

## 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)

March 23 & 24, 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**

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike & 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.

### **Faith Formation**

#### **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.

#### **Children's Choir**

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

**Grades K-6**

No Children's Choir this Sunday or on Easter. This Sunday the children will be singing at the beginning of both the 9 and 11 AM services. After they sing, they will be able to sit with their families. On April 7, they will again be able to join Amy Pignatore on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### **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:** Games

**Next Week:** Serving Easter Breakfast

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Fellowship (Palm Sunday) and Blessing & Sending of James Holzer

**Next Week:** Fellowship (Easter Sunday)

### First Communion Class Continues

**Sundays, March 24**

**12:15 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)**

First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 28.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 24 Sunday

Palm Sunday  
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 Faith Formation Hour  
12:15 PM First Communion Class

### March 25 Monday

Monday in Holy Week  
10:00 AM Pantry  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM HGFC Board

### March 26 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:15 PM Worship  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### March 27 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week  
12:15 PM Worship

### March 28 Thursday

Maundy Thursday  
First Communion  
11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
11:00 AM Circle 4  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal

### March 29 Friday

Good Friday  
12:00 -3:00 PM Ecumenical Service  
6:30 PM Worship

### March 30 Saturday

Easter Vigil  
No 5:00 PM Worship  
10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

### March 31 Sunday

Easter Sunday  
7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM Worship  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Easter Breakfast  
10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

### April 1 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED  
10:00 AM Pantry

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Maundy Thursday

#### "Created for Community"

Thursday, March 28

- Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM (6:30 PM is live-streamed)
- Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon (free-will offering)
- Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM (free-will offering)

Join us for a meal followed by Worship. Everyone is welcome.

#### Menu for March 28

Freezer Fest Finale

A little of this and a little of that!

Have more of one of your favorites

or try something new.

Dessert

### Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

#### Now through March 31

The Kountze Food Pantry will hold a spring food drive this Lenten season to show how we Love Thy Neighbor. The Love Thy Neighbor food drive is also to honor Wayne Simmonds and the generosity of Sherri Labeledz and Terri Gogetap, who named the pantry Love Thy Neighbor to honor their father. Sherri, Terri, and their father, Wayne, have been faithful and generous members of Kountze

Memorial Lutheran Church. Wayne loved the Kountze Food Pantry and made it a priority to volunteer at this very special ministry to help "the least of these" in our community. The Pantry is in need of unexpired, nonperishable foods in cans, boxes, and plastic jars (no glass jars please). Possible donations may include canned beans, meats (chicken or tuna), vegetables, fruits, and soups/stews - pop-top cans are a plus, boxes of crackers, granola bars, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant potatoes, and plastic jars of peanut butter or pasta sauce. There are pantry drop off locations in the Fellowship Hall, the accessible entrance, and the Narthex. Please encourage your fellow parishioners, family, friends, coworkers, and social circles to help in this wonderful cause! We would love the support from clubs and troops as well. Questions or need to arrange a delivery of food? Please contact Jill Conway at 402-341-7761, ex. 222 or:

[jill@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jill@kmlchurch.org) or [jill@kountzecommons.org](mailto:jill@kountzecommons.org).

### Easter Book Group

**Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28**

**1:00 PM**

**Place TBD**

Pastor Lucy & Mia Valquier, together with the youth and

young adults of Kountze, would like to invite you to an Easter Book Group. We will be 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** (possibly at a coffee/brunch spot!). Please find a copy of the book for yourself or let Pastor Lucy know if you need help finding/purchasing a copy. The church has a couple of copies that can be borrowed. 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. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk, email or call the church office, or online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/232355457100044>

### Middle School Gathering 2.0

**My Story is Your Story is Christ's Story is Our Story  
April 13, 2024**

**Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln, NE**

**9:30 AM – 6:30 PM**

A Synod-wide day of service for middle school youth (5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) The cost for this retreat will be covered. **Let the church office know by March 31 if you would like to be registered to attend this event.**

### 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!

### 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](mailto: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>

### 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>



**Holy Week** is the most sacred week in the liturgical year and begins with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus

Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We gather on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to meditate on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Jesus' death by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday. We gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, on Saturday—Easter Vigil—proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. We gather on Easter morning to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world.

Please see the Holy Week & Easter schedule of services on the calendar and the back of this week's bulletin. We hope you are able to join us as we walk through Holy Week toward Easter Sunday.

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, 3/14/2024—Wednesday, 3/20/2024**

**Saturday: 33**

**Sunday: 9:00: 125 11:00: 78**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 37 6:30: 64**

**Streaming: 51**

**Pantry Guests Served: 1,023 (inc. 386 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14**

**Offering:**

\$12,070.47 (Regular)      \$2,510.36 (Specials)

\$262.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus' entry into Jerusalem gives us hope.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Mark 14:1–15:47	The passion of Jesus
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	A servant song
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	The Christ hymn
Thursday	Zechariah 9:9-13	Judgment on Israel's enemies
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	The passion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

**Mark 11:9 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to see beyond our short-sightedness to the hope that is for all of us through the cross of Christ, that we may have life. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, blessed are you, the one who comes to us with this gift of food in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and hope.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know felt rejected or sad.
- What is it about God's steadfast love that is deserving of your praise, especially as you think about Jesus' journey to the cross?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 11:1-11.

It is not just by chance that the crowds who shout, "Hosanna!" days later also shout, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:13). This contrast leads us to look back to the beginning of the Gospel of Mark where Jesus' first message is, "the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15b). To repent is to change one's mind, to see new things, and to see things differently. The crowds shouting, "Hosanna" have a customary view of power and authority. The power Jesus brings is quite different from the authority of leaders filled with jealousy and fear like the high priests and Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus' humble rule is displayed from a colt and is filled with self-giving love that conquers all, even triumphing over his own rejection and death. Palm Sunday points to a kingdom with good news and hope for the rejected and those who feel powerless. To truly hear the good news is to repent of anything less than Jesus' rule that alone gives us reason to say, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 9).

*Discuss:* What makes it difficult for you to see Jesus' power and glory from the cross?

*Pray:* **God of power and might, in a world torn apart by fear and jealousy, help us to see in your reign on earth the true source of hope through Jesus Christ, our Savior 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 bring hope to someone who may be feeling rejected?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he knows the week will not end the way the people praising him will want. And yet, Jesus accepts the people's dreams and hopes and takes them to the cross with him. He turns those dreams and hopes into something more. Light six candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross. *Then pray:* **Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us. Help us to live for you. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**