

## 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 29 & 30, 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 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).

### 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

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays from 10:10 AM

Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Fun & Games **Next week:** Questions and Doubts. Let’s talk about them!

## 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:** Fellowship **Next week:** Reception of New Members

### New Member Class Continues

#### April 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 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.

### May Sunday School Service Project

In reading of The Road to Emmaus, it reads, "When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them." Luke 30. To help reinforce this lesson, the Sunday School service project will be to gather and donate snacks for the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House at Children's Hospital. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Sunday School office before the end of the Sunday School year on May 21.

### Thank you!

A big thank you to all who donated items for the Nebraska Humane Society! We were able to deliver a truckload of food, toys, beds, and other needed items in April. Your support of all God's creatures was incredible.

### 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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:00 PM Order of Saint John Appreciation Lunch

### May 1 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### May 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### May 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### May 4 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### May 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### May 7 Sunday

Easter 5  
Homebound Communion  
Receive New Members  
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

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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 93<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### **Sunday Evening Gathering – Downtown Amazing Race**

**Grades 8 – 12**

**Sunday May 7**

**6:30 PM**

Join us as we move together as a group on foot, we will see how many things we can view on our list. A stop for ice cream ends the journey. RSVP to shari@kmlchurch.org by Thursday, May 4.

### **Lutheran Women Omaha**

**Tuesday, May 9, 12:00 Noon**

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church**

**Program on Holden Village by Pastor Shari Duminy.**

Come join us! Bring your own sack lunch plus \$3.00 fee. Dessert provided. Reservations required. Phone Faith at 402- 734- 4629

### **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, your family members, where you are graduating from, major, and if applicable, 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Carol Joy Holling Work Day**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

**8:00 AM - Lunch**

For more info and to sign up. go to [https://](https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day)

[www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day](https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day)

### **Sending of Vicar Gretchen (last Sunday with us is May 28)**

- On Saturday, May 20, after the 5:00 PM Worship Service, we'll have a Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen. Please bring a dish to share.
- On Sunday, May 21 during Fellowship, a time of gratefulness and thanksgiving, will be offered as we think back on the last nine months together, birthing this last requirement of the Seminary process before her graduation, approval, and ordination.

If you are so moved gifts and cards will be gathered, speeches will be shared, and much love expressed for the time we have

journeyed together. In addition to breakfast, delicious treats will abound.

### **What is Discernment?**

**Grades 8—12**

**Sunday, May 21**

**6:30 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 7:30 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.

### **Summer Confirmation**

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above.

We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at noon on the following Wednesdays:

- The Ten Commandments – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Lord's Prayer – June 28
- Worship/Sacraments July 19
- Discipleship -August 16

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, August 26.

Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

### **Vacation Bible School**

**Welcomes all Superheros!**

**Held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> St)**

**Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14**

**5:30 to 8:00 PM**

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time. Please register here: <https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 40

**Sunday: 9:00:** 149 **11:00:**17

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 11

**Total:** 265

**Streaming:**

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1235 (inc. 467 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 16

**Offering:**

\$17,706.16 (Regular) \$3,394.54 (Specials)

\$8,827.5 (Debt Reduction)

## *Jesus the Good Shepherd restores our souls.*

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

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among believers
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Wednesday	Matthew 11:28-30	Come and rest
Thursday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Friday	Colossians 3:15-17	New life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life



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*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. Psalm 23:1-3a (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, you who care for all our needs, help us to trust in your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food. Help us to receive this gift of life with joy and gladness all our days through Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the goodness and mercy of the Good Shepherd follow you all the days of your life.

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

- Describe what a day filled with contentment looks like.
- How does the church, the body of Christ, help you sense God's presence as your shepherd?

*Read:* Acts 2:42-47.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is always the Good Shepherd Sunday. All the readings for that day except Acts 2 use the image of shepherd. However, it is in Acts 2 that the people devote themselves to shepherding one another in the Christian faith. People are brought to homes and tables for food, fellowship, and acceptance (Psalm 23:5). In this intimate fellowship people are taught the faith by hearing the message of the apostles. People learn the faith from trusted voices within the community (John 10:4). They support one another with prayer and generosity. The community serves one another by providing material needs like food, clothing, and shelter. With compassionate hearts people praise God. They gain attention and in so doing, the sheepfold grows, and *"the Lord added to their number those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). The life of the community looks like followers of Jesus, the one who is the *"shepherd and guardian"* of our souls (1 Peter 2:25).

*Discuss:* How does the image of shepherd help you understand what it means to be part of the body of Christ?

*Pray:* **Dear Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we thank you for the church, the body of Christ, that cares for one another that we may believe in you and serve others in love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you serve as a shepherd to someone by showing care and attending to their needs?

Faith is caught more than it is taught. Learning the faith begins in the home. As you continue to read the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what would happen if you "get caught" while reading the Bible when others are present. Consider doing so. This week highlight John 10:10b, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* Read it aloud for someone this week and engage in a conversation about what it means to you to believe in Jesus. Invite that person to join you in saying: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14