

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

July 15 & 16, 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.

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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Barb & Bruce Nissen's 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.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** KCCOC Update **Next week:** Windows Celebration Update and Honoring Sarah Jewell

Pastor DeeDee Lundahl Memorial Service

Wednesday, July 19th 6:00 PM

A light meal will be served following the service in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help volunteer to set up/food-prep, bring a dish or help with clean up, please use the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall.

The service will be live-streamed and can be viewed using the following link:

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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>

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.

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 to learn more.

July—Go and...

Listen

How do we listen with our full selves? In reality, all of our senses are used when we listen – with our ears, our eyes, our mouths, and our bodies. As disciples, we listen to ourselves, our neighbors, and God. When we listen, we find new perspectives, shared history, and common ground.

Questions to consider:

- What is something you learned from listening to

your heart?

- What is something you learned from listening to a stranger?
- In a year of *GOING*, how will you listen to those around you?

Prayer: Listening God, help me stay open to the surprises you provide while on the road this summer. Amen.

Suggested Song: Listen, God is Calling (ELW 513)

Camp Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction

July 29, 2023

The 35th annual Quilt Auction is coming soon! The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Quilts can be viewed online starting this weekend. Quilts can be donated and delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp until July 22. They should be placed in a plastic bag with a completed copy of the donation form found on the camp website. This year our kitchen will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and a selection of favorite salads. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids (4-12), and free for children 3 and under. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon request. Concessions will be offered before and after lunch. Bring your friends and families!

The Camp Classic Tournaments

August 18, 2023 | September 22, 2023

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course | Ashland Golf Club

Do a 2 Fore 2 deal or pick one tournament, but the camp would love to see you out on the course supporting camp! Four person scramble, noon: shotgun start, teams & individuals welcome. Info and registration form can be found at <https://www.nlom.org/golf>

Lutheran Family Services

Turning Apartments into Homes

We need help setting up homes for newly arriving refugee families this week. If you are available to help, please log into your volunteer hub account

here: [http://](http://omamoversandshakers.lfsneb.volunteerhub.com/)

omamoversandshakers.lfsneb.volunteerhub.com/.

Full details will be sent to you once you register to help. If you have friends or family who'd like to help, please ask them to "Create an Account" and contact me with their name. Please don't hesitate with questions! Best regards,

Morgan Mattson

Lead Volunteer Coordinator, Refugee Services

Lutheran Family Services

morgan.mattson@onelfs.org

402-578-7224

Applications Open for Administrative Assistant

We are seeking applications for the Administrative Assistant at Kountze Memorial. This is a full-time position. Duties include, answering phones, greeting visitors, prepare worship bulletins, record membership and pastor acts information, help with mailings, and other administrative and clerical support. The position requires confidentiality and high level of trustworthiness, general office experience, writing, word processing skills, and excellent people skills. Must be familiar with Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point - and willing to learn church membership software. Send resume and cover letter to debbie@kmlchurch.org.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 16 Sunday

Pentecost 7

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

July 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board—Classroom

6:30 PM Christian Education Committee

July 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

July 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Lundahl Memorial Service

July 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

July 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 22 Saturday

Jul 22 - Jul 29 Holden Village Trip

5:00 PM Worship

July 23 Sunday

Pentecost 8

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 118 **11:00:** 64

Wednesday: 12:15: 14

Total: 229

Streaming: 41

Pantry Guests Served:

671 (including 217 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 9

Offering:

\$16,552.52 (Regular) \$1,850.43 (Specials)

\$2,238.56 (Debt Reduction)



God's word makes a difference for our lives.

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Tuesday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul's charge to Timothy
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Hebrews 4:8-13	The rest that God has promised
Saturday	Psalms 65	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds



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"Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" **Matthew 13:8-9 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Creative God, your word accomplishes all that you desire; we thank you for your work of love that brings hope and healing through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, by your strength you bring forth food from the earth. Thank you for the abundant harvest that we enjoy today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's creative word bear fruit in your life through Christ.

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

- What do you think it takes to be a good gardener and have a successful harvest?
- We can receive God's word in worship, by reading the Bible, and through prayer and conversations. What is a favorite way for you to receive God's word?

Read: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Jesus compares the sower's seed to God's word that bears much fruit. The seed needs to be planted in good soil to grow. Jesus compares the soil to our lives and our ability to hear and receive God's word. We can wonder if we are the good soil that receives God's word, but it may be that at different times we exhibit all four soils. There are times God's word doesn't stick (the path); sometimes it takes root but quickly dries up (rocky ground); sometimes the word gets smothered by competing concerns (thorns); sometimes the word takes root and produces much fruit (good soil). Our lives can experience all of these moments. This parable can be a humble reminder for us to be open to God's word so that our lives bear the fruit of love and peace. No matter how God's word bears fruit in our lives, it grows into a surprising harvest.

Discuss: How and when are you most attentive to God's word in your life?

Pray: **Dear God, you who are the source of all living things, bless us with faith in your word and your work in our lives to bless the world through Christ our Savior and 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 with the power of God's healing and forgiveness?

Gather four small pots. Fill the first with gravel to represent a path, the second with rocks, the third with thorns or thistles, and the fourth with good soil. Tell the parable of the sower in your own words. As you hold each pot, pray: **Lord God, keep us from having hearts that are hard, like a path. Keep us from having hearts that are shallow, like soil on rocky ground. Keep us from having hearts that are easily choked, like seeds among thorns. Instead, make our hearts like good soil, so that we gladly receive your word and accept it. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43