

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 Slight	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 26 & 27, 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 by Diane Nickeson Ray in memory of her parents, Keith & Anita Nickeson

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.

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.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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—Checking in and Games

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

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Fellowship (no program)

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and cookies.

Devotions for Lent

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

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

2:00 PM Mary Ellen Hilkemann Funeral (Cutler O'Neill Funeral Home in Council Bluffs)

February 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Dudley Syré Funeral

March 2 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:30 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

March 3 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 4 Friday

10:30 AM Rev. Harold Stromer Memorial Service

5:00 PM Pantry

March 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

March 6 Sunday

Lent 1

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

Sunday School Talking Points

Lent is the season in which we prepare for Easter. This lesson helps children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as a newborn child. Our lessons on Easter begin the week before Lent begins as we do not have

Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Today, your children will look for objects in the Sunday School rooms that represent Jesus as a newborn child. Ask your kids what they found and how they saw the baby Jesus in that object. Ask what others found. Tell them what you are reminded of when you think of Jesus being born.

Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Great news: We have been assigned an Afghan family of 6 (soon to be 7)! Their names are: Guldin Bowari (father), Bibi Hawa (mother), Ningalai (son, 7yr 10mo), Khalil (son, 5yr 10mo), Jalil (son, 2yr 10mo), and Suraj (son, 1yr 10mo) with a newborn on the way. The task force and many volunteers have set up the two-bedroom apartment at Timber Creek (137th & Harrison). We moved in all the donated furniture and household supplies. We were able to get 2 sets of bunk beds from Creighton for the boys' room. We used the donated Hy-Vee and Visa gift cards to purchase groceries. Your generosity has made the welcome for this family complete! We were able to meet the family on Wednesday (February 23) when we transported them and their clothing from the Air BNB to the apartment. Please keep this family in your prayers.

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.

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

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2

Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM

Lenten Meal: Hot Chicken Salad Casserole, roll, cottage cheese with half a peach

Lunch: 11:00 AM

Dinner: 5:30 PM

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.

March Service Project for the Youth of Kountze

Kountze Food Pantry

Friday, March 18

5:00 or 5:30 until 8:00 PM

The youth and family service work for the month of March will be helping in the Kountze Pantry. For 20 years, the Pantry has served over 1700 guests each month. The mission of this great service is simple: feed anyone who comes through the door. Let's lend our hands to this amazing organization and help serve our community. RSVP at the church office by calling 402-341-7761.

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

The Kountze Food Pantry has been blessed with large donation drives from Central High School, Morning Star Lutheran Church, and Methodist Health System. We are extremely grateful for our community partners including the continued support from St. Michael Lutheran Church. The very best contribution is new volunteers who come to the rescue! Please consider signing up to volunteer at the link below as there is an ongoing need.

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)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 21

Sunday: 9:00: 127 11:00: 52

Wednesday: 12:15: 9 Confirmation: 14

Total: 223

Streaming: 78

Cox Cable: 197

Pantry Guests Served: 532 (inc. 182 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$23,069.06 (Regular) \$2,044.36 (Specials)

\$8,658.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's holiness comes near to us in Jesus.

Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured
Monday	Exodus 34:29-35	The shining face of Moses
Tuesday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Wednesday	Psalms 51:1-17	A prayer for forgiveness
Thursday	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	God's new agreement
Friday	1 Peter 1:13-16	A call to holy living
Saturday	Psalms 99	Our Lord is king
Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus



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Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" **Luke 9:35 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to see in your awesome might the power to love and heal us through all you have created in the name of the Chosen One, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Holy God, we thank you for your love and power that provides us with this food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of power and love bless you today and always through Christ our Lord.

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

- Jesus' disciples were frightened by a cloud that surrounded them. When have you felt scared?
- Can you imagine feeling weak in the knees to be in the presence of God's glory and power? Explain.

Read: Luke 9:28-43a.

We modern-world types can have difficulty with the extraordinary—miraculous—events of the Bible, like the transfiguration of Jesus. It is a scene so different from our daily life experiences. There is a sense of awe and holiness in the mountain-top moment of Jesus with frightened disciples, Moses, Elijah, and a cloud out of which comes a heavenly voice. Jesus is announced as the one who is God's unique Son, the Chosen One of God. In Jesus, God's presence has come near. Holiness seems far from us, but in the Bible, God's holiness is meant to come close, even touch our daily lives. Therefore, it is no accident that after the transfiguration, Jesus immediately descends from the mountain-top experience to touch people's lives where they are, in need of healing and hope. Jesus shows compassion for a father in agony over his only child's illness. God's holiness seen in Jesus makes the extraordinary ordinary. This makes our normal, everyday lives, like those of Peter, James, and John, something quite unexpected and extraordinary.

Discuss: How does God make your life extraordinary?

Pray: **Holy and Almighty God, help us to overcome our fears of your presence so that we can be people of healing and hope through Jesus Christ, your Son, the Chosen One. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you touch another person's life with a sense of God's holiness through a prayer or a blessing?

Transfiguration Sunday is the last Sunday before Lent begins. We begin to transition to a more somber season in the church year. A common ritual is to bury or hide the "Alleluia" on this day. During Lent, the word Alleluia is not said or sung again until Easter. Write the word Alleluia on several sheets of paper and decorate them. Place them in a box or hide them different places until Easter. Before hiding the Alleluias, pray: **Dear Lord, as we bury the Alleluias, help us to prepare our hearts and minds to focus on Jesus' journey to the cross. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13