

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 22 & 23, 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

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 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

The Sunday School curriculum after Easter has been focusing on The Road to Emmaus. To end the Sunday School year, the children have been and will continue to study this lesson through a Rotation curriculum. This way of presenting a lesson involves teaching the same lesson through several different classes that include the mission of the scripture, cooking, art, and science. The Sunday School year will conclude on May 21 with a lesson taught through games.

Youth Forum

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Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Check in with Vicar Gretchen **Next week:** Fun & Games

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** J. S. Bach and the Liturgical Life in Leipzig **Next week:** 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*

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.

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.

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 e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

A Day Without Shoes

Now through 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/May service project. A box is in the narthex for your shoe donations.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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)

April 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

12:30 PM Circle 3

April 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

April 27 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 30 Sunday

Easter 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 Order of Saint John Appreciation Lunch

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, May 4

2:00 PM

Meet in the fellowship hall for a time together playing cards. We'll plan to meet on the first Thursday afternoon of the month. The group is free to decide how often you'll meet. Please let the church office know so we can get it on the calendar. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

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 graduate in this past year, please let us know by Wednesday, May 3. We need to know your name, who your parents are, where you are graduating from, major if applicable, and what will be next for you. On May 14 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. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be listed in the Sunday Bulletin on May 7 and the e-news on Friday, May 12.

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. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation no later than April 30. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day for the graduates.

Ascension Day Liturgy

Thursday, May 18

6:30 PM

Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (113 N 18th St.)

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, Trinity will be hosting the liturgy. Bishop Scott Johnson will preach and Bishop Scott Barker will preside, with other clergy from Kountze Memorial and Trinity. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

What is Discernment?

Sunday, May 21

6:00 PM

What is discernment? How do I make decisions about what I want to do with my life? Gather with area youth at Kountze Memorial Lutheran as Pr. Shari & Vicar Gretchen share some principles of discernment that can guide you in making all kinds of decisions. Have some time to reflect on the decisions you're facing. Talk with peers about their decisions and how discernment figures in. We'll close our time with the 7:00 PM Omaha-area Compline Worship together. Come check it out!

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.

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/

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!

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 174 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 271

Streaming: 54

Pantry Guests Served: 997 (inc. 346 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$9,557.12 (Regular)

\$7,477.63 (Specials)

\$657.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ recognized in ordinary life.

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

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Thursday	Psalm 3	Trust in God
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd



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Then they [disciples] told what had happened on the road, and how he [Jesus] had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24:35 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, for your goodness that surprises us every day, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for blessing us with the fruit of the earth that gives us food each day, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your eyes be opened to see the goodness and joy of God in Christ.

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

- What are some everyday experiences that bring you joy?
- When do you experience God's presence in everyday life?

Read: Luke 24:13-35.

This engaging resurrection story is filled with deep sadness, irony, surprise, discovery, and joy. The reading tells us who Jesus is and that he is speaking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. However, the disciples don't understand this until they reach their home, offer the usual hospitality to a stranger in a simple meal, and are amazed to recognize Jesus as he takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. This represents such an ordinary experience yet one filled with deep spiritual connections (Luke 9:10-17 and 22:7-20). During the COVID pandemic, when we could not meet in person, the church learned to support an active faith life in the home. People read Scripture, prayed, and discussed the Christian faith with others. Practicing faith in the home is not a new discovery. In an Emmaus home disciples had a conversation, prayed, and enjoyed a meal that opened their eyes to the presence of Jesus.

Discuss: When have you practiced faith in your home and been aware of Jesus' presence?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, help us to see with the eyes of faith that you are with us when we are home and when we are away from home. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others in everyday life experiences?

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too! As you continue to read the Gospel of John during the Easter season, highlight a verse that has special meaning to you and write a note alongside it in your Bible with the date to remember when you read this scripture. When you finish, say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10