

## 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 24 & 25, 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 given by Robert & Pat Ranney in memory of Pat's Sister

#### **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:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

**Next Week:** Current Events

#### **Adult Forum**

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

**Next Week:** Review of Lenten Theme

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### February 25 Sunday

Lent 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—  
Intergenerational Faith Formation

### February 26 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### February 28 Wednesday

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

### February 29 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### March 1 Friday

Scholarship Application Deadline  
5:00 PM Pantry

### March 2 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### March 3 Sunday

Lent 3  
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  
11:30 AM Youth Gathering/Young  
Adult Gathering Meeting at  
Immanuel in Bellevue  
3:00 PM Bowling (gr 4-6)

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Wednesdays in Lent

#### “Created for Community”

Wednesdays, February 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.

#### Menu for February 28

Choice of lasagna soup or broccoli cheese soup  
Pulled pork sliders  
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 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).

### 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.

### 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)

### **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>

#### **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>

#### **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.

#### **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](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) to register your child up for this class. You can also register at the Welcome Desk or on jotform at

<https://form.jotform.com/240464462505150>

#### **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.

#### **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, 2/15/2024—Wednesday, 2/21/2024**

**Saturday:** 34

**Sunday: 9:00:** 135 **11:00:** 76

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 43 **6:30:** 59

**Streaming:** 46

**Pantry Guests Served:** 134 (inc. 29 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 15

**Offering:**

\$28,202.14 (Regular)      \$3,854.13 (Specials)

\$812.00 (Debt Reduction)

From despair to praise, God is with us.



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Psalms 63	Comfort in God's power
Friday	Ezekiel 36:21-28	God will make God's people clean
Saturday	Psalms 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

From you [God] comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. Psalm 22:25-26a (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for bringing us into your kingdom that is like no other, a power and rule filled with love and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food, a gift of love that gives us strength to praise you for your faithfulness to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your life in Christ give you hope.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell about a time you or someone you know felt rejected or in despair.
- Do you believe that God can help us overcome pain? Explain.

## DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 22:23-31 and Mark 8:31-38.

Psalm 22 begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (v. 1). The psalmist, in verses 23-31, then utters praise with a new understanding of his/her life and identity in the presence of God. Jesus calls us to give up any self-identity that is not grounded in God through Jesus when he says, "let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34b). Psalm 22 expresses a similar point. We, ourselves, are not defined by our hurts, suffering, or disappointments, but by God. There is a move from despair to praise after recognizing that God has not left the psalmist (or us) in pain. What defines us is the God who delivers us and frees us through Christ. In Psalm 22, God's power and glory reaches the ends of the earth, even the dead and those unborn (vv. 29-31). Like the psalmist in Psalm 22, Peter in Mark 8:33 experiences rejection, but we know that one day he will join in the praise expressed at the end of this psalm. A life of praise to God and God's ways will change Peter just as it changed the psalmist and just as it changes us.

Discuss: How does God's power lead us from rejection to praise?

Pray: Life-changing God, help us to see your glory at work in the world and to trust that in Jesus Christ your kingdom has come to put an end to all evil and suffering. 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 who is going through a difficult time?

## 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 two 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 God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22