

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
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)

**June 10 & 11, 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 Memorial

#### 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.**



#### 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.

#### Breakfast Teams for Continental Breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

We are grateful for the many hands that do the work to make our breakfast time happen during Sunday Mornings. The following have been providing a variety of services to this ministry throughout the year. **Quiche Makers:**

Carolyn Sieling and Louis Flake **Pastry Bakers/Suppliers:** Pam Brown, Barb Chrisman, Jean Johnson, Sharon Miley, Anita Morse, Toby Rees, Ashley Sum, Amy Wemhoff

**Set Up/ Clean Up Crews:** Theresa and Tom Gruber, Nakoma and Olivia Baker, Darlene Anderson, Sherri Labeledz, Louis Flake, Lara McCormick & family, Carole Woodworth **Those who are willing to fill in when**

**people need to be gone:** Kristin Boe, Larry Camenzind, Mike Jensen and family, Melissa Osentowski, Toby Rees, Becca Sedlack and family. If you would be able to join the clean up crew for the 2nd Sunday of the month (paper products used) please speak with Pastor Shari

#### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall

**10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Summary Report of Synod Assembly **Next week:** TBD

**Today at Kountze Memorial**, *continued*

### **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/>

### **This Week at Kountze Memorial**

#### **June 11 Sunday**

Pentecost 2

Jun 11 - Jun 14 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

VBS @ St. Timothy's

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

12:15 PM Book Group

#### **June 12 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

#### **June 13 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

#### **June 14 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Sewing Group

11:00 AM Meal Served - Light fare

with vegetarian options

12:00 PM Summer Confirmation

12:15 PM Wednesday Eucharist -

Candidate shares message

Q & A following

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

1:45 PM Break for Candidate

3:00 PM Meeting with Pastors

4:00 PM Meeting with Staff

5:00 PM Evening Meal - Light fare

with vegetarian options

6:00 PM Executive Committee

6:15 PM Evening Eucharist -

Candidate shares message

Q & A following

#### **June 15 Thursday**

Council Reports Due

~~11:30 AM Men's Lunch~~

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

#### **June 16 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

#### **June 17 Saturday**

9:00 AM CPR Training

5:00 PM Worship

#### **June 18 Sunday**

Pentecost 3

Father's Day

Jun 18 - Jun 23 Camp Week @ CJH

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**

#### **Lutheran Women Omaha(LWO)**

**Tuesday, June 13, 12:00 Noon**

**Bethel Lutheran Church**

**Lunch provided, \$7.00**

**Reservations required, Faith 402-734-4629**

#### **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. A light meal will be served. We will participate in Wednesday Eucharist and then the learning will begin at 12:45 and conclude at 3:00 PM. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at **noon** on the following Wednesdays:

- Creeds: June 14
- Worship/Sacraments: June 21
- Discipleship: June 28

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. Anyone is welcome to attend sessions they are interested in.

#### **Men's Lunch**

The Men's Lunch has been postponed to July. Hope you can join us then.

#### **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](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to reserve your spot.

#### **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!

### **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:** 38

**Sunday: 9:00:** 129 **11:00:** 47

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 13

**Total:** 227

**Streaming:** 44

**Pantry Guests Served:** 764 (inc. 259 children) (does not include Monday numbers)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 18

**Offering:**

\$24,082.62 (Regular)          \$2,683.03 (Specials)

\$707.50 (Debt Reduction)

## **Meet the Senior Pastor Candidate**

Council Vice-President Kate Jones is happy to inform you that the Congregational Council of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is ready to recommend a candidate to serve as Senior Pastor.

***The candidate will be at Kountze on  
Wednesday, June 14***

to meet the congregation. Members are invited to attend any or all of the events that day to get acquainted, worship together, hear them speak, and ask questions. A biography of the candidate will be available to those attending that day.

### **Candidate's Visit Itinerary**

11:00 AM Meal Served - Light fare with vegetarian options

12:15 PM Wednesday Eucharist - Candidate shares message. Q & A following

1:45 PM Break for Candidate

3:00 PM Meeting with Pastors

4:00 PM Meeting with Staff

5:00 PM Evening Meal - Light fare with vegetarian options

6:15 PM Evening Eucharist - Candidate shares message. Q & A following

**Summer Confirmation Note** - We will spend time with this process. To accommodate, Creeds will be taught on June 14.

### **Also Note:**

***A special congregational meeting will be conducted on  
Sunday, June 25, 10:15 AM***

to elect a rostered minister of the church to serve as Senior Pastor of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. The vote will take place by paper ballot, and time for questions will be provided. A two-thirds majority is required for the election of a rostered minister. As provided in our constitution, no absentee or proxy ballots are permitted. There will also be a vote on the recommended compensation package for the rostered minister, which may be decided by voice or hand vote, and requires a simple majority. No other items of business may be conducted at this meeting.

## Jesus calls us to follow him.

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus
Monday	Hosea 5:15-6:6	A call to repentance
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise realized by faith
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:28-33	Moses, the mediator of God's will
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Ephesians 5:1-20	Let love be your guide
Saturday	Psalms 50:7-15	What pleases God
Sunday	Matthew 9:35-10:23	The sending of the twelve



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*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9 (NRSV)*

### A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us faith and courage to follow you and to touch the lives of those around us with your grace, mercy, and healing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the one who gives us hope now and always. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to trust in the one who blesses us with grace. (Romans 4:16)

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

- When is a time you have been a leader? a follower?
- Jesus calls us to follow. What has this meant to you in your life?

*Read:* Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.

It is interesting that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus never scolds people identified as "sinners and tax collectors." His harsh words and judgments are made against those who think they know God yet don't understand that God desires mercy, not the prideful acts of religious people. Jesus shows his mercy to Matthew, the tax collector, to a grieving father, and to a sick woman. Jesus calls Matthew and others to follow him, yet in these stories Jesus is the one who ends up following others, one into a home for dinner and another into a home to bring back life from death. Jesus heals a woman who did not ask for his help but simply touched his robe for healing. He is willing to follow the woman's desperate need and calls it faith. Jesus is willing and available to the needs of others. Jesus' ministry finds itself in the midst of life and death issues where "playing it by the book" is not the guide, but rather where mercy, kindness, healing, and hope are required in a world filled with chaos, confusion, and despair.

*Discuss:* Where might Jesus be calling you to follow in his name and go to a place you didn't plan to go?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, give us faith to follow you each day and to trust in your care for us and for all that you create through Christ Jesus, the Great Healer. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you follow Jesus and be available to care for someone in need?

One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace. Some have a cross or a fish symbol tattoo somewhere in a visible place on their body. Think or talk about a time you or someone you know was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Then write a list of ways you can show you are a follower. Is there something like a cross or biblical scene placed in a visible location in your home? Is it something you wear? Is it something through your actions or words?

*Pray:* **Dear Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow. May we do so with love and mercy toward others in our daily lives. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]