

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

May 4 & 5, 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 are given to the glory of God by Robert & Pat Ranney in celebration of the 46th wedding anniversary.

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Steve & Diane O'Connor

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 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).

Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

Grab your breakfast and join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other

This Week: Current Events

Next Week: Spiritual Practices

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

This Week: Reception of New Members and The Creed "He Ascended"

Next Week: No Forum (Fellowship)

Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar with a Cajun Flair* & Bingo

Sunday, May 5

4:30 – 6:30 PM

Cost: Free-will Donation

***Please Note: We will be serving "normal" tacos and have Cajun toppings you can add if you wish.**

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! You won't want to miss this!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 5 Sunday

Easter 6

Homebound Communion

Receive New Members

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

4:30 PM Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar & Music Bingo

May 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

4:00 PM Executive Committee

May 9 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Ascension Day Liturgy @ Kountze

May 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

6:00 PM Hot Dogs & S'mores (gr 7-12 & College Youth)

May 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 12 Sunday

Easter 7

Mother's Day

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

May is Blindness Prevention Month

During May we will again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Ascension Day Liturgy

Thursday, May 9

6:30 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, we will be hosting the liturgy. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome. **If you would be willing to be an Usher for the evening**, please contact Jim Smejkal (jim@kmlchurch.org) or call the church office.

Upcoming Youth Activity

Grades 7-12 and College Youth

Friday, May 10

6 PM

You are invited to an end of the year celebration in the Link Courtyard. Hotdogs and S'mores will be provided. Games will be played. Join us! RSVP by Tuesday, May 7.

Baptism Reunion

Sunday, May 19

12:15 PM

For all who have been baptized from January 2023 to May of 2024, we invite you and your families to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch. Following the meal there will be some introductions and then a time for children to gather in spaces for care while the parents come together to explore ideas of how to bless your child within your home. We plan to send you on your way within the hour. Please RSVP with the number attending by Thursday, May 16.

Get Ready for Camp!

Carol Joy Holling Camp Work Day

Saturday, May 18, 2024

8:00 AM - Lunch

Carol Joy Holling Camp is in need of help to ready the camp for the more than 1,300 campers that will arrive in just a few weeks. We have been invited to help!

Individuals and groups are welcome and all skill levels are needed. They will provide breakfast starting at 8 AM and work will continue until lunch around 12:30 PM. For food planning purposes, they ask that you RSVP before May 3. For questions, contact Lisa Stirtz at LStirtz@NLOM.org or 402-944-2544. More info and register at:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>

Silent Retreat

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 14 - 16, 2024

During this spiritual weekend, you can expect to have scheduled times for silence, worship, walking a labyrinth, prayer, and self-reflection. Learn more or Register:

<https://www.cjhcenter.org/silent>

Carol Joy Holling Camp is Hiring for Their Summer Ministry Team

If you are 18 years or older, or have completed Leadership Camp and are interested in a full-time, paid summer job with all meals and on-site housing included, this might be the summer job for you. The Summer Ministry Team is a powerful group of young leaders who are changing the world by working hard, talking faith, and caring for others. This super team provides leadership and care for campers at Sullivan Hills Camp and Carol Joy Holling Camp. More info at:

<https://www.nlom.org/smt>

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>

Vacation Bible School

Camp Firelight

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!

Breakfast Ministry

Our Breakfast might look a little lighter during the summer months from May 26 through September 1. We are so grateful for the Breakfast Crews and their good work since September of 2022. An encouragement for more people to offer a helping hand is needed. If you could help out once, twice, or three times during the year that would greatly aid in this ministry, especially on the 2nd Sunday for clean up or some of the crews that are often short handed.

Kountze Food Pantry

Do you or anyone you know need service hours?

Volunteering at the Kountze Food Pantry is a perfect opportunity to boost your resume and have some fun at the same time! We are in need of strong, young people to help us unload deliveries at 8 AM Monday morning, and to carry out groceries for our guests from 10 AM-1 PM. You can work all or part of that time. We also need people on Friday evenings from 5 PM-6:45 PM. There are other positions for people of all ages and abilities. Please consider joining us by signing up at the following link:

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

Nebraska Synod Disaster Response—NE/IA Tornadoes

Through the NE Synod Disaster Response Fund, we are able to help respond to needs related to recovery and rebuilding for the long-haul. All gifts to the disaster fund are used in response to recovery, responding, and rebuilding to disasters. You may give to KMLC and mark it "Disaster Response" or give directly at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5h3y7pm8>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 4/25/2024—Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Saturday: 14

Sunday: 9:00: 142 11:00: 94

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Streaming: 44

Pantry Guests Served: 960 (inc. 312 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$11,001.03 (Regular) \$3,026.24 (Specials)

\$462.66 (Debt Reduction)

Disciples lovingly accept the hospitality of others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
Wednesday	Romans 12:14-21	Marks of the true Christian
Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Leviticus 19:32-37	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So he [Peter] ordered them [Cornelius and his household] to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. Acts 10:48 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, being a guest in another person's home is not always easy to do. Give us love and courage to graciously accept the hospitality of others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you are the host at every meal. Help me to receive your hospitality and to be open to the hospitality of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's steadfast love and faithfulness give you joy. (Psalm 98:3-4)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Tell or think about a memorable time when you have been a guest in someone else's home.
- In what ways do you show God's love when visiting others in their home?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 10:44-48.

While Peter is speaking, he witnesses the work of the Holy Spirit that leads him to baptize Cornelius and his household. Then Peter accepts the hospitality of Cornelius, a Roman soldier (Acts 10:1-2). What would it have been like for Peter to receive food and lodging in the home of a Roman and a Gentile? It was most likely a dramatic change for Peter. It is one thing to be the host and invite someone to receive the hospitality, food, family and faith traditions of your own culture. It is quite another to be open to the cultural life of someone else. It can easily be disorienting. Will you like the food? Will you know or make adjustments to the appropriate manners expected? Will you pick up the right utensil? Will you embarrass your host or yourself? Being a guest is not easy and requires attentiveness, acceptance, and grace. That is what the church is asked to do, to be vulnerable and not in control. That is what Jesus and the Holy Spirit expect of us, too.

Discuss: How does your openness to someone else's hospitality show the love of God to that person?

Pray: **Gracious God, your kindness knows no end. Give us faith to be open to the lives and ways of others that together we may give praise to you through Christ Jesus our 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 be open to the hospitality and cultural traditions of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Throughout the Bible and the history of the church, singing has been a faithful way of worshiping God and expressing one's faith in God (Psalm 98). Sing or read the words of a favorite hymn. Begin your singing and reading by praying the words of Psalm 98:4: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19