

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation 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
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Taylor Brown	Exec. Dir. Kountze Commons

## TODAY AT KOUNTZE

### **Coffee Hour**

Please feel free to stop for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following service today. We need volunteers to help serve coffee and cookies. If you can help, please see Jim Smejkal 402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of our beloved Mom and Grandma, Lois Carlsen, given by Barbara Carlsen, Douglas Carlsen, Janet, Nicole, and Charlie Campbell

### **Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast**

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze Memorial or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week. You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast on the chart on the bulletin board outside the Narthex, by calling the church office and/or by mailing a check to the church and note what it is for, and who it is in honor, in memory, or in thanksgiving of in the memo of your check. Your check can also be put in the offering plate when you attend Worship.



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
www.kmlchurch.org

September 4 & 5, 2021

*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. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

### **Children in Worship**

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet 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.

### **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 card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

### **Monday, September 6—Labor Day**

Office and Pantry closed for the Labor Day.

**Yesterday's Youth**  
**Tuesday, September 7**  
**11:30 AM**

**Program: "From the Amazon to Machu Picchu"**  
**presented by Dick Sieling**

The suggested donation is \$5.00. The main entrée will be Peruvian Chicken with Peruvian Green Sauce served on the side (don't worry it's not spicy). Come enjoy the flavors of South America and learn more about this interesting region.

**Sewing Group**  
**Wednesday, September 8**  
**9:00 AM - ???**

We will meet in person at church. If you're not comfortable getting together yet but would still like to help, please consider making quilt tops for us if you are able. Everything helps. We are always in need of cotton fabric remnants and old sheets to use in the quilts. If you have any sitting in your closets that you're not going to use, please let us take them off your hands! They will be put to good use in a quilt and is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

**Confirmation Program**  
**In-Person beginning Wednesday, September 8**  
**6:00 PM**

The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and will be taught by Pastor Shari Duminy. We will begin in person on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 PM with a meal. Class time each Wednesday night is from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. During the year we will take a one-week break on November 24 and December 29 and will finish our year of study on April 20.

If your youth isn't registered for Confirmation, the registration form can be found at

<https://www.kmlchurch.org/confirmation/confirmation-ministry-reg-form/>

**Adult Choir Resumes**  
**We Need YOU!!!**  
**Wednesday, September 8**  
**7 to 8:30 PM**

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. The Adult Choir will have its first meeting Wednesday, September 8 from 7 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 12. If you are interested in being a part of this important

worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is recommended. The director, Barb Carlsen, would like to hear you sing before joining the choir just to make sure that this group will blend with your type of voice. If you want more information about choir or would like to reserve a time to sing for Barb Carlsen, please call the church office at 402-341-7761.

**Adult Forum**  
**Sunday, September 12**

We look forward to gathering together officially in the Fellowship Hall on September 12. The first few Sundays will be "generally program free" to allow for greater conversation and the change to reconnect. Then, in late September and/or early October, our programs will review the return of fall programs and opportunities. Afterwards, we will return to normal Adult Education programs and themes.

**Rally Sunday**  
**Sunday, September 12**  
**10:10 AM**

Register for Sunday School at:

<https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/Registration>

**God's Work, Our Hands**  
**Sunday, September 12**

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church will be participating in God's Work, Our Hands on September 12. This is an opportunity to be of service to our church and community. There are 3 areas of volunteering available which are described in the online registration form. Lunch will be served to all volunteers. Please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org, or at 402-630-4578 with any questions. Registration forms can be found at

[https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/GodsWork?fbclid=IwAR07CQ9MZyWH1L2P1pN8KZKxS89vZ7cJxBy\\_3IQMGh9qACdAN2Avjvrea6I](https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/GodsWork?fbclid=IwAR07CQ9MZyWH1L2P1pN8KZKxS89vZ7cJxBy_3IQMGh9qACdAN2Avjvrea6I)

**Book Group**  
**Sunday, September 12, 12:15 PM**  
**Fellowship Hall Lounge**

The September selection is "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. This is a historical fiction novel about the WPA Pack Horse Library Project started in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to get people to work and promote social and cultural awareness of art, theater, and literature. Cassy Mary Carter is a Pack Horse librarian in Eastern Kentucky, one of the hardest hit areas of the country during the Great Depression.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

Vhshwp eh#8#xqgd|#  
Pentecost 15  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

Vhshwp eh#9#r qgd|#  
Labor Day  
OFFICE CLOSED  
No Pantry

Vhshwp eh#:#xhvgd|#  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM Yesterday's Youth

Vhshwp eh#:#hgqhvgd|#  
9:00 AM Sewing Group  
11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper  
6:30 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Vhshwp eh#:#kxugd|#  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Vhshwp eh#3#ulgd|#  
5:00 PM Pantry

Vhshwp eh#4#dwxugd|#  
5:00 PM Worship

Vhshwp eh#5#xqgd|#  
Pentecost 16  
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:10 AM Rally Day/1st Day of Sunday School  
12:15 PM Book Group

Cassy rode her mule, Junra, to deliver books and reading material to the residents in the rockiest terrain of the Kentucky mountains. Cassy had to face the hardships of the terrain, weather, and prejudice of the citizens toward her job as well as being the last of her kind with a genetic blood disorder that caused her skin to be a shade of blue. the book is a story of courage, strength, poverty, and the belief that books can carry us anywhere.

### Men's Lunch

**Thursday, September 16**

**11:30 AM**

Please call the Church office by Tuesday, September 14 to make your reservation. We will have a short update on the stained-glass windows and time for re-connecting. Suggested donation is \$10.00.

### Worship Leader Training

**(Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers)**

**September 19 or 26 at 10:15 AM**

**(two opportunities, choose one)**

Please call the church office to register.

### New Member Classes

**Sundays, September 19 and 26**

**12:15 PM**

If you are interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church or maybe even considering membership, please sign up to attend the New Member Orientation Classes that we are planning to be held in September (please plan to attend both sessions). Please call the church office to sign up or if you have questions.

### Order of Saint John

#### Acolytes and Crucifers

Kountze members who are 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older are needed for these special roles in the 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services. Please contact Jeff and Robin Perkins at 402-339-5384 if you would like to be trained to assist in the worship services.

### Senior High Youth Activities

Mark your Calendars and plan to attend:

- 9/12 - Rally Sunday and God's Work, Our Hands Service Day
- 9/19 - Youth Forum in Youth Room YG Bible Study
- 9/26 - Youth Forum in Youth Room Community Fun

### College Students Contact Information

If you are a college student we would love to have an address and email so we can stay in touch with you. Please pass this information on to the office. Thank You!

### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 24

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 101

**Wednesday Attendance:** 11

**Total:** 187

**Streaming Attendance:** 74

**Cox Cable Attendance:** 203

**Pantry Guests Served:** 972 (includes 270 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 26

**Offering:**

\$13,736.00 (Regular)

\$2,109.48 (Specials)

\$1,130.00 (Debt Reduction)

## God's love breaks down boundaries.

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross



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*[I]f you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **James 2:3-4 (NRSV)***

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

Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

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

May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.

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

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

*Read:* Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Syrophenician woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God's arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God's power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God's compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?

*Pray:* **Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: "The peace of the Lord be with you."

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38