

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 Slaughter	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 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.

Today at Kountze

Sharing of the Peace

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

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

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Peacemaking

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

Today at Kountze, *continued*

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.

Usher Sign-up for Holy Week and Easter

If you will be available during Holy Week and Easter, we could use your help as Ushers. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Nave for you to add your name according to your availability. Thanks for serving in this way!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

March 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board
A & B Rooms

March 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3

March 23 Wednesday

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

March 24 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 25 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

March 27 Sunday

Lent 4
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 First Communion Class
7:30 PM Compline Service

Sunday School Talking Points

Although they may not be able to name it, children understand what temptation is, and have plenty of experience with it. Last week we learned about Jesus' baptism and touched upon his 40 days in the wilderness. This week, we will expand on those 40 days, and learn more about how Jesus was tempted during that time and how we can live by his example when it comes to temptation. This week, ask your children to explain what temptation means to them and ask what tempts them in their lives. Discuss how God can help them avoid temptations. Have your children retell the lesson and ask what part of the story is most meaningful to them. As we are in the fourth part of the "Faces of Easter" lesson, have the children list each part of Jesus' life we have covered. What story is most meaningful to them?

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.

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.

Spring Spruce-Up

Saturday, April 9

9:00 AM -12:00 PM

(Lunch Provided)

All children, families, singles, everyone of all ages, are invited to a Kountze spring spruce-up. It's time to give our beautiful facility some TLC as we head into Holy week. With a 52,000 sq. ft. building, it's hard for the staff to do everything, so once in a while we need to rally the troops and pitch in and do some deep cleaning, polishing, dusting, etc. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 9:00 AM where you can pick from a list of areas that need some attention. Dusters, furniture polish, buckets, towels, etc. will be provided but if you have a favorite, please bring it. At noon we will return to the Fellowship Hall and

enjoy lunch before departing. So that we can make sure we have enough food please call the office or email Jim (jim@kmlchurch.org) if you plan on attending.

Update on our Refugee Family

A fifth son has joined the Bowari family! His name is Murad. Thank you to those of you who have signed up to help deliver meals to the family while the Mom, Bibi Hawa, is 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 at 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!



Diaper Drive

We are having a diaper drive for the Bowari family. They need diapers size 1 and up (no newborn sizes). If you would like to provide diapers, please bring them to church and put them in the large brown box next to the box for the Pantry box. Your donations will be appreciated.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Links to our giving page and Lutheran Disaster Response can be found in the Friday e-news or a checked marked "Eastern Europe Crisis Response can be given to Kountze Memorial and we will make sure it gets to the right place. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

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>



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 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 23

Choice of lasagna soup or chicken noodle soup and garlic cheese bread

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 136 **11:00:** 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 32 **6:30:** 37

Total: 303

Streaming: 78

Cox Cable: 159

Pantry Guests Served: 1202 (inc. 299 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$18,842.00 (Regular) \$4,688.10 (Specials)

\$767.00 (Debt Reduction)

To repent is to seek and thirst for God.

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

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	Luke 12:54-59	Knowing what to do
Thursday	1 Chronicles 16:8-13	David's psalm of thanksgiving
Friday	Acts 3:17-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us a thirst for your presence in our lives and world that we may live in peace and confidence through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, may this food remind us that you promise us a feast that costs us nothing and shows your great love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 55:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you a repentant heart, peace, and joy.

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

- How would you describe what life is like in today's world?
- What do you think God sees that is lacking in the world today?

Read: Luke 13:1-9.

Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance is not first and foremost a moral change on our part; it is a changed way of seeing that influences one's actions. Jesus sees human tragedies caused by tyrants [like Pilate] or by accidents [like a tower that falls on people] as part of life. Life is fragile for lots of reasons. To see the world as Jesus sees it is to see the need for all of us to repent, that is, to turn to God and see God's care for us in the world. To repent is to turn toward God. It is to turn away from a thirst for acceptance from others, power, prestige, or wealth. The life of repentance Jesus wants for us bears the fruit of God's ways that is full of mercy and forgiveness (see Isaiah 55:7).

Discuss: How does knowing of God's care for us change your way of thinking and behaving in the world?

Pray: **Forgiving God, help us to see as you see and to desire what you desire 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, how does repentance influence your actions towards others?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. When reading a newspaper or watching the news, we learn about tragedies and sad events happening in the world. After reading or seeing the news this week, sit in silence and pray for those situations and the people involved. Light a candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** The Bible gives us models for praying. Close by reading Psalm 63:1-8 as a prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32