

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 8 & 9, 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

Alleluia!

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.



Easter Breakfast

8:00 - 10:45 AM

Join us again next Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM for Sunday 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

All children are invited to the green space after the 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service to race for candy filled eggs.

No Children's Choir, Sunday School, Youth or Adult Forums on Easter Sunday

Instead, join us for Easter Breakfast and then back to our regular schedule on Sunday, April 16. Life in Christ Circus will be in the Link for Sunday School. Youth and Adult Forums will be Fellowship and a Reception for the new Confirmands.

Easter Lilies

If you paid for an Easter lily, and would like to take it home, you may pick it up after the 11:00 AM service today or next Sunday.

March/April 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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

April 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:30 PM Sewing Group, Lunch & "Quilter's on the Prairie"
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner

April 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 14 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 15 Saturday

Good News Deadline
5:00 PM Worship

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

KMLC Quilters & All Interested in Quilting

Wednesday, April 12

11:30 AM

Join us for quilting and then lunch together in the Fellowship Hall (provided) 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.

Confirmation Celebration Dinner

Wednesday, April 12

6:00 PM

A dinner will take place in the Fellowship Hall to honor those Affirming their Baptismal Faith on Sunday, April 16 at the 9:00 AM Worship. Confirmands, Family Members, Baptismal Sponsors, Pastors, and Speakers from the church will gather together for a meal, sharing of faith stories, and rehearsal for Confirmation Day.

Omaha Young Adults Table Theology

Saturday, April 15

11:00 AM at Table Grace Cafe, 1611 1/2 Farnam

Young adults are welcome to join for brunch and discussion with others from across Omaha. RSVP to Greta at OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

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.

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.

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 2022/23 graduate, 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 and the Sunday Bulletin on May 7.

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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.

Vacation Bible School

Welcomes all Superheros!

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. Further details, including registration, will be coming soon. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time.

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!

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.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 38

Sunday: 9:00: 202 11:00: 111

Mon. & Tues: 12:15: 15

Total: 366

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: 894 (inc. 323 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 28

Jesus is alive!

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	The joyful return of exiles
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:14-20	We are a new creation
Friday	Genesis 2:4b-25	Creation of man and woman
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord's always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes



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*But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her. **John 20:17b-18 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, this is the day that you have made; let us rejoice in your steadfast love and the power of Christ's resurrection for all that you have made. In the name of the risen Christ, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Alleluia, Christ is risen. O Lord, we give you thanks for sustaining us with this food and with the power of Christ's resurrection for us and all the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you rejoice in the risen Lord.

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

- When was a time you were in disbelief and couldn't understand something that was happening?
- As we continue to grow and mature, how is the Christian faith an ongoing process of learning and growing?

Read: John 20:1-18.

The resurrection account, the first Easter Sunday story as recorded in the Gospel of John, is filled with misunderstandings. Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and thinks that someone has taken Jesus' body away. Two disciples come and see it as well. The disciple that Jesus loved (traditionally thought to be John, the author of the Gospel) believes, but believes what? The very next verse says *"as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead"* (v. 9). The disciples leave and go home! Mary, however, remains and talks to two angels. She does not seem awed by the encounter so it is likely she does not recognize them as angels. Then she sees Jesus and thinks he is the gardener. Finally, she hears Jesus call her by name. She then recognizes him and he sends her out to tell the disciples. Like Mary and the disciples, we, too, are on a journey of understanding what Jesus' resurrection means for us and the world. It is a life filled with new insights and awe that leads us to tell others what we have seen and heard.

Discuss: What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to grow in our faith and understanding that we may be filled with joy and be faithful witnesses to the power of Jesus' resurrection for the world you love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you share the good news of Christ's resurrection with others?

The Kindness Rock Project was a trend that began in 2015. Small, smooth stones are painted with messages of kindness and hidden for others to find. Bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season as a reminder that the stone was rolled away. Find or buy smooth stones, paint them, and write the words "Alleluia! Christ is Risen" on each one. Use those stones to bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season. Place the stones in locations where someone can easily find them.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31