

## 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 30 & 31, 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 worshipping, 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



### Easter Breakfast

8—10:45 AM

The youth and young adults are providing Egg Casseroles, Pastries, Fruit, and Yogurt on this morning. All proceeds will go to support the ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gatherings in New Orleans this summer, so please be generous as you are able. Enjoy!

### Faith Formation

#### Sunday School

Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

No Sunday School today, but join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms on April 7.

#### Children's Choir

Grades K-6

No Children's Choir today, but join Amy Pignatore on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room again on Sunday, April 7.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

**This Week:** Serving Easter Breakfast

**Next Week:** Reception for Confirmands

### Adult Forum

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

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

**Next Week:** Reception for Confirmands

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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)

8—10:45 AM Easter Breakfast

10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

### April 1 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

### April 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### April 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

~~7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal~~

6:00 PM Confirmation

### April 4 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

### April 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 6 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### April 7 Sunday

Easter 2

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

1:00 PM Easter Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

Wed. April 3 Communion

Wed. April 10 Confessing Faith

Wed. April 17 Confirming Faith

Wed. April 24 Confirmation Year End Party

### Easter Book Group

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

1 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>

### Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Held at Kountze Memorial

Tuesday, April 9

12 PM

Bring a sack lunch and \$3 for dessert.

Reservations by April 7 to Faith at 402 734 4629. Come and join us.!

### Middle School Gathering 2.0

My Story is Your Story is Christ's Story is Our Story

April 13

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.**

### ELCA Youth Gathering/Young Adult Gathering Meeting/Lock-In

7 PM, Friday, April 12—7 AM, Saturday, April 13

All participants attending the gathering this summer will join with the group from Immanuel in Bellevue at their church (104 Galvin Rd. N). Please know that our prayers surround you in this time of preparation.

## **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!

## **Dress Up Mystery Dinner**

**All 9<sup>th</sup> Graders – Young Adults**

**Sunday, April 14**

**5 PM**

You are invited to put on your best dress clothes and arrive at the church to guess what might be on the menu. As you order, your meal might arrive with no food at all or all food with no utensils. Eventually, all will enjoy a great meal while learning from a speaker that will explore how we might have healthy relationships in our lives. Don't miss out! Bring your friends! Sign up to attend by **Wednesday, April 10**.

## **Honoring High School and all other 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 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>

## **Camp Firelight VBS**

**St. Timothy's Church ( 510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> 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, 3/21/2024—Wednesday, 3/27/2024**

**Saturday:** 43

**Sunday: 9:00:** 140 **11:00:** 93

**Streaming:** 71

**Pantry Guests Served:** Not available at time of printing

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 25

**Offering:** Not available at time of printing

*Christ is risen. Alleluia!*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	God shows no partiality
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ died for our sins
Wednesday	Hebrews 12:1-12	The example of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-5	In the beginning was the Word
Friday	Romans 5:1-5	Being acceptable to God
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Give thanks to the Lord
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death for us through his death and resurrection. Amen. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ we give you thanks for your steadfast love that endures forever! Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Christ bless you with hope and joy.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something you hope for but wonder if it will ever happen?
- What makes Easter important to you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:1-18.

Mary came to the tomb early in the morning when it was still dark. The darkness versus light theme is found from the beginning of the Gospel of John, *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”* (John 1:5) When we gather in worship on Easter Sunday, we expect light and beauty to fill the sanctuary. That is not the story of the first Easter in the Gospel of John. It includes more references to death and the tomb than the other three Gospels. Death and darkness are realities, even on Easter. There is confusion and misunderstanding, including Mary not recognizing Jesus and two of the disciples not understanding that Jesus *“must rise from the dead”* (v. 9). Perhaps John wants us to dwell a little longer on the reality of death and darkness that surrounds us, even today. A closer look at the frailty and sorrows of life and our own misunderstandings makes the message of Christ’s resurrection stand out all the more. It might just make Easter even brighter, our hearts even warmer, and our hope even stronger. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

*Discuss:* What is hard for you to understand about the resurrection?

*Pray:* **Almighty and everlasting God, for your glory and power over sin and death we sing your praises now and forever through Jesus Christ, the one who died so that we may live forevermore. 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 give hope to someone going through a tough time?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Alleluia means “praise the Lord.” The word Alleluia is traditionally not used and is “buried” during Lent. It is resurrected on Easter. Light all seven candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross that have been used during Lent. Consider using the candles as a centerpiece for Easter dinner. Write the word Alleluia on post-it notes or index cards. Place them around the candle cross. *Say:* **Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia. Then pray: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.** (Psalm 118:24)

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133

1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31