

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 Fleming	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 18 & 19, 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 Pam & Bob Johnson in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary; given by Dana Boden in memory of her father, Howard Boden

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Pam & Bob Johnson in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary

Faith Formation

Intergenerational Faith Formation

This Sunday, May 19

10:10 AM

Join us this Sunday in Fellowship Hall for a special Intergenerational Event on this last day of Sunday School.

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.

Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

Table Theology

Sunday, May 19

6:30 PM

Local Patio & Grill

RSVP to Greta by emailing:

omahalutheranyoungadults@nelcm.com

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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
12:15 PM Baptism Reunion
6:30 PM Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Table Theology

May 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
5:00 PM KCCOC Board
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

May 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 23 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 26 Sunday

Holy Trinity
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

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.

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>

WELCA

Collecting Personal Care Items for the Pantry

Our Women of the ELCA Groups are collecting personal care items for the Kountze Food Pantry during the month of May. If you'd like to help at this time—or any time—please place the items in the box in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks.

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. She 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, 5/9/2024—Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 137 11:00: 69

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 308

Streaming: 35

Pantry Guests Served: 966 (inc. 316 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$15,554.44 (Regular) \$1,873.44 (Specials)

\$1,028.33 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit comforts and guides us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Tuesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Thursday	Psalm 139:7-12	The inescapable God
Friday	Acts 4:23-31	The believers pray for boldness
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit



© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Nevertheless I [Jesus] tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” **John 16:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit that comforts and guides us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fill us with good things, we thank you for this food that strengthens us to be your witnesses in the world. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the comfort and power of God give you peace in Christ's name.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt you needed guidance from someone else?
- How do you experience the work of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the community of faith as a guide for your life in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

Jesus says that because he is leaving, he knows his followers are very sad. Because of his departure and because of the disciples' sorrow, Jesus sends the Advocate, that is, the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for advocate means someone who walks alongside us and can also be translated as helper, comforter, teacher, guide, or companion. It is a word rich in meaning and a powerful term for Jesus' followers who are grieving and needing direction. When we experience loss and transitions, feel alone, and are not sure of the future or how to understand the present, the Advocate, the *"Spirit of truth"*, speaks the same message Jesus taught his followers and is here for us. Pentecost is a time to remember that Jesus remains with us as Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are lifted up and sent on our way to do the work of Jesus in the world. We are not alone; we never have been and we never will be. Our loving God does not want to leave us feeling grief. We are empowered as the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in the world.

Discuss: How does being empowered by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, make a difference to you?

Pray: **Everlasting God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that comforts and strengthens us; help us to faithfully be your presence in the world through Christ Jesus 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 the work of the Holy Spirit help you comfort someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost has been described as the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of the ministry of the preaching of Peter (Acts 2:14-21) and all future preachers. It is also the birth of hearing the gospel in our own language. Light a candle, preferably a red one, to celebrate Pentecost. Take a moment to look at the flame as a reminder of the *"fiery tongues that settled on each person"* (Acts 2:3, CEV). *Then Pray:* **Dear God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that helps us in our weakness and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen.** (Romans 8:26)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17