp on behalf of those attending. Please speak with a pastor if you need more information.

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:** Camp Sunday **Next week:** Easter Preparation

Adult Forum

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*

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 3 **Next Week:** Palm Sunday (Fellowship)

First Communion Class Continues

Sunday, March 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.

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 Humane 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 26 Sunday

Lent 5

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 (2 of 2)

March 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

March 29 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal—Note date change

March 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Christian Education Committee

March 31 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

April 2 Sunday

Palm Sunday

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

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.

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 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 the following themes:

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 here. 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

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 deFreese parking lot.

Menu for March 29

Beef Barley or Ham and Bean Soup
Assorted Wraps
Dessert

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

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 the church office 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.

Mission Investment Fund & Baptismal Ministry

A new Baptismal Ministry is happening through the gift of the late Rev. Robert Johnson and Mary Ann Johnson. Each child that is baptized at KMLC will be receiving a \$100.00 Savings Account through the Mission Investment Fund. This account will be established by the church and then handed over to their parents with the hopes that investing in their child's future is just one more way the church can show support and care beyond our spiritual offerings.

Kountze Pantry

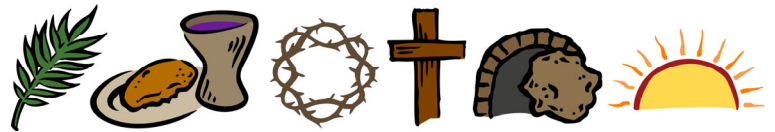
Thanks to all of you who helped us save receipts from Family Fare! The good news is we raised thousands of dollars. The bad news is the program has ended, so we no longer need the receipts. The Kountze Food Pantry is in the process of partnering with Family Fare in a new reward program. We are still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



Remember that no Kountze Memorial staff member will ever email or text you asking you to send money or gift cards, to perform some kind of task, for a favor, or to respond immediately.

Please delete such emails or texts and don't reply back or click on any links contained within the message. Never send money or gift cards or provide checking account or credit card information in response to any emailed solicitation without checking with a trusted source. More info regarding spam messages and how to report them can be found at https://seiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/12/ScamFlyer_Final.pdf



Holy Week at Kountze

Palm Sunday, April 1 & 2

9 & 11 AM Eucharist with Palm Procession and Passion Reading

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 3, 4, and 5

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 6

11:00 AM Lunch (free-will offering)
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Dinner (free-will offering)
6:30 PM Worship & First Communion (Nursery care is available for children ages infant – 4 years in the nursery located near the Fellowship Hall. Please ask an Usher for directions.)

Good Friday, April 7

12:00-3:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir
6:30 PM Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery)

Holy Saturday, April 8

10:00 PM Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist)
(There will be no 5:00 PM Saturday service)

Easter Sunday, April 9

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link
8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast
9 & 11 AM Festival of the Resurrection
10:00 AMish Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9:00 AM service

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 142 **11:00:** 88

Wednesday: 12:15: 24 **6:30:** 60

Total: 345

Streaming: 72 (inc. Wednesday)

Pantry Guests Served: 1385 (inc. 319 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 10

Offering:

\$9,484.65 (Regular) \$6,070.63 (Specials)

\$7,12.50 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus weeps with us.

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

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Hosea 11:1-9	God's love for God's people
Thursday	Isaiah 53:4-12	The suffering servant
Friday	Luke 19:41-44	Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting in the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him [Lazarus]!" **John 11:35-36 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, we are in awe of how you grieve with us and conquer sin and death so that we may experience eternal life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for coming to us in Jesus, just as your constant love comes to us through this gift of food that gives us life each day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and joy through Christ our Lord.

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

- How do you find comfort when something bad happens?
- Jesus cried over Lazarus' death. How does crying help in times of sadness?

Read: John 11:1-45.

Jesus' divinity and humanity are on full display in this story. Jesus knows that Lazarus has died. Jesus goes to Bethany to bring Lazarus back to life. Jesus announces, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die"* (vv. 25-26). Jesus has power over life and death yet he weeps. Jesus, fully divine is also fully human, and he experiences the pain and sadness of the final enemy, death itself. The Apostle Paul writes of flesh and Spirit in Romans 8. For Paul, the flesh is not an earthly matter. Flesh is the power of sin that turns us away from God. The Spirit brings life born of God. Both Paul and Jesus recognize the Holy Spirit and the power of sin and death that remain in our world and in our lives. Sin is not just a personal weakness. It is a power that needs to be vanquished. Because of this destructive power, Jesus weeps. Christ's victory over sin and death is our victory. Christ shares our tears over death, the final enemy to be conquered.

Discuss: How does believing in Jesus give you comfort during times of death and loss?

Pray: **Compassionate God, we give you our thanks and praise that in Jesus Christ you take on our humanity, weep with us, and give us hope by conquering sin and death. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you comfort someone who is going through tough times?

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 decide where you will donate the money from the Almsgiving Box you have had in your home during Lent. Deliver the money to where it can be distributed to those in need.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45