

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 22 & 23, 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 given in memory of Barbara Sacklar given by Tracey Saklar and Kris Placzek and family; in memory of Lou Johnson; in recognition of LeClare's Steffen's 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday, given by Tracey, Tom, Jane & Rod Lynam & Jennifer Hellwig

**Thank you** Mike Edris, for substituting on piano this Saturday night and to Bruce Nissen for substituting on organ Sunday morning. We appreciate your willingness to share your musical talents with us this weekend.

### **Kountze Café Lite**

**9:30—11:00 AM**

### **Free-will Offering**

Through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labedz.

### **Adult Forum**

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

**This week:** No Forum (Neighborhood Gathering Prep.)

**Next week:** Synod Assembly Report and Camp Carol Joy Holling

### **Annual Neighborhood Gathering**

**Sunday, June 23**

**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Join us at the North end of the West parking lot this Sunday morning. All are invited to stop by and have a hot dog and popcorn. We 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.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### June 23 Sunday

Pentecost 5  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
11:00 AM Neighborhood  
Gathering

### June 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### June 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### June 26 Wednesday

Holy Trinity  
12:15 PM Worship

### June 27 Thursday

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

### June 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### June 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### June 30 Sunday

Pentecost 6  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Table Grace The Musical

#### 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>

### Vacation Bible School

#### Camp Firelight

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!

### 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.

### 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>

### 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!

### **From the Transition Team**

As we discern together what God has called Kountze to be and what kind of leader we need as our next Associate Pastor, please take a few moments to share your response to this question: "What is our purpose as a congregation?" Please put your response on the form in your bulletin or email:

call. [committee@kmlchurch.org](mailto:committee@kmlchurch.org)

Thank you! Your input is invaluable in this process. If you have any questions or further comments, feel free to reach out to a member of our Transition Team: Pr. Lucy Wynard, Anne Dey, Dulcinea Boesenberg, Ron Brown, Scott Henneman, Tarna Kidder, Lara McCormick, and Jeff Perkins.

### **Simple Ideas for a Spiritually Rich Summer Taken from Pr. Lucy's June/July Good News Article**

- ✧ Look & think back to your New Year's resolutions or Lenten disciplines. Now \*realistically\* rewrite those goals & rededicate yourself to them.

### **A Summer of Service**

#### **Taken from Jill's June/July Good News Article**

- ✧ Kountze Food Pantry. You can give to those in our community with food insecurity. Volunteers are needed to assist guests, hand out food, clean, organize, unload/stock food, and pick up supplies from our partners and distributors.

### **A Note from Pastor Gretchen Olson Kopp**

Dear People of God at Kountze:

There simply aren't enough words to express my gratitude for all the ways you made the celebration of my ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament so full of joy, beauty, grace, meaning, and connection. It was beyond what I could have imagined. Special thanks to all of you on the ordination committee -- Pastor Shari, Dulcinea Boesenberg, Ron Brown, Barb Carlsen, Ingrid Furby, Liz Pemberton, Jeff & Robin Perkins, Jacob Rump, and Jim Smejkal -- everyone who helped in the kitchen throughout the day, those who served as worship leaders, those who sang in the choir, Pastor Lucy for her gracious welcome and tour about the building, Ron Brown for his incredible camera work on the live-stream, Debbie Bogue for her extensive work on the bulletin, and all who took the time to join in afternoon worship together. The ordination committee went to incredible lengths -- providing lunch for the worship leaders, the delicious and abundant reception complete with two beautiful cakes and a spread of delicious sandwiches and chocolate, table decorations that were truly works of art and heart, the stunning stole, and all the preparations, set up and clean up for all of this. I wished I'd had my feet on the ground to recognize you more fully in the moment. You made it a day of celebration that I will not forget, but even more, you made everyone gathered and joining by livestream feel so a part of this day of worship and thanksgiving to a merciful and gracious God. So many visitors mentioned how impacted they were by Kountze's vibrant witness to the gospel and generous hospitality.

As I mentioned in my parting sermon at Kountze, the dust of your love and care remain on my feet and in my heart as I move into this new chapter. Thank you for being the face and hands of Christ to me and all who were present last Sunday afternoon. I hold you in prayer and rejoice in all that is ahead for the people of Kountze and all who are impacted by your mission and ministry.

With love and deepest gratitude,  
Gretchen

#### **Attendance & Giving**

**Thursday, 6/13/24—Wednesday, 6/19/24**

**Saturday:** 38

**Sunday: 9:00:** 90 **11:00:** 71

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 11

**Total:** 210

**Streaming:** 40

**Pantry Guests Served:** 925 (inc. 271 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 10

**Offering:**

\$10,083.97 (Regular)      \$1,960.13 (Specials)

\$337.00 (Debt Reduction)

*God cares for us when we are afraid.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

*od cares for us when we are afraid.*

Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the waters
Monday	Job 38:1-11	God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	How Paul served God
Wednesday	Psalms 56	A prayer of trust in God
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Joel 2:18-27	God's response and promise
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32	God saves those in distress
Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And they [disciples] were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

**Mark 4:41 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of comfort and assurance, we thank you for your presence that promises to protect us through the storms of life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, you who still the storm and hush the waves, we thank you for protecting us and caring for us with this food through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 107:29)

### A Blessing to Give:

May your heart be open to the grace of God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:13)

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you were afraid? What did you do?
- How is God with you when you are afraid?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 4:35-41.

This story is not simply about a miracle showing the powers of Jesus over nature. It is about the presence of the kingdom of God in Jesus silencing and rebuking the powers of evil, death, and destruction. First century Jews and Christians experienced a traumatic time in history. Roman rulers dictated their lives, destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, and slaughtered countless lives. It is reminiscent of the shock and sorrow that many have experienced throughout time. At such times one wonders what will happen and if there is hope for the future. The disciples in the boat with Jesus are filled with fear and wonder who this Jesus is. We, as the readers of Mark, have a better view of what is happening. An image for the church is the boat at sea with Jesus. A word we use for the worshiping space inside a church building is nave from the Latin word (*navis*), which means "ship." There can be times in our lives when we, ourselves, are tossed by the wind and waves yet sheltered by Jesus, the Son of God who silences and rebukes all that frightens us.

*Discuss:* How does faith in Jesus calm you and others who follow Christ?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, in the midst of our uncertainties and fears we thank you for your saving presence that silences the storms of our lives and world through Christ 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 you show God's love and care for someone who is going through a difficult time?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the Bible the sea is often seen as a place that lacks order and safety. The sea represents that which seeks to undermine God's design for life. Because of this, the church has been portrayed as a ship at sea with Jesus at the helm. Some congregations actually have a ship hanging down from the ceiling in the sanctuary or nave (word for ship). Draw a picture of a boat or take a model of a ship and place it in a visible place to remind you that your life in Christ is protected by Jesus just as he protected his disciples during the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Place next to the ship these words: Thank you, Jesus, for protecting us in the storms of life.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43