

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

May 20 & 21, 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.



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 9:00 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). The Children's Choir will be singing this Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 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).

Sunday School Focus

The Sunday School year concludes today, May 21, with a lesson taught through games.

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays from 10:10 AM

Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Farewell to Vicar Gretchen in the Fellowship Hall

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Farewell to Vicar Gretchen in the Fellowship Hall **Next week:** Fellowship

What is Discernment?

Grades 8—12

Sunday, May 21

6:30 PM

What is discernment? How do I make decisions about what I want to do with my life? Gather with area youth at Kountze Memorial Lutheran as Pr. Shari & Vicar Gretchen share some principles of discernment that can guide you in making all kinds of decisions. Have some time to reflect on the decisions you're

facing. Talk with peers about their decisions and how discernment figures in. We'll close our time with the 7:30 PM Omaha-area Compline Worship together. Come check it out!

Compline

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Service of Ancient Chant and Motets

Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM

Please join us for a special evening featuring the sacred service of Compline. Amidst the beauty of the candlelit sanctuary, the Schola Cantorum from Lincoln's First Plymouth Church will share a short service of meditative chants and hymns. The service of Compline has been sung for hundreds of years and offers singers and listeners a unique and special space for contemplation and communion with God.

Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 21 Sunday

Easter 7

Farewell to Vicar Gretchen

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-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

6:30 PM What is Discernment?

7:30 PM Compline Service

May 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

May 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 25 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 26 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 27 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 28 Sunday

Day of Pentecost

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

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

May 29 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)

OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Summer Confirmation

Did Confirmation pass you by, or do you want to continue learning? We'll have a program of 5 meetings this summer for those in 9th grade and above. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at noon on the following Wednesdays:

- The Ten Commandments – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Lord's Prayer – June 28
- Worship/Sacraments July 19
- Discipleship—August 16

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, August 26. Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

Vacation Bible School

Welcomes all Superheros!

**Held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
(510 N 93rd St)**

**Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14
5:30 to 8:00 PM**

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time. Please register here: <https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Volunteers Needed for VBS

If you are able to help with VBS, please use the same link above and go to Volunteer Sign Up. For those ages 18 and over, a background check is required if you have not already had one through Kountze Memorial's Sunday School program.

KMLC Camp Week

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 18 – 23

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step

select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

Thank You

Thank you to the Quilters of Kountze Memorial for your gifts of time and talents to provide beautiful homemade blankets of love for our graduating Seniors. Your handiwork is admired and will be treasured for years to come. As we send them out into the world, these gifts are a sign that they are never alone, but wrapped in our love and prayers and united in our faith in Christ, a bond that is never broken. Well done, servants of God!

Kountze Food Pantry

If you would like to donate items to the Pantry, please consider picking up some extra hygiene products, including feminine products, razors, and shaving cream. We never seem to have enough for everyone in need. Soap, shampoo, and deodorant are always appreciated, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 178 **11:00:** 80

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 294

Streaming: 54

Cox Cable:

April Weekly Average: 143

January—April Weekly Average: 170

Pantry Guests Served: 1063 (inc. 375 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$15,179.45 (Regular) \$2,644.57 (Specials)

\$1,097.00 (Debt Reduction)

Followers of Jesus pray.

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

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension of Jesus
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22	Final instructions
Thursday	James 5:13-18	The prayer of faith
Friday	Ephesians 6:18-20	Pray at all times
Saturday	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples



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All these [the remaining 11 disciples] were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. Acts 1:14 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us a heart to have a relationship with you through prayer that our lives may be filled with hope and confidence through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, we thank you for this food, a gift of your constant love and care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of all grace strengthen you now and always through Christ our Lord. (1 Peter 5:10)

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

- When do you pray and what do you pray for?
- How does prayer guide you as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Read: Acts 1:6-14.

After Jesus' ascension, the remaining 11 disciples and others "*were constantly devoting themselves to prayer*" (v. 14). The church begins its ministry with prayer. Waiting in prayer for guidance is the model for the church. Prayer is a way to face suffering as a follower of Christ with hope and even joy (1 Peter 4:13). Jesus prays for his followers that they may receive eternal life by knowing God and Jesus Christ, the one sent by God (John 17:3). The prayers of the church give Jesus' disciples the eyes to see with faith what the world cannot see. In the midst of conflict, prayer communicates praise to God for God's victory over God's enemies (Psalm 68). The first Christians were not self-proclaimed masters of prayer, but through prayer they learned to pray and witness to God's presence in the world.

Discuss: How have you learned through prayer to witness to God's presence in the world?

Pray: **Ever-present God, give us patience to wait in prayer for your guidance so that we may see our way in life with faith in you through Christ Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others who are hurting and can benefit from your prayers?

Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday (May 18 this year) and marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection. It also marks the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. The Easter season ends ten days after Ascension Day. Finish reading the Gospel of John as the Easter season ends. There is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day took the form of lambs in honor of the Lamb of God. Go outside and look at the clouds in the sky. Think or talk about Jesus' ascension and say: **Alleluia! Jesus has ascended! Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23