

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
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



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

February 12 & 13, 2022

*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. 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 9 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 or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Pat's sister given by Robert & Pat Ranney

Children's Choir Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen is leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—We will be attending the Congregational Meeting – All Confirmed Members are Voting Members.

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Our Congregational Meeting is this Sunday.

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 2022
10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall**



Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

THANK YOU to all who donated furniture, household items, and grocery gift cards for the refugee family. We now have everything to set up the apartment and are waiting for LFS to assign us a family. Volunteers are still needed to help move furniture! Once our family is assigned and LFS finds the apartment, we will only have a day or two to get everything moved from storage to the apartment. The crew who has been picking up the furniture is just about worn out: we need reinforcements for this last step! Please call Jerry Fisher on 402-981-5765 to let him know if you have a truck or a strong back- This is an excellent opportunity to get high schoolers and young adults involved. Thank you for helping answer the call to provide hospitality to strangers - they'll soon be our new neighbors.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 13 Sunday

Epiphany 6

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum—Congregational Meeting

12:15 PM Book Group

February 14 Monday

Valentine's Day

10:00 AM Pantry

February 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

February 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

February 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Circle 5

February 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 20 Sunday

Epiphany 7

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

February 21 Monday

President's Day

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday School Talking Points

In today's lesson, The Parable of the Deep Well, we will be studying a parable about parables. As we have been learning different parables over the last few weeks, this enrichment lesson is meant to deepen our understanding about what these stories are and what they mean. It is meant to help the students define their own interpretation of parables.

In addition to asking your children to explain the lesson, the following questions can help reinforce the lesson.

– I wonder what the desert could really be?

- I wonder what the well could really be?
- I wonder what the golden threads could really be?
- I wonder which of the endings you liked best?
- I wonder which ending is most important?
- I wonder what part of the parable is especially like you?

Men's Lunch

Thursday, February 17

11:30 AM

Our guest this month is Mr. Farhad Latifi, a member of the Afghan American Community. He will speak to us about the challenges a refugee family will face. Please RSVP to the church office or to Jim Smejkal (Jim@kmlchurch.org) by Tuesday, February 15.

Service Project for the Youth of Kountze

Youth Emergency Services

February 25

6:00 PM

Youth Emergency Services provides outreach for youth experiencing homelessness, or housing insecurity by providing them with tools and resources to be self-sufficient. Join us on February 25 in preparing meals for the YES House located in our community at 26th and Harney. We are looking for helping hands to prepare the meal, as well as donations of goods to use in the preparation of food. Please bring canned donations of refried beans, enchilada sauce, green chilies, aluminum serving trays, and packs of tortillas to the Sunday School office by February 20. Please RSVP to help make the meal by calling the church office at 402-341-7761 or emailing Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Communion Kits

If you are a Eucharistic Minister and have a communion kit at home, please bring it back so it can be restocked. Also, if you are a Eucharistic Minister but don't have anyone to take communion to but would like to, please let the church office know. We have several homebound members that would like to have communion brought to them. If you're interested in being a Eucharistic Minister and would like more information, please call the church office. Thanks.

Lenten Meals

Beginning Ash Wednesday (March 2)

Marlys and Jim can always use an extra set (or two or three) of hands in the kitchen to help prepare meals for lunch and/or dinner. For more info or to sign up: jim@kmlchurch.org

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you for all the hats, scarves and socks for the Pantry guests. We are still in need of adult men's gloves. We are also collecting toilet tissue. Our biggest need is for volunteers! Several key helpers will be flying south for the winter and we could really use your help!

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Camp Carol Joy Holling

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 - 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. You can give two ways:

1. on our website under the "give" tab
2. on the ELCA.org website and go to Lutheran Disaster Response

Links to both sites are in the Friday e-news

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 126 **11:00:** 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 13 **Confirmation:** 9

Total: 251

Streaming: 74

Cox Cable: Not available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: 1289 (inc. 320 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$18,122.00 (Regular) \$902.01 (Specials)

\$1,642.00 (Debt Reduction)

Trust in God alone.

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Proverbs 3:1-6	Trust and honor God
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Friday	Joshua 1:1-9	The Lord speaks to Joshua
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way of the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies

taking
faith
home

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Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. Jeremiah 17:7 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, please give us the strength to trust in you alone and support our hope in the days to come through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God gives us food, God gives us drink, God gives us all, more than we think. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with hope and good courage.

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

- What is something that makes you happy and you enjoy doing?
- How does God bring you joy and happiness?

Read: Jeremiah 17:5-10.

Pleasures and personal security in life are fleeting. They can easily become a memory from the past. When the difficult times arrive, we long for the stability that only God gives. Momentary pleasures are like the shrubs in the wilderness, vulnerable to the desert heat. The hearts of those who trust in human strength turn away from God and trust the superficial joys found on the surface of the desert. Jeremiah offers an image of the tree planted by a stream in the desert. The tree's shoots are not seen, but they go deep into the earth so that even when drought happens, the tree is green and fruitful. The people to whom Jeremiah was originally speaking were in a drought situation. The wealth of the nation's resources and leadership had been cast into exile in Babylon. The future of Israel looked grim. When we experience tough times, trusting in the promises of our gracious God is the only sure foundation—not wealth, not fame, nor momentary pleasures.

Discuss: How does God bring you comfort and give you courage to trust in God alone?

Pray: God of promise, help us not to put our confidence in things that do not last and to put our trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, when someone is experiencing tough times, how can you comfort them?

The Greek word, *makarioi*, means blessed or happy. A blessing announces God's love and care for others. We are blessed to be followers of Jesus. Establishing the ritual of blessing those in our home and those who visit builds trusted, caring relationships. Use this blessing as you greet and say farewell to family and friends: **May God bless you with hope and joy.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38