

## 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)

May 6 & 7, 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 by Robert & Pat Ranney in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> 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 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:** Questions and Doubts. Let's talk about them! **Next week:** Senior High School Graduates Celebration in Fellowship Hall

### **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:** Reception of New Members; brief updates on the Call Process, Window Installation, & Tuckpointing **Next week:** Recognition of Graduates

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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

### May 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
11:00 AM Gene Buchholz Memorial Service

### May 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Lutheran Women of Omaha

### May 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
6:00 PM Executive Committee

### May 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
12:00 PM Omaha Youth Network  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### May 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 13 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### 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-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

### 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

On May 14 we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day.

### High School Graduates:

- Arianna Ascani
- Filip Boskamp
- Braden Bonacci
- Sofia Di Lorenzo
- John Groenjes
- Dannika Rees

### Collegiate and Graduate Degree Recipients:

#### Sarah Jewell

Associates in Interior Design  
Metro Community College – May 12, 2023

#### Ellie Kopp

Bachelor of Arts – Music Education  
Indiana University – May 6, 2023

**Gretchen Olson Kopp**

Master of Divinity

Wartburg Theological Seminary – May 14, 2023

**Justin Perkins**

Master of Divinity

University of Chicago Divinity School - June 2 &amp; 3

**Dr. Elliott Jacobson**

Ph.D. in Spanish

University of Nebraska at Lincoln – May 19, 2023

**Dr. Nicholas Wemhoff, Ed.D.**

Doctorate of Education Degree

Doane University – May 13, 2023

**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.

**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://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](mailto: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/>

**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](mailto: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: 37****Sunday: 9:00: 164 11:00: 87****Total: 288****Streaming: 91****Pantry Guests Served: 1027 (inc. 439 children)****Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16****Offering:**

\$14,109.36 (Regular) \$7,196.99 (Specials)

\$1,487.66 (Debt Reduction)

## Learning who God is through Jesus.

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Colossians 1:15-23	The supremacy of Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Friday	John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit



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Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" **John 14:9 (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, help us to see your reign of power and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, with this food we see your goodness. We thank you that you have made of us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people. Amen. (1 Peter 2:3 and 9)

### A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)

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

- How would you describe God to someone?
- Where does your understanding of God come from?

*Read:* John 14:1-14.

John 1:18 states, "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." This foundational theme in the Gospel of John is reintroduced in John 14:9: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Society describes God in categories like all powerful and all wise. In Jesus we see a God who deeply wants a relationship with us and therefore Jesus has prepared an eternal dwelling place for us. In Jesus we see the God who brings joy to a wedding, heals the sick, and gives sight to the blind. We also see the one who is the Good Shepherd, bends over to clean dirty feet, and goes to the cross to die for us. Like Philip, we will never fully grasp who Jesus is for us, but in Jesus we see the God who never gives up on us, even when we deny our Lord out of ignorance or fear. Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (v. 6). He takes truth to be more than facts but a relationship to God filled with love and mercy. That's the path to real life now and always.

*Discuss:* What does the life of Jesus tell you about God?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, may our lives point to your way, your truth and your life filled with grace and mercy through Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others that they may know the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus?

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "a living stone" and Jesus' followers "like living stones" to be "built into a spiritual house." Gather some smooth stones. Paint a cross on a large one and names of family and friends on smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the large one in a visible place in your home. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. After reading, look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21