

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 15 & 16, 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 by Mark & Tarna Kidder in honor of their 28th wedding anniversary; in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike & Randall Fike given by Mary Joe Fike and Family; in memory of Hannah Reif on her 22nd birthday given by her parents and siblings; in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Fred & Joyce Wachal

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Marvin Andersen by his family

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

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. You may 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: Early Christian Baptism

Next week: No Forum (Neighborhood Gathering Preparation)

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
5:00 PM KCCOC Meeting

June 18 Tuesday

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

June 19 Wednesday

Juneteenth
12:15 PM Worship

June 20 Thursday

Wedding Rehearsal
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
4:30 PM Call Committee
6:00 PM Circle 5

June 21 Friday

Mitchell & Chohom Wedding
5:00 PM Pantry

June 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Midweek Worship

Wednesday, June 19

12:15 PM

This week's service will be a special Service of Prayer, Repentance, and Lament, Commemorating the Emanuel Nine martyrs died 2015. On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

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 to sign up or contact the Church office if you can help.

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!

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.

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.

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 for her address.

Congrats Seminarian Graduate, Giselle Loucks

Giselle has graduated from Wartburg Seminary with her Master's of Divinity degree and was recently married to another seminarian who will graduate next spring. She will spend the upcoming year doing more CPW. Their plan is to seek first calls in North Dakota next spring. If you would like to send notes of congratulations to Giselle, you may contact the church office for her address.

Simple Ideas for a Spiritually Rich Summer

Taken from Pr. Lucy's June/July Good News Article

✪ Relax and enjoy the sunshine! The beauty & warmth this time of year are gifts from God.

A Summer of Service

Taken from Jill's June/July Good News Article

Love Thy Neighbor and consider volunteering this summer. You or your family may have more free time with school out and longer days of sunlight. Individuals of all ages and backgrounds can find a cause they are passionate about and make a real difference. You can volunteer as an individual on in a group with family, friends, or coworkers, making it a fun and social experience. Consider serving... ..at our Neighborhood Gathering. This is wonderful opportunity to show our neighbors the love and hospitality Kountze has to offer. You can sign up with the insert in your bulletin or respond to the Friday e-news.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 6/6/24—Wednesday, 6/12/24

Saturday: 38

Sunday: 9:00: 113 11:00: 59

Ordination Service:

Wednesday: 12:15: 16

Total: 387

Streaming: 174

Pantry Guests Served: 926 (inc. 286 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$14,413.81 (Regular)

\$4,166.17 (Specials)

\$672.00 (Debt Reduction)

We walk by faith, not by sight.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-3	The meaning of faith
Thursday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	Song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the waters



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, in the midst of things we cannot understand or accept, give us confidence that your goodness and mercy will triumph through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you bring a harvest full of good things; we thank you for this food and all that you do to guide our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and wisdom of God be your strength.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something that is happening in your life or world that seems hard to understand?
- What is your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

The Gospel of Mark was written around 70 A.D. during a very chaotic period of history in Jerusalem and in the surrounding Jewish lands. Roman soldiers were everywhere and the holy temple, with all its hope and promise for the people, was doomed to destruction. The earliest followers of Jesus were unsure how to be disciples, who was to be included in the community of faith, and how to address Gentiles and ruling powers alike. Mark writes about the kingdom of God that grows like a seed sown by a farmer. The seed grows one stage at a time even while the farmer sleeps. The farmer who planted the seeds is not sure how it is all happening just as the disciples are unsure about growing God's kingdom. Nothing stops the growing seed and nothing stops the kingdom of God. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 that "[W]e walk by faith, not by sight". We are part of a kingdom whose standards and powers are not fully understood. Especially when things are confusing, we trust God's work, God's promises, and God's judgments. Faith trusts that God is in control.

Discuss: When you experience confusing times in your life, does faith in God give you confidence?

Pray: **God of the harvest, we thank you for the work of your kingdom that brings hope where there is pain, and confidence where there is uncertainty, 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 help someone who is struggling with a decision?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Sunday is Father's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all men who have cared for you and others as well. Take time to talk about, give thanks, and reach out to the men who have parented and cared for you. *Pray:* **Dear God, we thank you for fathers and all men who care for us. We especially give thanks for [name/s of men] who have been a blessing to our lives. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41