

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Anthony Bonacci	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

August 19 & 20 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

Welcome Anthony Bonacci

We welcome Anthony Bonacci as our Administrative Assistant. Anthony has been a member of Kountze Memorial since 2011 and was active in Sunday School, Confirmation, OSJ, and Youth Ministry activities. If you're by the office sometime during the week, be sure to stop by and welcome him.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Clara Kidder's 23rd birthday; in honor of Anne & Charles Forslund; given by Lynn Ziegenbein in honor of her son, Charlie Ziegenbein

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:** Youth Trip Sharing **Next week:** Confirmation Reception & Holden Trip Sharing. On the cake table there will be bags for those being confirmed if you'd like to bring cards for them. If you forget, cards to write on that day can be found on the Welcome Desk.

Blessing of Backpacks

Saturday, August 19

Sunday, August 20

All students, teachers, professors, and support staff are invited to bring their backpack for a special blessing for the upcoming school year along with a token to remind them of God's love and the congregations support throughout the year.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 20 Sunday

Pentecost 12
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

August 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 22 Tuesday

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

August 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 24 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:30 PM Faith Formation

August 25 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 27 Sunday

Pentecost 13
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

Share Your Gifts During Faith Formation Hour

If you are interested in supporting the youth of Kountze Memorial by leading a class, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. All lessons are scripted and supplies provided. Teachers lead on a rotation schedule, allowing for weeks off. Be the difference in our youngest member's relationship with God and give of your time and talents.

Help Connect Students to Campus Ministry!

It's almost time to head back to school! On college campuses across Nebraska and beyond, you can help connect students to our Lutheran Campus Ministries! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry has a contact and referral page: <https://nelcm.com/refer-a-student/> Please take a moment to help invite those you know to Christ! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry locations include: Chadron State College, Creighton, UNK, UNL, SECC/Beatrice, Peru State, UNO, and Wayne State College. For more information or to make a gift of support, go to: www.nelcm.com.

Summer Affirmation of Faith

Sunday, August 27

11:00 AM

Youth affirming their faith are: Marah McDougal, Tye McDougal, and Mia Valquier. They will be introduced during forum that day, along with Faith Sponsors: Darlene Anderson, Thomas Jensen, and Mert Wieble, who attended class and shared their faith. You are encouraged to bring a card to share your congratulations with these youth, as they continue in the faith journey.

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.

Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praises to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir will have its First meeting/rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Dinners for 8 Sign-up

If you would like to get to know more church members, this is a great opportunity. You will meet for a meal one time each month in September, October, and November. The dinner can be hosted in homes or church, potluck style or out at a restaurant. You get to decide. Please sign up by September 3. We will inform you of your groups by September 6.

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 10

All youth are invited to participate in the celebration of praise for both the rededication of the stained-glass windows (see Stained-Glass Window Rededication and Celebration announcement) and the upcoming year of Faith Formation which begins Sunday, September 17.

Children's Choir

From: Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 10

9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has 35 years of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people. All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. Students in grades 6-8 who would like to be involved may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help the director lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

We are invited

Tri-Faith 2nd Annual United We Walk

Sunday, September 10

3:00—6:00 PM

Alongside the walk, they will host inclusive-centric programming to make everyone feel welcome, activities to build a sense of belonging, a community fair, an immersive youth art project, entertainment, food trucks, and open houses of the four Tri-Faith buildings. (The Tri-Faith Commons and the 3 faith partners: Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and the American Muslim Institute). Join your pastors for this day of learning and celebration. For more information, please visit: <https://www.trifaith.org/www-2023>

The Camp Classic Tournaments

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>

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>

Stained-Glass Window

Rededication Celebration

Sunday, September 10

We hope you'll join the celebration of the rededication of our stained-glass windows. There will be lots of activities that day including organ, brass, and choir during both Sunday Worship services. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this special service!

If you would like to donate toward the cost of the celebration, please put "Window Celebration" on the memo line of your check, online giving, or on the pew envelope. Thanks.

Before September 10

- Watch your mailbox for a postcard with information on events of the day as well as some other events happening this fall.
- Pick up a yard sign to let your neighbors know about our celebration. The signs are available at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.
- Order your KMLC T-shirts so you'll have them to wear on September 10 (order by August 20) The T-shirts will need to be prepaid and you can order them at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. The cost of the T-shirts is:
 - Children (all sizes), Adult S, M, L, & X-Large—\$6
 - 2X-Large—\$7
 - 3X-Large—\$9

Pick up:

- A yard sign to place in your yard
- Your window decal
- KMLC stained-glass window perpetual calendar—\$10

On September 10:

- Events for children during the Faith Formation Hour
- Coloring books for the children
- Cake
- Special KMLC ice cream from eCreamery. all at no cost
- Stained-glass window walk

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 149 **11:00:** 86

Wednesday: 12:15:

Total: 269

Streaming: 45

Pantry Guests Served: 895 (inc. 338 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

7/30

\$13,851.33 (Regular) \$5,911.38 (Specials)
\$767.66 (Debt Reduction)

8/6

\$13,936.20 (Regular) \$4,895.44 (Specials)
\$1,633.56 (Debt Reduction)

8/13

\$14,525.00 (Regular) \$1,380.53 (Specials)
\$492.00 (Debt Reduction)

God blesses us to go into the world with mercy.

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Jude 1:17-23	Warnings and exhortations
Thursday	Jeremiah 42:7-17	The Lord will grant you mercy
Friday	Deuteronomy 4:25-31	Moses commands obedience
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

taking
faith
home

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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.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, (Selah) that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, you have chosen us and blessed us to bless the world. Give us compassionate hearts to do your will through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, for blessing us with the fruitfulness of the earth that gives us food each day we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you for the sake of the whole world. (Psalm 67:1-2)

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

- How have you been blessed by others?
- How have you blessed others with the love of God?

Read: Psalm 67.

God's mercy is shown through two distinct divine actions. First, God saves us through forgiveness, rescuing us from harm, and by saving us from death. God does a second great act that we sometimes overlook. God blesses us. God blesses us with the fruit of the earth, comfort, and joy. Psalm 67 asks for God's blessings and also affirms that God has already blessed us with abundance. God intends joy for all the earth (all the nations). We are blessed to bless the nations with joy and gladness by knowing the goodness, justice, and mercy of God. In Matthew 15:21-28 that joy is experienced by the Canaanite woman, a foreigner, who is relentless in seeking help for her daughter. Jesus, who was sent "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24) resists her requests, but her persistence gains Jesus' mercy. She is acknowledged for having great faith and Jesus' mission expands to those beyond Israel. The point of both Bible texts: God's saving work and blessings are for all.

Discuss: Like the Canaanite woman, when have you persisted in asking for God's mercy?

Pray: **Blessing God, you care for us throughout our lives. Give us your joy and gladness and the heart to bless others with your goodness and mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others who are not part of your group or nation?

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (a temple in Jerusalem) a "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about prayer in your home. Is there a special place to pray? Is there a special time to pray? Is there a special way to pray? Do you pray alone or with others? In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"? Pray the Lord's Prayer and then say: **Let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you.** (Psalm 67:5)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20