

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

June 1 & 2, 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

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 Labeledz has taken over the Breakfast Coordinator position. 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 Labeledz 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 (Pastors at Synod Assembly)

Next week: Fellowship

Synod Assembly Worship

Sunday, June 2

11 AM

The Nebraska Synod Assembly will All congregations are invited to participate from Scottsbluff to McCook to Niobrara to Falls City! We are invited to gather with God's people committing to Cultivate Love and to continue in our shared mission and ministry as the whole church in the state of Nebraska. To join the Sunday 11 AM Worship, go to:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/>

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 2 Sunday

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

June 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

June 6 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 7 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

June 8 Saturday

Einbeck/Beller Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

June 9 Sunday

Pentecost 3
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Beignet
Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
12:15 PM Book Group
2:00 PM Gretchen Olson Kopp
Ordination

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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>

Pool Party All families with Kids Nursery - High School June 15 9 AM—Noon

Westgate Pool (8233 Grover St)

The Pool Party, donated by Beth O'Reilly, is for all youth, Pre-K through High School. Breakfast snacks, beverages, and donuts will be provided. Please RSVP to Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org, on the Facebook page, or by texting 402-630-4578.

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/4eeubc9>

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!

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.

School Supplies for KMLC Pantry Guests

Over the summer, we will be collecting backpacks of all types, notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, color pencils, glue, tissues, scissors, hand sanitizer, and anything else you may find useful for our school-aged pantry guests. You will find labeled donation tubs in the Fellowship Hall for your donations.

Plan to join us in the link on August 4 after the 9 AM service to fill the backpacks with school supplies that will be given to students at the Kountze Pantry.

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>

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.

Get Involved with Nebraska Synod

Justice Ministries!

Our Synod has a new Director for Youth & Justice Ministries, Gretchen Ahrens. She recently shared with Omaha ELCA pastors some of the teams and committees she's working to build up or get going. Are you passionate about issues where justice and faith intersect? Would you be willing to join others in our Synod in leading us as church together to learn, advocate and act? Some of the teams the Synod is looking to build up include: Advocacy Team, LGBTQIA+ Affirming Team, Creation Care Team, and Mental Health Team. Please let us know if you're interested and we will connect you!

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 5/23/24—Wednesday, 5/29/24

Saturday: 42

Sunday: 9:00: 131 11:00: 80

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 264

Streaming: 71

Pantry Guests Served: 274 (inc. 78 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$23,508.81 (Regular) \$4,373.19 (Specials)

\$507.66 (Debt Reduction)

The sabbath is good news for our lives.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 2:23-3:6	A question about the sabbath
Monday	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Respect the sabbath
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Treasure in clay jars
Wednesday	Isaiah 58:13-14	Honor the sabbath
Thursday	Exodus 20:8-11	Remember the sabbath day
Friday	Hebrews 4:1-11	The rest that God promised
Saturday	Psalms 81:1-10	God makes us strong
Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God



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

Then he [Jesus] said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath." **Mark 2:27-28 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for the gift of sabbath rest that our lives may be renewed in body, mind, and spirit through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, you who provide the grain of the fields for us to eat, we thank you for your love and kindness that renews our lives daily through Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love renew you each day through Christ our Lord.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What exhausts you? What refreshes you?
- When do you take a day of rest (sabbath) and what do you like to do on that day?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 2:23-3:6.

This amazing text from the Gospel of Mark says much about the story of Jesus. Jesus draws criticism from those wanting to protect God's teachings. He ends up gaining the deadly opposition of religious and cultural leaders (Pharisees and Herodians), even though these two groups also oppose one another in other contexts. Jesus and the Pharisees engage in biblical debate about the intent of God's word. Jesus argues, "*The sabbath was made for humankind*" (Mark 2:27). Deuteronomy 5:12-15 clearly supports that. Honoring the sabbath was much more than worshipping on the sabbath day (Sunday for most Christians). This commandment was the first recorded labor law, protecting workers from being abused and allowing for a day of rest. It protected life. Whether its gathering grain to eat or healing a withered hand on the sabbath, the real offense is challenging the wisdom and authority of established leaders. It is an age-old example of how institutional powers can become ends in themselves and miss their own stated aim, in this case, to love God and neighbor.

Discuss: How could resting on the sabbath day help renew you?

Pray: **Life-giving God, we thank you for your word that challenges the misuse of power and authority as it protects and renews life through Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and Lord of the sabbath. 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 help someone you know experience rest and renewal?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Taking time not to work and instead rest the mind and body and enjoy God's presence promotes health and wellbeing. In addition to Sunday rest and worship, consider mini-sabbath rests by taking five to fifteen minutes during the day to remain quiet and prayerful. It is good for your mind, your body, and your relationship to God and neighbor. Begin the time of sabbath with a prayer: **God of peace, thank you for the gift of sabbath rest to honor you and to restore us in health to love and serve others. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1; Mark 3:20-35