

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	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
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 2 & 3, 2024

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

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



Today at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

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

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-6

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

Grab your breakfast and meet each Sunday. Join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other.

This Week: Current Events

Next Week: Spiritual Practices

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Review of Lenten Theme

Next Week: Council Structure & Goals Presentation

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

ELCA Youth Gathering/Young Adult Gathering Meeting Immanuel in Bellevue at their church (104 Galvin Rd. N) March 3

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

All participants attending the Gathering this summer will get together for an information, relationship-building, and lunch

meeting. If you would like to donate toward the trip, please go to:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z45H/home>

and click on Youth Mission Trip Sponsorships. Thank you for your support.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 3 Sunday

Lent 3

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

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Youth Gathering/Young
Adult Gathering Meeting at
Immanuel in Bellevue

March 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 6 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

March 7 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

8:00 PM Mar 8 - Mar 9 Middle School

In (gr 6-8) Camp CJH

March 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

5:00 PM Drive-In Movie (Pre K - gr 6)

March 10 Sunday

Lent 4

Daylight Savings—spring ahead 1
hour

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

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:15 PM Book Group

5:00 PM Night Out at the Movies

High School, College, and Young
Adults

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Wednesdays in Lent

“Created for Community”

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, & 20

- Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM (6:30 PM is live-streamed)
- Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon (free-will offering)
- Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM (free-will offering)

Join us for a meal followed by Worship each Wednesday during Lent. Everyone is welcome.

Menu for March 6

Choice of Tomato Basil Soup or

Chicken Noodle Soup

Garlic Cheese Bread

Dessert

Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

Now through March 31

The Kountze Food Pantry will hold a spring food drive this Lenten season to show how we Love Thy Neighbor. The Love Thy Neighbor food drive is also to honor Wayne Simmonds and the generosity of Sherri Labeledz and Terri Gogetap, who named the pantry Love Thy Neighbor to honor their father. Sherri, Terri, and their father, Wayne, have been faithful and generous members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Wayne loved the Kountze Food Pantry and made it a priority to volunteer at this very special ministry to help “the least of these” in our community. The Pantry is in need of unexpired,

nonperishable foods in cans, boxes, and plastic jars (no glass jars please). Possible donations may include canned beans, meats (chicken or tuna), vegetables, fruits, and soups/stews - pop-top cans are a plus, boxes of crackers, granola bars, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant potatoes, and plastic jars of peanut butter or pasta sauce. There are pantry drop off locations in the Fellowship Hall, the accessible entrance, and the Narthex. Please encourage your fellow parishioners, family, friends, coworkers, and social circles to help in this wonderful cause! We would love the support from clubs and troops as well. Questions or need to arrange a delivery of food? Please contact Jill Conway at 402-341-7761, ex. 222 or jill@kmlchurch.org or jill@kountzecommons.org.

Middle School Lock-in

March 8—9, 2024

8:00 PM—8:00 AM

Grades 6—8

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Carol Joy Holling Camp is hosting yet another Middle School Lock-in this Spring! Join in the fun of night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God. This lock-in provides the chance for youth attending Summer Camp, and/or Confirmation Camp the opportunity to begin diving into God’s grace and growing in faith. Youth that is just wishing to spend time with friends, learn more about God, and have a

fun time will also find a meaningful message at this lock-in and an experience they can take with them for the rest of their lives. Cost: \$35 per camper and includes lodging, meals, and programming from 8:00 PM on Friday through 8:00 AM on Saturday. A tentative schedule and registration can be found at:

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

Drive-in Movie in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 9

Pre-K - grade 6 and their Families

5:00 PM

Beginning at 5 PM, children will gather in the Sunday school room to decorate their "car" for the drive-in. Parents are welcome to help craft, or attend the 5 PM Saturday night service. At 6 PM, families are invited to rejoin their children for pizza and a movie at the drive in. Bring your favorite movie snack to share. Pizza and refreshments provided. RSVP in the church office, or by emailing Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Mark your Calendars for Movie Night!

Sunday, March 10

3:35 PM

High School, College, and Young Adults

We will meet at Twin Creek Theaters (3909 Raynor Pkwy, Bellevue) for the movie Kung Fu Panda 4. We'll have time to get tickets, concessions are on your own, and get settled to enjoy the movie. You are welcome to bring a friend.

First Communion Classes

Sundays, March 17 & 24

12:00 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2nd grade is encouraged. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 28. Please see Kristin Boe or email Kristin@kmlchurch.org to register your child for this class. You can also register at the Welcome Desk or online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/240464462505150>

Eucharistic Ministers

A monthly visit and sharing communion with one of our members is an opportunity for you to consider. We have members waiting to see you, hear the news of the church, and receive the gift of grace that we receive each week. If you are curious, please let the office know. You will find that bring this grace to another adds gifts to your spiritual walk as well.

Camp Firelight VBS

St. Timothy's Church (510 N 93rd St)

July 8-11

5:15 PM: Family Dinner

6—8 PM: Class

Have an adventure with God this summer! Make plans now to attend VBS. Registration is open now to register for VBS

youth and volunteers. Sign up with the following link:

<https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Volunteer opportunities include kitchen clean up, teachers, assistants, and more. We would love to see you there!

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling

If you didn't get a chance to register for camp by the Early Bird pricing deadline (January 31), Kountze Memorial will still cover the cost of the Early Bird pricing, but you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

- In order for the church to pay the fee, choose
- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- Email a copy of the receipt to shari@kmlchurch.org

We will then submit the Early Bird portion of the payment on behalf of your youth. You'll need to mail in your portion. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to everyone who donated so generously to the Kountze Food Pantry. The gloves, hats, scarves and socks were greatly appreciated and needed by our guests in the frigid weeks of January. Your donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and other personal care items are always needed and welcomed. Currently the greatest and most urgent need is for volunteers. A small group of dedicated faithful are receiving, moving and restocking almost 10,000 lbs. of goods every Monday morning. If you or anyone you know can assist us in our mission of "Feeding the Poor, in Christ's Name", please sign up at the link below.

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

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 2/16/2024—Wednesday, 2/28/2024

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 116 11:00: 73

Wednesday: 12:15: 40 6:30: 45

Streaming: 61

Pantry Guests Served: 803 (inc. 270 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$21,298.24 (Regular) \$7,639.69 (Specials)

\$763.99 (Debt Reduction)

Worship the Lord wherever you are.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple
Monday	Exodus 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Christ crucified
Wednesday	Proverbs 24:3-4	Seek wisdom
Thursday	Joshua 24:14-18	The tribes renew the covenant
Friday	2 Samuel 7:18-29	David's prayer
Saturday	Psalm 19	God is creator and gives the law
Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he [Jesus] was speaking of the temple of his body. John 2:20-21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, help us to give you our worship and praise wherever we are for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord who came that we may be set free. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with the sun, moon, and stars, we give you thanks for your creative work, including this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 19:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May you worship the risen Lord with gladness.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Where do you like to worship God?
- Jesus said that his body is the real temple. What does that mean for how and where we worship?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-22.

Jesus goes from turning water into an abundance of wine at a wedding to arriving in Jerusalem and announcing his uncompromising judgment in the temple. Both images of Jesus are critical to the Gospel of John. Jesus opposes the buying and selling happening in the temple at the expense of honoring "my Father's house" (v. 16). The "sign" or authority he gives for his forceful actions is that his body is the real temple. Jesus, as the word made flesh (John 1:14), embodies the very presence of God and, therefore, Jesus becomes the centerpiece for our worship. To the Samaritan woman Jesus says, "you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem" (John 4:21). During the COVID pandemic Christians could not gather in person. We began to realize we need not worship only in a sanctuary. The phrase used was "the church has left the building," noting that we can still worship God outside of sanctuaries. The same message is in John, and it is not new. We can worship wherever we are.

Discuss: Besides a church building, where have you worshiped Jesus?

Pray: **God of heaven and earth, help us to see that your glory is everywhere, and wherever we are is an acceptable place to worship you through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, in addition to a sanctuary, where can you join with others to worship God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Light three candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Lord, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you. You are my Rock and my Redeemer.**

Amen. (Psalm 19:14)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21