

## 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 24 & 25, 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

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in celebration of the marriage of Domenic & Angie (Arispe) Zambuto; given by Dr. Emilio & Sharon Arispe in celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; in memory of Bill & Marge Sears given by their children, Ron, Lois, and Claude; given by Tracey Saklar in memory of Barbara Saklar

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God in honor of Tom Holcombe's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday given by his son, Larry; daughter, Lisa; grandsons, Andrew and Nolan; great granddaughters, Lilja and Elsie, 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.

### Breakfast for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month

We give thanks for this team of great experience. Several of this group were a part of the breakfast ministry before the pandemic. They see the big change between then and now, but remain eager to make sure breakfast continues. Jane & Ralph Ross (last fall) Jim West, Pat Studts, Julie O'Doherty, Allyson White, and Tim & Pam Backora, are the skilled baconators, fluffy eggs, and tater tot crew. We also want to give a big shout out to Tim Backora for getting the groceries every week. He will often go to one or even two places before the drop off on Friday or Saturday.

### 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 Memorial**, *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:** Special Congregational Meeting & Vote **Next week:** Fellowship

**Special Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, June 25, 10:15 AM**

A special congregational meeting will be held 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 amendments may be made to either resolution. No other items of business may be conducted at this meeting.

**This Week at Kountze Memorial**

**June 25 Sunday**

Pentecost 4  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:15 AM Special Congregational Meeting & Vote

**June 26 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**June 27 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

**June 28 Wednesday**

12:00 PM Summer Confirmation  
12:15 PM Worship

**June 29 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**June 30 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

**July 1 Saturday**

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

**July 2 Sunday**

Pentecost 5  
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

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**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 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 Wednesday:

- Discipleship: June 28

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday,

August 27. 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.

**Kountze Food Pantry**

The Pantry is always short of canned soup and peanut butter. If you want to donate these items, please leave them in the box in Fellowship Hall. We are also very short of volunteers on Friday evenings. The service is from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Volunteers should arrive by 4:30. If you, or someone you know would like to

volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

### **Cards with Friends**

#### **Thursday, July 6, 2:00 PM**

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

### **Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Program**

YAGM invites young adults (ages 21—35) into a transformative year of service and fellowship.

Through YAGM young adults learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They become immersed in new communities and form deep relationships. And they confront issues of poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, year-round. The timeline for decisions follows:

- January 15—Priority deadline for the upcoming service year.
- February 1—Final deadline for the upcoming service year.
- August—YAGM participants depart for service.

If you have questions about these updates or would like to chat about anything YAGM-related, please reach out to Mae, Interim Program Director, at [MaeHelen.Jackson@ELCA.org](mailto:MaeHelen.Jackson@ELCA.org).

### **What Happened to the Parking Meters?**

You can download the [Park Omaha app](#) or the [ParkMobile app](#), create an account, and use it to pay for parking at any metered space in Omaha, or text “PARK” to 77223 (accepts card payment). You can also “pay by plate” by entering your license plate information at a multi-space meter (which accepts coins or card payments). Metered parking is enforced MONDAY - SATURDAY, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, excluding Sundays and holidays. This includes when you are at Kountze attending Worship services, meetings, etc. during the week and Saturday evenings. Sunday and handicapped hangers/plates are still free.

**Please remember not** to park in the Methodist parking lot by the handicapped entrance Monday—Friday (9:00 AM—4:30 PM).

### **St. Croix Hospice**

St. Croix Hospice is looking for hospice volunteers who are willing to share their time and talents to provide emotional and practical support for patients and their families. St. Croix Hospice volunteers are provided training, support, and flexible scheduling. Call 24/7 at 855-278-2764 or visit [stcroixhospice.com/volunteer](http://stcroixhospice.com/volunteer) to learn more.

### **2023 VBS Hero Hotline Thank You!**

A big thank you to Christian Education Director Kristin Boe for leading the VBS Cooperative with 4 other Lutheran Churches this year. Kountze Memorial was in charge of the program and St. Timothy's hosted us for the week. Other churches included Lord of Love, Luther Memorial and Morning Star. Dinner was served each night with our night being provided by Julie O'Doherty and Barb Chrisman. We also thank the volunteers that stepped forward to help make this year a great success: Shelia Valquier, Laura McCormick, Pastor Paul Moessner, Kara DiLorenzo, Ashley Sum, Julie O'Doherty, and Lilly Kassal. On behalf of the almost 60 participants, you were Incredible! A Marvel! Superman or Wonder Woman! Shazam!



### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 37

**Sunday: 9:00:** 137 **11:00:** 50

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 11

**Total:** 235

**Streaming:** 60

**Pantry Guests Served:** 874 (inc. 278 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**

**Offering:**

\$ (Regular)

\$ (Specials)

\$0 (Debt Reduction)

*Freed from fear, we live in newness of life.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old life and the new
Thursday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Friday	Romans 8:9-17	Life in the Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

taking  
faith  
home

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*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:4 (NRSV)***

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, we thank you for the power and gift of baptism and our new life in Christ that frees us from fear so that we can be Christ's faithful followers in the world. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, with this gift of food give us strength to overcome our fears and to serve others through the power of Christ's love. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of steadfast love, bless you with mercy all the days of your life. (Psalm 69:16)

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

- How do you describe your own life's goals, values and beliefs?
- If someone were to ask you about your faith and what you believe, how would you respond?

*Read:* Romans 6:1b-11.

Just before this reading, Paul writes: "*where sin increased, grace abounded all the more*" (Romans 5:20b). Paul responds to this statement in Romans 6:1b with an understandable question, "*Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?*" Then he answers, "*By no means!*" (v. 2a). Paul is emphatic that seeking a life of sin is out of the question. He describes this conviction by using the language of baptism. We are joined with Christ through baptism. In baptism, we die with Christ and are raised with Christ "*so we too might walk in newness of life*" (v. 4b). We are joined to Christ's life. His story of death and resurrection is now our story. We die to a way of living and thinking that finds pleasure in sin and separation from God. The power of sin over our lives dies with Christ through baptism. Our lives are then freed from the power of sin and death to live a new life filled with love and grace for our neighbor and world.

*Discuss:* What questions do you have about baptism?

*Pray:* **God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of baptism that binds us to Christ and gives us new life filled with hope, joy, and love for all. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you be freed from fear to joyfully serve those in need?

"Do not fear" is a recurring theme in Matthew 10:24-39. Think or talk about things that you are afraid of. Naming and talking about your fears can be helpful. Draw a cross on a sheet of paper. Write the fears you named around the cross. Take a moment to look at your list of fears and say them out loud.

*Pray:* **Dear God, may our life in Christ draw us nearer to you and free us from our fears. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42