

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

May 13 & 14, 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 Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of John & Lynn Schneiderman's 35th wedding anniversary; in honor of Dannika Rees Graduation

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Bob & Pam Johnson in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary.

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.

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*

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:** Recognition of Graduates

Next week: Farewell to Vicar Gretchen in the Fellowship Hall

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Recognition of Graduates

Next week: Farewell to Vicar Gretchen in the Fellowship Hall

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

This morning we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. A list of the 2023 graduates can be found on an insert in your bulletin.

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 in the Fellowship Hall. Along with breakfast, cake will be served.

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.

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.

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 14 Sunday

Easter 6

Mother's Day

Graduation Sunday

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

May 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

May 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 18 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

6:30 PM Ascension Day Liturgy at

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

May 19 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

May 20 Saturday

3:00 PM Murphy & Gifford Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

6:00 PM Farewell Potluck for Pr.

Gretchen

May 21 Sunday

Easter 7

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

7:30 PM Complian Service

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch

Thursday, May 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Join us for lunch and a brief program from Rhonda K. Vance APRN-NP with Methodist Health Clinic at Kountze Commons. She will give us a short update on their operations and impacts to the community.

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.

Carol Joy Holling Work Day

Saturday, May 20, 2023

8:00 AM - Lunch

For more info and to sign up, go to

<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 9th 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 93rd 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/>

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: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 169 11:00: 59

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 265

Streaming: 42

Pantry Guests Served: 970 (inc. 331 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$20,258.54 (Regular)

\$7,220.02 (Specials)

\$619.89 (Debt Reduction)

Doing good through gentleness and reverence.

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples



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Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3:15b-16a (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to see the path to life and salvation in Christ's suffering and death and to see your chosen way to heal and make all things new. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food that we eat and your love that we receive, give us strength to care for others with gentleness and deep respect. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of truth guide you into all things wise and loving.

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

- What action do you take when you are angry at or disagree with someone?
- How do you think Jesus would respond if he had a strong difference of opinion with someone?

Read: 1 Peter 3:13-22.

Suffering happens. Life is sometimes painful. Followers of Jesus Christ can suffer "for doing what is right" (v. 14). Unfortunately, there are those who claim to follow Jesus and think that inflicting suffering is being a hero for "the truth." That's not the case for biblical truth and the way of Christ Jesus who "suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous" (v. 18). In being faithful to Christ and Christ's way of life, we are to be bold (a hero, one might say) and give "an accounting for the hope that is in you" (v. 15). However, this description that gives a defense of what a Christian may think and believe is not to be done with anger, threats, unkind acts, or any act of violence. A courageous disciple makes their defense "with gentleness and reverence" (v. 16). Christ's reign, unlike the powers of the present age, is built upon the power of self-giving love and service to others. It's the way of Jesus Christ, and it's the freeing power of the followers of Jesus Christ.

Discuss: How can being gentle and reverent show more courage than an act of violence?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see in Jesus Christ not only the way of salvation but the way of life that witnesses to Christ with gentleness and reverence. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to and serve alongside others who think differently than you?

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships —often in our own homes. In John 14:15-21, Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, highlight this reading. Then take time to write a list of people with whom you have a personal, trusted relationship.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, send the Holy Spirit upon me so that I may grow in my faith and form life-giving relationships. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia! Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11