

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 8 & 9, 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 Bob & Sandy Fonda in honor of their 56th wedding Anniversary

Beignet Breakfast

Sunday, June 9

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Let the mouth-watering begin!!! 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. Yummy! Please 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.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

This week: Fellowship

Next week: Early Christian Baptism.

Ordination of our Former Vicar,

Gretchen Olson Kopp

Sunday, June 9

2 PM

Kountze Memorial

By the grace of God and the call of the Church, Gretchen Olson Kopp is to be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical church in America. We are all invited to attend the service and the reception to follow.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 10 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese
Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee

June 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 14 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 15 Saturday

10 AM Pool Party—All families w/
kids
5:00 PM Worship

June 16 Sunday

Jun 16 - Jun 21 Camp Week @ CJH
Pentecost 4
Father's Day
Pr. Wynard's bday
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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

10 AM—1 PM (please note time change)

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 Jordon. 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 Jordon. 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).

Happy Birthday, LeClare Steffen!

LeClare will be 101 on June 20! Birthday greetings would be much appreciated. If you don't have LeClare's address to send cards, please call the church office to get it.

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!

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>

**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!

Support for Dannika Rees

Dannika Rees has joined the Air Force and is currently in Texas for Basic Training. If you would like to send her a note of encouragement, please contact the church office for her address. Please note that at this time, she can only receive letters, not packages.

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

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.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 5/30/24—Wednesday, 6/5/24

Saturday: 44

Sunday: 9:00: 104 11:00: 51

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 210

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: 1,007 (inc. 331 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$8,204.20 (Regular)

\$2,256.16 (Specials)

\$176.00 (Debt Reduction)

Following Jesus is the will of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:8-15	The Lord is patient
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:7-12	Treasure in clay jars
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And looking at those who sat around him, he [Jesus] said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” **Mark 3:34-35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to see your power of love and mercy in the world through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for providing us with this meal and everything we need for daily life. Help us to recognize your goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of Jesus give you peace in knowing God’s steadfast love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you witnessed an act of kindness that was not well received?
- Many religious leaders did not approve of what Jesus did or said. Why do you think this was?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 3:20-35.

In this reading, Jesus’ ministry creates controversy and conflict. It also brings healing, hope, and salvation. Jesus challenges families as well as scribes, those who represent the religious life of Jerusalem. Both our family life and our life of faith in the larger church need the power of Jesus. It is Jesus who can bind up the strong man, an image of Satan. Jesus binds and limits the powers of evil as well as unbinds people needing healing and forgiveness. The eternal sin of speaking against the Holy Spirit is rejecting the divine goodness in Jesus. Opposing the work of the kingdom that Jesus brings denies the power of God to heal and to save. The conflict presented by the kingdom of God is either believing or not believing in the divine power of Jesus. The will of God is to listen to and believe in Jesus. It is the merciful power of God that heals our lives and is intended for our homes and our congregations.

Discuss: When have you gone through a tough time and then experienced the power of God’s care and mercy?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us faith and confidence to reject evil and to see your goodness and mercy in the world through the power of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 do the will of God by reaching out to someone in need of healing?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 130 is a prayer for forgiveness and mercy. Recognizing our sin and need for God’s mercy and forgiveness is a wonderful gift of faith. The prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord’s Prayer, teaches us to ask for forgiveness. Write the words “forgive us our sins (trespasses) as we forgive those who sin (trespass) against us.” Use the paper as a bookmark for Bible readings. Finish by praying the Lord’s Prayer.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 4:26-34