

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 11 & 12, 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 John & Lynn Schneiderman in celebration of their 36th wedding anniversary; in honor of Lawton Rees' Graduation given by his parents, Toby & Eric Rees

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: Spiritual Practices

Next Week: Intergenerational Faith Formation

Adult Forum

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

This Week: No Forum (Fellowship)

Next Week: Intergenerational Faith Formation

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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



May 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline
12:15 PM Worship

May 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

May 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 19 Sunday

Day of Pentecost



8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Intergenerational Faith Formation Hour

May 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

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.

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>

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.

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

Table Theology

Sunday, May 19

6:30 PM

Local Patio & Grill

RSVP to Greta by emailing:

omahalutheranyoungadults@nelcm.com

Interested in Spiritual Direction?

Tuesday, May 21

7:00 PM

Are you interested in the art of spiritual direction and guidance? Seeking the Spirit Within warmly invites you to an online dialogue exploring the formational path towards becoming a soul caregiver. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr4mbyzh>

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>

Seminarian Graduate

Giselle Loucks will graduate from Wartburg Theological Seminary this Sunday, May 12, with a Master's of Divinity degree. She was recently married to another seminarian who will graduate next spring. She will spend the upcoming year doing more CPW. Their plan is to seek first calls in North Dakota next spring. If you would like an address to send congratulations to, please call the church office.

Lost & Found

If you lost it, we might have found it. Check out the counter by the back office door to see if any of these belong to you, including several pair of glasses that will be donated if they have not been reunited with their owners at the end of the month. Please take a look.

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 to Disaster Response at:

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

Icons in Transformation

All Saints Episcopal Church

9302 Blondo St.

Open to the Public

Through June 9

Icons In Transformation by Ludmila Pawlowska will be exhibited at All Saints through June 9. Jane Tan Creti is a member of the All Saints Episcopal Church and a very talented iconographer, has written many icons which are on display in the All Saints Episcopal Church including a recently completed major project that is now displayed over the main doors of the narthex at All Saints. It includes the main icon of the Three Angles plus seven saints surrounding it. Jane is the iconographer that wrote the icon on our cross that is used during Lent and Easter as well as the icon in the KMLC Pantry. Icons in Transformation regular operating hours now through June 9:

- Fridays 5 PM to 7 PM docent-led tours, wine & cheese
- Saturdays 12 PM to 4 PM docent-led tours (on display until 7 PM - no tours after 4 PM)
- Sundays 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM art workshops for all ages

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 5/2/2024—Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 64

Wednesday: 12:15: 17

Total: 263

Streaming: 38

Pantry Guests Served: 1,103 (inc. 404 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$25,257.11 (Regular)

\$9,275.74 (Specials)

\$406.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus prays for our protection in the world.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Mathias replaces Judas
Tuesday	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
Wednesday	2 Samuel 22:1-4	David's song of thanksgiving
Thursday	Psalms 40:1-10	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Requests for prayer
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way of happiness
Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"And now I [Jesus] am no longer in the world, but they [disciples] are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." **John 17:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord Jesus, for your wisdom, healing power, saving work, and prayers for our protection and care for our life together, we give you thanks. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal that gives us strength and for your life-giving word filled with wisdom, light, and love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and protect you from all harm.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Tell or think about a time you got hurt and who helped you.
- How can our faith help us when we get hurt?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 17:6-19.

Jesus acknowledges that his followers will remain in the world even while he is no longer physically present. This passage reflects the adage that Christians are to be in the world but not of the world. John 3:16 is an anchor for the Gospel of John's approach to the world. God loves the world. What is the world? It represents all that resists and rejects the revelation of God through Jesus. What a contrast! We, as Jesus' followers are to love and pray for those people who oppose God and God's rule of the world through Jesus. This is truly a daunting challenge. It is so great that Jesus must pray for our protection from "the evil one" (v. 15), the power that opposes everything God stands for. Jesus' prayer includes the desire for our unity so that we may be one in Christ. Living in a world opposed to the light, to truth, and to faith in Christ, we are cautioned not to let that which opposes love and faith divide us.

Discuss: What do you see happening around you that you think may divide Jesus' followers through the powers of this world?

Pray: **Compassionate God, we thank you for your protection and guidance for our lives; help us to be your light and truth in a world that does not know you and 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, how can you help protect someone from harm?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today in the United States, it is Mother's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all women who have cared for you. In the church, motherhood represents the important role of caring for and nurturing others in the journey of faith. Take time to give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. Consider reaching out to them with a call, note, or email. *Pray for them:*

Dear God, I thank you for the gift and life of [name/s] who has shown me love and faith in your name. May she be blessed with joy and peace in knowing you through the love of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15