

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 25 & 26, 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 LeClare Steffen in memory of her father, Leo Gardiner, and in memory of LeClare's husband, given by LeClare, Tracey & Tom, Jane & Rod Lynam, and Jennifer; by Steve & Diane O'Connor

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of her father, David Penning

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. We are grateful that Sherri Labedz will be taking over the Breakfast Coordinator position in June. Please consider how you might be able to help sustain this ministry with helping to clean up after the 2nd Sunday Breakfast or joining one of the other teams to give needed support. Please contact Sherri Labedz or the church office if you would like to help.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship.

This week: Fellowship

Next week: Fellowship (Pastors at Synod Assembly)

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

May 27 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)
OFFICE CLOSED/No Pantry

May 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3
7:30 PM Youth Committee

May 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 31 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 1 Saturday

Jun 1 - Jun 2 Synod Assembly
5:00 PM Worship
Homebound Communion

June 2 Sunday

Pentecost 2
Homebound Communion
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Youth Trip Gathering/
Young Adult Gathering Meeting

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

Synod Assembly Worship

Sunday, June 2

11 AM

The Nebraska Synod Assembly will come to an inspiring close worshipping together. We're thrilled to invite all congregations to participate. Join us as we worship together across the state... from Scottsbluff to McCook to Niobrara to Falls City! You are invited to gather with God's people on the Second Sunday after Pentecost this year, committing to Cultivate Love and to continue in our shared mission and ministry as the whole church in the state of Nebraska. Go to:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/>

to watch assembly happenings on June 1 and 2. This is where you can join the Sunday 11 AM Worship as well.

Beignet Breakfast

Sunday, June 9

Join us for our final NOLA Awareness Event supporting the youth as they prepare for their trip to

the ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gathering in New Orleans. Homemade Beignets and yogurt will be served. Please come and be generous as we provide our final opportunity to support this trip that will enlighten and sustain the youth, young adults, and adult leaders as they participate in growing in faith and experiencing the wider church in new ways through their trip. Everyone is welcome.

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

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>

Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 20
11:30 AM
Fellowship Lounge
Cost: \$10.00

In June, Tim Holland will share with us highlights from his trip to Egypt and Jordan. We will discuss the beginning of architecture, the 5,000-year-old pyramids, and the evolution as seen by temple architecture along the Nile. He will also share with us the path of the Holy Family in Egypt and Moses at Mt. Nebo in Jordan. Please let Jim know if you'll be attending by June 18 so he knows how many to plan on for lunch (jim@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761).

Table Grace The Musical
June 21-22, June 27-29, August 8-9

This musical is based on a combination of real life stories molded into fictional characters and story-lines. It's a celebration of grace, love, second chances, and acceptance. Don't miss it!

The Table Grace newsletter can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4eebubc9>

Annual Neighborhood Gathering
Sunday, June 23
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Kountze will be hosting our Annual Neighborhood Gathering again this year. We will hold the event at the North end of the West parking lot. Bring your friends and neighbors! All are invited! Anyone that wants to have a good time is welcome to stop by and have a hot dog and popcorn. We will have a new band this year, "Ron and the Renegades," They will not be playing for the worship services so the Gathering will start at 11:00 AM. We can always use volunteers, so please use the insert in the weekly bulletin beginning June 2 to sign up or contact the Church office if you can help. More details to follow shortly.

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!

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-12:45 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>

Connect With Pr. Lucy...

To make an appointment for coffee and a one-on-one conversation, go to:

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>

You can also message her. If you would like to follow her on Facebook or Instagram, please feel free to do so. She won't send a friend request or follow you because she doesn't want to put you in an awkward position of friending her or not. She will accept your friend or follow request.

Attendance & Giving
Thursday, 5/16—Wednesday, 5/22

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 141 11:00: 84

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 265

Streaming: 41

Pantry Guests Served: 997 (inc. 318 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$21,149.90 (Regular) \$3,076.73 (Specials)

\$105,612.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are born for a relationship with God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Thursday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Friday	1 John 3:1-3	Children of God
Saturday	Psalm 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 2:23-3:6	A question about the sabbath



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus answered him [Nicodemus], "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." John 3:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mystery and love, we thank you for coming to us in three persons that we may be born to a living hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Triune God, we thank you for this gift of food that reminds us of our relationship to you based on trust, dependence, and belonging. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in Jesus Christ and enjoy eternal life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something that is hard for you to understand or believe?
- Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the wind (John 3:8). How is the Holy Spirit like the wind?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 3:1-17.

The Holy Trinity, God in three persons, is a mystery. Who can fully understand or describe God? No one! Trinity Sunday is about more than a mystery. It gives us an opportunity to recognize and celebrate that we are born of God, we are given new life through water and the Spirit, and we are made part of the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. We have a dynamic, relational God who becomes flesh so that we may be born of the Spirit and enjoy eternal life. Like a child, we are given an intimate relationship with God based on trust, dependence, and belonging. Yes, this awesome God can leave us confused and asking questions like Nicodemus. However, what started for Nicodemus with confusion in the dark of night eventually led to his defense of Jesus (John 7:50-52) and his taking the risk of joining Joseph of Arimathea in preparing Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39-42). Jesus' life and work is all about overcoming the judgment of the world with a living faith in him, the Son of God, so that our lives may be filled with abundance, grace, and truth.

Discuss: How does God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fill you with trust, dependence, and a sense of belonging?

Pray: **Creator God, for your Holy Spirit and your Son, our Savior and Lord, we thank you for giving us a relationship to you based on trust, love, and mercy. 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 walk alongside others in their faith journey?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A doxology is an expression of giving praise to God. One of the most treasured doxologies sung around the world each week in Christian congregations and homes was written by Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken and published in 1709. It is often used as a mealtime prayer. Light three candles to symbolize the Holy Trinity. Then sing or read the doxology: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23—3:6