

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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

July 29 & 30, 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

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:** Fellowship **Next week:** Congregational Meeting

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

July 31 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

August 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

August 2 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 3 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

August 4 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

August 6 Sunday

Pentecost 10

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—Congregational Meeting & Election of Council Members



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>

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>

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

Grades 7 & 8

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.

Solomon's prayer for justice and understanding.

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Isaiah 30:18-26	God's promise to Zion
Thursday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good instead of evil
Friday	Luke 6:37-42	Judging others
Saturday	Psalms 119:129-136	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

"Give your servant [Solomon] therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil." **1 Kings 3:9a (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, come Lord Jesus, give us your truth that we may judge with your steadfast love and mercy for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food we thank you, and for your wisdom, understanding, and mercy we pray to you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord's face shine on you and teach you God's ways. (Psalm 119:135)

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

- When you have a conflict with someone, are you able to see the situation from the other person's perspective? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to be a fair judge of other people's thoughts and actions?

Read: 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Humans have proven throughout the ages that they can explain away any thoughts and actions. Our own sense of truth and justice can be hurtful and unfair. We know how we can try to fool ourselves and others. Solomon also knew this, so he prayed to God for *"understanding to discern what is right"* (1 Kings 3:11b). The Hebrew literally says, "to hear justice." That is, to let Solomon's mind perceive and hear real justice on behalf of others. This is a daring prayer that puts others before his—and our own—interests. Our imperfect sense of justice and truth needs the humility of Solomon to recognize that God's truth stands out from our own. A good example is when the disciples heard the many parables of Jesus. Perhaps the greater wisdom would have been to acknowledge that they really did not understand them (Matthew 13:51).

Discuss: When have you prayed for wisdom and understanding?

Pray: **God of justice and truth, give us a humble heart that we may see and judge people with mercy and understanding that dares to love others through Jesus Christ 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 humbly and with understanding from their viewpoint?

Jesus told parables to teach people. A parable is a story to explain a moral or spiritual lesson. Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 includes five different parables that Jesus told to the disciples. Each time, he begins by saying, *"The kingdom of heaven is like ..."*. Choose to read one of the five parables and then think or talk about what Jesus is telling you about the kingdom of heaven.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 29

Sunday: 9:00: 125 11:00: 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 230

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 1009 (inc. 287 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$18751.8 (Regular) \$3599.37 (Specials)

\$1002.5 (Debt Reduction)