

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 16 & 17, 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 Amy Pignatore 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: "Created to Be" Bible Study

Next Week: Games

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Council Structure & Goals, cont'd.

Next Week: Fellowship (Palm Sunday) & Blessing & Sending of James Holzer

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

Johann Sebastian Bach Birthday Concert and Reception

Sunday, March 17

3 PM

St. Cecilia Cathedral

Free admission

We have been invited...Celebrate JS Bach's birthday and the 20th anniversary of the Martin Pasi organ with a concert presented by Cathedral Arts Project and the St. Cecilia Institute featuring Nathan Laube, one of the world's elite organ performers and pedagogues. A "Meet the Artist" and Bach Birthday Reception will follow the concert in the Cultural

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 17 Sunday

Lent 5

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 First Communion Class

March 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

March 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

March 20 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

March 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

March 22 Friday

Mar 22 - Mar 23 High School Retreat (9-12) @ Camp CJH

5:00 PM Pantry

Wedding Rehearsal

March 23 Saturday

Lundgren & Peterson Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

March 24 Sunday

Palm Sunday

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 First Communion Class

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 20

Choice of Vegetable Barley Soup or
Ham and Bean Soup
Assorted Wraps
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 Labedz 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.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, March 21

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

Join us in the link for a post St. Patrick's Day celebration

with corned beef, cabbage, and baby potatoes. The desert may not be the only thing green! Wear green and bring your favorite Irish jokes to share. Please sign up at the welcome desk, call the church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your seat by Tuesday, March 19.

Lenten Potluck

Saturday, March 23

6:00 PM (after Worship)

Bring a dish to share and join us after Worship for a Lenten potluck.

Easter Book Group

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

1:00 PM

Place TBD

Pastor Lucy & Mia Valquier, together with the youth and young adults of Kountze, would like to invite you to an Easter Book Group. We will be reading & discussing the book *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Ross Murray. The group will meet on **Sunday afternoons in April** (possibly at a coffee/brunch spot!). Please find a copy of the book for yourself or let Pastor Lucy know if you need help finding/purchasing a copy. The church has a couple of copies that can be borrowed. Ross Murray was the featured speaker at the annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly last fall. He is an ordained deacon in the ELCA, vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute, and the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk, email or call the church office, or online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/232355457100044>

Middle School Gathering 2.0

My Story is Your Story is Christ's Story is Our Story

April 13, 2024

Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln, NE

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

A Synod-wide day of service for middle school youth (5th-9th grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) The cost for this retreat will be covered. **Let the church office know by March 31 if you would like to be registered to attend this event.**

New Member Classes

April 14 & 21

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, April 28. Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

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.

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>

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!

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 3/7/2024—Wednesday, 3/13/2024

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 130 **11:00:** 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 37 **6:30:** 64

Streaming: 53

Pantry Guests Served: 943 (inc. 357 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$24,132.58 (Regular)

\$3,227.66 (Specials)

\$392.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus is revealed to the whole world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as a high priest
Wednesday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Thursday	Numbers 12:1-9	Aaron, Miriam, and Moses
Friday	Acts 7:54-60	The stoning of Stephen
Saturday	Psalm 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem



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

*They [some Greeks] came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **John 12:21 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, may your power and glory be seen in Jesus' death and resurrection that all the world may know of the depth of your care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food that we may be given strength and courage to follow you all the days of our lives through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you see and hear of God's love for you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is a famous person you would like to see? Why?
- Where and how do you see Jesus in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 12:20-33.

Greeks, that is, non-Jews and people who represent the larger world beyond Galilee and Judea, want to see Jesus. This is an example of John 3:16, "*for God so loved the world.*" Now is the time for Jesus as the Son of Man to be revealed to the whole world in glory. What does that reveal look like? The answer is death and resurrection described through a grain of wheat that must die in order to rise and bear fruit (v. 24). We, too, want to see Jesus and would love to hear a heavenly voice that points to Jesus among us. What we do see and hear is a community of faith that follows Jesus into the world. Through the work of Philip, Andrew, and all others who serve and follow Jesus, the message of his death and resurrection reaches the whole world.

Discuss: How do we as followers of Jesus make him known through our lives?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to see Jesus in the world and be seen and heard as his followers who serve him and give our all for the sake of your love for the world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help others experience the love and mercy of 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 five 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:* **Dear Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you through your cross and empty tomb. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1--15:47