

### 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 5 & 6, 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 Joyce E. Hahn; given by Tom Holcombe in memory of wife, Jean Holcombe

### **Children's Choir**

#### **Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Adult Forum**

#### **Sunday, 10:10**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. This week we will get a preview of the 2022 Budget

### **Sunday School**

#### **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—Exploring a Spiritual Practice –

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

Zentangle Art Form and current events discussion  
Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

### 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

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### February 6 Sunday

Epiphany 5  
Homebound Communion  
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 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
10:00 AM Lutheran Women of Omaha

### February 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
6:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper  
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

### February 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 11 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry  
6:00 PM Project Linus Event

### February 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### 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

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## Sunday School Talking Points

In today's lesson, we will learn the Parable of the Great Pearl, found in Matthew 13. This lesson illustrates the value of the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the Godly Play curriculum, each lesson is ended with "I Wonder" questions. These questions are important, not as a quiz to see who was listening the best or who understood the lesson the most, rather they are a way for the students to reflect on what spoke to them in the story. They are open ended questions, have no right or wrong answers, and the answers reflect the student's interest.

Try some "I Wonder" questions with your children today.

- I wonder if the person was happy with the Great Pearl?
- I wonder what the merchant is going to do now?
- I wonder why the seller was willing to give up something so precious?
- I wonder if the seller was happy with all his things?
- I wonder if the seller has a name?
- I wonder if the merchant has a name?
- I wonder who has the most now, the seller or the merchant?
- Now, I wonder what the Great Pearl could really be? I wonder what could be so precious that a person would exchange everything for it?

### 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.

### Free at-home Covid-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. If you don't have access to a computer, you can order tests via a hotline at 1-800-232-0233.

### Simply Giving

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, you need to indicate this change to the office/make the changes yourself online, or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

### 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)

### Service Project for the Youth of Kountze Project Linus Event

**Postponed until Friday, February 11  
6:00 PM**

This charity gives children with severe illnesses or trauma a security blanket. We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall. A chili and hot dog dinner will be provided. In addition to needing volunteers to make tie blankets, we need donations of pre-washed fleece or cotton material. Please sign up for this event by calling the church office at 402-341-7761 so that we have enough food and materials on hand. Contact Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) with any questions.

Join us on February 25 in preparing meals for the YES House located in our community at 26<sup>th</sup> and Harney. Watch the bulletin and e-news for more information.

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

Annual Reports can be picked up during Worship and Forum today.

Join Adult Forum with Treasurer Tim Backora as he leads a review of the budget.



### Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 24

**Sunday:** 9:00: 104 11:00: 53

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

**Total:** 190

**Streaming:** 92

**Cox Cable:** 230

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1302 (inc. 307 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 24

**Offering:**

\$26,636.00 (Regular)      \$5,395.54 (Specials)

\$8,042.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Give thanks for God's love and faithfulness.*

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

Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-13	The call of Isaiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The call of Paul
Wednesday	Psalms 36	Human sin and God's goodness
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Deuteronomy 7:6-11	The Lord's chosen people
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise the Lord with all your heart
Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain



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*I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. **Psalm 138:2 (NRSV)***

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

Almighty God, help us to see your power at work in the world and in our lives that all people may know your love through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthen for thy service be. Amen.

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

May the Lord bless you with steadfast love that endures forever.

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

- What is something you wish you could do better?
- How can God use your imperfections to care for others?

*Read:* Psalm 138.

The divine backdrop for the call of Peter, James, and John is seen in Psalm 138. God's will, God's power, will not be overcome. God's purpose is full of steadfast love and faithfulness; it is full of protection that delivers us from the wrath of enemies. Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8) and sees the unholiness of his own life. God intends protection from evil and a divine power that will have its way. God watches over us in our lowliness, our humiliation, and protects us with a loving purpose for our lives. Peter sees in his life unholiness. Jesus, walking in the Spirit of God sees a soul, a person with a holy purpose. Peter sees only forsakenness, someone who should be abandoned. However, God in Jesus will fulfill a purpose, a purpose where Peter, James and John catch people into the net of God's love.

*Discuss:* How might God be using you to catch people in the net of God's love?

*Pray:* **Faithful God, help us to see beyond our weaknesses to a life you want for us, a life of love that reaches out to others in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might God be using your life to reach out and care for others?

In Luke 5:1-11, Simon fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus told him to put his nets into the deep water. When he did, the nets filled with so many fish that they began to break. On that day, Jesus showed how very real God's blessings and generosity are. Showing God's love to others is part of the Christian way of life. Make a list of ways you show God's love to others. What will you choose from your list to do this week?

*Pray:* **Dear God, you filled nets with fish to overflowing. Fill us with a desire to bestow your love and generosity on others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26