

## 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)

March 4 & 5 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

#### 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. 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. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

#### 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 8:45 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.**



**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Lois Carlsen by her children and grandchildren.

#### 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.

#### Children's Choir

##### Second Floor Music Room

**Sundays, 9:15 AM**—(after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

##### Grades K-5 - Choir

##### Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

#### 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:

Through the month of March, the Sunday School students will continue to learn of Jesus' life and his progression to the cross. Over the four weeks of March, the children will hear of Jesus' temptation in the desert, learn of Christ as a healer and parable-maker, study the time Jesus enters Jerusalem and shares bread and wine with the disciples, ending with the culmination of Jesus on the cross and the meaning of Easter.

#### 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 community, learning and serving. **This week:** What's New? - in our lives and current events **Next week:** Assisting with Sunday School

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Music of the Lutheran Tradition **Next Week:** Pondering the Crucifixion, Part 1

### March Service Project

The Sunday School is collecting items for the Nebraska Humane Society for the March service project. Items can be brought to church and left in front of the Sunday School office. A list of donations can be found on the Human Society website and include standard items of food, treats, toys, blankets, and more. Items to be gathered also include many recyclable items such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, and plastic coffee containers.

---

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 5 Sunday

Lent 2  
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 AM Kountze Cafe - 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

### March 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Call Committee

### March 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### March 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
6:30 PM Worship

### March 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
4:00 PM Holden Meeting @ St. Timothy's Church  
6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

### March 10 Friday

11:00 AM Millard Mini Singers—Barb Carlsen  
5:00 PM Pantry

### March 11 Saturday

10:00 AM AGO - Jean Johnson—Fellowship Hall  
5:00 PM Worship

### March 12 Sunday

Lent 3  
Daylight Saving Time—spring ahead 1 hour  
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 AM Kountze Cafe - 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

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Middle School Lock-In

Grades 6 -8

Friday, March 10, 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 11, 8:00 AM

Cost: \$35 per Camper

Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/lock-in>

### Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Tuesday, March 14, 12:00 Noon

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

For info, call Faith, 402 734 4629. Reservations are required

### 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. Registration is extended until **March 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! Friends are welcome to join our group.

### Quilts & Kits Headed to Turkey

Lutheran World Relief has created a special video that shows faith in action as their warehouse team prepares a shipment of LWR Mission Quilts, Personal Care Kits and Baby Kits to be delivered to Turkey. They extend deep gratitude to the quilters and kit-makers. Because of the commitment to making quilts and kits year-round, Lutheran World Relief is sending these valuable resources and bringing hope to our neighbors who have lost everything. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR0BE75v4J4>

## Kountze Pantry

Thanks to all of you who helped us save receipts from Family Fare! The good news is we raised thousands of dollars. The bad news is the program has ended, so we no longer need the receipts. The Kountze Food Pantry is in the process of partnering with Family Fare in a new reward program. We are still collecting hygiene products for our guests, especially feminine supplies and shaving razors and cream. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

## Our Lenten Focus "Unfinished"

**UNFINISHED** – Out of the Depths is written by Dr. Michael J. Chan and will be our focus for Wednesdays in Lent on the book of Jonah. He says, "Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, he is prone to wander from his Creator in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future. This temptation is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky ventures, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God does. God meets us in those liminal, Lent-like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy." Join us as we explore these themes:

- March 8 Jonah 2; Psalm 130; God in the Depths of Chaos
- March 15 Jonah 3; Obedience and Preservation
- March 22 Jonah 4; Faithful and Unfinished
- March 29 Matthew 8:23-27 (cf. Mark 4:34-41; Luke 8:22-25); Jesus, a New Jonah

**UNFINISHED** – Discovering God's Call in Not Yet is written by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox and will be our focus for Sundays of Lent. She writes, "The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again." We will be using the lectionary readings to focus on the following themes:

- March 5 Called to Openness
- March 12 Called by God
- March 19 Called to Attentiveness
- March 26 Called to Regret
- April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday, Called to Experience God's Presence
- April 9 Easter Sunday, Called to Resurrection

UNFINISHED Digital Devotions are also available on our church website, through links in the weekly e-news or use the QR code to the right. There are a few options that you might find helpful:

- Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- Weekly Sunday Lectionary - Children and Family Ideas

- Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- Daily Unfinished Devotional
- Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos



Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox writes of this weekly practice: "One way that we can lean into and honor this space between no longer and not yet is to engage in spiritual practices that both invite us to be attentive to God's present-tense call and nourish God's relationship with us. This Lent, you are invited into the spiritual practice vocare, a practice designed to help you discover and embrace various ways that God calls you in everyday life so that even amid the not yet, you can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday with a reminder of our shared, called, baptismal life and culminating on Easter Sunday with the call to practice resurrection, each week will add a new guiding word of the vocare practice and practical ways to engage vocare in your personal life, your circle of relationships, and your congregation. You won't want to miss the chance to honor the space between no longer and not yet!"

## Wednesdays in Lent

**Meals Served 11:00 AM – Noon & 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Worship—12:15 & 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 8

Lasagna Soup or Chicken Noodle Soup  
Garlic Cheese Bread  
Dessert

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



Thank you for the prayers, cards and kind expressions of sympathy during the recent loss of my Mom.  
Penny Hovendick and family

## Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 30

**Sunday: 9:00:** 152 **11:00:** 71

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 43 **6:30:** 68

**Total:** 364

**Streaming:** 80 (inc. Wednesday)

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1097 (inc. 317 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 20

**Offering:**

\$9,726.66 (Regular) \$6,264.30 (Specials)

\$508.99 (Debt Reduction)

*God loves us all through Jesus.*

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world
Monday	Genesis 12:1-4a	Call of Abram
Tuesday	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	God's promise gained through faith
Wednesday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Thursday	Psalms 5	Trust in God
Friday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well



© 2022 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Holy God, help us to trust in your goodness and mercy and not our own strength and have faith that you save the ungodly through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Lord, you who watch our going out and coming in each and every day, we thank you for protecting us and feeding us with this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

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

May God bless you with peace and joy, now and always.

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

- Do you think you deserve everything you have? Explain.
- God cares for us through a whole community of care. How has God cared for and protected you through family, friends, or mentors?

*Read:* Romans 4:1-5, 13-17.

Even though the Gentiles were not descendants through the Torah (the law), Paul is seeking to help Jews understand that Gentiles can also be descendants of Abraham. It is important to establish that God is reliable. The promise God made to Abraham—including Gentile nations—is reliable because the covenant with Abraham was established through faith, not the flesh. It is the very character of God to include all people, not just Jews. Whether Jew or Gentile, whether good or bad, God makes a solid, reliable, and saving relationship with us through faith. God saves the ungodly sinners. How can this be? It is because we have the God who creates out of nothing. God does not need to create children of God out of our goodness through the law. God takes our broken lives and makes something new because God *"gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist"* (v. 17). God does this so that all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*Discuss:* Where have you seen God's love for others and does it surprise you that God saves the ungodly?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you who give life to the dead and bring into existence what does not exist, thank you for creating us as children of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you offer God's protective care to others?

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week consider an amount you might spend on yourself, and instead add that amount to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

*Pray:* **Loving God, we often forget about the needs of others. Help us to remember to give generously to those in need. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42