

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

January 7 & 8, 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 worshipping, 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

**Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God** by Lee and Jean Johnson in honor of Mary Ann Johnson's birthday and in memory of Pr. Bob Johnson and the anniversary of his ordination.

#### Kountze Café

**9:30—11:00 AM**

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

#### Nursery

**Sundays, 8:45 AM—Noon**

**Children 0—2 years**

Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it. We are 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](mailto:Nursery@kmlchurch.org) or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

#### Sunday School

**Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

#### Sunday School Focus This Week

Epiphany is a word that means showing forth or appearance and refers to Jesus Christ manifesting to the world. It commemorates how a star led the Wise Men to the baby Jesus.

#### Youth Forum

**Grades 7—12**

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of

### 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.**



## Today at Kountze, *continued*

community, learning and serving. **This week:** we will be assisting with Sunday School. **Next week:** Catching up and sharing current events

**Adult Forum**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**10:10 AM**

**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

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM Book Group

### January 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Bible Study

### January 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### January 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
6:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

### January 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### January 13 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Pantry  
5:00 PM Service Project—Pantry & Movie Night/Pizza

### January 14 Saturday

2:00 PM Williamsen & Koerperich Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

### January 15 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord  
Good News Deadline  
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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM New Member Class

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Class

#### Wednesdays

**6:30 PM**

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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

### January Service Project

**January 13**

**5:00 PM**

This month we will be volunteering in the Kountze Food Pantry. After we finish with the service project, everyone is invited for pizza and a movie in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to this event by calling the church office at 402-341-7761.

## **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 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

**4-6<sup>th</sup> graders**

**Friday, January 27**

**6:45-9:00 PM**

**Altitude Trampoline Park**

**5575 N 90<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday January 25. \*\*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.

## **Ladies, Mark Your Calendars**

**Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat**

**Exploring Spiritual Practices**

**Theme: Open My Heart, Lord**

**Saturday, February 18**

**10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

## **Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!**

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew.

We need the following:

### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month**

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

### **4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Dinners for 8**

We are providing an opportunity to get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months. Placed in a group of 8 people, you will decide to eat out or do potluck at a host home. It is the hope that you will meet each month for a meal for the months of February, March, and April. Through meal and conversation our relationships with one another can grow, and we continue the work of Christ at Kountze Memorial. Sign up by Sunday, January 29. Groups will be formed with those interested and notification of the groups will be distributed by February 1! See you around the table!

## **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**

**Saturday: 29**

**Sunday: 10:00: 91**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 8 Confirmation: 4**

**Total: 132**

**Streaming: N/A**

**Cox Cable: N/A**

**Pantry Guests Served: 124 (inc. 30 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 0**

**Offering:**

\$30,378.99 (Regular)      \$8,372.81 (Specials)

\$6,319.53 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus brings people of different backgrounds together.*

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebration.

Matthew 2:1-12	The magi worship Jesus
Isaiah 60:1-6	The glory of God shines on the people
Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's ministry to the Gentiles
Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Prayer for guidance



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*In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3:5-6 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for Epiphany:**

Dear God, through wise men from the East, you reveal your plan to bring all the nations of the world together in Christ. Guide your church to live and teach that message today. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of the nations, we thank you for this food and ask that all people be given enough to eat so that together our lives may flourish through your grace. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the promise of Christ Jesus bless you to live in peace with all people.

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

- ☐ To what teams, schools, or groups do you claim to have a loyalty?
- ☐ How can loyalty to only a certain group of people be hurtful to others?

*Read:* Ephesians 3:1-12.

Epiphany points to Jesus and God's plan for all the world. That plan is like a mystery that is now revealed through the work of Christ for the world. The mystery is the power of God's grace (undeserved kindness) to bring together diverse people, people as far apart as Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). Paul wrote to the church of this mystery because the people were still divided and opposing one another on the basis of being Jewish or Gentile. The work of the church is to reveal God's plan in Christ, the plan to unite all people under one rule, the merciful rule of God in Christ. In Ephesians we learn that in Christ we are all now "*fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel*" (v. 6). Epiphany, therefore, has become a message of repentance for the church. It represents a call to return to the mystery of Christ and refrain from divided loyalties by nation, by race, and by various Christian creeds and practices.

*Discuss:* How can the church today show acceptance of all people, regardless of nation, ethnicity, gender or race?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, in Christ you have made us one. Give us the will and the power to overcome divisions so that we may point to the mystery of Christ's love for us all. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you help others experience a sense of belonging?

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas. Countries around the world have different traditions on this day. From cakes to carols to candles to gifts, it is a time remembered when the wise men visited Jesus. A star led them to Jesus. Tell the story of the wise men's visit in your own words. Then draw or cut out the shape of a star. Write the name of a person in the star who has led you to Jesus. Display it in a visible place in your home as a reminder.

*Pray:* **Dear God, the wise men were led to Jesus. You have placed someone wise in my life. Thank you for [name in star]. I pray that I, too, may point the way for someone in my life to be led to you. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17