

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 6 & 7, 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 with grateful hearts by Ken & Chris Kendall in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

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

Sunday School and Children's Choir

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Will not be held January 7. Join us again on January 14. Sunday School will continue with the rotation model and Children's Choir students will join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room again on January 14.

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

10:10 AM

Join us in the Youth Room again beginning January 14 for time of community, learning, and serving.

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Lutheranism in America: Muhlenberg and Schmucker **Next Week:** Fellowship

Eucharistic Ministers—Homebound Communion

If you are a Eucharistic Minister, please meet with Pr. Shari in the OSJ room after Worship this weekend or next Wednesday for a “check-in” even if you don't have anyone to take communion to at this time. Pr. Shari would also

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

like to talk to anyone interested in becoming a part of this ministry to provide communion once a month to those that are unable to attend worship in person. She can answer any

questions you may have at that time. If you are unable to make this time, please speak with Pr. Shari in the upcoming weeks.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 7 Sunday

Epiphany of Our Lord
Homebound Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum

January 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
1:15 PM Finance Committee

January 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Worship & Music

January 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry
5:00 PM Service Event - Pantry/Meal/
Movie

January 13 Saturday

Jan 13 - Jan 14 NE Synod Middle
School Gathering (gr 6-8)
5:00 PM Worship

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

ELCA Young Adult Gathering Young Adults (19-25-year-olds) July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans

An ELCA Young Adult Gathering will take place at the same time as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Each group will have separate daytime offerings followed by a joint Evening Program. As this is a new event, plans are still being made. We hope you will consider attending this event. Please contact Pr. Shari or the church office if you are interested in attending. For more info or to register, go to <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering>

Confirmation Resumes

January 10

6:00 PM

Confirmation resumes at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

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.

Kountze Family Service Project:

Friday, January 12

5:00 PM

Join us in the Pantry to volunteer and then following the service to our community, we will be serving pizza and

watching a movie in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend, your favorite movie, and a snack to share.

Middle School Gathering

Grades 6-8

January 13-14, 2024

We will be gathering at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln. The cost will be covered by Kountze Memorial.

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 next New Member Class.

Childcare is available. Please plan on attending both classes. New members will be received on Sunday, January 28.

Please call the church office if you have questions and let us know if you plan to attend.

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>

Annual Reports Due January 28

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

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.

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>

Join Us in Spreading Joy: Offer a Ride to Church!

Are you looking for a simple yet impactful way to make a difference in someone's day? Consider sharing the gift of a ride to church! Your willingness to offer a ride even one or two weeks a month can brighten someone else's Sunday. Please call or email the church office to see if there's someone in your neighborhood or on your way to church that would like a ride. Open your heart and car doors to help others experience the joy of attending church.

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.

Scholarships

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 web site 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 could 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

Thank-you to everyone who provided gloves, hats and scarves for our Pantry guests. 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>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 12/28/23 — Wednesday, 1/3/24

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 121 11:00: 63

Wednesday: 12:15: 14

Total: 246

Streaming: 54

Pantry Guests Served: 232 (inc. 72 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: (Closed)

Offering:

\$18,972.33 (Regular) \$9,822.98 (Specials)

\$1,237.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christians are fellow heirs, members of the same body.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany observances.

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| Isaiah 60:1-6 | Crowds coming to Jerusalem |
| Ephesians 3:1-12 | Paul's mission to the Gentiles |
| Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 | Prayer to guide the king |
| Matthew 2:1-12 | The visit of the wise men |



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

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **Ephesians 3:5-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

God of the nations, unite your church through your rule of justice and mercy so that all may see your grace through Jesus Christ born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, may this gift of food remind us of your daily care for us and all those in need through Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem to be our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your life.

EPIPHANY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Give examples of times or places when unity is important.
- How is the unity of the church consistent with God's mission of reconciliation in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

The wise men from the east are a central part of Epiphany. They represent the world far from the Jewish and biblical center of Israel and Jerusalem. They do not know the God of Israel. They follow the stars, not the Scriptures. Epiphany reminds us that the good news of Jesus is to reach all the world. Ephesians truly grasps this message. The unity of Jews and Gentiles reveals what Jesus' saving work is about. Ephesians sees the unity of the church as the very example of the gospel. Gentiles are now "*fellow heirs, members of the same body*" (v. 6). God's epiphany or self-revelation is centered on Jesus who has come for all to know and to receive the "*gift of God's grace*" (v. 7). Unity was a very real challenge to the New Testament church. Tensions existed between communities of Jewish and Gentile Christians. The church today is to hear and respond to that same message of one body in Christ. All Christians share equally in God's mission.

Discuss: How do you think honoring all believers as equal recipients of God's grace contributes to the mission of the church?

Pray: **Loving God, your message of grace and peace shines brightly for all. Give us faith to boldly be part of the one body and mission of the church through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Bible Readings and theme for Epiphany, how can you reach out to those different from you with care and support?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For centuries Epiphany Day was the second most important church festival, even more important than Christmas. The church celebrates the time when Jesus was made known to the wider world through the visit of the wise men (Magi). Epiphany is also associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers. The Magi followed a star that led them to Jesus. In remembrance of this journey, light a candle during your devotional time to symbolize Jesus as the light of the world and to remind you of the star the Magi followed to the Christ child. *Say this blessing:* **Lord Jesus, light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51