

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 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

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.

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—Exploring a Spiritual Practice - Prayer Labyrinth

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

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

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

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

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

March 7 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

March 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due
Wedding Rehearsal
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 11 Friday

3:00 PM Samuel & Hubbard Wedding
5:00 PM Pantry

March 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

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



Sunday School Talking Points

Focus: Jesus is lost and found.

Lent is the season in which we prepare for Easter. This lesson continues to help 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 the One who was lost and found. Today's lesson is found in Luke 2:41-52. Review this lesson with your children.

Questions to ponder: Have you ever been lost, or lost something important to you? How did it feel? What did you do in this situation? How can we know that Jesus is with us always? How can we trust in God when we don't always understand what his plan is?

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.

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>

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)



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 9 Creation

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 9

Choice of Chili or Chicken tortilla soup, assorted quesadillas

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 130 **11:00:** 57

Ash Wednesday: 12:15: 63 **6:30:** 92

Total: 378

Streaming: 80

Cox Cable: 201

Pantry Guests Served: 1622 (inc. 383 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$25,589.00 (Regular) \$1,754.03 (Specials)

\$1,195.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus conquers evil in the wilderness.

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

Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	A confession of faith
Tuesday	Romans 10:8b-13	Salvation is for all
Wednesday	1 Peter 3:8-22	Suffering for doing right
Thursday	1 Samuel 12:19-25	Samuel's farewell address
Friday	Romans 12:14-21	Marks of a Christian
Saturday	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	The Lord is my fortress
Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem



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When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. **Psalm 91:15 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us courage to trust in your power over all things that seek to destroy goodness and mercy, through Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food and for being with us during happy and sad times in our lives, through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the goodness of God guard you all the days of your life.

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

- What is something happening in the world that makes you sad?
- What is something happening in the world that makes you thankful?

Read: Luke 4:1-13.

The First Sunday in Lent always includes the temptation of Jesus. The challenge is to resist the temptation to make this biblical story about us. When we do, we vow to resist our own temptations, weaknesses, and shortcomings. It is not at all about us resisting temptations in life. The story is about Jesus and his identity as the one “*full of the Holy Spirit*.” It is about a testing of what it means for Jesus to be the Son of God. The good news is that in Jesus there is a power present willing to oppose evil, greed, selfishness, and misuse of power at all costs. That power is full of goodness, mercy, and God’s saving presence. The devil loses to Jesus in the temptation story only to return at “*an opportune time*,” that is, at Jesus’ betrayal, suffering, and death. One final time, the devil will lose again.

Discuss: What evil do you see or read about happening in the world that will not last forever?

Pray: **God of power and might, by the power of the Holy Spirit, give us the strength to trust in the one who conquers sin, death, and evil 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, what actions can you take to help someone when there has been wrong-doing?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. Think about times during the day you can pray while doing daily activities. This week talk to God in prayer while washing the dishes or doing household chores. Set aside another time during the day or evening to light a candle and 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17--4:1; Luke 13:31-35