

## 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)

January 20 & 21, 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.

#### New Member Class—Change of Date

January 21

10:15 AM

Due to inclement weather, the class for January 14 was postponed to this Sunday, January 21. At this time the date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> class has not been determined. That information will be available at the class this Sunday.

### 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

Lower Level Youth Room

**This week:** Join the Adult Forum this Sunday

**Next Week:** Bible Study "Created to Be"

#### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Lutheranism in America: Charles Porterfield Krauth

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

Monday #4 #7:00 AM

Epiphany 3

Dinners for Eight Sign-up Deadline

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

Monday #5 #10:00 AM

Pantry

Monday #6 #9:00 AM

Staff Meeting

11:30 AM Endowment Board

12:30 PM Circle 3

Monday #7 #12:15 PM

Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

Monday #8 #1:00 PM

Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Monday #9 #5:00 PM

Pantry

7:00 PM High School Lock-In @

Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue (gr 9

-12) (7:00 PM-7:00 AM)

Monday # : #5:00 PM

Worship

#

#

#

Monday # ; #7:00 AM

Epiphany 4

Annual Report Deadline

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

4:00 PM NeLCM - Evensong

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Photos

If you have any group photos from 2017 – 2021 and you would be willing to share with the church office, we would be most grateful. We want to make sure we have a photo of each of the Confirmation Classes of KMLC.

### Dinners for 8

Consider signing up to join a dinners for 8 group in February, March, and April. It is a time when your group will have a meal together each month. This meal can take place in homes, in restaurants, or at the church. Or you may decide to attend a fish fry or another organization's fundraiser. It is up to your group. Please **sign up by today** at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office. You will be informed about the groups, so you can begin to find times and places to meet.

### Annual Reports

#### Due January 28

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have it turned in to Debbie Bogue no later than January 28. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

### High School Lock-In

with Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue

Friday, January 26

7:00 PM – 7:00 AM

All in High School are invited to join in the fun at a Lock-In taking place at Immanuel in Bellevue. It will provide a time for those going to the Youth Gathering to build relationships. All attending will share in bible study, games, and a time to get to know each other.

Bring your sleeping bag, as sleep will be part of the agenda, to make sure we get what we need to stay healthy. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow! RSVP to Pastor

Shari by Wednesday, January 24.

### Evensong - A Grand Choir Experience

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry

Sunday, January 28

St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> St)

4:00-7:00 PM

We have been invited to come and experience the warmth found when gathered together for worship, music, faith, and food. There are many ways to get involved to support this important ministry for young adults.

1. Volunteer to bring your favorite pot of Chili to represent us in the Chili Cook-off.
2. Put together a gift basket or give a week at a vacation home for the silent auction.
3. Join with other voices from around Omaha for the Grand Choir Experience.
4. Let the church office know how you can participate.

Everyone is welcome. Childcare is available. Free will offering to Omaha Campus Ministry is encouraged. Come and support this event and join in Holden Evening Prayer Worship! Use the following link to get involved through choir, chili cook-off, and silent auction.

<http://tinyurl.com/4be4k4bd>

### Recovery Celebration Service

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18<sup>th</sup> Street

February 7, 2024—please note date change

7:00 PM

Each year Trinity hosts a Recovery Eucharist for the Diocese of Nebraska commemorating Dr. Samuel Shoemaker who was the Episcopal priest advising Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. in developing the 12 Steps. All are welcome to attend.

## Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling!

### Register by January 31 for Early Bird Pricing

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost if you register by January 31. If you register after this date, 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)

and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to

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

## Women's Lenten Retreat

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

Saturday, February 24

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$10

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.

## 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)

## Television Ministry

Did you know Kountze has a Television production room? Well, we do, and the production crew would be glad to show you how everything works. If you have any

experience with computers, we can train you so you can be a part of this community ministry. High school youth, this is a great way to get your high school community service hours! Come and check it out.

## Kountze Food Pantry

In January we will continue to need gloves, especially for adult men. As the coldest months of the year approach, these items will be needed most of all. You may leave them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall or consider ordering online and having them delivered directly to the Church. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission to "Feed the Poor in Christ's Name", please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

## Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, & TV Broadcast

The new sign-up posters are now available. Be sure to sign up for your special date early so it's still available. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50 and sponsoring a TV broadcast is \$210.

## Join Us in Spreading Joy: Offer a Ride to Church!

Are you looking for a simple yet impactful way to make a difference in someone's day? Consider sharing the gift of a ride to church! Your willingness to offer a ride even one or two weeks a month can brighten someone else's Sunday. Please call or email the church office to see if there's someone in your neighborhood or on your way to church that would like a ride. Open your heart and car doors to help others experience the joy of attending church.

## 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>

## Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 1/11/2024 — Wednesday, 1/17/24

Services & Pantry cancelled due to inclement weather

Wednesday: 12:15: 3

Streaming: 49

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering: Not available at time of printing

*Repentance turns us to the power of God's mercy.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Live without anxiety
Wednesday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's ways are not our ways
Thursday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for forgiveness
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Paul's visions
Saturday	Psalms 62:5-12	God is powerful and kind
Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and mercy, help us to be open to the depth and breadth of your power of love that reaches others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you feed us with the life-giving power of this food, feed us with your love to care for others in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you find it hard to love certain people? Explain.
- What do you think about God showing love and mercy to people who upset you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and 4:1-4.

It is easy to get caught up in debates about whether or not Jonah was swallowed by a whale. We can miss the point—and the real miracle—of the whole book. Jonah ran away from God because God directed Jonah to preach repentance to the city of Nineveh. The great miracle in the book of Jonah is that Nineveh repented! The city was known as a corrupt, violent, and ungodly place. Jonah's harsh warning that the city would be overthrown in forty days brought the people—including the king—to repentance. Jonah was displeased about this outcome. He knew the steadfast love and mercy of God and did not want it to be given to Nineveh. Jonah didn't want God to love the people that Jonah didn't love at all. The message in the book of Jonah for us is to stop despising the people God loves. God's steadfast love is great. Even though we feel some do not deserve God's love and mercy, they may receive it anyway. Our call to repentance is the same kind of turning away from a world as we want it and be open to the power of God's kingdom to make all things new.

*Discuss:* When have you been surprised to see the power of God's love in the lives of those you felt were undeserving?

*Pray:* **God of abundant grace, help us to trust that your ways are not our ways and that your ways are filled with a love and mercy for all through your Son 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, what can you do to extend God's love to someone you dislike?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We read about Jesus calling the first disciples in Mark 1:16-20. They were fishermen. The fish is an important Christian symbol. Each letter in the Greek spelling of the word "fish" (*IXTHUS*) begins a Greek word that stands for "Jesus Christ Son of God Savior." During the early church, it was dangerous to be a Christian in some parts of the Roman Empire. Believers developed a code to reveal their faith to others who were Christian. One person would draw on the ground the upper half of a fish symbol. If the other person was a Christian, they would recognize this and add a second curve line to complete the drawing of a fish. Draw a simple fish design. Place it in a visible place in your home as a reminder of your faith in Jesus.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28