

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 9 & 10, 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: Spiritual Practices

Next Week: “Created to Be” Bible Study

Adult Forum

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

Next Week: Council Structure & Goals, cont'd.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Movie Night!

Sunday, March 10

3:35 PM

High School, College, and Young Adults

We will meet at Twin Creek Theaters (3909 Raynor Pkwy, Bellevue) for the movie Kung Fu Panda 4. We'll have time to get tickets, concessions are on your own, and get settled to enjoy the movie. You are welcome to bring a friend.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 10 Sunday

Lent 4
Daylight Savings—spring ahead 1 hour
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 Book Group
5:00 PM Night Out at the Movies
High School, College, and Young Adults

March 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship

March 14 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 15 Friday

Good News Deadline
5:00 PM Pantry

March 16 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

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

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 AM – Noon (free-will offering)
- Supper: 5 – 6:30 PM (free-will offering)

Join us for a meal followed by Worship each Wednesday during Lent. Everyone is welcome.

Menu for March 6

Choice of Chili or
Creamy Potato Soup
Ham or Chicken Salad 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 or jill@kountzecommons.org.

First Communion Classes

Sundays, March 17 & 24

12 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. You can also register at the Welcome Desk or online at:

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

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 Center.

Bach Birthday Trivia:

<https://www.cathedralartsproject.org/copy-of-2024-flower-festival#bach-quiz>

Watch and listen to one of Mr. Laube's performances:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDf0pipkW6U>

11th Annual Heart of Camp Gala

April 6, 2024

A View West Shores

We are invited to the eleventh annual Heart of Camp Gala to bring Faith: Alive! by celebrating the work done through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Your participation and generosity at this year's Gala will enable NLOM to provide opportunities to campers no matter where they are in life. All are welcome here, in these places where we live out faith in ways that show everyone they belong and are unconditionally loved by God. Mark your calendar! **RSVPs are due by March 15.** For auction, sponsor, and ticket information go to:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/gala>

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 PM (after Worship)

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

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!

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to everyone who donated so generously to the Kountze Food Pantry. The gloves, hats, scarves and socks were greatly appreciated and needed by our guests in the frigid weeks of January. Your donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and other personal care items are always needed and welcomed. Currently the greatest and most urgent need is for volunteers. A small group of dedicated faithful are receiving, moving and restocking almost 10,000 lbs. of goods every Monday morning. If you or anyone you know can assist us in our mission of "Feeding the Poor, in Christ's Name", please sign up at the link below.

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

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 2/29/2024—Wednesday, 3/6/2024

Saturday: 35

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 68

Wednesday: 12:15: 41 6:30: 69

Streaming: 52

Pantry Guests Served: 853 (inc. 328 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$19,384.40 (Regular) \$3,899.76 (Specials)

\$546.00 (Debt Reduction)

God is rich in mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The serpent of bronze
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Faith is a gift from God
Wednesday	Romans 9:6-18	God's choice of Israel
Thursday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Friday	Titus 3:1-8	Maintain good deeds
Saturday	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, your love for us is more than we deserve but all that we need and want through Jesus Christ, your Son who came to give us eternal life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your kindness to us is everlasting; we thank you for your daily love for us that includes this gift of food. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy of God be your everlasting joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you needed to ask for help with something because you could not do it alone?
- A relationship with God is a gift that only God can give us. How is this a challenge to our desire to control our own destiny?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10.

These verses are packed with powerful themes, some of which pose a challenge to make-it-on-your-own individualism and flawed self-confidence. Ephesians points out that 1) we were spiritually dead because of our brokenness, 2) our misguided passions for pleasure lead us away from God, 3) only God's mercy, grace, and love can intervene to renew our lives in Christ, and 4) God's intervention gives us a new and God-focused passion to do good works, not to earn anything but to simply live as we were created to be. Once we get beyond a sense of making it on our own in life—including making it spiritually with God—we are set free to experience lives that *"God prepared beforehand to be our way of life"* (v. 10). God's nature is love and mercy. In the language of Psalm 107:1, God is good and God's *"steadfast love endures forever."* Similarly, Ephesians 2:8 summarizes much of our biblical faith: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."*

Discuss: How does God's mercy and grace make a difference in your daily life?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for your love that never ceases to reach out to us with your saving grace through Jesus Christ. 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 show love and mercy to someone who is hurting?

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 four 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:* **Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and into the light of Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen.** (John 3:16)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33