

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 19 & 20, 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.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, Television Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze 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.

Today at Kountze

Our COVID Task Force met recently to review the latest information about the pandemic and how we should respond as a congregation. The good news is that case numbers are dropping, and hospitalizations and other indicators are moving in a good direction. Your pastors will continue to wear masks except when preaching or presiding at the Table. Our children and youth ministries will follow the procedures of Omaha Public Schools and so will continue to wear masks. Masks are optional for the rest of the congregation. You do not need to wear a mask but those of you wishing to do so have that option as well. The Choir will return to the choir loft, and over the next few weeks we will be placing hymnals, Bibles, and other materials in the pew racks. All this feels exciting, and seems a bit more like what we remember as "normal." We will continue to watch the situation, though, and are prepared to respond when conditions change.

Devotions for Lent

Available to help you through the Lenten Journey that begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. You will find them

Today at Kountze, *continued*

located where our yearly devotionals are located. *Grace Unbounded* is a pocket size devotion written by several pastors and is published through Augsburg Fortress/1517Media. *A Way in the Wilderness* is a weekly devotion by ELCA World Hunger and will challenge the way we reach out to people from around the world. There are limited and large print copies of this devotion. Both of these devotions follow the weekly lectionary of the church.

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—Boundless Bible Study

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

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Lenten Preview

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall.

Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Volunteers are still needed to help move furniture. Please call Jerry Fisher at 402-981-5765 to let him know if you have a truck and/or a strong back and are able to help. 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 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

February 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Circle 3

February 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

February 24 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 25 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

6:00 PM Youth Emergency Services Project

February 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 27 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

10:10 AM Baptism Seminar

Sunday School Talking Points

Today we will be learning about the Parable of the Leaven. To illustrate this lesson, we will begin with a science experiment to see what type of sugar will make yeast grow that best. To measure which sugar (white, brown, or honey) promotes the most growth, we will be using balloons on top of jars. The best sugar, combined with warm water and yeast, should blow up the balloon on top of the jar. Likewise, if we feed our faith with what it needs, it will also grow and expand.

Ask your children to tell you the Parable of the Leaven in their own words. Talk about how they can feed their faith to make it grow and expand, like the yeast did. How can they share this faith with others?

Middle School Lock-in

Camp Carol Joy Holling Camp

March 4 at 8 PM until March 5 at 8 AM

Cost is \$10 with Breakfast included

Register with the church office by Wed. February 23.

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 kris-tin@kmlchurch.org.

Baptism Seminar

Sunday, February 27

10:10 AM

Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptism liturgy with you. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761.

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

First Communion

Sundays, March 27 & April 3

12:15 PM

A good guide for determining when your children are ready to receive Communion is when they begin to ask about receiving it during the liturgy. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 PM. The course is geared toward second graders but all ages are welcome; Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@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

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.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 41

Sunday: 9:00: 118 **11:00:** 49

Wednesday: 12:15: 11 **Confirmation:** 12

Total: 231

Streaming: 75

Cox Cable: 204

Pantry Guests Served: 886 (inc. 222 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$9,809.00 (Regular) \$2711.93 (Specials)

\$1,117.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's promise of an everlasting body.

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

Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies
Monday	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Joseph reveals himself
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	The resurrection body
Wednesday	Romans 5:6-11	Results of justification
Thursday	Psalm 136:1-9	God's love never fails
Friday	John 10:11-18	Jesus the good shepherd
Saturday	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured



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So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 1 Corinthians 15:42 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to trust in the power of the resurrection so that we may show your love, mercy, and forgiveness to others each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food that shows your care for us. May your kindness and generosity be seen in an abundance of food for all. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love and mercy give you comfort and peace.

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

- What words can be used to comfort someone who has lost a loved one?
- What questions do you have about life after death?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50.

The first century world of Paul was without an advanced health care system for people. There were reasons not to see value in the human body: persistent diseases existed; death came early for many; others lived with constant hunger. Escape from human bodies was a common understanding of the afterlife. However, the Apostle Paul sees in resurrection a new body, not just the ongoing life of a soul floating free from a body. God created a physical world, and it is created good, although it has been tainted by sin. Paul affirms that in the resurrection of the dead we are given transformed bodies that he describes as "spiritual bodies." We don't know what that will look like. What we know is that God cares for what God creates, including our bodies. In the meantime, we wait for the resurrection of our bodies with confidence in God's creative powers and living each day valuing what God has created. Physical life matters, and therefore how we treat each other matters.

Discuss: How does trusting in the resurrection of the body help you show love, mercy, and forgiveness to others today?

Pray: **Eternal God, we thank you for creating us in love with a promise of a body that will be raised in glory through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, pray for someone you know who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

In Luke 6 Jesus directs us to love our enemies and pray for them. Our relationships are important because it matters how we treat each other. When we experience conflict and feel mistreated by others it can make us feel hurt and distant from that person. Write a list of people who you feel have mistreated you. Then say the Lord's Prayer. Pause after you say: **Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.** Then read the names you have written and finish the prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]