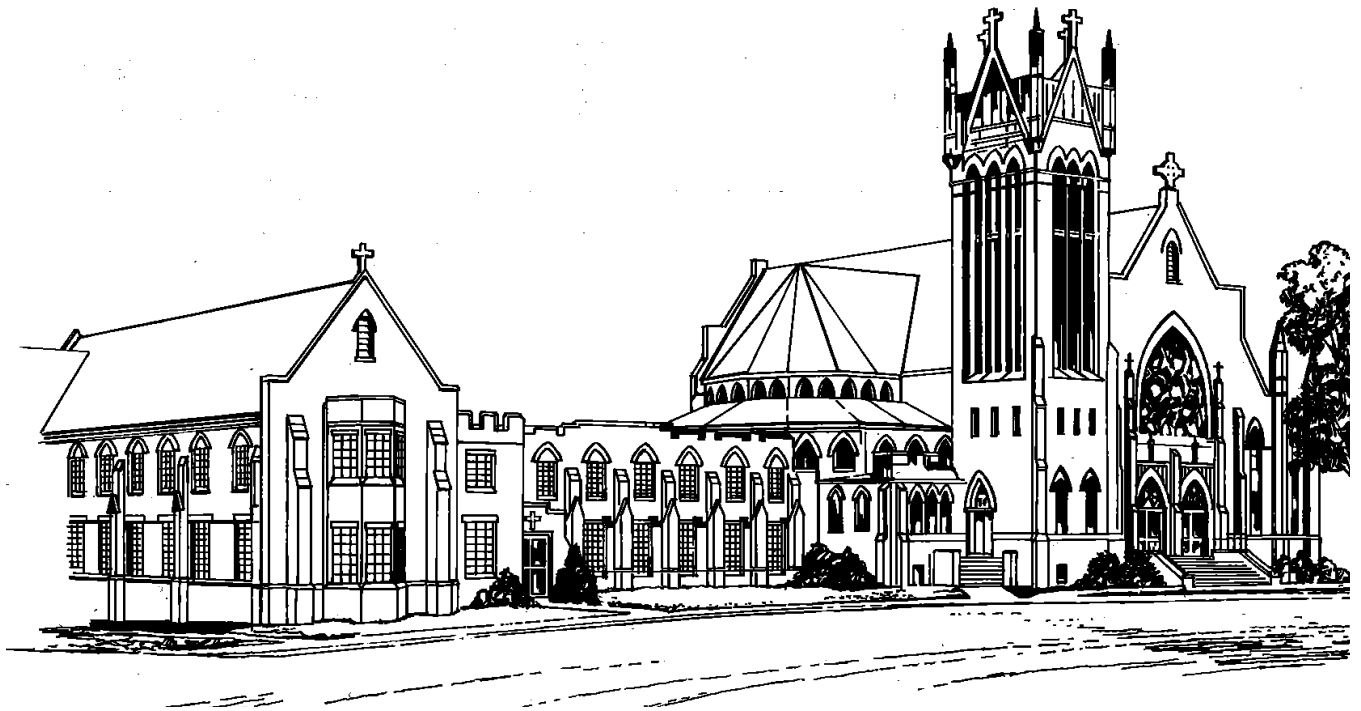


KOUNTZE
Memorial Lutheran Church

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 12, 2023

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AGENDA
FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Call to Order.....	Pastor Griffith
Devotion and Prayer	Pastor Griffith
Establish a Quorum	
Adoption of the Agenda	
Presentation of Reports.....	Pastor Griffith
New Business	
Affirmation of Del & Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic Board	
Elections	Steven Hinrichs
Clinic Board Members	Terms expiring in 2025
Terms expiring in 2024	Steven Hinrichs
Larry Caminzind	Joyce Palmer
Christopher Morrow,	Pr. Ashley Hall (President)
Secretary	
Tyler Willson	
	Terms expiring in 2026
	Jenna Woster, Treasurer
	Linda Hoven (Vice
	President/ Chair)
Presentation of Delegates to Synod Assembly	Kate Jones
Delegates to Synod Assembly	
Lisa Chinn	Kate Jones
Pam Johnson	Liz Pemberton

	Pastors:
	Rev. Stephen Griffith
	Rev. Shari Duminy
	Rev. Dr. H. Ashley Hall
Presentation of the Proposed Budget for 2023.....	Tim Backora
Adoption of the Proposed Budget.....	Pastor Griffith
Other Business	
General Comments and Questions	
Adjournment	

MINUTES

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting - August 14, 2022

Call to Order: 10:15am

- Quorum was obtained with approx. 96 people.
- Opening prayer led by Pastor Griffith
- A special thank you was given to Robin Perkins, Jane Ross, Ashley Sum, and Steve Urlaub for their dedicated service to church council.
- Elections for Congregational Council and the Endowment Board were then held. All 5 nominees were announced and introduced to the congregation. A vote was held and all 5 nominees were unanimously approved:
 - All 4 individuals to serve 1st terms on council:
 - (1) Christina (Tina) Broekemeier
 - (2) Jerry Fischer
 - (3) Madeline O'Kane
 - (4) Jacob Rump
 - Mike Edris was approved for his 2nd term on the Endowment Board.
- The business portion of the meeting concluded at 10:24 am.
- A time for comments and questions was held.
- Closing prayer was led by Pastor Shari.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.

(Minutes taken by Ann Miller)



PASTORAL REPORTS

TRANSITION SENIOR PASTOR

PASTOR STEPHEN GRIFFITH

It is a pleasure to be in ministry with you at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. This past year has been filled with successes, challenges, and a number of surprises. Personally, my unexpected hospitalization, surgery, and subsequent recuperation interrupted my work with you. Yet you have been unfailingly supportive, which I appreciate more than I can say. Even so, the year has been productive and there is much to celebrate.

Worship + Grow + Serve

During the past year we have worshiped. As we celebrated the seasons and holy days of the year, we focused on peace during Lent, and holy darkness during Advent. We welcomed Bishop Brian Maas and Dean Vanessa Clark, with friends from Trinity Cathedral, to celebrate Ascension Day. Bishop Scott Johnson joined us to celebrate Reformation Day. We have begun including the Children's Choir in worship on a regular basis, and are inviting older children to read scripture.

You will note in other reports the ways we have resumed activities that had been suspended during the pandemic – picnic, Neighborhood Gathering, Sunday breakfast. You have continued to serve in remarkable ways through the Food Pantry and the Clinic, and as we sponsored an Afghan refugee family. The Council is working to help committees be active and effective. This year they will also review the number of committees to determine whether all are necessary, if some may be combined, or others should be added. And you will note that we have undertaken a major redesign of our website.

We celebrated our 40 years of ministry to the community through deFreese Manor, even as we relinquished that ministry to others. With the excellent leadership of Pastor Hall and an exceptional group working as an organizing committee, we are forming a new non-profit corporation to coordinate and promote the ministries housed in Kountze Commons. As detailed in their report, the process of incorporating the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is nearly complete.

The pastors and our vicar have all contributed to our preaching ministry and worship life, the ministry committees, and the life of the congregation. Hosting an intern this year has benefited our programming and ministry and given us the opportunity to help train a pastor.

As we re-engage with each other and the community following the pandemic – as we resume activities, and pursue new opportunities – we are aware that churches throughout Omaha and across the country are facing new realities. Your pastors and Council are studying information about these trends and the experiences of other congregations to guide our planning for Kountze Memorial.

Staffing

We are blessed with an excellent staff who give time and talent far beyond the normal expectations. The deaths early in the year of two staff members, Sheri Tipton and Norma Pafford, saddened us deeply. Now with the hiring of a Night Manager and a Nursery Coordinator, we are again fully staffed. As Barb Carlsen retired from teaching, she agreed to take on directorship of the Children's Choir. Pastor Hall has accepted new responsibilities at Creighton University, and will be adjusting his roles and time at Kountze. Pastor Duminy has already begun to take on some additional responsibilities in response to this change.

Since September, we have had Vicar Gretchen as part of the pastoral team. She is present at Kountze half time with Pastor Duminy as her primary supervisor, while also working with campus ministry at Creighton University. We anticipate adding a staff member as the new Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is incorporated and an Executive Director is hired. The salary for this new position will be shared by the Congregation and Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. The staff and Council are also evaluating what other needs are presently unmet or carried out by other staff who are already overburdened.

Facilities

The reports of the Property Committee and Building Superintendent, Jim Smejkal, outline their work well. The highlight, of course, is the progress toward completing the stained-glass window restoration project. The installation

of the south window is nearly complete. We anticipate work on the east window to begin after Easter. We have begun planning for a celebration and re-dedication of the windows.

The sale of deFreese Manor, approved in October 2021, was completed in May 2022. After holding the funds for the time required by law, Kountze Memorial, Inc. (deFreese Manor) has transferred the proceeds of the sale to the congregation and is in the process of dissolving the corporation, as instructed by the congregation.

Finances

The financial health of the congregation is good. Although cash flow was tight during the past year, the giving at year's end was quite strong. The fall stewardship drive, "Celebrating God's Generosity," was conducted with guidance and support from GSB Fundraising, a firm contracted by the Nebraska Synod to assist and support congregations. As a result, we see an 18% increase in giving pledged for 2023, although the number of pledges remains the same. I am most grateful to Ann Miller and Pastor Duminy for their excellent leadership in this effort. The sale of deFreese Manor brought \$1.8 million, as noted in their report. The Council anticipates using the bulk of this to repay the construction loan we hold with the Mission Investment Fund (MIF). This will save thousands of dollars in interest payments each year, totaling \$39,000 in 2022, which will now be available for other purposes. In addition, the congregation received gifts of more than \$100,000 from the estate of Elaine Bonfante. The Council has appointed a task force to recommend uses of the Bonfante fund, the deFreese Manor proceeds and other gifts. The Treasurer, pastors, and staff are reviewing the purposes and uses of all designated funds so as to have helpful information available to the Council and the next senior pastor.

The Endowment also received bequests, including one of more than \$1.4 million from the estate of Elaine Bonfante. We can be very grateful for this generous legacy. However, I want to emphasize that every gift or bequest – whether to the congregation or the endowment – is equally appreciated regardless of amount. This is detailed in the Endowment Board's report. However, it is worth describing again how bequests to the Endowment Fund work. Bequests and other contributions to the Endowment Fund are held and invested on behalf of the congregation. Of these invested funds, a set percentage each year can be used for grants for certain limited purposes to extend and enhance the mission outreach of Kountze Memorial. As the value of the Endowment Fund increases over time through bequests, contributions, and investments, the amount available for distribution also increases. In recent years, the Endowment Fund has made significant grants for stained-glass windows, roof, and other church building renovations; the Pantry; the Clinic; the television ministry; and support of our Church-sponsored missionaries; as well as a few outside missions, such as Camp Carol Joy Holling, Table Grace, and Together, Inc. Funds given specifically to the Church (and not the Endowment Fund) are usually not so limited, and the Congregational Council determines the use of these congregational funds.

Membership

The staff and Council are conducting an audit of the congregation's membership. Until we complete that work, we are reporting just over 1,900 baptized members. However, our preliminary review reveals that the actual number of active members is between 800 and 900 individuals who give, attend, and/or participate in some way. The Council is considering what this means for the congregation and what effect it will have on the ways we do ministry going forward.

Call Process

The Council spent several months early in the year preparing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which serves as a description of the congregation, its context and setting in the community, its values, and its ministries. It also outlines the leadership needs and expectations for a lead pastor, and so is, in a sense, akin to a CEO blueprint. The MSP was approved and filed in August and revised slightly in mid-October. This process was slowed somewhat by the election of a new bishop and transition of staff members in the bishop's office.

The Call Committee has worked hard during the same period getting to know one another and learning to work together, becoming familiar with the MSP, and preparing questions for the interview phase. They gained helpful feedback during a mock interview with a pastor suggested by the synod. They invited input from the congregation and forwarded names of several pastors to the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Greg Berger. Bishop Johnson and Pastor Berger are in conversation with several pastors, and the committee expects to receive names of candidates soon.

In all this, let me remind you that the process of calling a pastor is not simply a matter of hiring an executive. It is a time of spiritual reflection: a time to listen to one another, to the world around us, and to God; to discern who we are as a congregation, who God is calling us to be, and what God is calling us to do; how we will respond to that call, how we will prepare to receive the pastor God is leading to us.

Challenges for the Future

As we move forward, the Kountze Memorial congregation will face a number of challenges. All change, including positive change and growth, brings anxiety and uncertainty. We will experience change as we develop and hire for the new Executive Director position, then integrate that staff person into the team. The call of a new Senior Pastor will involve further change, and similar anxieties, as you welcome him or her to be in ministry with you. We will also work to assess how to increase our presence in online and digital communications which are the lingua franca of our society.

The proposed streetcar project on Farnam Street will cause disruptions during construction, and also will offer possibilities for reaching people in new ways. Free public transportation between Downtown and the Medical Center has the potential to provide increased access to all points along the corridor. Proponents of the project look for the development of new housing and retail in the area, bringing new residents and visitors. At the same time, this will likely displace many of our lower income neighbors.

In our post-pandemic society, churches in Omaha and across the country are finding that people are not returning to in-person worship and activities in the same numbers as before society shut down in 2020. Kountze must both work to engage present members and friends in onsite activities and develop new ways of being church together that includes remote participation.

How will Kountze find ways to be in ministry in these changing situations? Your pastors and the Council will be working to explore these and other challenges that arise during the coming year. The Call Committee will explore these challenges as they interview potential pastors. And the whole congregation will seek to listen for, discern, and respond to God's call.

In all this, we continue in ministry together, day to day, week to week. We worship. We grow. We serve. We seek God's presence, God's guidance, God's wisdom, and God's strength.

With much love,



Rev. Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

PASTOR SHARI DUMINY

After 27 years of Ordained Ministry, I thought that things would get easier with each passing year. However, a phrase that passed my lips more than once this year was, "It does not seem to be getting any easier." Perhaps that is a myth, that time teaches us not to be true, or maybe the pandemic truly put us all at the beginning again. It is something that I will continue to ponder as I share my call with the people of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

As an Associate Pastor I am called to all the tasks of a person ordained into Word and Sacrament Ministry. I love what I do. Grateful for the ways that God calls us to be the Body of Christ in this place, I rejoice in worshiping, growing, and serving with you. Two areas of focus for me are:

Youth – please see the report for the details of activities. There are many challenges but also some pretty awesome moments. For me, gathering at the altar rail this summer to pray and lay on hands for a youth traveling overseas, and then for one involved with soccer events around the country, and another just wanting prayers for having a good summer. When we were done, they turned to me, asking if they could pray and lay hands on me. These moments are when you know the church has fed their people well. May we continue to find the ways to do this important work.

Christian Education – is a supporting role for the good work of Kristin Boe. I try to be there to uplift, help, and guide. I give thanks for the direction that Pastor Hall adds to the conversation. I am grateful to the parents that make this a priority for their children and the wonderful students who share their faith in wondering and thoughtful ways.

The committees I relate to in addition to Youth and Christian Education are: Global Mission, Outreach, Social Ministry, Worship and Music, Scholarship as well as the **Task Forces of COVID and Refugee Resettlement**. The task forces are no longer meeting, but I give thanks for the incredible work each has done on behalf of our church. Getting to the other side of a pandemic and doing it well is no small feat. Thank you to each one who gave voice and action to the COVID Task Force.

Settling an Afghan family with a different culture, religion, and language takes more effort than anyone could have realized. It will soon be a year since we were moving them into their new home and soon a baby boy was born to the family. Thank you to all who contributed items, helped move items again and again, walked with the family in ways of grocery store trips, technology connections, doctor and dentist visits, school set up and attention to class needs and summer tutoring, employment discoveries, transportation issues and a gift of a vehicle. And did I mention the paperwork?

A celebration of an Afghan meal was shared by those who were a part of this work, and those who are in contact with the family now, and with all from the congregation invited as well. This celebration wrapped up the Task Force work within our congregation. I uplift, Jonna Holland and Mary Jane Petersen as they continue in loving relationship with the Bowari family and the connections they work with through Morning Star Lutheran and Christ Community Churches. Your determination and love inspire us all.

The other things that have taken my time and attention this year are:

Visitation – is ongoing and dependent upon the needs of members. Many visits, phone calls, and texts are extended as people are experiencing many emotions as they face the uncertainty before them. It is an honor to be invited in to walk with others throughout their lives. A system to record visits is being implemented.

Stewardship – was supported by attending trainings with GSB and made available to staff the materials that were used for our fall campaign. Collected council and staff questionnaires and integrated them into the bulletin inserts to make them specific to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Grateful to all who prayerfully considered their response to God's gracious generosity.

Breakfast – returned to us this fall. We give thanks for all the members who have signed up and show up for their Sunday to help provide breakfast between our worship times. I found myself organizing and recruiting volunteers, setting the menus, and making sure the supplies are here each week so that breakfast can be made. This spring we are fine tuning and working toward making this an independent from Church Staff ministry. If you can help with any of the outstanding requests, please let the office know.

Bible Studies – started again this spring. It has been a joy and delight to gather with others around the word. We meet twice a week with the same study shared at both meetings. Monday evenings at 6:00 PM and Wednesday Mornings at 11:00 AM. Occasionally we break for a few weeks at a time between the different studies. This coming Lent we will not be meeting and encouraging students to participate in the Lent journey of worship at KMLC.

Internship Supervision – has also been a joy and delight to travel with Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp these past 5 months. Knowing that only 4 months remain, we look forward to her learning and ministry among us. Having done some supervision of people who went on to Seminary, this Seminary Intern supervisory is a new adventure for me. How can it not be great with Vicar Gretchen! To have a person that requires the time and attention to discuss theological and ministry matters is a bonus. And you know this, she does it very well.

Planning for Trip to Holden Village – after some encouraging and answering questions. 28 people between Kountze Memorial and St. Timothy Lutheran Churches in Omaha will set out to spend 5 days in the Village of the Cascade Mountains in central Washington State. I get excited about our time together in the Village, but also the opportunity we will have to hear the experience shared back in Omaha.

The last time I was with you in worship, we sang the following for the hymn of the day -“Let Streams of Living Justice” ELW 710. It has become my daily prayer for the universal church. I hope you will join in praying with me. Gracious God,

*Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.*

*For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.*

*Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified. Amen*

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

Blessed by each one and the journey that we share! In gratitude,
Pastor Shari Duminy

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

PASTOR H. ASHLEY HALL, PH.D.

Scope of Responsibilities

With everyone's faithful dedication to discipleship and *cura personalis* (“care for the whole person”), it has been my joy to oversee/relate to the following ministries as part of my portfolio:

The Adult Forum, the New Member classes and integration, Worship Training, Baptism Seminar and First Communion classes, Good Friday Ecumenical Service, the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service, and the combined Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter Catholic Parish, and pastoral liaison to the Altar Guild.

As anticipated in 2020, my administrative responsibilities at Creighton University increased when I become Associate Chair of the Theology Department. Starting August 2023, at the invitation of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I will begin serving a three-year term (renewable) as the Chair of the Theology Department. In addition to his/her teaching and research responsibilities, the Chair of an academic department is the chief administrator serving the faculty and students within their Department (helping to set and advocate for departmental goals, annual reviews, recruitment of majors/minors, the resolution of complains/concerns) and is a liaison between the College and the Department.

In ongoing conversations with the pastoral staff, Congregational Council, and Personnel Committee, I will remain a called pastor of the congregation, serving part time, on the regular roster for preaching, presiding, and Adult Education. Other administrative duties that I currently oversee (that is, for which I have primary responsibility) will move to the pastoral staff to cover in rotation. For instance, the Baptism Seminar will still be offered; when one is scheduled, the pastoral staff will decide who among us is able to cover that seminar. In some matters, this has already been initiated (In 2022, Pr. Duminy led the First Communion Classes with Kristin Boe, which I used to do).

A plan for adjusting these duties and salary adjustment is in process and will be finalized by the Personnel Committee and Congregational Council in the months ahead (our working assumption is 5-8 hours a week). As I have repeatedly affirmed, the initiative for such a change is entirely my own and reflects developments in my primary responsibilities as a tenured Associate Professor, Associate Chair, and future Chair of the Theology Department at Creighton University.

Adult Forum

As I announced last year, I did not program the Adult Forum as tightly as I have in years past, so as to allow more flexibility to address the needs of the Congregational Council or Call Committee to address the congregation. Moreover, as 2022 was a year to “live into” being together in person again, the open Forum time allowed for more fellowship. In 2023, I will maintain that same spirit of flexibility but will be going back to more programed educational opportunities during the Forum.

Council Retreat

It was a pleasure to work with a Council committee (Ann Dey, Anne Miller, Jane Ross, and Kate McCoy Jones) to help plan and organize two educational/enrichment retreats for the Council in 2022. The first was in August with Martin Malley with Shrinking Borders, who discussed communication and leadership with the participants (we included staff members this year for this program). A second retreat with Fr. Larry Gillick had to be rescheduled. The next retreat opportunity will be in the early Spring of 2023, when we will welcome back Mary Lee Brock of Creighton University. She will help the Council narrow down the list of strengths and opportunities for the congregation that it identified at a previous retreat (September 2021) to create more focused goals for the coming years.

Formation of the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center (KCCOC)

In addition to my regular duties, the task that has taken up a great deal of my attention in the last year has been the formation of a new 501(c)(3) of the congregation. This new entity will coordinate the various ministries taking place at Kountze Commons (2665 Douglas) and find ways to be better engaged the community. (See separate report).

Healing Gift Free Medical Clinic

I continue to serve as President of the Clinic Board. The excellent work of the Clinic continues due to our volunteers and our coordinator, Joyce Palmer. (See separate report).

Synodical and Church-Wide Service

Churchwide: I continue to serve on the Board of the Lutheran Ecumenical and Interfaith Representatives Network (LEIRN) of the ELCA.

Thank you for your faithfulness, vision, and dedication, all of which make my call so spiritually enriching and enjoyable! I am delighted to continue to serve the gospel of Jesus Christ with you all and with my colleagues, Pr. Shari Duminy and Pr. Stephen Griffith. It is a joy to receive the gifts for ministry that our Vicar Gretchen Olson-Kopp brings to our congregation.

VICAR GRETCHEN OLSON KOPP

In his inspiring little book, *the Simple Gospel*, Hugh Kerr (Emeritus Professor of Theology at Princeton Seminary) writes, “*The simple gospel, as distinct from a closed system of theology, is always open to change and innovation. It respects the old but expects the new. So the Christian scriptures are called the New Testament and at baptism we receive a new name, we learn a new commandment, we sing a new song, and we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth.*”

As we honor and treasure the historic nature of the Kountze community, I am grateful for your willingness to welcome the new in various ways, including taking on a new vicar. It is no small thing to welcome the risk of that, especially during a season of pandemic fatigue and a senior pastor transition.

Even as you’ve held all of that, you’ve taken time to offer encouragement as I entered the preaching rotation and was folded into worship leadership. You’ve tried unfamiliar hymns, composed for our life together. You’ve opened your lives and hearts in hospitality, allowing me to walk with you through joy, illness, and grief. Through encouraging

notes, Sundays away, kind check-ins, and even baked goods, you've supported the shared-time arrangement of this internship with Creighton Campus Ministry and have been understanding as I navigate this year apart from my dear spouse. Thanks to every one of you.

Kerr goes on, *"In every case, beginning over again entails risk and uncertainty...Those who accept the challenge and the risk of moving ahead and beyond will need not only courage and perseverance but sustaining faith and indomitable hope."*

As we pass the mid-point of my time with you all, I give particular thanks for the courage, perseverance, faith, and hope of Pr. Duminy and the lay internship committee. They refuel me with their own courage, perseverance, faith, and hope when my reserves lag. Taking on the role of intern supervisor is a significant commitment. In talking with other interns, I know that Pr. Duminy is simply the best. She shares the wisdom and knowledge of her years in ministry, provides honest feedback, and is pastorally attentive. In addition to preaching, worship planning, visioning, youth events, Bible study leadership, confirmation, pastoral visits, the breakfast ministry, planning the women's retreat, launching Dinners for 8 with the Outreach committee, and following up with so much else, Pr. Duminy takes time to check in with me regularly and completes the extensive written evaluations that the seminary requires. The lay internship committee has shown up with a similar all-in spirit. Thank you to Pr. Duminy, Dulcinea Boesenberg, Jacob Rump, Liz Pemberton, Kelly Tadeo-Orbik, Isaiah Spruth-Janssen, and Jenni Omann for their service, supportive ear, and wise guidance. Thanks also to the pastoral team and the whole Kountze staff team for folding me in as a learner and for the privilege of serving through KMLC with you all!

Kerr closes with words of Reinhold Niebuhr, *"Nothing...worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing...true or beautiful makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint; therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."* I hold this community in prayer as you discern the kind of pastoral leader who will serve alongside you in this next chapter. May a spirit of hope, faith, love, and forgiveness guide you in that discernment and in welcoming whatever that leader may bring.

With gratitude,
Vicar Gretchen



PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

KRISTIN BOE

Purpose: *Work with pastors and staff to oversee and promote educational programs teaching God's word, Church history to all ages*

In 2022, 53 children registered for Sunday School. The Godly Play curriculum continues to be used to teach lessons. This curriculum style is modeled on the Montessori method and is a way for students to engage with their spirituality through wonder and exploration. The elementary students are divided Kindergarten through 3rd grades, and 4th through 6th for lessons. Typically, the students receive a lesson, followed by "I wonder" questions that allow the students to review and reflect on the story. It is followed by an activity to help tie the lesson together in a meaningful way.

The Pre-school aged children receive a children's sermon each week, followed by singing with Anita Morse.

In 2022, the Christian Education Committee wanted to highlight how to be of service to the community. We completed 12 service projects that included making blankets for children in the hospital, volunteering in the Food Pantry, making a meal for the YES House, and more.

There were also several social gatherings for the families of Kountze such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, a Back-to-School Celebration, an outing to the Bellevue Berry Farm, and the Advent Fair.

In the summer, a joint Vacation Bible School was held with Morning Star Lutheran Church. It was in the evening, families were encouraged to attend, and followed the Lutheran World Hunger Organization curriculum. It was well received by all.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

BARB CARLSEN

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is so blessed to have so many talented musicians who are willing to share their gifts with all of us. Our weekly services, as well as special services, require effort and time commitments from a large group of volunteer musicians. Thankfully, these people continue to serve the Lord and our church each year. We are always looking for more folks who would like to be involved in our music groups.

After a two-year break due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to bring back all of the special music offerings. These offerings included singing on: Sundays, at both the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, the three-hour Good Friday service, Ascension Thursday service with Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Candlelight Carol service. The two highlights of our year was the Good Friday service and the Candlelight Carol service. Both of these services take a great deal of practice, time, and effort. I would like to thank all of the members of the choir, bell choir, and other volunteers for their great work.

We have had a change in instrumentalists in the past two years. Craig and Mary Bircher (trumpet and harp), who were with us for many years, retired and moved to the East coast to be closer to family. We have brought in a wonderful cellist, Sam Pierce-Ruhland to replace Craig and Mary. As always, we are fortunate to have Kountze Brass play for many of our important holidays.

The children's choir was back in action this year. The choir sang twice in the spring and finished the year with their musical Christmas offering. In May 2022, the students also played bells with one of their songs. Kountze is very lucky to have such talented young people. I look forward to working with them every week and I thank the parents for bringing their children to church and for their support of the choir. We look forward next year to including the children more each month in our worship services.

I personally would like to thank everyone for their kind words and feedback of the music ministry at Kountze. Our musicians appreciate the support we receive from our congregation. As I always say, our music ministry is only as strong as the people who come every Sunday and share their wonderful gifts with all of us. I am thankful for their friendship and the faithful witness that they share with me throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Barbara Carlsen
Director of Music and Fine Arts



COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

Purpose: *File and maintain archives of the congregation - documents, records, minutes, history*

During 2022, the Archives Committee continued to provide History Articles for the monthly Kountze Newsletter. Bruce Nissen provided two articles about the Kountze Choir and Organists. The Archives Display Case in Fellowship Hall contained information and pictures of the early Kountze Sunday School. This was followed by pictures and information on the stained-glass window restoration project provided by Jim Smejkal. The committee has researched and provided baptismal, confirmation, and marriage information requests to member families.

With funds from a memorial gift given to the committee in 2021, a plaque was made honoring the 28 Spiritual Sons and Daughters of Kountze Memorial Church. The plaque was installed on the hallway wall across from the Senior Pastor's pictures. The remaining money from the memorial was used to purchase a new scanner for digitizing member records. We thank Chad Picha for his help in setting up this scanner. Norm Herzog was able to digitize 14 Beta Cam SP format tapes stored in the Archives. These tapes were taken with the type of professional cameras used by television stations. Machines to play these tapes are obsolete and hard to find. We thank Norm for being able to get this done so their content was not lost.

The major project for 2023 will be digitizing Kountze member records that date back to the early 1900's. We will also be working with the deFreese Manor Advisory Committee to archive history material on deFreese Manor that dates back to the 1970's.

Jean Johnson donated 14 Christmas Books for various years from 1943 to 1989, published by the Augsburg House in Minneapolis. They contain beautiful Biblical pictures, Christmas stories, and songs. These books are a real treasure and can be seen the archive room. The estate of Elaine Bonfante donated a box filled with Kountze history, archival items, and memorabilia.

Chet Worm
Archive Committee Chairman

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Purpose: *Plan and carry out activities to build sense of community in the congregation*

Neighborhood Gathering -The 2022 neighborhood gathering was held on Sunday June 26. The weather was incredible; what a great day of fun, fellowship and hospitality! This year's event was a little scaled back as we didn't know what to expect coming out of the pandemic. After many years of playing for the event, the Railway Street Jazz band is retiring, so we will be looking for another band or alternative form of entertainment for the 2023 neighborhood gathering.

Lenten and Advent Meals – Lunch and dinner were both served during the Lenten and Advent seasons. Marlys Duin and all the wonderful volunteers did an exceptional job of preparing and feeding everyone. Thank you everyone who helped serve meals and clean up. The attendance numbers were similar to 2021. Plans are under way to provide Lenten meals for 2023.

Church Picnic – The 2022 church picnic was held here at the church on Sunday September 25, and the weather was beautiful. The kids enjoyed the clown and bounce house. The church provided fried chicken and mac and cheese and everyone brought side dishes to share. We ended the event with bingo in the fellowship hall. Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work, to the members that donated bingo prizes, and to Vicar Gretchen for leading bingo.

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter Catholic Church – This wonderful event means a lot to those less fortunate and those who are missing family during this time of year. Kountze provided and cooked 30 turkeys. Also, a special thanks to all the volunteers who provided pies, delivered turkeys, helped with set-up, cleaned up, served, and everything else involved in this great event.

Looking Forward 2023: We are in the process of planning this year’s Neighborhood Gathering, to be held toward the end of June, the church picnic, planned for the end of September, as well as other fun events. We welcome suggestions for additional congregational activities—especially new activities that might appeal to our various member demographics: kids, families, young adults, working-age adults, retirees, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacob Rump, Church Council Liaison
Jim Smejkal, Director of Congregational Activities and Staff Liaison

FINANCE

Purpose: *Propose budget, oversee financial affairs of the congregation*

The generous giving of the congregation continued to be very strong for 2022, even though the Total Operating Income was lower compared to 2021, expenses were also lower, this allowed the Church to finish the year with a net income of \$117,128.68.

2022 Summary

General Donations	\$ 861,882.81
Designated Donations	\$ 251,372.22
Other Income	\$ 155,800.46
Total Operating Income	\$ 1,269,055.49
Total Church Expense	\$ 1,046,346.89
Total Designated Expenses	\$ 105,579.92
Total Expenses	\$ 1,151,926.81
2022 Net Income	\$ 117,128.68

Respectively submitted,
Tim Backora
Treasurer

FOOD PANTRY

Purpose: *Sustaining the investment to Serve others and the community through the Food Pantry*

2022 Statistics:	
Individual Guests	48,137
Households	17,576
Children	16,374

The Kountze Food Pantry was open 44 Mondays and 50 Fridays in 2022, for a total of 94 service days. Monday service hours are 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, with volunteers arriving at 7:00 AM. Friday service hours are 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, with volunteers arriving at 3:30 PM.

The Pantry saw an increase of 20% individuals in 2022 over 2021. The average household consists of 2.74 people, with 34% of those being children. School aged children, working adults, disabled, and refugee families need not be present to receive food. In addition to those who physically attend the pantry, we provide food to approximately 100 Methodist nursing student families, rotating Lutheran Family Services families, and 3 refugee families.

The Food Bank for the Heartland continued to provide food, free of charge, for 2022, and this practice is funded through the end of their fiscal year which is August 31, 2023. Our USDA fresh produce was distributed through the Food Bank. The exact number of pounds is unknown due to the Food Bank changing their agency platform and partners being without computer access for over two months. Based on the 3 months of data we have; the Pantry received the following at no cost to the congregation:

FBFH: 309,195 lbs. (over 150 tons), or 7,027 lbs. each Monday AM
Rotella's: 320 lbs. each Monday AM
Hy-Vee: 700 lbs. throughout the week

This does not include the generous food and hygiene products donated by our congregation and partner congregations, service organizations, and businesses. It also does not include the 24,000 lbs. of food we received from the WOWT Stuff the Bus food drive. Additional food was also purchased using money awarded from various grants. The volunteers continue to receive, move, and distribute approximately 10,000 lbs. of food every week.

Methodist Health Systems provides monthly clinics for our pantry guests. They regularly administer flu and COVID shots, diabetes and A1C testing, colon cancer screenings, body mass index, breast cancer awareness information, and head and neck screenings. They have also provided us with Occupational Therapy and a Social Worker every Monday and Friday.

We continue an aggressive volunteer grant writing program, which supplements the food and hygiene products not available through our free programs. Kountze Food Pantry is the largest completely volunteer food pantry in the area.

Faithfully Submitted,
Susann Frances Henry, Director
Kountze Food Pantry

GLOBAL MISSION

Purpose: *Inform congregation about ELCA missions in the US and beyond, recommend missions and missionaries worthy of support*

We were able to support our missionaries in the form of prayer, communication, and financial contributions. Thanks to the generosity of Kountze members, the Global Missions Committee was able to achieve the following projects in 2022:

1. Financial support of four missionaries: Rev. Chandran Paul Martin in India, Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson in Tanzania, Katie Larson in Columbia, Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore at the Wittenburg Center in Germany, and the American Church in Berlin as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine.
2. Prayer support for these missions and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators.
3. Continuing the Alternative Gift program and raising nearly \$6,000 for our pantry and health clinic, support of local Afghan refugees, and other needs around the world. The Bowaris are adjusting well and greatly appreciate the support of the congregation.

4. Collecting towels and shower curtains for refugees at Restoring Dignity here in Omaha.

Our overall goal for the coming year is to increase the awareness and participation of the congregation in Kountze's long tradition of being a citywide church with a worldwide mission.

Submitted by Carol Stoltenberg, Committee Chairperson
Melissa Osentowski and Bruce Nissen, Church Council Liaisons

LAY INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE - FOR VICAR GRETCHEN OLSON KOPP

Purpose: *Provide support and feedback to the vicar and the internship program*

The Seminary Internship Committee for Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp was formed in fall 2022 as a component of her internship in coordination with Wartburg Theological Seminary. Vicar Olson Kopp's internship is split between Kountze and the Creighton University Office of Campus Ministry. The committee consists of Kountze members Dulcinea Boesenberg, Liz Pemberton, and Jacob Rump, as well as two Lutheran Creighton University students involved with Campus Ministry and The Common Well, and one Creighton Campus Ministry staff member with whom Vicar Olson Kopp works closely. We meet monthly to discuss Vicar Olson Kopp's work in both church and campus contexts, including joys, challenges, new insights, and next steps. These meetings have been a helpful time for all of us to reflect on our roles in the church and campus communities, and to help Vicar Olson Kopp further develop the wide variety of skills that will serve her in her future ministry. Most recently, the committee jointly completed Vicar Olson Kopp's Mid-Year Evaluation Report, which was submitted to Wartburg Theological Seminary in early January 2023. We plan to continue meeting monthly through May 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Dulcinea Boesenberg, Committee Chair
Jacob Rump, Committee Member and Council Liaison

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

Purpose: *Advise on the media & communications of the congregation - website, social media, etc..*

We continue to look for ways to enhance our worship broadcasts and streaming. In December of 2022, we added a new device that allows us to send a high-definition signal to Cox. After a short learning curve and some other issues out of our control, we are now broadcasting our 9:00 AM Sunday service on Cox channel 13 in High Definition. And another first, on January 1, 2023, we sent Cox a prerecorded video of the Candlelight Carol Service that was from December 17th, and included opening and closing remarks from Pastor Steve.

I would like to thank all the TV/media volunteers for their dedication to this ministry. We continue to look for additional TV ministry volunteers, anyone interested learning how to use our hi-tech equipment please contact me or any of the committee members or simply stop by the production room.

Ron Brown, Media and Tech Committee Chair

OUTREACH

Purpose: *Work with pastors and staff to share the gospel message. Invite others to visit, be involved in and join Kountze*

Outreach Committee exists to deepen the spiritual life of our members, to invite and welcome guests, visitors and neighbors with authentic and compassionate hospitality, and to gather us into an enriching faith community, so that our congregation can continue to grow and live as lifelong disciples of Christ.

2022 Activities

- Rev Ashley Hall continued to lead new member classes in January, June and September
- We welcomed 16 family units (26 total new members) with information packets, acknowledgement at service and the forum, and assigned a calling contact who emailed, called, or mailed cards during the rest of the year. Gloria Erickson led a dedicated calling team that followed through with these communications.
- Ads for Lenten and Easter services and Advent and Christmas Eve services were placed in the Omaha World Herald and banners were displayed on lawns to advertise services

Goals for 2023

- organizing and updating the directory to accurately reflect active members, homebound and television members
- integrating new members with increased opportunities for volunteer service, learning more about the church, sharing their talents , and planning social gatherings that involve different groups within the church (choir, council, youth, Sat/Sun worshipers etc.)
- Introducing “Dinners for 8” inviting members to sign up for small group dinners for 3-month period to socialize and meet fellow parishioners in a casual setting

Submitted by Tina Broekemeier
Council Liaison

PROPERTY

Purpose: *See to the maintenance, repair, and protection of church property. Sustaining the investment to Worship, Grow, Serve through our Historic Building*

The property committee's mission is to maintain and improve the church physical plant and the provide a clean, safe and comfortable building for all to worship in.

Items that were accomplished are:

- Addressing, repairing and providing preventative maintenance of church systems
- Remodeling of the church apartment, new paint, carpet and wood flooring
- Replaced sound amplifier in Fellowship Hall
- Installation of pet waste signs outside
- Tightened rods and continued monitoring of structural repairs in attic space
- Requested and received grants from Endowment for misc. projects
- Overseeing Ronco's preparation of the opening for the South stained-glass window return
- Numerous other projects to maintain and preserve the facility for years to come

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Sum - Chair, Property Committee
Jim Smejkal - Building Superintendent

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Purpose: *Distribute funds from the congregation's scholarship fund.*

In 2022, the scholarship committee for Kountze Memorial was revived with the following members of Kountze Memorial present:

Pastor Shari Duminy, Colleen Lenner, Jeff Perkins.

The Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church College and Seminary Scholarship Programs Mission statement is as follows:

Mission Statement:

To encourage, facilitate and assist student members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church to obtain a faith-based education.

For the year of 2022 the committee would like to report the following activity:

Available funds for distribution for the year 2022 was \$5,000.

Of the three current seminary students, only one student needed assistance which the committee approved. In addition, four students of Kountze also received financial support from the committee. These students are all in a post-secondary undergraduate program.

Since the committee's last meeting, Church Council Representative, Mike Jensen has been added to the committee as council liaison.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Perkins-Committee Chair

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Purpose: *Extend Christian compassion and hopefulness to all in need. Study social conditions and lead the congregation to understand social problems/issues, advocating where and with whom oppression is happening*

These are the ways you have seen this committee in action this past year:

Grief Seminars

We were able to have two times to meet with Life Coach and Pastor Don Eisenhower to consider the grief that we experience in our lives on All Saint's Sunday in November. The Adult Forum was a time to consider the collective grief that we hold as a congregation due to the retirement of a senior pastor and what the global pandemic has brought to our lives and the lives of the church. The second seminar was an invitation for those with personal losses to come and express grief and learn ways that coping and growing might take place as we walk in sorrow.

Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's Catholic Church

Since at least 2012, we have been coordinating a community dinner on Thanksgiving Day with St. Peter Catholic Church. It is our pleasure to work with Kevin and Cindy Engelkamp, who organize this ministry at St. Peter's. As usual, our many volunteers help make this possible: bringing desserts, set up, take down, ironing, preparing "to-go" sack lunches, kitchen crew, serving line, busing tables, and hospitality. This has been a warm and rich blessing to our two parishes and to the people we serve in the name of our Lord. While St. Peter's hosts the event in their gym (with white table linens and a chandelier), Kountze Memorial commits to purchasing the turkeys. This year, inflation meant that we exceeded our normal budget for this (\$500). Together, we served around 400 people.

Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Kountze Memorial has continued to participate in this city-wide inter-faith service among Jews, Christians, and Muslims (which has been held for 30 years). This year, the service was held at First United Methodist Church (7200 Cass Street) on Sunday, November 20, with the theme "A Road Home." Pr. Hall has been part of the planning committee and vested for the service; Pr. Duminy and several members and friends of Kountze Memorial were in attendance. The Kripke Center of Creighton University again hosted the cookie reception afterwards. Next year, the service will be

held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral the Sunday before Thanksgiving. All are invited to attend. Proceeds from the collect benefit Together (formerly: Together, Inc.) in their mission to prevent hunger and homelessness in our region.

Omaha Streetcar

The proposed Omaha streetcar plans for a stop right outside of our doors (at 26th and Farnam). This transportation development has the potential to greatly affect our members, visitors to the congregation, the guests we serve through Kountze Commons, and the visibility of our congregation. The Social Ministry Committee is aware of these opportunities and will seek to keep abreast of developments and communicate these developments with the congregation.

This committee is reforming. Council liaisons Anne Dey and Jacob Rump are working with Pastors Hall and Duminy and Vicar Olson Kopp to reconstitute it.

STEWARDSHIP

Purpose: *Plan and lead annual stewardship program, and other efforts to educate the congregation on Christian stewardship*

Once again, the Stewardship Committee is grateful to the congregation for another year of joyous giving. In total, we received \$813,670.25 in general operating income. As the table below indicates, the original pledged amount for 2022 was \$553,141; our year-end total receipt of pledges was \$572,338.46. Thankfully, with your prayerful-giving, we exceeded our pledged amount with an additional \$241,331.79 in unpledged offering. Praise be to God!

This past year, a new Stewardship program was utilized – offered through the synod - for our annual financial drive. “Building a Culture of Generosity” provided training and coaching to guide a process of study, reflection, and action that was clear and practical in implementation. Our goal was to increase intent (pledge) giving by 20%. We came just shy of our goal with an increase in intended giving of approximately 18.5%.

Year	Envelope Numbers	Total Amount Pledged	Average Giving per household
*2023	175	\$655,232	\$3,722.91
2022	173	\$553,141	\$3,197.35
2021	179	\$555,802	\$3,105.04
2020	227	\$679,769	\$2,994.58
2019	221	\$671,241	\$3,037.29
2018	271	\$745,470	\$2,750.81

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Purpose: *As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

Kountze Women of the ELCA activities included:

- 14 funeral meals (1,023 guests) were served. Many members provided salads and cakes.
- 1 wedding rehearsal meal was served.
- Assisted with Advent and Lenten meals.
- 60% of our general offering was given to the Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization (\$1,305.20)
- Special offerings were collected for Magdalene Omaha, Norma Pafford funeral lunch, Bowari family, Kountze Heat Fund, Kountze Sewing Group, Kountze Lounge Renovation Fund, Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund, personal care kits, and Thank Offering (\$3,106.23).

- The Kountze sewing group shipped 232 quilts and 28 personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief. They also made 4 quilts for graduating seniors and donated 14 quilts to the Camp Carol Joy Holling auction which earned \$1,550 for the camp.
- The Kountze Prayer Shawl Group made several shawls, and some were given to members and friends.
- Members sent cards and/or visited our Kountze Family Friends (homebound members) and others dealing with health issues.
- A Hawaiian Luau themed luncheon was held in July and a Lutherfest luncheon was held in October for the women of the church and friends.
- Some Kountze members belong to Lutheran Women of Omaha and participated in the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's Metro East Spring Gathering, and Saved to Serve activities.

There are three Circles that meet on various days and times for Bible study, hospitality, and service. All women of KMLC are invited to participate. For more information, please call Pat Studts (402-592-3093) or the church office.

Pat Studts, Coordinator
Chris Kendall, Treasurer

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Purpose: *Assist with the congregation's ministry related to worship and music - choirs, ushers, altar guild, Order of St. John, special services, etc.*

Committee Members: Deb Hinrichs, Interim Senior Pastor, Stephen Griffith, Associate Pastor, Shari Duminy, Director of Music and Fine Arts and Director of Children's Music, Barb Carlsen, Director of Youth Choir, Janet Campbell, and members at large, Jon Natvig, Bruce Nissen, Jeff and Robin Perkins, Dotty Sum, and Pam Johnson.

The 2022 Worship and Music Committee (the committee), under the leadership of Interim Senior Pastor, Stephen Griffith and Associate Pastor, Shari Duminy, focused on their goal to provide spiritual and meaningful worship to the congregation and guests of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Primary efforts included the scheduling and planning of weekly worship services.

Each service requires the combined commitment and participation of the Altar Guild, Order of St. John, ushers, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, bell choir members, children's choir members, and Kountze adult choir members. The committee would like to thank the members of each of these groups for their time and commitment, special gifts, and the contributions they make to the Kountze Memorial worship.

In addition to the traditional Saturday evening and Sunday morning services, the Committee is tasked with planning and implementing mid-week services during Lent and Advent seasons, Holy Week services, as well as special services for Easter, Reformation, Candlelight Carol Service, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and other church holidays.

The choir has been singing at both Sunday services except for a brief break this last winter when Covid cases were again increasing. The Bell Choir, under the direction of Barb Carlsen, will continue to look for opportunities to provide special music within our worship. The Lenten theme focused on "For the Peace of the Whole World" with homilies touching on Brokenness, Justice, Loving your Enemy, and Peace. A "slim" version of Holden Evening Prayer liturgy was used. Confirmants served as ushers and acolytes at both the Lenten and Advent mid-week evening services.

On March 27, First Plymouth Church from Lincoln presented a Compline service at Kountze. Choirs from Trinity Episcopal and Kountze Memorial sang as Kountze hosted the joint Ascension Day service on May 26. The Worship and Music Committee assisted with the planning of an Ordination Service and reception for Adam Klinker on June 14. This fall an installation service was held for Vicar Gretchen Kopp Olson. Nebraska Synod Bishop, Scott Johnson, preached at Kountze on Reformation Sunday with a reception following. The theme for Advent was Holy Darkness, and Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy was used for the evening mid-week services. Sanctus Bells were rung to indicate the beginning of each service. On December 17th the Candlelight Carol Service returned. A cheese and dessert

reception followed that very special and inspirational blend of readings, instrumental, choral, and congregational music.

Barb Carlsen has been the Director of Children's Music for this past year. We thank Janet Campbell for her work as the accompanist for this group.

Anita Morse continues to lead the Pre-school choir with Amy Pignatore as accompanist. We thank them both for their faithful work with this group of children.

There is no Youth choir at the present time, but Janet Campbell will remain as director should that situation change.

Dotty Sum and Pam Johnson remain as leaders of the Altar Guild with volunteers again assisting with flowers, candle oil, and paraments. Eucharistic ministers have continued to volunteer to assist with serving communion for all services. There are no further requirements for masking or wearing of gloves when assisting. Eucharistic ministers began waiting until the completion of the singing of the Agnus Dei before approaching the altar.

Reading of the Lessons continues on a volunteer basis. Lectors may use Signup Genius to indicate their availability to read.

The OSJ has some challenges with having enough participants to have a Crucifer and two torch bearers at each service. When that is the case, the Eucharistic assistant will act as a torch bearer for any service that is in need. A special appreciation lunch was held in the spring for OSJ members and their families. Members of OSJ have been trained by Jeff and Robin Perkins as needed.

There has been training for ushers this past year, and lectors and Eucharistic ministers were offered training between worship services as well. There is a continued need for more ushers at each service.

The Committee continues to endorse the printing of the Liturgy and Lessons in each week's bulletin in order to provide smooth and meaningful worship guidelines for members and guests. We believe this format continues to provide the clearest transition through all of the essential components of worship. Hymnals have been returned to the pews should anyone prefer to use them during the service.

The Committee would like to recognize the many and outstanding contributions of Barb Carlsen, Mark Jones, and David Gerard. We are grateful for their faithful continuous service and for the ongoing talent they share with our church community.

We remain committed to providing a traditional-style worship service. Exploring ways to offer a more extensive and vibrant worship life will continue to be our primary goal as we continue to provide a worship atmosphere at each service that is spiritual, liturgical, and meaningful for all who attend.

Deb Hinrichs, Worship and Music Committee Member

YOUTH MINISTRY

Purpose: *Work with pastors and staff to plan & coordinate youth ministries/programs*

Three Youth stepped forward this year to be a part of the Youth Committee – Sofia Di Lorenzo, Dannika Rees, and Mia Valquier. Youth schedules are incredibly busy with different schools, activities, and work. With council liaison Anne Dey we were able to meet three times over zoom to think about the ways in which KMLC youth can gather and participate in the life of the church.

Growing Young was a book that was studied by both the Christian Education Committee and the Youth. An Adult Forum presented an introduction to this concept of considering six areas to more fully incorporate youth into the life of the church – Keychain Leadership, Empathy Today, Jesus' Message, Warm Relationships, Prioritize Everywhere, Best Neighbors. Conversations through the month of June were held between services and comments were

recorded. We continue to consider what might be helpful and are making steps presently to include youth within our worship time.

Youth Forum met regularly in the Spring of the year. In the fall, we added time with the Sunday School once a month as Pastor Shari became one of the monthly teachers. The attendance has been sparse and some of the youth have signed up to help with breakfast prep and clean up.

Service for the youth has joined with the Christian Education Committee as we try to find ways once a month to learn and grow by serving the community.

Summer Trip had six youth and two adults sign up to attend the postponed '21 to '22 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. This was cancelled in February. When plans were finally made to go to Camp Amnicon on the southern shore of Lake Superior in Wisconsin, there were no registrations.

This year we will be joining the NE Synod trip to Denver and four youth have registered thus far.

Activities for youth are difficult to plan as often just a few will participate. Other churches are feeling this as well. Five Metro churches have come together to provide opportunities for youth. I am grateful for staff at Morningstar, St. Timothy, Holy Cross, and Lord of Love for joining together in providing activities for youth this past fall and into the spring. We also are incorporating the Camp and Synod offerings as well into our planning.

The following are ways we have participated together: Middle School Pumpkin Patch Outing for Confirmation Youth, High School Synod LYON Assembly, Camp, Middle School Retreat, KMLC hosted a High School Lock-In in December following the KMLC youth hosting Parents Night Out, Camp High School Retreat, Synod Middle School Gathering, and 4th – 6th grade Jumping with Jesus.

Coming up is a 4th – 6th grade Bowling down Barriers, Camp Middle School Lock-In, and a K-6 Explore day at Camp. I am grateful for Council Liaison Madeline O'Kane and Church Members Ashley Sum and Brooks Hinrichs who will be meeting with Youth representatives as we move forward in planning in this year to come.

Pastor Shari Duminy



BOARD REPORTS

ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment's purpose is "to extend and enhance the mission outreach of the Church."¹ With this, Endowment represents Kountze in our synod, our community, and globally.

Endowment Funds Authorized for 2022 Grants and How They were Used

\$240,420	Funds authorized for grants in 2022²
(66,209)	KMLC Pantry
(23,433)	Healing Gift Free Clinic
(7,000)	Nebraska Outdoor Lutheran Ministries
(10,000)	KMLC Global Missions Annual Support
(2,000)	KMLC Global Missions for Ukrainian refugees
(7,500)	KMLC church apartment renovation
(24,206)	KMLC Media Ministry Annual Support
(6,250)	KMLC Media Ministry for equipment to allow Cox High-Definition TV signal
(39,147)	KMLC interest owed on loan from MIF for Stained Glass Window repairs
(1,546)	KMLC new amplifier for sound system in church fellowship hall*
(1,245)	KMLC fire sprinkler 20-year testing. NFPA requires replacement of certain parts after 20 years.
(7,200)	KMLC new parts optimizing efficiency of water chiller that serves the main worship areas.
(5,000)	Table Grace Ministries
<u>(39,000)</u>	KMLC expenses in connection with renovation of Stain Glass Windows
\$ 684	Remaining

2022 Funds went to: KMLC Missions 55% -- KMLC Capital Expenditures 40% -- Outside Missions 5%
In 2022, Certain Grant Requests received from KMLC were approved or earmarked for distribution in 2023 -- to be paid from Endowment's 2023 Authorized Funds

\$ 66,209	KMLC Pantry for 2023
\$ 23,433	Healing Gift Free Clinic for 2023
\$ 40,000	KMLC Tuckpointing of the brick on the west and north sides of the Church in 2023.
\$ 10,500	KMLC Property Comm - replace bldg. mgmt. system BMS controller for chiller, boiler, air in 2023
\$ 10,000	KMLC - Earmarked for call committee for a Sr Pastor – Carryover from 2022
\$ 10,000	KMLC Global Missions Annual Support 2023
<u>\$ 24,206</u>	KMLC Media Ministry Annual Support 2023
\$184,348	2023 Authorized Funds Already Committed to KMLC projects

As of December 31, 2022, Endowment had a total of \$6,913,527 in its investment and bank accounts. This is an increase of \$164,157 over Endowment's value on December 31, 2021 of \$6,749,370. In 2022, Endowment received two significant bequests: \$1,465,841 from the Estate of Elaine Bonfante (with more received in 2023); and \$16,124 from the Elsasser Family Trust. U.S. financial and equity markets took a significant downturn in 2022 with the result that Endowment's investment portfolio incurred an unrealized loss in value of \$915,402 -- about 13.5% of the value of its investments (not including the value of the above bequests which came late in the year and were still separate from invested funds).³ Endowment's target allocation is 60% equity and 40% fixed income. As it invests Endowment funds, the Board continues to utilize a broadly diversified portfolio which is implemented using low-cost exchange traded funds (ETFs). The portfolio is allocated to US stocks, non-US stocks, US bonds, non-US bonds, real estate via KETV, and cash.

All investment strategies are passively managed. The weighted average annual investment management fee for the portfolio, excluding real estate, is approximately 0.05%. In addition to the funds in the investment and bank accounts, the Endowment Fund is also the sole owner of Kountze Endowment True Vision, LLC, a limited liability company commonly referred to as "KETV." (This KETV should not be confused with the TV station). KETV was organized for the sole purpose of owning and financing the property we commonly call Kountze Commons. In other words, KETV is a real estate management company. It rents the Kountze Commons facilities to various groups, including the Kountze Pantry, the Healing Gift Free Clinic, and the Methodist Community Health Clinic. KETV is the primary entity liable for the debt on Kountze Commons. Its loan from MIF was guaranteed by KMLC. Endowment provided the

initial \$2.2 million of funds to KETV to purchase the Kountze Commons property as part of its real estate investment portfolio. In view of the outstanding debt encumbering the Kountze Commons real estate, for the present time, in calculating the Endowment Fund value for purposes of determining the amount of funds available for annual grants, the value of KETV is not taken into consideration.

The current Endowment Board includes:

Sarah Penn, Chairman and Secretary
Gary Clatterbuck, Vice Chairman and Endowment Representative to the KETV Board
Mike Edris, Treasurer
Mike Jensen, Congregational Council Representative
Lyn Ziegenbein, Board Member
Stephen Griffith, Transitional Senior Pastor

¹ KMLC organized its first Endowment Fund around 1985 as a trust fund. Its primary purpose was to support the KMLC Media Ministry. The current Endowment Fund was organized in 2014 as an independent 501(c)(3) corporation.

² Each calendar year, Endowment has a certain amount of funds it may grant for strictly limited purposes. This amount is calculated in January based on a formula in its Bylaws.

³ For the year 2022: The Dow was down about 8.8%. The S&P 500 was down 19.4%. The Nasdaq was down 33.1%.
<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/12/29/stock-market-futures-open-to-close-news.html>

DEFREESE MANOR

This past year, 2022, ended the ownership and management of deFreese Manor by Kountze Memorial Inc. (KMI) d/b/a deFreese Manor. The 51-unit apartment facility provides low-income housing for seniors and has been a mission of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for 40 years. The KMI Board took the issue of selling the Manor to members of the church and held a vote twice during 2021 regarding selling the building and property. Both votes of church members passed overwhelmingly with over 90% approval to move ahead with the sale as long as the mission continues to offer low-income housing to seniors.

The board announced the closing of the sale of deFreese Manor on May 16, 2022. The buyer was a nonprofit, House of David Preservation d/b/a deFreese Manor Apartments LLC. The sale price was \$3,200,000. After paying the remaining mortgage and other creditors, the actual amount transferred on June 2, 2022 to KMI's bank account from the sale was \$1,840,135.12.

KMI was required to hold these funds in its bank account for 180 days to make sure all creditors are paid. Contractors needed to be paid for work completed on the kitchen updates and several other invoices by May 16, 2022. After May 16, 2022, all debt and expenses are the responsibility of deFreese Manor Apartments LLC owned by the House of David Preservation and Capital Realty Group. After the 180 days have passed, the funds will be transferred to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church and KMI will be dissolved. The Congregational Council will be responsible for how these funds will be used by the church.

For a period of 30-years, the new owner is required to maintain the mission of providing low-income housing to seniors and the name deFreese Manor. An advisory board will be formed by the church council and members will be made up of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church members. It is the intent of the advisory board to keep close ties to the residents and staff working at deFreese Manor.

One condition of the sale was for the buyer to pay for the resurfacing of the entire parking lot mostly owned by Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. The parking lot, which is north of Kountze Commons, was in desperate need of repair and was completely resurfaced in July, 2022. The church now has a nice parking surface for the manor to use and for the overflow of large events at the church like Christmas, Easter, and funerals.

The KMI Board would like to recognize Sharon West for serving deFreese Manor as its administrator for many years as well as Hope Hart and Chelsea Oliver for their commitment to serving seniors with love and dignity.

On Sunday June 12, 2022 the Board celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the mission of deFreese Manor. Family members of Pastor Paul and Mina deFreese were in attendance including former Bishop David deFreese and wife

Anita and sister Jewel Knapp and her husband Rich to help celebrate this important ministry along with members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted
Scott Henneman, President

DEL & LOU ANN WEBER HEALING GIFT FREE CLINIC

Purpose: *Sustaining the investment to Serve others and the community through the Healing Gift Free Clinic*

Healing Gift Free Clinic (Clinic) Board of Directors in 2022: David Klug (Chair, resigned Fall 2022), Larry Camenzind, Rev. Dr. Ashley Hall (Corporation President), Bryan Handlos (Legal Counsel), Dr. Steve Hinrichs, Linda Hoven (Vice Chair-January through August & Chair-September through December), Sarah Ives, Chris Morrow (Secretary), Elle Nuttall, Dr. Tyler Willson, Jenna Woster (Treasurer) and Joyce Palmer (Administrative Director).

These above listed individuals and the dedicated weekly Clinic volunteers provided leadership and guidance for the appropriate operation of the Clinic. Following are the statistics for 2022:

		<u>Languages of Patients</u>	
Patient Visits	817	English	164
Weeks of Clinic	49	Spanish	7
Rxs Filled	5448	Karen	8
Average Cost of Rxs	\$ 7.84	Vietnamese	5
Average Cost/Patient/Visit	\$ 49.93	French/Arabic	1

Fortunate for a number of patients who worked with the insurance representative, they were able to secure affordable health care insurance that enabled them to move to a new health care provider/clinic. These patients now can see a medical provider five days a week plus many can receive their prescribed medications through the mail. We continue to qualify patients for pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs (PAP); this helps the Clinic to maintain a stable financial status. We will be taking action in the new year, to adopt a gift acceptance policy and establish designated funds for estate/legacy gifts.

2022 HGFC Financial Income and Expenses

<u>Income</u>		
Congregations & Organizations	\$	19,179.17
Individuals	\$	13,098.66
Foundation Grants & Grant Matches	\$	61,707.57
Memorials & Honors	\$	1,820.00
Interest	\$	11.31
PayPal	\$	5,675.00
Income Total	\$	101,491.71
<u>Expenses</u>		
Medications & Vaccines	\$	39,079.68
Rent	\$	23,253.25
Office & Administrative	\$	31,471.64
Expense Total	\$	93,804.57

Medications continue to be the major expense of the Clinic.

In Christ's Service,
Joyce C. Palmer (AJP@), Administrative Director

KOUNTZE ENDOWMENT TRUE VISION (KETV), LLC

Purpose: *Sustaining the investment to Serve others and the community through the Kountze Commons building*

The (KETV) Board of directors in 2022: Marilyn Oldaker, Deb Hinrichs, Dale Broekemeier, Gary Clatterbuck, Paul Sum (Jan-Aug), Jim Smejkal (Aug-Dec).

The board of directors meets quarterly to review overall condition of the building and surrounding grounds, CBRE accomplishments and repairs, accounting and financials, as well as authorizing additional principal payments as funds are available to do so, thus reducing MIF construction loan.

KETV has continued to receive monetary support in continuing to reduce the MIF construction loan amount.

In September Paul Sum stepped down as president of (KETV), the board of directors elected Jim Smejkal to take Paul's place as president of the (KETV) board, Jim will take over the day-to-day Board of Directors operations. Of special note are the grants that the Kountze Endowment provides the Del & Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic and the Kountze Food Pantry to pay for rent of the two entities rental areas which in turn allows the Kountze commons to operate on a positive financial basis.

Once again, this year we would like acknowledge the support received from the Congregation. It truly is a blessing. With continued support, the mission of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church through Kountze Commons will continue for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted:
Jim Smejkal, KETV Board President

KETV LLC Balance Sheet 2022

ASSETS

Unrestricted Cash	
Dundee Checking - 0044	\$ 18,078.91
CBRE - Trust Account	\$ 84,312.63
Dundee Savings - 5756	\$ 229,148.19
Total Unrestricted Cash	\$ 331,539.73

Restricted Cash	
MIF - Building Reserve - 7295	\$ 104,534.48
Total Restricted Cash	\$ 104,534.48
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 436,074.21

Other Current Assets	
Tenant Receivable	\$ (20,004.89)
KMLC Receivable - Phase 2	\$ 12,474.30
Total Other Current Assets	\$ (7,530.59)
Total Current Assets	\$ 428,543.62

Fixed Assets	
Leasehold Improvements	\$ 12,859.00
Property, Plant & Equipment	
Building	\$ 5,527,126.03
Accum Depreciation - Building	\$ (910,811.08)
Land	\$ 3,587,173.83
Land Improvements	\$ 219,876.80
Accum Depreciation - Land Impr	\$ (12,392.30)
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	\$ 8,410,973.28
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 8,423,832.28

Other Assets	
Design Costs	\$ 34,425.00
Accum Allowance - Design Costs	\$ (34,425.00)
Loan Costs	\$ 12,035.00
Accum Amortization - Loan Costs	\$ (2,808.17)
Total Other Assets	\$ 9,226.83

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,861,602.73
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
MIF Building Loan - 3991	\$ 2,003,302.71
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$ 2,003,302.71
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>\$ 2,003,302.71</i>

Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$ 6,886,682.46
Net Income	\$ (28,382.44)
Total Equity	\$ 6,858,300.02

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 8,861,602.73
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KETV KKC Treasurer's Report for 2022

CONTRIBUTION INCOME

Capital Campaign	\$ -
Commons Phase 2	\$ 160,083.66
Total Contribution Income	\$ 160,083.66

Earned Income

Rental Income	\$ 167,460.29
Common Area Maintenance	\$ 37,587.71
Interest Income	\$ 3,259.91
Earned Income - Other	\$ 34.13
Total Earned Income	\$ 208,342.04

Other Contributions	\$ 3,258.06
Total Income	\$ 371,683.76

Gross Profit	\$ 371,683.76
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EXPENSE

Operations Custodial Fees	\$ 28,495.45
Exterminating	\$ 860.28
Fire/Safety Prevention	\$ 2,711.93
Graphics & Displays	\$ 4,585.20
Lock and Hardware Supplies	\$ -
Office Expense	\$ 1,416.42
Property Management Fees	\$ 9,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 22,161.55
Restroom Supplies	\$ 1,378.86
Security Contract Services	\$ 8,827.67
Snow Removal/Lawn Care	\$ 5,020.88

Utilities

Electricity	\$ 16,620.69
Gas & Water	\$ 12,833.41
Telephone	\$ 7,479.53
Trash Removal	\$ 4,299.70

Total Utilities	\$ 41,233.33
Total Operations	\$ 125,691.57

Administration

Bank Service Charges	\$ 10.00
Depreciation Expense	\$ 178,584.00
Insurance Expense	\$ 13,524.00
Interest Expense	\$ 82,038.63
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 218.00
Total Administration	\$ 274,374.63

Total Expense	\$ 400,066.20
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (28,382.44)
Net Income	\$ (28,382.44)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE KOUNTZE COMMONS COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER THE REV. H. ASHLEY HALL

Purpose: *Sustaining the investment to Serve others and the community through the Kountze Commons building*

Overview

In February of 2021, a donor approached Pr. Roynesdal and me with a potential gift of a \$1.1 million to pay down the debt on Kountze Commons (roughly, half of the amount owed on the debt). The gift would come with three provisions: that Kountze Commons become a non-profit [501(c)(3)] organization (like other ministries that house the non-proselytizing missions of the congregation, such as deFreese Manor, the Endowment, and Healing Gift Free Clinic), that the Commons have an Executive Director (so that the task need not fall primarily to the Senior Pastor), and that the finances of the new entity be reviewed by an outside entity (to conform with best practices).

A task force was formed by the Congregational Council among representatives of the various bodies involved to see, *first*, if the stipulations were beneficial and acceptable to the congregation, and, if so, *second*, outline how that process might move forward given the various needs and concerns of our existing structures. The task force included: Gary Clatterbuck (Endowment), Mike Jensen (Council representative to Endowment), Paul Sum (KETV Board), Kate McCoy Jones (Council representative to KETV), Steve Hinrich (Council member), and pastors Roynesdal and Hall.

After long and thorough conversations with and feedback from each body (viz., Endowment, KETV, and the Council), it was decided that the donor's gift and stipulations were beneficial to the mission of Kountze Commons. I want to express a particular note of gratitude to Endowment Chair, Sarah Penn, who both identified potential concerns and helped work toward mutually agreeable solutions. Namely, the property at Kountze Commons (2665 Douglas) would still be owned by the Endowment through its disregarded entity, Kountze Endowment True Vision, LLC (i.e., the KETV Board). A letter of agreement was also created, outlining the rights and responsibilities between the Endowment (lease holding, building maintenance, etc.) and the new entity (the mission of Kountze Commons and coordination of ministries among the willing lease holders). The final draft of this agreement has been approved by the Endowment, reviewed by Council, and is ready to be signed once the new entity is legally formed.

Organizing Committee for Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center

This juncture of agreement among all parties now reached, in January of 2022 the Council formed an organizing committee for Kountze Commons: Tim Holland, Ruth Henneman, Kate McCoy Jones, Dale Broekemeier, Jim Smejkal (new chair of KETV), Lisa Chinn, Deb Hinrichs, and pastors Griffith and Hall. (Vicar Olson-Kopp has been an observer to our conversations).

The Committee is charged with the following tasks:

- Determine a name for the new entity
- File the necessary paperwork to form a 501(c)(3) with the State of Nebraska
- Create a job description and establish a salary range for the Executive Director
- Draft bylaws and budget for the new entity

The Committee secured legal counsel from Katie Wunderlich of Baird Holm and began its work in earnest. At the time of writing this report, a new name has been chosen and approved ("Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center"), the necessary paperwork is being completed and submitted to the State, a job description and salary range has been approved by the Committee (in conformity to the guidance of Council) and is awaiting final approval from the Personnel Committee, the bylaws are drafted, and an initial slate of directors is prepared.

The donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) is aware of and has approved all of these developments. It may take a few months for the paperwork to be reviewed and approved by the State of Nebraska. Once the entity is legally formed, it can sign the existing letter of agreement with the Endowment/KETV. Once all of this is done, the donor will release the \$1.1 million to help pay down the debt of Kountze Commons.

One final note about the Executive Director position: while the details are not yet finalized, the Executive Director (ED) position will be split between KCCOC and the congregation. The ED will be an employee of the congregation who will report to the Senior Pastor and the KCCOC Board (the Senior Pastor or his/her designee will serve on that

same Board). The ED will oversee the coordination of the ministries at Kountze Commons, serve as the primary representative of KCCOC in the community, spearhead development of ministries and programs at Kountze Commons consistent with the ministry of the congregation, and raise funds for both KCCOC (ministry support and debt relief) as well as debt reduction and ministry development within the congregation. The salary of the ED will be shared by the congregation and KCCOC for the first three years of the new entity's existence.



BALANCE SHEET

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet, Dec 31, 2022

Current Assets

Unrestricted	
Checking - Dundee Bank	
General Fund	\$ 12,896.00
Bible Fund	\$ 2,975.27
Domed Roof Fund	\$ -8,846.33
Kountze Food Pantry Fund	\$ 158,226.13
MIF Children's Baptism Gift	\$ 2,000.00
Music Fund	\$ 20.00
Pastors Discretionary	\$ 2,366.06
Special Instrumental Music	\$ 1,499.45
TV/Media Ministry Fund	\$ 64,373.19
Stained Glass Windows Fund	\$ 93,631.49
Undesignated Memorials Fund	\$ 53,795.53
Youth Trip	\$ 2,258.00
Total Checking – Dundee Bank	\$ 385,194.79
MIF - CD 7498	\$ 98,119.46
Total Unrestricted	\$ 483,314.25

Restricted	
Kountze Pantry CD	\$ 100,000.00
Dundee Pastor Checking Account	\$ 1,945.22
Schwab Bank Sweep - Scholarship	\$ 2,395.72
Swab Bank Sweep 0774- Lundeen	\$ 2.07
Savings - Dundee Bank	
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 20,750.00
Pantry Designated Savings	\$ 86,057.95
M Smith Grant – Instr. Music	\$ 17,544.82
Stained Glass Window Funding	\$ 48,981.72
Total Savings - Dundee Bank	\$ 173,334.49
MIF Demand 7156	\$ 200.81
Total Restricted	\$ 277,878.31
Total Checking and Savings	\$ 761,192.56

Designated Funds Income

Bible Funding	\$ 400.00
Kountze Pantry	\$ 71,540.95
Memorials - Pantry	\$ 7,101.33
Memorial - Undesignated	\$ 33,519.44
Music	\$ 810.00
Memorials - Music	\$ 250.00
MIF Children's Baptism Fund	\$ 2,000.00
Pastors' Discretionary	\$ 4,118.00
Stained Glass Windows	\$ 57,240.04
TV & Media Ministry	\$ 73,684.46
Youth Trip	\$ 608.00
Total Designated Income	\$ 251,372.22

Designated Expenses

Bibles	\$ 0.00
Caring/Health Ministries	\$ 31.88
Kountze Pantry	\$ 39,579.45
Pastors' Discretionary	\$ 11,383.35
Special Instrumental Music	\$ 8,705.00
TV & Media Ministry	\$ 38,714.68
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 3,883.56
Youth Trip	\$ 0.00
Total Designated Expenses	\$ 102,297.92

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023

Kountze Memorial	Budget 2022	Actual thru Dec 2022	Proposed Budget 2023
<u>Receipts</u>			
General Offering	\$ 887,000	\$ 818,196	\$ 887,000
<u>Special Services</u>			
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,000	\$ 699	\$ 1,000
Lenten	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,154	\$ 3,000
Easter	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,214	\$ 7,500
Ascension		\$ 73	\$ 100
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,000	\$ 959	\$ 1,200
Advent	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,891	\$ 2,100
Christmas	\$ 13,000	\$ 8,448	\$ 10,000
Loose Offering	\$ 5,200	\$ 4,435	\$ 5,000
Initial Offering	\$ 650	\$ 322	\$ 500
Other Donations	\$ 1,500	\$ 600	\$ 1,000
Candles	\$ 400	\$ 171	\$ 400
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 2,230	\$ 2,600
Children/Family Ministries	\$ 1,500	\$ 80	\$ 250
Christian Education	\$ 1,000		\$ 500
Sunday School Offering	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,380	\$ 2,000
Congregational Life	\$ 500		\$ 500
Youth Programs	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,041	\$ 3,000
Flowers	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,415	\$ 4,000
Breakfast Freewill	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,710	\$ 4,500
Advent/Lenten Meals	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,476	\$ 2,000
Men's Luncheon	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,200
Yesterday's Youth	\$ 750	\$ 50	\$ 250
Coffee & Cookies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,910	\$ 2,500
Stained Glass/Construction Donations	\$ 55,000	\$ 7,419	\$ 8,500
Funeral Lunch	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,850	\$ 2,100
In Kind	\$ 1,000	\$ 342	\$ 700
<u>Total Unrestricted Receipts</u>	\$ 1,011,500	\$ 870,135	\$ 953,400
<u>Other Income</u>			
Organ Maintenance			
KETV LLC	\$ 35,000		\$ 35,000
Building Use	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,625	\$ 7,000
Dividend Income	\$ 6,750	\$ 29,041	\$ 22,000
Gain on Sale of Investment		\$ 113,111	\$ 50,500
Interest Income	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,010	\$ 4,200
Music	\$ 4,500	\$ 810	\$ 1,250
Memorials - Music	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 500
Other Income	\$ 100	\$ 3,073	\$ 2,700
<u>Total Other Income</u>	\$ 53,950	\$ 155,920	\$ 123,150
<u>Total Receipts</u>	\$ 1,065,450	\$ 1,026,055	\$ 1,076,550

	Budget 2022	Actual thru Dec 2022	Proposed Budget 2023
<u>Expenses</u>			
Benevolence			
Nebraska Synod	\$ 75,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 77,500
Total	\$ 75,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 77,500
Christian Education			
Children's Ministries	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,304	\$ 2,500
Library/Media	\$ 250		\$ 250
Adult Education	\$ 200	\$ 371	\$ 200
Seasonal Gatherings	\$ 500	\$ 77	\$ 500
Other Christian Education	\$ 500		\$ 200
Seminary Scholarship	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000
Devotional Literature	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,995	\$ 1,070
Total	\$ 20,450	\$ 9,747	\$ 10,720
Facility Costs			
Organ	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,400
Piano	\$ 300	\$ 720	\$ 440
Insurance	\$ 32,000	\$ 34,610	\$ 32,000
Custodial Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,131	\$ 4,000
Snow Removal	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,586	\$ 18,000
Trash Removal	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,874	\$ 2,000
Permits/Fees	\$ 500	\$ 678	\$ 500
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 42,500	\$ 39,429	\$ 50,000
Lawn Care	\$ 14,000	\$ 11,292	\$ 14,000
Utilities	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,052	\$ 63,500
Property/Equipment	\$ 4,000	\$ 594	\$ 2,500
Church Van	\$ 1,000	\$ 354	\$ 1,000
Security Services	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,681	\$ 3,500
Total	\$ 177,800	\$ 156,001	\$ 194,840
Compensation			
Clergy Housing	\$ 66,810	\$ 69,206	\$ 83,098
Continuing Ed/Resources	\$ 11,010	\$ 238	\$ 1,000
Group Insurance	\$ 56,350	\$ 55,107	\$ 60,300
Meetings/Conf/Seminars	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,012	\$ 3,000
Retirement	\$ 33,140	\$ 28,907	\$ 31,015
Vehicle Allowance	\$ 5,260	\$ 200	\$ 1,000
Christian Ed Wages	\$ 15,400	\$ 16,997	\$ 19,976
Clergy Salaries	\$ 112,475	\$ 118,701	\$ 128,410
Cong Life Salaries	\$ 34,827	\$ 34,827	\$ 36,046
Custodial	\$ 46,386	\$ 46,074	\$ 48,007
Music	\$ 63,890	\$ 66,865	\$ 66,126
Office	\$ 164,974	\$ 139,479	\$ 169,560
Payroll Taxes	\$ 30,553	\$ 23,031	\$ 25,067
Payroll Provider	\$ 2,800	\$ 8,148	\$ 2,800
Total	\$ 656,515	\$ 609,792	\$ 675,405

	Budget 2022	Actual thru Dec 2022	Proposed Budget 2023
Worship & Music			
Adult Choir	\$ 1,125	\$ 365	\$ 1,500
Handbell Choir	\$ 225	\$ 495	\$ 225
Children's Choir			\$ 100
Vocalist	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,365	\$ 20,000
Copyright Fees	\$ 2,350	\$ 1,696	\$ 2,800
Speakers/Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750
Altar Guild/Worship Supplies	\$ 5,700	\$ 1,743	\$ 3,250
Candlelight Carol Service	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,610	\$ 4,000
Other Worship	\$ 1,000	\$ 653	\$ 1,000
Order of St John	\$ 100		\$ 100
Flowers & Candles	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,189	\$ 2,850
Total	\$ 28,700	\$ 25,841	\$ 37,575
Youth			
Youth Programs	\$ 5,000	\$ 317	\$ 3,000
Confirmation	\$ 500	\$ 873	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 6,250	\$ 1,190	\$ 4,000
Parish Life			
Stewardship	\$ 2,200	\$ 250	\$ 2,200
Outreach/TV Ministry	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500
Other Outreach	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,758	\$ 4,000
Neighborhood Gathering	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,280	\$ 2,000
Summer Picnic	\$ 750	\$ 830	\$ 750
Advent/Lenten Meals	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,200
Sunday Breakfasts	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,628	\$ 3,500
Coffee & Cookies	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,840	\$ 2,600
Committee Mtgs	\$ 150	\$ 210	\$ 190
Family & Friends	\$ 750		\$ 750
Funeral Lunch Food	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,092	\$ 1,000
Men's Luncheon	\$ 250	\$ 774	\$ 1,200
Other Food	\$ 500	\$ 2,812	\$ 1,500
Special Events/Activities	\$ 500	\$ 933	\$ 500
Volunteer Appreciation	\$ 480		\$ 480
Yesterday's Youth	\$ 250	\$ 81	\$ 100
Synod Assembly	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,326	\$ 1,500
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,224	\$ 2,000
Conferences	\$ 750	\$ 3,985	\$ 3,000
Archives	\$ 300		\$ 300
Caring Ministries			
Total	\$ 30,680	\$ 22,166	\$ 31,270

	Budget 2022	Actual thru Dec 2022	Proposed Budget 2023
Office & Administration			
Postage	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,424	\$ 4,000
Office Supplies	\$ 4,700	\$ 5,637	\$ 5,700
Off Envelopes	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,061	\$ 5,500
Telephone	\$ 6,500	\$ 4,992	\$ 6,500
Bank Charges		\$ 146	\$ 150
Vanco Charges	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,420	\$ 2,300
Computer Stuff / License Support	\$ 600	\$ 1,083	\$ 1,000
Office Equip/Maint	\$ 8,200	\$ 7,223	\$ 7,500
Investment Fees	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,055	\$ 2,400
Membership Fees	\$ 105		\$ 120
Professional Fees	\$ 1,800	\$ 160	\$ 200
Loan Interest	\$ 32,100	\$ 39,162	\$ 4,870
Vehicle	\$ 750	\$ 1,137	\$ 2,000
Other Office	\$ 300	\$ 2,916	\$ 3,000
Total	\$ 70,055	\$ 77,416	\$ 45,240
TOTAL	\$ 1,065,450	\$ 939,653	\$ 1,076,550
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 1,065,450	\$ 1,026,055	\$ 1,076,550
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES	\$ 1,065,450	\$ 939,653	\$ 1,076,550

MEMORIAL FUND

Undesignated memorial gifts are utilized at the direction of the Church Council for unbudgeted needs such as office and computer equipment.

Year	2021	2022
Music	\$ 160	\$ 250
Pantry	\$ 1,120	\$ 7,101
Other (Undesignated)	\$ 4,575	\$ 33,519
Total	\$ 5,855	\$ 40,871
Expenditures (As Designated)	\$ 708	\$ 3,884
Beginning Balance	\$ 118,549	\$ 123,696
Ending Balance	\$ 123,696	\$ 160,683
Increase in Memorial Fund	\$ 5,147	\$ 36,987

CONGREGATIONAL TREND REPORT

Baptized Membership at end of 2021

Baptized Members received during 2022

- By Baptism: children (15 yrs. and younger)
- By Baptism: adults (15 yrs. and older)
- By affirmation of faith
- By transfer
- From other sources and statistical adjustments
- Total members received this year

Baptized Members removed during 2022

- By death
- By transfer
- For other reasons and statistical adjustment
- Total members removed this year

Baptized Membership, end of 2022

Total Confirmed Membership, end of 2022

Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2022

Average weekly worship attendance in 2022*

	1965
10	
2	
9	
9	
9	
+	34
25	
17	
28	
-	70
=	1929

1487

7

761

*In Person and Livestream



KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2650 FARNAM STREET
OMAHA, NE 68131

Phone: 402-341-7761
Fax: 402-341-4841
Email: info@kmlchurch.org
Web Page: <http://www.kmlchurch.org>

A City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2023

Tim Backora
Anne Dey
Kate Jones
Melissa Osentowski

TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2024

Steve Hinrichs
Michael Jensen
Ann Miller
Bruce Nissen

TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 31, 2025

Tina Broekemeier
Jerry Fischer
Madeline O’Kane
Jacob Rump

THE CHURCH 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

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

The Parish Register

Baptisms..... 12
Marriages 10
Funerals 21

Membership

Children (Not Confirmed)..... 314
Confirmed..... 1487
Baptized 1929
Average Weekly Attendance
In-Person..... 260
Streaming/Television 484

Finances

Total Receipts\$ 1,269,055
Total Expenditures\$ 1,151,927
ELCA/Synod Mission Support.....\$ 42,507
Missionary Support\$ 10,000
Total Assets\$ 18,549,332