

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

January 13 & 14, 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

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.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Barb Chrisman in memory of her brother, Bill Booton.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Neal & Ardis Von Seggern in memory of Rev. Tom & Jean Holcombe and Rev. Lavern & Marilyn Larkowski

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

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Current Events

Next Week: Bible Study "Created to Be"

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Fellowship

Next week: Lutheranism in America: Charles Porterfield Krauth

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

New Member Class

January 14 & 21

10:15 AM

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, we ask you to consider attending our New Member Class that begins this Sunday. Childcare is available. Please plan on attending both classes. New members will be received on Sunday, January 28.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 14 Sunday

Epiphany 2

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group

Mlqxd| #8# rggd|#

Martin Luther King, Jr.

OFFICE CLOSED

Good News Deadline

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

Mlqxd| #9#wxhvgd|#

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

Mlqxd| # :# hgqhvvd|#

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

Mlqxd| # ; #kxuvgd|#

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

Mlqxd| # < #rvgd|#

Jan. 19 - Jan. 21 High School Retreat

(9-12) @ Camp CJH

5:00 PM Pantry

Mlqxd| #53#vdxvgd|#

5:00 PM Worship

Mlqxd| #54#vqgd|#

Epiphany 3

Dinners for Eight Sign-up Deadline

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Photos

If you have any group photos from 2017 – 2021 and you would be willing to share with the church office, we would be most grateful. We want to make sure we have a photo of each of the Confirmation Classes of KMLC.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 18

11:30 AM

Join us for lunch and a short documentary on Offutt AFB

"Startcom 9/11: A Different Doomsday" Please RSVP by

Tuesday, January 16. We hope you'll plan to be here.

(Don't tell anybody, but that's Jim's birthday. Shhhh!)

High School Retreat for Grades 9-12

Carol Joy Holling Camp

January 19-21, 2024

Theme: (un)Equal

Come and join us as we dive into this past summer's theme, "UnEqual". Along with the lessons we will learn about God's

love, we will also be experiencing some favorite camp activities, God's creation, and of course, fellowship! Cost

\$100 per camper. This cost includes lodging, meals, and programming on Friday through Sunday. Register by

January 17 at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat>

Dinners for 8

Consider signing up to join a dinners for 8 group in February, March, and April. It is a time when your group will have a meal together each month. This meal can take place in homes, in restaurants, or at the church. Or you may decide to attend a fish fry or another organization's fundraiser. It is up to your group. Please **sign up by January 21** at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office. You will be informed about the groups, so you can begin to find times and places to meet.

Annual Reports

Due January 28

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have it turned in to Debbie Bogue no later than January 28. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

High School Lock-In with Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue

Friday, January 26

7:00 PM – 7:00 AM

All in High School are invited to join in the fun at a Lock-In taking place at Immanuel in Bellevue. It will provide a time

for those going to the Youth Gathering to build relationships. All attending will share in bible study, games, and a time to get to know each other. Bring your sleeping bag, as sleep will be part of the agenda, to make sure we get what we need to stay healthy. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow! RSVP to Pastor Shari by Wednesday, January 24.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Recovery Communion Service January 31, 2024

7:00 PM

Each year Trinity hosts a Recovery Eucharist for the Diocese of Nebraska commemorating Dr. Samuel Shoemaker who was the Episcopal priest advising Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. in developing the 12 Steps. All are welcome to attend.

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling! Register by January 31 for Early Bird Pricing

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost if you register by January 31. If you register after this date, 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

and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to

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

Hear Us! Heal us! Send Us!

Saturday, February 24

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10

Join Spiritual Directors Lisa Kramme, Midland University Campus Ministry and David Pinkston, NE Synod Director of "Seeking the Spirit Within" for a time of learning spiritual practices to guide us through the Lent season. Lunch will be served. Sign up today to save your spot.

Scholarships

Deadline to Apply: March 1

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. **Applications are due on March 1, 2024. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org

Television Ministry

Did you know Kountze has a Television production room? Well, we do, and the production crew would be glad to show you how everything works. If you have any experience with computers, we can train you so you can be a part of this community ministry. High school youth, this is a great way to get your high school community service hours! Come and check it out.

Kountze Food Pantry

In January we will continue to need gloves, especially for adult men. As the coldest months of the year approach, these items will be needed most of all. You may leave them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall or consider ordering online and having them delivered directly to the Church. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission to "Feed the Poor in Christ's Name", please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, & TV Broadcast

The new sign-up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 1/4/2024 — Wednesday, 1/10/24

Saturday: 50

Sunday: 9:00: 113 11:00: 65

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 248

Streaming: 90

Pantry Guests Served: 531 (inc. 172 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering: Not available at time of printing.

Trusted relationships help people follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Ephesians 6:1-4	Nurturing faith at home
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Timothy's faith through family
Friday	2 John 1:12-13	Nurturing faith by relationships
Saturday	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." John 1:45 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Nurturing God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through others that we may have confidence and joy as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food you care for our lives and our physical wellbeing; we thank you for the many ways you show your love for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy as a follower of Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is someone you trust and why do you put your trust in that person?
- Who has helped you as a follower of Jesus? What was it about this person that encouraged you in your Christian life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:35-51.

Beginning with the wise men from the East and Jesus' baptism, Epiphany is the season that focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. In John 1 it is the followers of Jesus who do some of that revealing. Jesus "found" Philip and brings him into the fold of followers. Just as Jesus "found" Philip, now Philip finds Nathanael (vv. 43, 45). Philip is described as someone from Bethsaida, the same hometown as Andrew and Peter who were just added to Jesus' followers. It is likely they had been neighborhood boys, familiar with one another. These are examples of faith formed through personal relationships. First, it was John the Baptist pointing to Jesus that drew in Andrew, and then Andrew "found" Peter and brought in his brother. Now Philip is added to the group, and he goes and gets his friend Nathanael. Nathanael is a skeptic. Philip simply suggests with a note of confidence that Nathanael should find out for himself. Nathanael then has his own experience of being "found" by Jesus and he, too, is drawn in.

Discuss: How do you speak about Jesus to others?

Pray: **Faithful God, we thank you for those you have placed in our lives to help us in our life's journey as a follower of Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, as a follower of Jesus, how can you encourage someone in their faith?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 speaks poetically about the intimate relationship that God has with us. We are fully and utterly known by God and God's love for us. Take time to read Psalm 139:1-6 and 13-18. Think about the personal relationship you have with God. How has that relationship been enriched by others who have nurtured you in the Christian faith over the years? Consider writing a card thanking one or more people for their care for you in your Christian faith.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20