

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

April 15 & 16, 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

Easter Lilies are given to the glory of God in memory of Gary Rodene by his wife, Nancy; in honor of loved ones by Joan Jacobson-Trotter; in memory of Rocco Fili given by Caleb Fili & family and by Sarah & Josh Kelloms; in memory of Dwaine Carlson and in honor of loved ones given by Ellie Carlson; in honor of family and friends by Sharon Miley; Gift of Love from Jenni Toebben; in memory of Dean and Carl Sum by Paul Sum family

Confirmation Day Sunday, April 16 9:00 AM Worship

The following students will be Affirming their baptismal faith: Sheyenne Glasgow, Lilly Kassal, and Braxton Rees will come to the front of the Nave during this worship for the Rite of Confirmation. A reception time will include breakfast, cake, and a time to talk with and encourage these youth in their faith. Gift bags for cards will be on the welcome desk for those who would want to express their joy as these youth take this important step in faith this day.

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.

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*

Sunday School & Youth Forum

This Sunday 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us in the Link for a time with the Life in Christ Circus. Clowns will share the Gospel of Christ through skits and laughter.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Reception for Confirmands

Invitation to Sponsor our Summer Youth Trip:

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Five youth have said yes to this journey. We are asking you during the month of April if you would give a gift to sponsor our youth on this trip. Any gift is appreciated and for your generosity you will receive thank you notes from participants and recognition at our Summer

Youth Trip Sharing Event. We appreciate your consideration of how you might be a part of this ministry.

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.

Summer Confirmation Program

Did Confirmation pass you by, or do you want to continue learning? We'll have a program of 5 meetings this summer for those in 9th grade and above. This program is offered to those who have missed our Confirmation program or who might want a refresher. Class time and days will be established by those wanting to attend and will be posted in the May Good News. Please call the church office to sign up or email shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 16 Sunday

Easter 2

Confirmation Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

April 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

April 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

April 20 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

April 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 23 Sunday

Easter 3

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

10:15 PM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group @ Bookworm (note date change)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

A Day Without Shoes

April 16—May 7

WELCA will begin collecting new or used shoes for the Stephen Center (even unusable shoes can be collected for recycling) as their April service project. Please don't bring shoes before April 16, but beginning that weekend, a box will be in the narthex for your shoe donations.

Explore! Day Retreat

Grades 1 - 6

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Springs at Carol Joy Holling Camp

27416 Ranch Road, Ashland

Cost is \$25 for youth, includes lunch

Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

New Member Class

April 23 & 30

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend. Please plan to attend both classes.

Omaha Young Adults Trivia

April 25

7:00 PM

LOCAL Patio and Kitchen at Village Pointe

Young Adults are welcome to join the Omaha Lutheran Young Adults for trivia night! Talk to Greta for more info: OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 27 (please note date change)

11:30 AM

(Rescheduled from our February snowstorm) 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." Also please note it will be the 4th Thursday just for the month of April.

God. Tacos. Legos.

A Lego Faith Formation Experience

Friday, May 5

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Grades 4 - 6

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St, Omaha.)

Cost: \$5 per Youth

Youth from across Omaha's Lutheran congregations will gather for fellowship, LEGOs and dinner! Friends are welcome! Register with Pastor Shari by Sunday, April 30, either in person, on sign-up sheet, or email at shari@kmlchurch.org Parents are welcome to stay for fellowship, a devotion, and tacos!

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

If you are a 2022/23graduate, please let us know. We will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email shari@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you.

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, May 14

9:00 or 11:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Seniors, please submit to the above email, 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be in the May Good News.

Compline

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Service of Ancient Chant and Motets

Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM

Please join us for a special evening featuring the sacred service of Compline. Amidst the beauty of the candlelit sanctuary, the Schola Cantorum from Lincoln's First Plymouth Church will share a short service of meditative chants and hymns. The service of Compline has been sung for hundreds of years and offers singers and listeners a unique and special space for contemplation and communion with God.

KMLC Camp Week

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 18 - 23

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

NeLCM Golf Scramble

Friday, June 9

Holmes Golf Course in Lincoln

9:00 AM Start

Attention golfers and all campus ministry fans!! SAVE the DATE for our 2nd annual Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry four-person Golf Scramble. There will be golf, food, friends, and fun!!! Register at: nelcm.com/nelcm-golf-scramble-2023/

House Painting for Low Income Seniors

Are you a low-income Senior Homeowner or do you know one? They can get a free fresh coat of exterior paint on their homes on Saturday, August 19. For more information call Leslie at Project Houseworks at 402-965-9201.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 332 11:00: 190

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 562

Streaming: 102 (inc. Holy Week)

Pantry Guests Served: 191 (inc. 63 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: (Closed—Holy Wk)

Offering:

\$37,863.82 (Regular) \$17,985.96 (Specials)

\$17,68.56 (Debt Reduction)

The resurrected Jesus gives us peace.



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

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | John 20:19-31 | Thomas sees and believes |
| Monday | Acts 2:14a, 22-36 | Peter addresses the crowd |
| Tuesday | 1 Peter 1:3-9 | A living hope |
| Wednesday | 2 Thessalonians 3:16-17 | Final Greetings |
| Thursday | Psalm 29 | The voice of God in a storm |
| Friday | John 14:25-31 | Promise of the Holy Spirit |
| Saturday | Psalm 16 | Song of trust in God |
| Sunday | Luke 24:13-35 | Road to Emmaus |

© 2022 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, give us your peace and courage to live each day with hope and confidence through Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3)

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

- What helps you stay calm when you experience anxious moments?
- When was a time you were afraid and your faith helped you feel at peace?

Read: John 20:19-31.

Three times in this reading Jesus says, "*Peace be with you.*" It's the message of our resurrected Lord to disciples who are meeting behind locked doors in fear. Fear, anxiety, and caution are part of daily life then and now. After washing the disciple's feet and the last supper (John 13), Jesus preaches to his disciples (John 14-16) and then offers a prayer that continues his deep-seated concern for his followers (John 17). His message is expressed in the language of John 14:1: "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.*" At the heart of Jesus' message is trust and confidence in God's power for new life that is filled with peace. Christ's peace does not take us out of the world of fear and suffering but leads us with hope in Christ's victory from the cross that promises life, not death, hope, not despair.

Discuss: How can Jesus' words, "*Peace be with you*" comfort you when you are facing fears?

Pray: **God of eternal comfort and hope, give us peace to face others and the world with love and faith through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you extend to others Jesus' words "Peace be with you"?

The words in the Gospel of John are "*written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name*" (John 20:31). The Easter season is a period of fifty days, lasting from Easter Sunday through Pentecost. Make a bookmark; write the words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!" on it, and decorate it. Use the bookmark in your Bible as you read through the Gospel of John during the Easter season. When you finish each reading, be reminded of our Savior, Jesus Christ's resurrection by saying: "**Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35