

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
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

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

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 22 & 23, 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

Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Dayle Johnson's birthday; 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:** Windows Celebration Update and Honoring Sarah Jewell **Next week:** Introduction of Candidates for Congregational Council Positions

Orphan's Legacy Picnic

Sunday, July 23

2:00-5:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church

1546 N Luther Rd, Fremont, NE

Celebrate the legacy of Adoption and Foster Care Join in for an afternoon of fellowship, games, refreshments, watermelon, music, and most importantly, Community. The event is free and open to the public. For those of you who are willing to share your journey story of how Foster Care or Adoption has impacted your life, we encourage you to bring your photos, scrapbooks and keepsakes. This day is a day for YOU and YOUR STORY!

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.

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!

LFS HQ Ribbon-Cutting

Friday, August 4, 2023

3:00—5:00 PM

7929 West Center Road

We are invited by LFS to join LFS for a ribbon-cutting ceremony with remarks from Mayor Jean Stothert, Lutheran Family Services CEO and President Chris Tonniges, and other special guests. After the ceremony, stay for a tour of their new building and refreshments. RSVP to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/onelfs>

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>

Welcome Back BBQ Party

The Lutheran Center

Saturday, August 19, 2023

5:30-7:30 PM

535 N 16th St Lincoln NE 68508

Celebrate the start of the school year with a FREE BBQ! There will be free food, free succulents, yard games, music, and time to just hang out with new and old friends. Stop on by anytime!

Confirmation Orientation and OSJ Training

Wednesday, August 30

6:00 PM

We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge for a meal and orientation for the Confirmation Learning year. Then we will go to the Nave for OSJ training with Robin and Jeff Perkins. Please let Pastor Shari know that you will be attending.

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)

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

July 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
11:30 AM Endowment Board
6:00 PM Circle 3 (off-site—note date/place change)

July 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

July 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

July 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 29 Saturday

9:00 AM CJH Quilt Auction
10 AM Prayer Group
5:00 PM Worship

July 30 Sunday

Pentecost 9
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: 39

Sunday: 9:00: 107 **11:00:** 41

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 196

Streaming: 37

Pantry Guests Served: 926 (inc. 298 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 27

Offering:

\$15,811.12 (Regular) \$2,996.92 (Specials)

\$437.00 (Debt Reduction)

God is merciful and slow to anger.

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus the high priest
Thursday	Psalms 103:1-14	The Lord is merciful
Friday	Nehemiah 9:16-25	A merciful God ready to forgive
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, may your grace and mercy lead me to be humble and care for others through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your kindness and mercy that we receive through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy and loving kindness of God lead you all the days of your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☑ What is something you believe very strongly?
- ☑ What makes it hard to listen to someone with different opinions than yours?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Matthew's Gospel addresses divisions in the church. Who has the right message? Who is being faithful? What actions do not fit the kingdom of God? Matthew's message is clearly a word we need to hear. Today people who claim the Christian faith are much divided over morality and doctrine. Matthew has the strongest note of judgment against false witnesses, but that judgment is tempered. Through the parable of the weeds, it is understood that we are called to be witnesses, not judges. To think we can uproot and expel certain groups of people is dangerous. To believe we have the ability to judge rightly will end up destroying the good and loving work of the church, the body of Christ. We are not the judge. God is the judge. Until Judgment Day comes, we are witnesses to the truth that Jesus teaches and lives. It is enough to point to Jesus and his reign of undeserved kindness and peace.

Discuss: When have you judged others? In what ways can you show undeserved kindness and love to others?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us humility to trust in you more than our own judgments so we may love and serve our neighbor through Christ Jesus, the one who judges the living and the dead. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you help and lovingly serve someone who has been judged unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer, loving service, and scripture reading. Think or talk about how you can teach some of these rituals and traditions to someone else.

Pray: **Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

Amen. (Psalm 86:11)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52