

## 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)

April 6 & 7, 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.*

## Today at Kountze Memorial

### 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.**



**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Laurine Savine in honor and thanksgiving of her KMLC friends for all of the birthday well-wishes and the surprise potluck supper.

### Easter Lilies

Easter lilies were given to the glory of God by Bob & Sandy Fonda; in memory of Lois Johnson given by Lee & Jean Johnson; in memory of Elmer Pfeiffer given by the Gary Pfeiffer family; in memory of Lorraine Biel Pfeiffer given by the Gary Pfeiffer family; in memory of Ed and Darlene White by John, Christi, Holly, and Jack

### 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

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

**12:30 PM (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)**

**Place: Panera, 344 N Saddle Creek Rd**

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. 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.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Faith Formation

#### Children's Choir

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

Grades K-6

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### Sunday School

10:10 AM

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

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**This Week:** Reception for Confirmands

**Next Week:** Spiritual Practices

### Adult Forum

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

**This Week:** Reception for Confirmands

**Next Week:** The Creed: "He Died" and "On the Third Day Rose Again"

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### April 7 Sunday

Easter 2

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

Dsuk# # rggd|#

10:00 AM Pantry

Dsuk# # xhvgd|#

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lunch

7:00 PM Global Mission Committee

Dsuk#3# hgqhvgd|#

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

4:00 PM Executive Committee

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Dsuk#4# kxwgd|#

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Dsuk#5# ulgd|#

5:00 PM Pantry

Dsuk#6# dwkugd|#

5:00 PM Worship

Dsuk#7# xqgd|#

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

1:00 PM Easter Book Group

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

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

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.!

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

Thursday, April 11, 7 - 8 PM

Thursday, April 18, 7 - 8 PM

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 to register to attend by Zoom, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/4tzk8vvy>

**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 Menu 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 hear speaker Kathy Martin present about healthy relationships. Following, you will 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. Don't miss out! Bring your friends! **Sign up to attend by Thursday, April 11** at:

<https://form.jotform.com/232355679500155>

## 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

Wednesday, April 13 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

at the church

at the church

at the church

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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>

## 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.

### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 3/28/2024—Wednesday, 4/3/2024

Saturday: 55

Sunday: 7:30 & 9:00: 323 11:00: 194

Wednesday: 12:15: 10 Confirmation: 4

Streaming: 92

Pantry Guests Served: Closed

Medical Clinic Guests Served: Closed

Offering:

\$15,915.41 (Regular) \$9,932.58 (Specials)

\$337.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Walking in the light of Jesus together.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Matthew 5:14-16	Let your light shine
Thursday	Psalms 27	Song of confidence
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Light shining in the darkness
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[I]f we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* 1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love and mercy, we thank you for the community of faith that helps us to know and experience your light and truth through Jesus, our resurrected Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, we thank you for this meal and pray that others may have what they need to live, serve, and trust in you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's light bless you with people filled with joy.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive someone? Explain.
- Why is forgiveness important to Christian fellowship?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 John 1:1-2:2.

Linus from the Peanuts comic strip once said, "I love mankind... It's people I can't stand!" Living in community with others can be a challenge. For Christians, living together in community is God's gift for our broken and sinful lives. Sometimes, we deceive ourselves into thinking we are more deserving, better than, or more lovable than others. Confession frees us to welcome Jesus into our lives through God's power of forgiveness that is for all. This simple message of forgiveness is hard to experience, especially when there are people whom we have had a hard time loving or even accepting. God's light takes us out of our own darkness and brings us into a humble yet joyous fellowship with others. Unity and fellowship have always been at the heart of God's creative and redeeming work for all the world (Psalm 133). We are asked to be aware of our darkness and move into the light through the power of God's forgiving grace.

*Discuss:* How does confession and forgiveness of your own brokenness help you understand fellowship with others in a new light?

*Pray:* God of light and truth, we thank you for forgiveness given to us through the suffering of Jesus Christ that we may have eternal fellowship with you and with all people. Amen.

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to restore a broken relationship?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another during worship as an expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. This sharing of the peace relates directly to Jesus' appearance to the disciples when he said, "Peace be with you" three times (John 20:19-31). This week, when you are visited by others in your home or when you are visiting friends, take a moment to share the peace. As you shake their hand, hug them, or give a high five, greet them by saying: Peace be with you.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48