

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

January 27 & 28, 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.

Welcome New Members

Sunday, January 28

A warm welcome to our newest members as they join Kountze Memorial! We are delighted to have them as part of our congregation. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves. Their names are in this weekend's bulletin insert. We look forward to growing together in faith and community.

Annual Reports

Due This Sunday, January 28

Evensong - A Grand Choir Experience

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry

Sunday, January 28

St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd 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.

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!

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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: Camp 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:** Reception of New Members and Camp Sunday

Next Week: Lutheranism in America: Charles Porterfield Krauth

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 28, Sunday

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

January 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

January 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 31 Wednesday

CJH Camp Early Bird Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

February 1 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 2 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

February 3 Saturday

Campbell Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

February 4 Sunday

Epiphany 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

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.

Recovery Celebration Service

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th 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

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>

Luther College Nordic Choir Concert

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

1517 S 114th St, Omaha

Thursday, February 1

7:00 PM

Cost: \$20 or \$10 for Students

You may purchase your tickets at

<https://tickets.luther.edu/Online/seatSelect.asp>

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 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

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.

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>

Kountze Food Pantry

We 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>



Attendance & Giving

January 18 — January 24

Saturday: 26

Sunday: 9:00: 113 **11:00:** 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 6

Total: 211

Streaming: 70

Pantry Guests Served: 1,119 (inc. 392 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering: January 11 — January 24

\$34,739.78 (Regular) \$4,426.82 (Specials)

\$4,426.82 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus shows his power over evil.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A new prophet like Moses
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Love builds up others
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Thursday	Luke 4:31-37	The man with the unclean spirit
Friday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise for God's wonderful works
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [worshippers] were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching-with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." **Mark 1:27 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, we thank you for being with us in the challenges of life; help us to live lives of praise to you through Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in your grace and mercy you remember us and feed us. We thank you for this meal and your faithfulness to all. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 111:4-7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of God protect you through Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or talk about a time you felt your life was out of control.
- Do you turn to God when life feels out of control? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:21-28.

It is revealing that in this reading in Mark, the first act of Jesus beyond teaching is an exorcism. What is doubly revealing is that in the Gospel of John, there are no exorcisms. For Mark, this act of Jesus is critical. A man with an unclean spirit was helpless in the face of powers he could not control. Sin, the human condition of brokenness and alienation from God, is the fundamental power that we cannot control. Whatever form it takes, an unclean spirit taps into a life that needs redemption. The unclean spirits of murder, adultery, false witness, racism, and more are examples of our readiness to thoughts and actions that destroy instead of give life. Jesus came to redeem us so that we may live lives of praise to God and love for all others. It is quite fitting that Jesus' first act is an exorcism. Jesus will do battle with myriad forms of human brokenness and win. This is Mark's way of describing the *"beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* (Mark 1:1).

Discuss: How would you describe the good news of Jesus for us?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we give you praise for your power that conquers evil for the sake of all that you have created through Jesus Christ, 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 help someone who feels powerless over a specific situation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 2 is the Church festival day for the "Presentation of the Lord." The festival recalls that forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem. This festival is also known as "Candlemas" because of the tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the coming year. This is associated with Simeon's words about Jesus being *"a light to reveal God to the nations."* (Luke 2:32) Light a new candle to use this year as part of your devotions and pray: **Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a bright light in our lives. Bless us as we gather around this candle. May it remind us that Jesus is with us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39