

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior 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 Omaha, NE 68131
402-341-7761 www.kmlchurch.org

July 27 & 28, 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



Today at Kountze Memorial

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: Lutheran Campus Ministry of Omaha with Pr. Heather Goertz

Next week: Ministry Fair: Faith Formation & Community Engagement

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 28 Sunday

Pentecost 10

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

July 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

July 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

July 31 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 1 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

August 2 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 3 Saturday

Blessing of Backpacks

Homebound Communion

11:00 AM Gruber 50th Anniversary Celebration

5:00 PM Worship

August 4 Sunday

Pentecost 11

Blessing of Backpacks

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Dinners for Eight

Sign up by Monday, August 19.

- Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight.
- Meet each month for a meal in September, October, and November

- Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
- Enjoy a meal and conversation with one another.
- Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 19.
- See you around the table!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes *continued*

Blessing of Backpacks

August 3, 5 PM

August 4, 9 & 11 AM

All students, teachers, professors, Sunday school volunteers, and support staff are invited to bring their school bags to church and receive a blessing for a year of abundant learning and development.

Table Grace The Musical

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>

Men's Lunch

Thursday, August 15

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

Have you ever wanted to eat like a king? Join us for the August Men's Lunch, where we will experience what it was like to eat in medieval times. Bring your appetite and you guessed it: no silverware allowed. Sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, August 13 to reserve your seat for this dining experience.

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>

Cards With Friends

We won't be meeting in August. Watch the bulletin, e-news, and Good News to see about starting up again in the fall.

Church Picnic

Sunday, September 22

Mark your calendars for September 23rd for the Annual Church Picnic. Once again, this year's picnic will be held here at the church. Main course (vegetarian option available) will be provided. Please plan on bringing a side dish to share. We will have entertainment for the kids and end with the all-favorite BINGO! More details to follow.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 7/18—Wednesday, 7/24

Saturday: 73

Sunday 9:00: 142 **11:00:** 80

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 303

Streaming: 64

Pantry Guests Served: 1135 (inc. 393 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering: Not available at time of printing

God shows us the abundant life through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	2 Kings 4:42-44	Elisha feeds one hundred
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 145:10-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **John 6:11 (NRSV)**

PRAVERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, give us generous hearts that reach out to others with compassion so that we may know and experience abundant life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for providing us with this food and opening your hand to satisfy the desire of all living things. In Christ's name we pray, amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with abundant life through Jesus Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What would you do if you had invited three guests for dinner and instead, six showed up?
- Describe what an abundant life looks like. How do you experience an abundant life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:1-21.

God's creation produces enough to feed the world. There are times when our own stewardship of God's bounty creates fear that we will not have enough to survive. Some go hungry and suffer poor health while others suffer poor health from consuming too much. In this reading, Jesus takes five loaves and two fish, gives

thanks, and feeds five thousand people. He shows the power of giving thanks for God's abundance. This story is about more than gratitude and abundance. It is a sign—a divine example—of the unique character of Jesus that is also seen in Jesus walking on water and bringing the disciples to a safe shore (vv. 16-20). Jesus provides the abundant life and safe harbor because of who he is, the Word made flesh, the Son of God who came to save us. He is worthy of our trust and our praise.

Discuss: How does the story of the feeding of the five thousand help you understand God's abundance?

Pray: **Dear God, take away our fears and give us the joy of life in your presence that we may be filled with generous hearts through Christ Jesus, 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 be generous to others by sharing your resources?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Having enough food to eat is a God-given blessing. Providing a meal and enjoying it with others is a way to celebrate the God of abundance. This week prepare and share a meal with others. Begin the meal by sharing highs and lows with one another. Then start the meal with prayer: **Dear God, we give you thanks for the fruit of the earth and for the delight of joining with others to eat and be satisfied. We thank you for the joy of living in your presence through Jesus Christ, the one who fed the five thousand and gives us the abundant life. Amen.** After the meal pray the Lord's Prayer together.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21