

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
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**

March 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

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 join Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall for call process input.**

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Call Process Input - Pr. Griffith
Please join us in the Fellowship Hall

Bowls, Cake Pans, etc.

We are so grateful for the good food that is brought to the church and shared for our important meals. We now find ourselves with many leftover bowls, cake pans, etc. With just so much storage space, we are in need of the bowls and pans that are here to be picked up and returned to their homes. You will find these "leftovers" right outside the north office door. We appreciate your help in taking these back home in the next few weeks.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 13 Sunday

Lent 2
Daylight Saving Time
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
12:15 PM Book Group

March 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

March 16 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner
6:00 PM Executive Committee
6:30 PM Worship

March 17 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

March 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

March 20 Sunday

Lent 3
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

In today's lesson, we further examine Jesus' journey to the cross by looking at his baptism and blessing. Jesus' baptism came before he began his discipleship, the start of showing us how to be good disciples. After today's lesson, the students will be gathering and observing items that remind them of the baptism of Jesus. Each student will have an opportunity to explain why this item represents baptism to them. Ask your child/children what object they chose and why. This is also a further opportunity to talk about their own baptism throughout the week, and why it is important and special.

Communion will Return to Intinction Practice

Next weekend, March 19 & 20, we will be changing our practice of Holy Communion from the pouring chalice to intinction. You will receive the consecrated host and dip it in the consecrated wine in the chalice and consume. As we are trying to return to pre-pandemic worship practices, we will be increasing the communion stations at each service as well. A few more people are required to assist us with this change. If you are a Communion Assistant or would like to help with worship in this way, please call the church office to sign up today.

We also request that parents whose children were in the last First Communion class assist their youth with the knowledge of this change as well. Please let the Pastors know if you have any questions or concerns.

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 1,700 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.

Compline – A Lenten Offering

Held at Kountze Memorial Church

Sunday, March 27, 7:30 PM

Meditation and contemplation, folded in prayer, chant, and music are the essence of Compline – one of the monastic prayer services of the Christian Church, and the last religious observance (office) sung at the end of the day. The entire service will be sung, unaccompanied, by a small group of liturgical musicians (schola) from First-Plymouth Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, on behalf of the congregation. Compline provides worshipers the time and space for silence, meditation, and mystic communion with the Divine. We welcome you to join us for this half hour, unique time, set apart for prayerful worship. Please enter the sanctuary reverently, in silent prayer, through our 4 main doors at the front of the church.

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 your donations of hats and gloves for our Pantry guests! Even in this mild weather they were greatly needed and appreciated. In March, we are in need of toilet paper and toothbrushes. As always, we need volunteers!

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

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

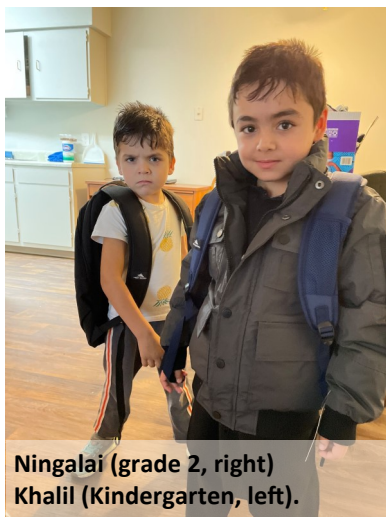
Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

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

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

Update on our Refugee Family

The Bowari family is doing well – as of this writing, the new baby has not arrived, but we certainly hope that he/she will join us by the time you're reading this! We have lots of good news to share: the two oldest boys are now enrolled in school. They start 2nd grade and Kindergarten at Holling Heights Elementary in the Millard school district on Thursday 3/10. Thankfully, the school is right next to the apartment complex so it will be easy for the Dad, Guldin, to walk them there and home for the first couple of days, then they can go on their own- no streets to cross even! A volunteer from another church donated new coats & backpacks for the boys and almost new tennis shoes. Thank you to those of you who have signed up to help deliver meals to the family while the Mom, Bibi Hawa, is in the hospital and then home recuperating. A reminder, for now any prepared meals need to come from the Afghan restaurant due to the dietary restrictions of the family. If you're interested in helping with this, please sign-up for a time to bring a meal at: <https://bit.ly/BowariFamily> You'll get an email response with details about how to order and where to pick-up a prepared meal, and a map to where the Bowari family lives. Although the family does not speak English, they are good understanding gestures and they are learning. Through an interpreter they asked me to express their most sincere gratitude to Kountze for your amazing support and generosity!



Ningalai (grade 2, right)
Khalil (Kindergarten, left).

Thank You to All, from the Kountze Memorial Staff

We want you to hear from us, how very thankful we are to be church together. These past few weeks have pushed the limits in numbers of deaths and services as we begin Lent. The way you have shown up and given generous care, time, and attention to grieving families, Lenten meal consumers, worshiping members and guests, Food Pantry guests, Clinic patients, and resettling our refugee family, has made an impact on us. We are ever aware that we could not do what we do, unless we do it together. As we come out of the pandemic, we can be overwhelmed by the incredible needs and it can be wearisome. Your contributions, large and small, of time and talents encourage us on and inspire us to greater faithfulness to the Ever-loving and present God that we serve in Word, Sacrament, and Service. May we continue to discover the many meaningful ways to be church together in this world. Peace, Joy, and Love be yours!

Lutheran Disaster Response is joining with such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to

the Ukrainian crisis. If you would like to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response, you may give directly to Kountze Memorial, mark it with "Eastern Europe Crisis Response," and we will pass it on to them. You may also donate online to Kountze or Lutheran Disaster Response if you would prefer. Links to our giving page and Lutheran Disaster Response can be found in the Friday e-news.

LENT

Our Lenten Focus

Worship times each Wednesday of Lent are at 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Music will be provided at both service.

The following five weeks, For The Peace of the Whole World exploring our call to Just Peacemaking will be our theme. Each week we will consider a specific component in the formation of a just peace theology.

March 16 Living in Brokenness

March 23 Justice

March 30 Love Your Enemies

April 6 Peace

It is the hope you will consider gathering in community and worship for these times, to grow and deepen our faith, through the Lent season.

Lenten Meals

Lunch Served 11:00 – Noon

Supper served 5:30 – 6:30 PM

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert.

Meals are free will offering.

Menu for March 16

Choice of tomato basil or broccoli cheese soup, pulled pork sliders

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 111 **11:00:** 59

Wednesday: 12:15: 38 **6:30:** 54

Total: 292

Streaming: 93

Cox Cable: 197

Pantry Guests Served: 1317 (inc. 344 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$18,105.00 (Regular) \$3,493.95 (Specials)

\$1,282.00 (Debt Reduction)

Stand firm in the Lord.

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

Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem
Monday	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	God's covenant with Abram
Tuesday	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Stand firm in the Lord
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Helping Christian leaders
Thursday	Exodus 14:10-14	Crossing the Red Sea
Friday	Hebrews 10:19-29	A call to persevere
Saturday	Psalms 27	A song of trust
Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree



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*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. **Philippians 4:1 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are my glory and salvation; whom shall I fear? Give us confidence in your care through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant grace, for this food that strengthens us and feeds the soul, let us praise you today through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be your strength and deliver you from every danger.

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

- When have you doubted your ability to do something you wanted to do?
- How does life in the body of Christ help give you self-confidence?

Read: Philippians 3:17-4:1.

Paul was encouraging those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ while addressing those who misunderstand what it means to follow Christ. It is possible to misuse one's freedom in Christ. It is also possible to follow the wrong examples and end up with a god that satisfies "*the belly*," one's own physical wants and appetites. Such a life leads to shame, not joy and gladness. How do we avoid the glitter and glamour around us? We imitate people like Paul, people who follow the cross of Christ into the world to share the love of others instead of feeding our own insatiable cravings. Paul reminds us that our citizenship, our loyalty, is in Christ alone. He commends a life that does not surrender to personal desires but stands firm in Christ and a life that brings joy.

Discuss: Who in your life is a role model as one who follows Jesus, and why?

Pray: **God of power and might, help us to see more clearly that we may gladly follow you into a life that brings hope and joy through our Lord 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 you set aside your own wants and desires this week to help someone else?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. God created the heavens and the earth, the night and the day, the moon and the stars. Take time this week to go outside on a clear night and gaze at the sky. Pray for all of God's creation while watching the stars. While standing outside say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** Close with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9