

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

April 13 & 14, 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

Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle are given to the glory of God in honor of Mary Martens from her 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.

Easter Book Group Continues

Sundays in April

12:30 PM

Place: KMLC/Kountze Commons Link

We are reading & discussing the book *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Ross Murray. The group will meet on Sunday afternoons in April. Ross Murray was the featured speaker at the annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly last fall. He is an ordained deacon in the ELCA, vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute, and the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies.

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-6

Join us on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (childcare for those too old for the nursery).

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

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: The Creed: “He Died” and “On the Third Day Rose Again”

Next Week: The Creed: “He Ascended into Heaven”

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, May 5 (please note date change). Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 14 Sunday

Easter 3

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

12:15 PM Book Group

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

5:00 PM Dress Up Mystery Dinner
(grades 9 - Young Adult)

April 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

5:00 PM KCCOC Board

April 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

April 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's

April 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

April 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 20 Saturday

Barrett & Fleming Wedding

9:00 AM Explore! Day Retreat (gr. 1-6)

Camp CJH

5:00 PM Worship

April 21 Sunday

Easter 4

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Classes Continue

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

ELCA Social Statement Conversation and Official Hearing Engage in Conversation about the ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith Continues

Thursday, April 18, 7 - 8 PM (Zoom)

The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. For more information or register to attend by Zoom at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4tzk8vyy>

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

There isn't a program or menu planned at this time, but Jim never let's us down! Plan to join the guys for lunch and RSVP by Tuesday, April 16.

Explore! Day Retreat

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Explore! gives children the perfect opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building out at CJH Camp. In addition to Bible study and worship, we will be experiencing many favorite camp activities together as we share in fun and fellowship. Every Explore! Day Retreat is different, so

first-time and long-time participants can both join in the fun as we focus on environmental education, fellowship, and faith! Cost: \$25 per camper. This cost includes meals and programming on Saturday. A tentative schedule and registration can be found at: <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

SHAREomaha Do Good Days April 24-27

Use [SHAREomaha.org](https://www.shareomaha.org) to connect to volunteering opportunities that fit your passions, schedule, skills, and more. You don't have to wait to do good. Start exploring [volunteer opportunities](#) today so nonprofits know they can count on your support during Do Good Days. Volunteers have value — approximately \$32/hour. If you can't do good during Do Good Days, give good! [Give \\$32 to your favorite causes](#) here at [SHAREomaha.org](https://www.shareomaha.org); it is a one-stop shop for donating to multiple organizations at once.

Honoring All Graduates Sunday, April 28 9 or 11 AM

Reception: 10:10 - 10:50 AM

If you have graduated in the past year or will graduate this spring, please let us know. On April 28 we will uplift the names of all who are celebrating a graduation during the year. Call the church office **by April 15** at 402-341-7761 or email shari@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you. A Quilt Blessing for high school graduates will take place on that date. There will also be a reception of Congratulations and Celebration in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. If you forget, we have some that you can write on at the Welcome Desk. A listing of all graduates will be in the May Good News and the Sunday bulletin on April 21 and 28.

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing Sunday, April 28 9 or 11 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place on April 28 from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos by **Friday, April 19** to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time to shari@kmlchurch.org.

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>

Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar with a Cajun Flair & Bingo Night Sunday, May 5

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Cost: Free-will Donation

Support our youth and young adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. We'll play different forms of BINGO with prizes beginning at 5:15 PM. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend or two! Reservations are not necessary but will help with planning the meal. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you'll be attending.

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 toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for our guests at the Kountze Food Pantry. Our goal is to always have these items available along with soap and razors. In April, we are collecting disposable razors and shaving cream or foam. 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, 4/4/2024—Wednesday, 4/10/2024

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 142 11:00: 76

Wednesday: 12:15: 14

Streaming: 44

Pantry Guests Served: 947 (inc. 345 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Offering:

\$14,435.2 (Regular) \$2,212.98 (Specials)

\$1,411.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' resurrection brings peace and forgiveness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Thursday	Acts 26:19-23	Paul tells of his preaching
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd



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

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. Psalm 4:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for Jesus' resurrection that brings us peace and forgiveness of sins that we may go to bed each night trusting in your care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food. Give food to those who do not have enough to eat and protection for those who do not feel safe, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ our Lord give you peace and gladness.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- In what ways do you show hospitality to others?
- How does hospitality foster peace and forgiveness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:36b-48.

The resurrection does not immediately clear up all our questions about faith and life. What does the resurrected body look like? What does the life of the church look like after Jesus' resurrection? Jesus comes as flesh and blood to speak, eat, and drink with his followers. The physical world matters. This is not a time to speculate about ghosts and life beyond earthly existence. The resurrection values God's creation. At least two important resurrection messages are present in this text. First, hospitality is shown by the sharing of life-giving food. Sustaining one another with food and community life goes on as a holy practice. Second, repentance and forgiveness of sins remains at the heart of the work of Jesus' followers. The resurrection celebrates life, community, peace, and forgiveness as essentials that will not be overcome by death, isolation, fear, or sin. Thanks be to God for the eternal power of God's reign shown to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

Discuss: What questions do you have about the resurrection and what it means for your life today?

Pray: **God of eternal life, give us confidence to breathe peace, joy, forgiveness, and new beginnings into all our relationships through Christ Jesus, our resurrected Lord and Savior. 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 care for the physical needs of others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There are times at night when we worry about something and can't sleep. Psalm 4 is a prayer for help. It is a prayer that reaches out with confidence in God's love and care. The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's presence in our lives. Bedtime prayers are daily rituals that can have a powerful influence in our lives. At bedtime this week, take a moment to think or talk about something that may be keeping you awake at night. *Pray:* **Dear Lord, be gracious to me, and hear my prayer that I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen.** (Psalm 4)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18