

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 1 & 2, 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 worshiping, 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

**Altar Palm Arrangements** We thank James Pierson for the beautiful palm arrangements he made for us. James has given two of the arrangements to the glory of God in memory of Richard Bock.

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God sponsored by Laurine Savine in thanksgiving of all who made my 98<sup>th</sup> birthday a gracious one.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

**Youth Forum**  
**Grades 7—12**

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 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:** Easter Preparation **Next week:** Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

**Adult Forum**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Palm Sunday (Fellowship) **Next Week:** Easter Sunday (Fellowship)

### 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*

### March Service Project

The Sunday School continues to collect 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.

### South Stained Glass Window

If you haven't already, be sure to come to the front of the Nave sometime before or after the service and look back at our beautiful, newly installed, stained glass window. We look forward to having the East window installed sometime in the not too distant future.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### April 3 Monday

Monday in Holy Week  
10:00 AM Pantry  
12:15 PM Worship

### April 4 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:15 PM Worship

### April 5 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week  
12:15 PM Worship

### April 6 Thursday

Maundy Thursday  
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
6:30 PM Worship and First Communion

### April 7 Friday

Good Friday  
12:00—3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship  
6:30 PM Worship

### April 8 Saturday

Easter Vigil  
10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship (no 5:00 PM service)

### April 9 Sunday

Easter  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
8:00 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast  
7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

### April 10 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Tuesday, April 11, 12:00 Noon  
Immanuel Lutheran Church-- Benson  
Reservations to Faith, 402 734 4629

### 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:

- April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday, Called to Experience God's Presence
- April 9 Easter Sunday, Called to Resurrection

**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!"



## Maundy Thursday

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 Thursday, April 6

Whatever is in the Freezer Smorgasbord

Have your favorites again or try something new

Dessert—Cake at 5:00 PM

## Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers Needed

We are still in need of a few Worship Assistants for Holy Week and Easter:

Lector—Easter, 7:30 AM

Communion Assistant—Easter, 7:30 and 9:00 AM

Ushers—Good Friday 3-hour Service, 6:30 PM, Easter Vigil, Easter morning, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

- If you can help as a Lector or Communion Assistant, please sign up on SignUp Genius.
- If you can help as an Usher, please sign up in the back of the Nave or at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall. You can also call the church office.

Thanks for your help serving during Worship

## KMLC Quilters & All Interested in Quilting Wednesday, April 12

11:30 AM

Join us for a Lunch together in the Fellowship Hall following the regular monthly quilting time. We will then head over to Gallery 1516 on Leavenworth for the "Modern Quilting on the Prairie" Exhibit. If you are able to join us, please sign up or call the church office by Monday, April 10.

## An Afternoon of Playing Cards with Friends

Interest has been expressed for a gathering of people on a weekday afternoon to play cards together.

If this is something that you would be interested in participating in, please sign up or call the church office and let us know what weekday afternoon is best for you.

## 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>

## 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

5:00 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: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 95 11:00: 57

Wednesday: 12:15: 30 6:30: 65

Total: 280

Streaming: 71 (inc. Wednesday)

Pantry Guests Served: 797 (inc. 344 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$13,473.33 (Regular)

\$1,974.72 (Specials)

\$682.66 (Debt Reduction)

## From cheers to rejection to triumph.

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

|           |                     |                               |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 21:1-11     | Jesus enters Jerusalem        |
| Monday    | Matthew 26:14-27:66 | Jesus' trial and crucifixion  |
| Tuesday   | Isaiah 50:4-9a      | The servant's humiliation     |
| Wednesday | Philippians 2:5-11  | Christ shows us true humility |
| Thursday  | John 13:1-35        | Jesus washes disciples' feet  |
| Friday    | John 18:1-19:42     | Jesus suffers and dies        |
| Saturday  | Psalms 31:9-16      | Prayer for protection         |
| Sunday    | John 20:1-18        | Christ's resurrection         |



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*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:5-8 (NRSV)***

### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, from the cross you triumph over all the forces that lead us away from you; give us faith to follow the way of the cross through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Suffering God, in a world where many lack the food they need, help us to care for others as you care for us with this meal today. In Jesus' name, amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with the steadfast love of the cross of Christ. (Psalm 31:16)

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

- When was a time you were part of a crowd that was cheering loudly?
- If you were part of the crowd cheering for Barabbas to be set free instead of Jesus, why do you think you would do that?

*Read:* Matthew 26:14-27:66.

What we experience in life can help us see things in the Bible we might otherwise miss. For example, in the age of social divisions we witness today, we can understand how very fragile a democracy can be. Pilate gave the crowds a moment to be a democracy by asking them who to free, Jesus or Barabbas. The crowds chose Barabbas. The week before, crowds were cheering on Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Within a week the crowds saw things differently. Jesus takes our fickleness, our lack of insight, our willingness to follow the crowd with him to the cross. It is all part of our brokenness that fails to see the truth of Jesus. However, our failures do not stop God's plan. God's plan—God's will—according to Philippians 2:10-11 is that *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”* From the cross we learn that our foolish ways as individuals and as a society will not conquer God's will.

*Discuss:* How do you tell the difference between the will of God and the will of a crowd?

*Pray:* **Suffering God, you know how we fail you and yet you love us all the way to the cross; give us faith and wisdom to follow you all the days of our lives through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you care for people whom others look on with disrespect?

This coming week is Holy Week. We remember the journey of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem to his last meal, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. These stories are central to our faith. Choose a space in your home to observe Holy Week. Each day, add an item (listed below), think or talk about its' role in the Passion story, and close with the prayer.

**Sunday:** Palm branch, **Monday:** Bottle of perfume, **Tuesday:** Coins, **Wednesday:** Bowl of water, **Thursday:** Bread, **Friday:** Nails, **Saturday:** Stone. After placing an item each day, pray: **Eternal God, help us to grow in our faith so that we may be faithful witnesses to the power of Jesus' resurrection. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10