

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

February 17 & 18, 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 in memory of Marvin Andersen by his family.

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

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: Congregational Meeting

Next Week: Intergenerational Faith Formation

Adult Forum

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

Next Week: Intergenerational Faith Formation

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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



February 19 Monday

President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

February 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

February 21 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship

February 22 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 23 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 24 Saturday

10:00 AM Women's Lenten Retreat
5:00 PM Worship

February 25 Sunday

Lent 2
Intergenerational Faith Formation
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Wednesdays in Lent

"Created for Community"

Wednesdays, February 21, 28, 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.

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 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 or jill@kountzecommons.org.

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 Lent 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 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

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>

Good News

As we gear up for another edition of the *Good News*, we're reaching out to you for a little extra support in the collating department. And, we serve lunch! So, if you're up for a bit of teamwork and a whole lot of fun, join us in this delightful adventure of collating camaraderie. If you're able to lend a hand in this behind-the-scenes task, please call the church office to let us know. We usually put the *Good News* together sometime during the last week of the month from about 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM(ish). We'll get together for the March *Good News* on Wednesday, February 28. You can take part in the Lenten lunch and then Worship at 12:15 if you would like. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our church community in such a meaningful way.

ELCA Youth Gathering/Young Adult Gathering Meeting

March 3

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

All participants attending the Gathering this summer will get together for an information, relationship-building, and lunch meeting. We will join with the group from Immanuel in Bellevue at their church (104 Galvin Rd. N). If you would like to donate toward the trip, please go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z45H/home> and click on Youth Mission Trip Sponsorships. Thank you for your support.

March 8—9, 2024

8:00 PM—8:00 AM

Grades 6—8

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Carol Joy Holling Camp is hosting yet another Middle School Lock-in this Spring! Join in the fun of night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God. This lock-in provides the chance for youth attending Summer Camp, and/or Confirmation Camp the opportunity to begin diving into God's grace and growing in faith. Youth that is just wishing to spend time with friends, learn more about God, and have a fun time will also find a meaningful message at this lock-in and an experience they can take with them for the rest of their lives. Cost: \$35 per camper and includes lodging, meals, and programming from 8:00 PM on Friday through 8:00 AM on Saturday. A tentative schedule and registration can be found at: <https://www.cjhcenter.org/lock-in>

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.

Mark your Calendars for Movie Night!

Sunday, March 10

High School, College, and Young Adults will be heading to the movies. Watch for the time and place. If you have ideas of movies that you would like to see, let Dannika Rees or Brooks Hinrichs know or contact the church office and we can pass it on.

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 the Fellowship Hall, or order online and send directly to the church. 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, 2/8/2024—Wednesday, 2/14/2024

Saturday: 43

Sunday: 9:00: 176 **11:00:** 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 86 **6:30:** 120

Streaming: 61

Pantry Guests Served: 922 (inc. 317 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$11,191.11 (Regular)

\$1,045.77 (Specials)

\$418.33 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus brings the good news of God's reign.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 9:8-17	God's promise to Noah
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:18-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Romans 14:13-23	Do not make someone stumble
Thursday	Psalms 16:5-11	Song of trust
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	Prayer for guidance
Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." Mark 1:14-15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you love what you have created; we thank you for your protection and that you come to bring us peace, joy, and love through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you remember the lowly and the hungry; we thank you for remembering us with your love and with this meal that gives us strength. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the good news of Jesus give you joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How would you survive in the wilderness?
- How would you describe God's reign to someone?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:9-15.

It is easy to miss the power and drama of Jesus' message that now is the time for the kingdom of God. His message seems so brief. Yet, in Jesus, God's reign is taking on all other claims to power and glory. The arrest of John the Baptist calls attention to another kind of power, the kind that seeks to control and destroy. In a world ordered by inequalities, unfairness, and brutality, another power is needed that can take on such harmful ways. That power is seen in Jesus' ability to take on Satan's deceitful testing of him. We also see it in Jesus being protected from wild beasts that could otherwise cause harm. God's justice and mercy has always championed life, love, and peace. Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, now steps out of his baptismal waters with the power of God's Spirit and takes on all forms of evil and death. We are now called to join this kingdom by turning away from destructive powers and trusting this good and awesome news and kingdom that Jesus brings.

Discuss: How do you see God's kingdom in Jesus bringing you and the world good news?

Pray: **Merciful and loving God, give us courage to trust the power and presence of your reign of life, love, and peace through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son, our Redeemer and 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 bring Jesus' message of love and peace to others?

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. Lay out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place seven votive candles or battery-operated votive candles in the shape of a cross on the cloth. Light one of the candles this first week in Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross. *Then pray:* **Dear God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and goodness that forgives and renews us in Christ. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38