



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church



2650 Farnam Street | Omaha, NE 68131 | 402-341-7761 | [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)





Easter Sunday Worship

# A City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry

## Our Mission

*This Christian fellowship of believers of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, called together in unity and life by God revealed in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, seek to fulfill its ministry in this community and the world by worshiping, growing, and serving.*

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community of nearly 2,000 members that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are the birthplace of Lutheranism in

Nebraska. We are a “City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry”. We have been worshiping, growing, and serving in the heart of downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years!

Kountze Memorial is a congregation that values vibrant liturgical worship, enriching faith formation ministries, and an unwavering commitment to serving the least of these. We also celebrate our longstanding commitment to supporting churchwide and serving ministries around the world as well as our ministry partners in Nebraska.

While Kountze is among the largest ELCA churches in Nebraska, it maintains a family-like atmosphere even though our members come from all over the city and surrounding communities. Whether you are a member of long-standing, looking for a new church home, or visiting family and friends, Kountze provides a welcoming community to everyone.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a congregation in the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

## FACTS ABOUT OUR CHURCH

**Established in 1858:** the oldest, continuous Lutheran church west of the Missouri River

**Membership:** 1897

**Average Worship attendance:** 550

**TV Ministry:** 9AM service broadcast live on Cox Cable and live streamed

**deFreese Manor:** provides secure senior housing for those 62 and over with limited income.

**Food Pantry:** Serves average of 450 every Monday

**2016 Budget:** \$ 996,681

**Mission Share:** \$125,000

**Healing Gift Free Clinic:** Provides free health care on Thursday

**Endowment:** supports capital improvements, scholarships, and outreach



# OUR STORY

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church has a glorious past! We are the birthplace of Lutheranism in Nebraska and the oldest, continuous Lutheran church west of the Missouri River, and have been worshipping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years.

Our congregation was founded in Omaha in 1858, by Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, as a mission church of the Allegheny Synod of Pennsylvania. At the time, there were no other Lutheran congregations in the area. After renting meeting facilities for a

time, our congregation built a modest church at 13th and Douglas, the current site of the Holland Performing Arts Center. A second church building followed in 1886. Later, after our congregation continued to grow, we built a grand structure on Farnam Street, which remains today.

Before and after WWI, our congregation founded 7 mission churches around the city and led

the way in providing a significant portion of the funds to move Midland College from Kansas to Fremont, Nebraska, raising \$500,000 (in today's dollars) in just 6 weeks.

the Omaha area, a ministry that continues today.

In 1982, Kountze Memorial completed deFreese Manor, an independent senior living facility for low income people, located near the church.

More recently, our congregation has focused its efforts on expanding our weekly food pantry and medical clinic, which serve hundreds each week.

In 2014, we completed a \$1.1 million renovation of our historic Aeolian-Skinner organ, which is dedicated to all those who served in WWII and

subsequent wars.

From humble beginnings, we grew to become the largest Lutheran church in the U.S. during the mid-twentieth century. Today, our congregation of nearly 2,000 members, remains a vibrant faith community truly a, "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry".



Kountze Church, circa 1920

In the 1940's, to meet the needs of our growing congregation, we embarked on an ambitious building plan, which expanded our church building by adding the Fellowship Hall, Sunday School, and church offices. In the 1960's and 70's, additional space was added for the Sunday School and church groups. In 1962, Kountze began live televised broadcasts of our Sunday worship services, reaching thousands throughout



1931 Confirmation Class



# WORSHIP



Children's Choirs

For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word and sacrament, we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world. Central to and connected with everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. Worship grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

Kountze Memorial strongly encourages all our members and families to regularly attend worship.

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all weekend services, which use resources from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.



Holy Communion

**Weekly Worship Schedule:** Saturdays at 5 PM; Sundays at 9 AM and 11 AM. The 9 AM service is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is live streamed on our church website. A special children's message is included at the 9 AM service. Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 9 AM-12 PM. Breakfast (free-will offering) is served in Fellowship Hall every Sunday from 8 AM-11 AM.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 PM in the Rotunda.

Special services are held throughout the year during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost, and include musical offerings from our ensembles and choirs.



Prayers of the Church

The music ministry at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is well known throughout Omaha and is a vibrant and vital aspect of our worship services and special events.

Our music ministry includes children, youth, and adult choirs; bells, strings, brass, woodwinds, and our historic 47 rank Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ, providing unique opportunities for all ages to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the gift of sacred music.

Our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ recently underwent a \$1.1 million refurbishment, in which the chamber was expanded and the organ completely rebuilt.



Children's Message



# WORSHIP



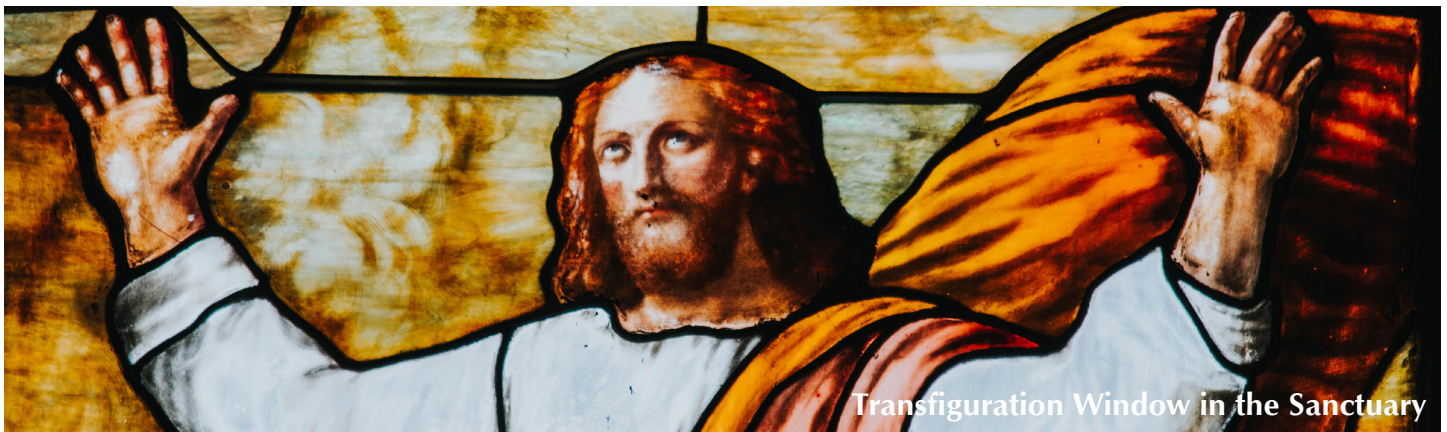
Worship Assistants



Acolytes



Adult Choir



Transfiguration Window in the Sanctuary



Holy Communion



Holy Baptism



# GROW



**Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha**

By bringing together people of all ages, Kountze Memorial strives to provide a faithful, enriching, and caring community. A variety of faith formation opportunities, some of which are highlighted below, provide a strong spiritual foundation, equip members and families for transformational faith formation, and create fellowship within the Body of Christ.

## **Sunday School & Youth Forum**

Faith formation classes for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade are held on the second floor of the education unit, above Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings from 10:10 – 11:00 a.m., and utilize fun and interactive lectionary-based curriculum. Important milestones, including confirmation, Bible Sunday, and First Communion, are also celebrated throughout the year. Youth Forum is held every Sunday for youth in grades 9-12 and includes Bible study, small group discussion, prayer, team building, guest speakers, music, and more.



**Neighborhood Gathering**

## **Youth Group**

A large middle and high school youth group meets regularly for fellowship activities, including lock-ins, weekend retreats, Good Friday Passion Walk, pool parties, and more! High School Youth also participate in annual church events, including Rally Day, the Neighborhood Gathering, Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha, and much more! We also feature regular Bible studies and a variety of service projects within the church and throughout the community.

## **Bible Studies & Heritage Series**

Adult Bible Study classes are held throughout the year in the evenings. The Heritage Series typically meets on Wednesday evenings. Both classes focus on a variety of topics and are lead by KMLC pastors and lay leaders.

## **Adult Forum**

Adult Forum is held each Sunday from 10:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A full hot breakfast, as well as coffee and cookies are served weekly. Adult Forum topics include Bible studies, current events, health



**Confirmation**

and wellness, church history, and theology, among others, as well as a variety of special church-wide events such as our annual Advent Gathering.

## **Young Mothers Group**

The Young Mothers group meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Lounge for coffee and conversation, as well as throughout the year for a variety of fun and fellowship activities.

## **Men's Lunch**

Men of Kountze, working or retired, gather on the third Thursday of every month for lunch, fellowship, and a program.

## **Lutheran Campus Ministries**

We offer a weekly contemplative liturgy with Holy Communion every Sunday evening at 9 p.m. at Creighton University. We also host/coordinate ecumenical opportunities on campus, such as the Protestant worship service for Welcome Week, as well as regular (monthly) Taizé worship.



**Adult Forum**



# GROW



Sunday School



High School Mission Trip



Adult Day Trip



Young Mother's Group



Home-bound Luncheon



Trunk or Treat



# SERVE



**Food Pantry**



**Sewing Circle**

By living out our mission to Worship, Grow, and Serve, we seek to be a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry". Members of Kountze Memorial live out their faith by regularly participating in a wide variety of service and outreach ministries and events, some of which are listed below.

## **Food Pantry & Pantry Garden**

The Pantry's mission is simple: *Feeding the Hungry in Christ's Name*. Over the course of the past two decades, our food pantry has evolved into a well-built weekly operation, with more than 70 volunteers serving an estimated 1,200 guests each month. Our Pantry Garden supplements the pantry with fresh produce. The pantry is open weekly on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## **Healing Gift Free Medical Clinic, LLC**

The Healing Gift Free Clinic, LLC, opened its doors to the public on February 25, 2010 and is an all-volunteer, free health clinic serving those in need of medical care, empowering them towards health of the body, mind and spirit. The clinic is open on Thursday afternoons, from 4-6 p.m. and provides basic medical

care and referral services.

## **Endowment**

The Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Endowment Fund extends and enhances the mission of outreach of the church beyond and apart from the programs, ministries and work of the congregation normally supported through regular offerings and pledges. Capital improvements, community and synodical ministries, national and global ministries, and Kountze media ministries are specific benevolence and outreach purposes of the fund.

## **High School Mission Trips**

Week-long high school mission trips are the highlight of the year and traditionally feature Lutheran camp experiences, a variety of worship opportunities, service projects, outdoor adventure activities, group building, sightseeing, Bible studies, prayer, and much more! Past trips include San Francisco, New Orleans, North Carolina, Montana, Boston, Salt Lake City, Detroit, and many more! Group size typically ranges from 25-35.

## **Global Mission**

Kountze Memorial supports

several missionaries abroad in addition to the American Church In Berlin, Germany, as well as disaster relief efforts, refugees, alternative gifts, Fair Trade products, and more, truly making Kountze Memorial "A City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry."

## **deFreese Manor**

More than 30 years ago, our church leaders had a vision to provide safe housing for the elderly. The facility, located at 2669 Dodge Street, just two blocks north of Kountze, has 51 apartments for senior citizens with limited income.

## **Women of the ELCA (W-ELCA)**

Women of Kountze participate in monthly circle meetings for Bible study and fellowship, serving meals at funerals and other special events, helping with Lenten and Advent suppers, sewing quilts and preparing school and health kits for Lutheran World Relief, and assisting with other service projects benefiting the Kountze Pantry, Mosaic, Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministries, Lutheran Family Services, Together Inc., and Nebraska Prison Ministry, among many others.



# SERVE



Christmas Pantry Bags



Alternative Gifts



Pantry Volunteers



Pantry Volunteers



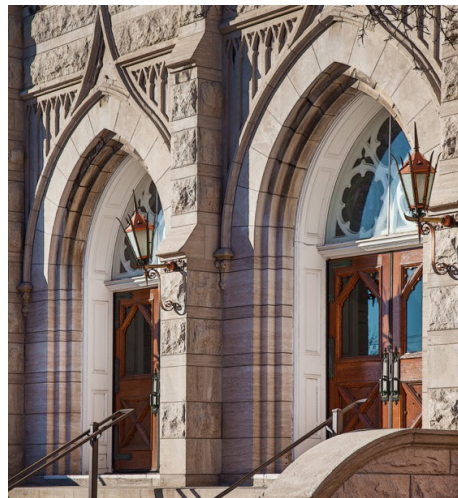
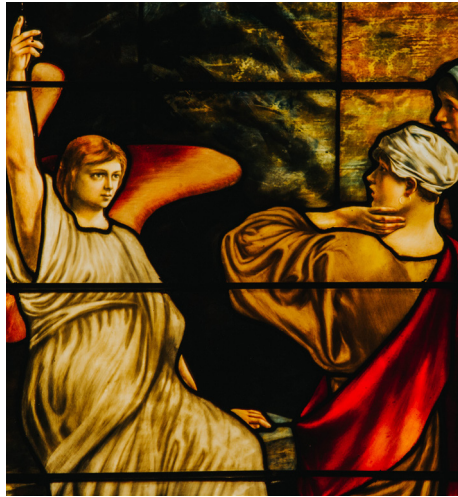
Kountze Commons Groundbreaking



Healing Gift Free Clinic



# OUR BUILDING



# OUR PARTNERS





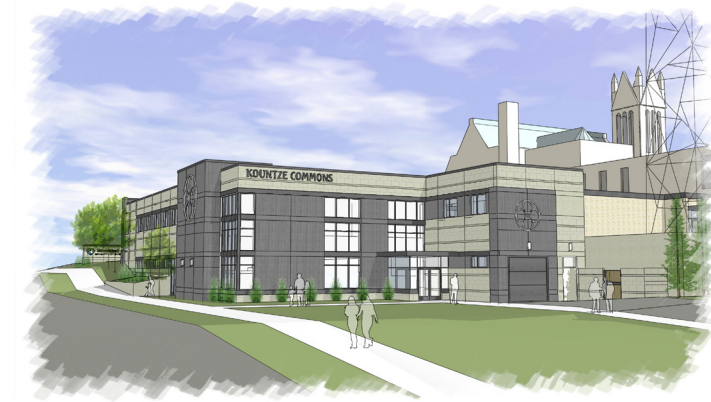
# KOUNTZE COMMONS

The vision of Kountze Commons is to engage with community partners at a strategic, accessible location to provide food assistance, primary health care, behavioral health care and social services to vulnerable populations in Omaha. Community building through education, service and the arts animates and informs the mission.

In late spring, 2013, KETV Channel 7 in Omaha, neighbor to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for over 50 years, announced that Burlington Station on 10th Street would become its new broadcast center. Soon thereafter, negotiations were initiated which led to the church acquiring the property in 2015, for the expansion of its mission, especially its outreach to people in need and to the wider community.

When the property was acquired, facility constraints had already halted the growth of two key missions of Kountze Memorial, the Kountze Food Pantry and the Healing Gift Free Clinic. In 2014 and 2015, the total number of clientele served in the Food Pantry was 19,574 and 19,435, respectively. It is on course to serve a similar number of clients this year. Factors resulting in this "flat" growth rate include limited storage facilities, no refrigeration capacity and inefficient distribution. With the proposed facilities, prospects for growth are enhanced. Possibilities

under consideration include: 1. extending the hours and days of service; 2. providing perishable foods and commodities which require refrigeration; 3. offering



ethnic specific foods, especially for recent immigrants. The Food Pantry is a resource of last resort. People are served without eligibility requirements or limits as to the number of times they may be served in a stated period.

In the six years since the opening of the Free Clinic, there has been steady growth in the number of requests for service that could not be met.



A limit of 40 to 50 patients are seen weekly, by appointment only. New patients wait for appointments for 6 to 7 weeks, an unacceptable period of time to delay medical attention. The goal to integrate social and behavioral health services with primary medical care at the

Free Clinic also is constrained. It is clear that the pressing need, represented by patients awaiting first appointments, would be addressed if adequate, appropriate space were provided.

The proposed facilities will enable these two current programs to grow and flourish. Moreover, new partnerships involving

community service organizations of proven excellence are coming to bear at Kountze Commons.

By agreement with Methodist Health System, the Renaissance Health Clinic at 36th and Cuming Streets will move to the facility as Methodist Community Health Clinic. It will occupy 4,426 square feet and feature seven exam rooms. At a news conference earlier this year, Dr. Lindsay Northam, director of the clinic, stated: "A growing need for medical care across the city brings us to our new location at 26th and Douglas. With more exam rooms and larger clinic space, the ability to see more patients who need care is truly exciting." According to Dr. Northam, the location at 26th and Douglas is strategically important to meeting the "growing need" which she has experienced first hand.

An additional vision of Kountze Commons is to provide programs of service and enrichment through the arts, to youth and families in the wider community. These facilities will enhance our ability to meet those needs in our neighborhood.



# PASTORS AND STAFF



**Rev. Dean Bard**  
Interim Senior Pastor



**Rev. H. Ashley Hall**  
Assoc. Pastor for Adult Faith  
Formation



**Rev. Paul Moessner**  
Interim Assoc. Pastor



**Rev. Inba Inbarasu**  
Visitation Pastor



**Debbie Bogue**  
Office Manager



**Ian Hartfield**  
Dir. of Congregational  
Life



**Norma Pafford**  
Nursery Superintendent



**John Bogue**  
Building  
Superintendent



**Linda Johnson**  
Wedding Coordinator



**Joyce Palmer**  
Urban Ministry  
Coordinator



**Danny Bos**  
Bell Choir Director



**Mark Jones**  
Organist



**Sheri Tipton**  
Night Security



**Barb Carlsen**  
Director of Music  
and Fine Arts



**Katie Larson**  
Dir. of Children, Youth,  
and Family Ministries



**Sharon West**  
deFreese Manor  
Administrator



**David Gerard**  
Saturday Accompanist



**Vicki Meyer**  
Community  
Counselor



**Amanda Zasada**  
Administrative  
Assistant



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