

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 10 & 11, 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

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Karen Bonneau in celebration of her baptismal 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

#### Children's Choir

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

**Grades K-6**

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### Sunday School

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Games

**Next Week:** Congregational Meeting

#### Adult Forum

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

**Next Week:** Congregational Meeting

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### February 11 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord  
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  
10:10 AM 2024 Budget Presentation  
11:30 AM Youth Gathering Lunch  
@Immanuel in Bellevue  
12:15 PM Book Group

### February 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
5:00 PM KCCOC Board

### February 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
**February 14 Wednesday**  
Ash Wednesday  
Valentine's Day  
9:00 AM Sewing Group  
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese  
Manor  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
6:30 PM Worship

### February 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
Good News Deadline  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### February 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 17 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### February 18 Sunday

Lent 1  
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  
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Wednesdays in Lent

#### "Created for Community"

Wednesdays, February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20

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

This year, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday coincide, creating a unique opportunity to celebrate love and spirituality together. We encourage all members to bring their valentine to lunch or dinner before joining us for Ash Wednesday worship. It's a special day to cherish both love and faith, and we look forward to sharing this meaningful experience with our community. Join us for a heartwarming meal and a soulful start to the season of Lent. If you would like to help Jim and Crew in the kitchen for any of the Lenten meals - lunch and/or dinner - please contact Jim Smejkal in the church office or at [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org). No experience necessary.

### Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

#### February 14 - March 31

The Kountze Food Pantry will hold a spring food drive this Lenten season to show how we Love Thy Neighbor. The Love They 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](mailto:jill@kmlchurch.org) or [jill@kountzecommons.org](mailto:jill@kountzecommons.org).

### Men's Lunch

In February, there won't be a Men's Lunch, but there's a tentative plan to gather in March with the delightful possibility of corned beef and cabbage. Given the busy season of Lenten Meals, we'll give Chef Jim a touch of flexibility to our plans. Stay tuned for updates, and let's look forward to a potential March Men's Lunch!

### Women's Lenten Retreat

#### Hear Us! Heal us! Send Us!

Saturday, February 24

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10 (Pay at the Door)

Join Spiritual Directors Lisa Kramme, Midland University Campus Ministry and Pastor David Pinkston, NE Synod Director of "Seeking the Spirit Within," for a time of learning spiritual practices to guide us through the Lenten season. Lunch will be served. Sign up today to save your spot. Please RSVP to the church office by February 19. You may also register online at

<https://form.jotform.com/232905425173050>

## 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](http://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](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

## UFO (Unfinished Objects) Retreats

**March 17 - 19, 2024**

**April 21 - 23, 2024**

**July 7 - 9, 2024**

**September 22 - 24, 2024**

**October 20 - 22, 2024**

**December 6 - 8, 2024**

### Carol Joy Holling Camp

These retreats are for crafters of any kind. Bring your own projects and use this time away to get caught up or do new projects! It's a great time to meet new friends, learn new skills, and be inspired by others' creativity. These retreats fill up fast - there's a wait list for March - so be sure to sign up early! Register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/5ymm67rp>

## 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>

## 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](mailto: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 gloves to the Pantry. They came at the perfect time to coincide with the bitterly cold weather we experienced in January. We are once again requesting contributions of toothbrushes and toothpaste. One of our goals is to always provide oral health products, along with razors, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products. If you would like to donate, you may leave your gifts in the box marked "Food Pantry" in Fellowship Hall, or order online and send directly to the church at 2650 Farnam St 68131. Be sure to set delivery dates to Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, closed holidays. If you would like to advance the ministry, consider volunteering by signing up at the following link:

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



## Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, 2/1/2024—Wednesday, 2/7/2024**

**Saturday: 30**

**Sunday: 9:00: 149 11:00: 75**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 12**

**Total: 278**

**Streaming: 44**

**Pantry Guests Served: 957 (inc. 300 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13**

**Offering:**

\$18,519.91 (Regular)

\$3,262.42 (Specials)

\$495.60 (Debt Reduction)

*Disciples humbly grow in their understanding of Jesus.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah is taken into heaven
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Proclaiming Jesus as Lord
Wednesday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Thursday	Colossians 1:3-14	A prayer of thanks
Friday	Hebrews 5:11-14	Warning against turning away
Saturday	Psalms 50:1-6	God shines brightly
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"* **Mark 9:7 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Awesome God, help us humbly to live a life that reflects your power and glory meant for us and all the world through Jesus Christ, your Beloved. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to see in this meal your power and glory that shines brightly; give us thankful hearts for this food provided for us by your love. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith in Christ.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something you want to learn more about?
- What questions would you like to ask Jesus about his life?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 9:2-9.

Transfiguration Sunday serves as a bridge between Epiphany and Lent. Epiphany includes many stories revealing who Jesus is through his teachings and miracles. Lent is the season that reflects on being a follower who is true to Jesus as Savior and Lord. The transfiguration story in Mark 9 comes amid three accounts of Jesus' suffering and death (Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, and 10:32-34). The transfiguration story ends by pointing to Jesus rising from the dead. On the mountain, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. This is a scene that perceives the end of history when Elijah and Moses were expected to return. It is a defining moment for Jesus. Peter, James, and John were terrified, and Peter spoke but did not really know what to say. The disciples were to be silent and listen to Jesus. When we think of Jesus' journey to the cross, we, too, as Jesus' disciples are asked to reflect, listen, and humbly grow in our understanding of who Jesus is as the Son of God and the Beloved.

*Discuss:* How do you think the transfiguration of Jesus made a difference for Peter, James, and John?

*Pray:* **Ever-present God, help us to see and trust that your saving work is with us so that we may not fear, complain, or forget your goodness to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 someone grow in the Christian faith?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The church season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, February 14. There are 40 days in the season of Lent, a time to refocus our lives on God. One spiritual practice that Christians emphasize during Lent is prayer. Make this Lent a time of prayer for others. Use separate pieces of paper to write the name of a person you can pray for during Lent. Place these papers into a prayer box. Each day in Lent, pull out a slip of paper from the prayer box and ask God to care for and bless the person named. Add names to the box throughout Lent.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15