

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 27 & 28, 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

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.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Leo Gardiner given by daughter, LeClare Steffen and in memory of Arnold Steffen given by wife, LeClare Steffen and family

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.

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:** Fellowship



This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 28 Sunday

Day of Pentecost
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum

May 29 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

May 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 31 Wednesday

12:00 AM Summer Confirmation
12:15 PM Worship

June 1 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 2 Friday

Jun 2 - Jun 3 Synod Assembly
5:00 PM Pantry

June 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

June 4 Sunday

Holy Trinity
Homebound Communion
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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. A light meal will be served. We will participate in Wednesday Eucharist and then the learning will begin at 12:15 and conclude at 3:00 PM. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at **noon** on the following Wednesdays:

- The Lord's Prayer – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Ten Commandments – 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. Anyone is welcome to attend sessions they are interested in.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, June 1

2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

Welcome Pr. Moessner

The weekend of June 3 & 4 we welcome Pr. Paul Moessner as our preacher. We look forward to his proclamation of the Gospel on Trinity Sunday.

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/>

Volunteers Needed for VBS

If you are able to help with VBS, please use the same link above and go to Volunteer Sign Up. For those ages 18 and over, a background check is required if you have not already had one through Kountze Memorial's Sunday School program.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, June 15

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Join us for lunch and a brief program. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 13, to jim@kmlchurch.org or call the church office so we know how many to plan for.

CPR/First Aid Training

We will be holding a CPR/First Aid training course in June. All Ushers and Sunday School teachers are encouraged to attend the training and the Church will take care of the registration fee which covers the training materials and certificates. All other members of the congregation are invited as well for a small fee of \$32.00. Training will take place in the lower level of Kountze Commons.

- The CPR class will be June 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM with a light lunch following in the link.
- If we have more than six people signed up we will add a CPR class from 12:45 to 3:45 PM.
- The First Aid training will be Saturday June 24 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM (a light lunch will be served during training). The first aid training is free of charge for those attending the CPR classes on June 17.

Please RSVP to the Church office or you can email jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your spot.

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!!!

Serving on the Omaha Campus Ministry Board, Pastor Shari knows the alue of this ministry shaping leaders for the church now.

Come help celebrate Pastor Sari's birthday as we support this important state-wide ministry.

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!

Thank You

Thank you to the Quilters of Kountze Memorial for your gifts of time and talents to provide beautiful homemade blankets of love for our graduating Seniors. Your handiwork is admired and will be treasured for years to come. As we send them out into the world, these gifts are a sign that they are never alone, but wrapped in our love and prayers and united in our faith in Christ, a bond that is never broken. Well done, servants of God!

Kountze Food Pantry

If you would like to donate items to the Pantry, please consider picking up some extra hygiene products, including feminine products, razors, and shaving cream. We never seem to have enough for everyone in need. Soap, shampoo, and deodorant are always appreciated, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 43

Sunday: 9:00: 151 **11:00:** 78

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 281

Streaming: 59

Pantry Guests Served: 971 (inc. 315 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$10,140.16 (Regular) \$17,790.83 (Specials)

\$1,587.5 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit breathes new life into us.

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

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Acts 2:37-42	The first converts
Thursday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Friday	1 John 4:13-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples



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When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." **John 20:22-23 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you for Jesus and the Holy Spirit that sends us out as the body of Christ with the power to forgive in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; when you open your hand, you fill us with good things through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit fill you with new life, and abundant joy.

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

- What gets in the way of forgiving someone or asking for forgiveness from someone?
- How does forgiveness breathe new life into bruised relationships?

Read: John 20:19-23.

This story is sometimes called "the Johannine Pentecost" and different from the Pentecost story in Acts 2. In John 20, Jesus gives his Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit, on Easter Day during his first appearance following the resurrection. The giving of Jesus' breath (same word as spirit in the original Greek) is the culmination of the promise of the Holy Spirit since the time of Jesus' baptism and referred to throughout the Gospel of John. The critical point is that "*the Spirit of truth*" (John 14:16-17) will teach Jesus' followers everything they need to know and remember from Jesus' own teaching (14:26). The Spirit glorifies Jesus (16:14) by creating the community that is sent out into the world to love the world in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit creates a new community to love the world by forgiving others and breathes new life into relationships. This glorifies Jesus by doing the ministry of his resurrection right now with love, hope, and forgiveness.

Discuss: In what ways do you and the larger faith community spread Jesus' message of forgiveness and peace to others?

Pray: **Dear God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit that empowers us with the ministry of Christ for the world, we give you our thanks and praise. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve and show forgiveness toward others?

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The miracle of the story of Pentecost is that the apostles were "*filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability*" (Acts 2:4). It represents the birth of each person hearing the gospel in their own language. Celebrate as you would any other birthday. Consider using red candles and balloons (the liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday) for decorations. Make a cake and place red candles on the cake. Light the candles as a reminder of the fiery tongues that descended on the apostles and sing Happy Birthday to the church. As you are enjoying the cake, think or talk about who taught you about the church.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 1:1--2:4a; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20