

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

December 31, 2022 & January 1, 2023

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.

Today at Kountze

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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

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 9:00 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.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Karen Bonneau in appreciation of TV ministry workers, pastors and office staff

Kountze Café

New Year's Day

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Kountze Café

We will be taking a break this Sunday. A fellowship time of coffee and cookies will follow our 10 AM Worship. Beginning again January 8, join us each Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast (this Sunday) and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Nursery

The KMLC Nursery officially opened Sunday, December 11, and will be open every Sunday from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services. We need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to e-mail Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Sunday School

December 25 & January 1:

- No Sunday School. Preschool will be provided during the 9 AM service.

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

No Youth Forum on Christmas or New Years, but join

us again on January 8 at 10:10 AM for a time of community, learning, and serving. On January 8 we will be assisting with Sunday School.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

No Youth Forum on Christmas or New Years, but join us again on January 8 at 10:10 AM

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 1 Sunday

Christmas 1

New Year's Day

9:00 AM (TV & Livestream only)

10:00 AM Worship (Note time)

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

January 2 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

January 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 4 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

January 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 6 Friday

Epiphany of Our Lord

5:00 PM Pantry

January 7 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

January 8 Sunday

Epiphany of Our Lord

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

January 4

6:30 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening beginning again on January 4 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the church.

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology Sozo Coffeehouse (1314 Jones St, Omaha)

Sunday, January 8

6:30 PM

For latest information join on Facebook, or email omahalutheranyoungadults@gmail.com

Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

Beginning January 9 & 11 we will explore Epiphany Themes as we unwrap the present of Christ in our

lives. Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

Lutheran Women Omaha(LWO)

Rejoice Lutheran Church

Tuesday, January 10,

12:00 Noon,

For questions or reservations, call Faith 402 734 4629

New Member Class

January 15 & 22

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

Carol Joy Holling High School Retreat

For 9th – 12th graders

January 21-22

1:00 PM Saturday – 1:30 PMish Sunday

Cost is \$50 per person and register by January 13 at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. (This is a change from Sunday to Friday to a Monday to Saturday.) Registration is extended till **January 29** for \$400.00 and **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer!

Jumping with Jesus Through Life's Highs and Lows

4-6th graders

Friday, January 27

6:45-9:00 PM

Altitude Trampoline Park

5575 N 90th St

A Trampoline Park formation adventure for youth from across Omaha's Lutheran Congregations will gather for fellowship, creative learning, and lots of jumps! Friends are welcome as long as they register. Treats and water provided. Register and pay Pastor Shari by Wed. Jan. 25th. **You must fill out Altitude's jump waiver on their website or this link: <https://altitude.active8pos.com/public/waiver/video?loc=OMAHA>

Carol Joy Holling Camp 2023

Register for camp by January 31 and **receive \$50 off and get a free CJH Camp Beanie**. The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a CJH Camp Beanie.

Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

2nd Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- someone(s) to make mini quiches on **Saturday**
- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 3 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM

3rd Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

4th Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**
- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

Do you like to shop? The grocery lists are established,

but we need someone willing to shop for groceries and deliver them to the church by Saturday morning. This can be split by more than one person/family.

Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you are able to serve.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle & TV Broadcast

The new sign up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210. Donating altar flowers or the Eternal candle or providing a church broadcast is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. The Altar Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up is located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.

Holden Village

July 22 – 29, 2023

Register by January 3

Save the date and watch the bulletin and Good News for more information. Contact Pastor Duminy with any questions you may have or to let her know if you intend to go on the trip by **Tuesday, January 3**. We need to submit a reservation list by January 5.

Kountze Pantry

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Christmas Eve: 4:00: 258 7:00: 199 11:00 93

Christmas Day: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 615

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: closed

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 4

Offering:

\$9,001.28 (Regular) \$20,587.99 (Specials)

\$7,088.16 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus enters our world of fears and insecurities.

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Tuesday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Jesus the high priest
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Isaiah 41:2-10	Israel assured of God's help
Friday	1 Chronicles 28:19-21	David encourages Solomon
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus



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Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Redeeming God, give us comfort to know your love and compassion to care for others as you love us through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks and praise for your goodness, mercy, and steadfast love that brings forth food from the earth to give us strength and health. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the presence of God fill you with mercy and steadfast love. (Isaiah 63:7-9)

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

- How do you tend to treat others when they are worried or afraid?
- How do others help you move beyond your fears and worries?

Read: Matthew 2:1-13.

The Christmas season deals honestly with our broken world and lives. Jesus and his parents experience a world that displays fear, threat, pain, and death, even for little children. The coming of Jesus makes it clear that it is in suffering that God's perfect work of love takes place (Hebrews 2:10). Joseph has to flee with his family to protect them from political powers that want the status quo, not salvation. The holy family experiences a life similar to all refugees who know too well what it means to leave their own homeland to seek refuge. Even the family's return to Bethlehem gets derailed by ongoing threats that redirects them to a new residence in Nazareth. Our Savior experiences the instability, fear, hate, and insecurities all too common in life. There is a judgment here on all of us when we contribute to the fears and insecurities of others while we seek our own advantage, our own security. Our Savior comes to save us from our misguided longings and fears.

Discuss: How does faith in Christ free you from your fears and insecurities that get in the way of caring for others?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you that you enter our world and our lives to turn our fears into compassion and insecurities into trust through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help refugees and others who live without enough food or shelter?

As you read Psalm 148, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. On a separate piece of paper list all those things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148, for instance, the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters! Think or talk about how each of the things from God's creation on your list can praise and glorify God (for example, the sun and moon by shining and sea monsters by splashing with joy).

Say: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 148:1)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12