

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
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

April 2 & 3 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—Join Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall for Call Committee information.

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Call Committee

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 3 Sunday

Lent 5
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

April 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 6 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

April 7 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 10 Sunday

Palm Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
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
12:00 PM Order of Saint John Appreciation Lunch
12:15 PM Book Group

Sunday School Talking Points

In "Faces of Easter, Lesson 6", the students see the Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples pictured on the lesson card. Preceding this, they will be learning how Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, palm branches waving. They will hear about Jesus teaching in the temple, sharing a widow's offering, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal, and the arrest of Jesus.

Ask your children what part of the story stuck with them most. Why?

Ask your children what they think is the most important part of this story. Why do they think it is the most important?

What is God trying to tell us in this story?

As we have covered a different story from the life of Jesus for the past 6 weeks, ask your child which story they remember the most. What is important to them about this particular lesson?

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.

April Service Project for the Youth of Kountze Saturday, April 9

9:00 AM -12:00 PM (Lunch Provided)

The youth and family service work for the month of April will be helping at the Spring Spruce-Up Event - See article above. RSVP at the church of ☒ice by calling 402-341-7761 or to jim@kmlchurch.org if you plan on attending so we can be sure there is enough food for everyone. Hope to see you there!

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, April 12

12:00 PM

Augustana Lutheran Church,

Guests are welcome, Lunch—\$7.00—Reservations required, to Faith, 402-734-4629 by Friday, April 8. Program-Restoring Dignity by Hannah Wyble, Freewill offering to Restoring Dignity

Diaper Drive

We are having a diaper drive for the Bowari family. They need diapers size 1 and up (no newborn sizes please). 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

We have exciting news at the Kountze Food Pantry! Beginning May 16th we will be returning to a guest choice, indoor service! This means a lot less heavy lifting and more fun for the volunteers. If you choose to join us, you will be expected to stand or sit at a station and offer our guests a choice in your category. There are 12 different stations at each shift. The first shift is from 10-11 and the second shift is from 11-1. In addition we will need greeters and carry out volunteers. You are welcome to sign up for both shifts. We all look forward to returning to normal!

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>

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.

Communion Assistants and Lectors Needed

We need you for Holy Week and Easter - and Sundays in general. If you are already serving as a Communion Assistant and/or Lector, please sign up on Servant Keeper or call the church office to sign up according to your availability. If you aren't currently serving as a Communion Assistant or Lector but would like to, please contact Debbie in the church office to sign up or to get a link to the Sign-up Genius Page. We will walk you through a training session before you serve.

Hot Easter Breakfast

8:00 - 10:45 AM

Plan to have Easter Breakfast with us. Egg Casserole, Fruit, Potatoes, Pastries, Juice, and Coffee are on the menu. If you are able to assist in making this meal for the congregation, we are looking for people to help on Saturday Morning for set-up, Sunday Morning Chefs, Sunday Morning Servers, Sunday Morning Clean-up crew, and Pastry Donations. Let us know how you might help make this Easter Morning time a shared celebration for all.

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.

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 April 6

Choice of beef barley soup or ham and bean soup, assorted wraps

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

April 9 and 10

PALM SUNDAY

5 PM | Saturday

9 AM and 11 AM | Sunday

Children's Message & Palm Procession (Sunday Only)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 134 11:00: 102 Compline: 72

Wednesday: 12:15: 28 6:30: 43

Total: 343

Streaming: 82

Cox Cable: 153

Pantry Guests Served: 731 (inc. 321 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$20,173.33 (Regular) \$3,000.96 (Specials)

\$1,297.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ's death and resurrection gives us hope.

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

Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany
Monday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord will prepare the way
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	Pressing on toward the goal
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	The wisdom and strength of God
Thursday	Romans 6:1-14	Dying and rising with Christ
Friday	1 Peter 1:17-25	Call to holy living
Saturday	Psalms 126	A harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes



I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. Philippians 3:10a (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith that trusts in the power of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the source of life that knows no end. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant grace, with this gift of food we give you thanks and praise, for you continue to do great things for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God and the power of Christ's resurrection give you hope.

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

- How do you show someone that you love them through actions and/or words?
- How do you show your love for God in Christ through actions and/or words?

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

Paul rejects any understanding of a righteousness, that is, having a right relationship with God, based on anything we do or are. Like Mary in John 12, faith in Christ displays extravagant love and thankfulness. Our faith and our hope reflect a living and loving relationship to Christ who endured all things, including death, for us. It expresses a trust in God that will not be taken away from us. We, like Paul, can see our own life story in Christ's story. Life and death will not take away our living hope in the resurrection from the dead. Hope is a confidence that allows us to join Paul and say that we "*press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus*" (v. 14). It is a life filled with confidence in God, that is, confidence in Christ that overcomes all our doubts and fears.

Discuss: How does confidence in God through Jesus Christ help you overcome your doubts and fears?

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus Christ and his righteousness, for he is the one who gives us confidence in you and your promise for our lives now and forevermore. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who may have lost hope and is feeling in despair?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. Walking outside can improve your mood, improve blood circulation, and is good exercise. While walking, think about your daily schedule and your plan for the weeks to come. Pray for confidence through God in Christ for all that lies ahead. If children are present, take sidewalk chalk and draw pictures of what they are thankful for or what they see outside. After the walk, 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: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14--23:56