

## 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 20 & 21, 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 in honor of the marriage of Danielle Barrett and Ryan Fleming given by Ron & Pam Brown; in memory of Dean Anderson, Sr. given by his wife, Darlene.

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Dean Anderson, Sr. given by his wife, Darlene.

### 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 Continues

**Sundays in April**

**12:30 PM**

**Place: KMLC/Kountze Commons Link**

We are 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. Feel free to bring a sack lunch.

### 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

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### 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

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

**This Week:** “Created to Be” Bible Study

**Next Week:** Graduation Celebration

### Adult Forum

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

**This Week:** The Creed: “He Ascended into Heaven”

**Next Week:** Graduation Celebration

### New Member Class Continues

April 21

10:15 AM

We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 5 (please note date change).

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### April 21 Sunday

Easter 4

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

### April 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### April 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

7:30 PM Youth Committee

### April 24 Wednesday

April 24—27 SHAREOmaha

Do Good Days

9:00 AM Sewing Group (Extra Day)

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's

### April 25 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Christian Education

### April 26 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 27 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### April 28 Sunday

Easter 5

Quilt Blessing & Recognition of Graduates

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

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Classes Continue

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

### Sewing Group (Extra Date)

Wednesday, April 24

9:00 AM

The sewing group will be meeting an extra morning this month. If you can hold a needle and tie your shoes (not at the same time), you can help with the quilts they make. Please feel free to join them.

### Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Trivia

8437 West Center Rd

Trivia - but actually, it's Music Bingo!

Join in and be a part of the OLYA Music Bingo team in this social outing! Appetizers provided. RSVP or learn more:

Text: 361-571-7636 (Greta)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omahalutheranyoungadults>

Email: [OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com](mailto:OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com)

### SHAREOmaha Do Good Days

April 24-27

Use [SHAREomaha.org](http://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; 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 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.

## 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 are Neeley Edwards, Jane Kidder, Lawton Rees, Mia Valquier, and Travis Wynard.

## 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**

**\*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! 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. You won't want to miss this one! **Special Request:** if you have gift cards you don't plan to use and would like to share, please give them to Pr. Shari to use as BINGO prizes. Thanks.

## 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](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)) or call the church office.

## 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, 4/18/2024—Wednesday, 4/24/2024**

**Saturday: 47**

**Sunday: 9:00: 134 11:00: 71**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 10 6:30: 0**

**Streaming: 42**

**Pantry Guests Served: 1017 (inc. 369 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14**

**Offering:**

\$10,970.32 (Regular) \$1,945.55 (Specials)

\$332.00 (Debt Reduction)

*The Good Shepherd comes with power to love.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-16	God, the true shepherd
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*  
**Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you that your care for us is never ending and filled with your abundant goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you are with us and protect us each day like a good shepherd, we thank you for feeding us with this food, a sign of your abundant love. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, give you comfort and peace.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Talk or think about a time you experienced fear or anxiety.
- How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comfort and protect you during fearful times?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 10:11-18.

The focus in John 10 on being the good shepherd is directly related to Jesus healing the man born blind in John 9. The man born blind was cast out of the synagogue, out of the religious community, out of a protective sheepfold. Jesus as the good shepherd knows us and loves us enough to lay down his life for us. Jesus does not abandon us or cast us out. Unlike the disinterest of a hired hand who runs away when our needs are the greatest, Jesus cares for us as those who need the protection of a shepherd. This is the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has power and he uses that power to care for us and to give us the abundant life, the life overflowing with goodness (John 10:10). All of this power to love, to give us life overflowing with goodness and abundance, comes not from the abusive power of Pharisees, synagogues, or any disinterested individuals or institutions, but from the divine. This is the command that Jesus has received from God and passes on to us, the command to love sacrificially.

*Discuss:* When has your life been blessed by the sacrificial love of another?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to know that we are not abandoned in our time of need, but blessed with overflowing love through the power and grace of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. 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 sacrificially to someone in need?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Both readings from John 10 and Psalm 23 follow the theme of shepherd. Draw the shape of a sheep on a sheet of paper. Write Jesus in the center of the shape and then words you would use to describe a good shepherd. Think or talk about what the words you wrote mean to you. Finish with prayer using the words from Psalm 23:6 as a reminder of God's comfort: **You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD. Amen.** (CEV)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8