

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
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

August 24 & 25, 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 worshipping, 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 Chris Forslund in memory of her parents;

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11 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 Labeledz.

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: Ministry Fair: Worship and Membership

Next week: Fellowship

You are Invited!

John Waterman's 90th Birthday Party

Sunday, August 25

1-4 PM

DAV Hall, 4515 F Street, Omaha

Please RSVP—and get the address of the party - by August 15 via call or text to Shari at 402-830-5769.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code below...

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 25 Sunday

Pentecost 14
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/Ministry
Fair: Worship and Membership

August 26 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 27 Tuesday

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

August 28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Parent/Youth Confirmation
Dinner & Orientation @ St.
Timothy's

August 29 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:30 PM Christian Education

August 30 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 31 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

September 1 Sunday

Pentecost 15
Homebound Communion
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

Confirmation Orientation

August 28

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (93rd & Dodge)

Do you have a student who will be in 7th or 8th grade this fall? Our Confirmation programming kicks off with an Orientation Meeting & Meal for both students and their adults at St. Timothy's on August 28 at 6 PM **AND**... a lock-in and service night here at Kountze, September 6-7. Look for more information in your email and mailbox soon. Let the church office or Pastor Lucy know if you have a student who should be included, or if you have any questions.

Confirmation Lock-in

Grades 7 & 8

Friday/Saturday, September 6 & 7

Plan to join us at Kountze Memorial for a lock-in and service night. More information to follow.

Rally Sunday!

Sunday, September 8

We will kick off our Sunday School year with prayers, celebration, games, and fellowship. We are planning a fun and interesting faith-filled Sunday school year. We hope you join us! Classes begin Sunday, September 15. Be on the lookout for a QR code in the bulletin. All students must be registered so we can easily contact you with information throughout the year and in the event of an emergency. Thank you! Find updates and events on our Facebook page. Ask to join the private group at KMLC Parent and Friend Group. Watch for more details in the September Good News.

Adult Choir

Do you love singing and want to be part of a joyful, dedicated community? Join our Kountze Memorial Adult Choir, where we sing praises to God and enjoy fellowship together. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to lift your voice, we'd love to have you with us as we make vibrant and beautiful music. **Our first rehearsal is on Wednesday, September 4, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, and**

we're excited to return to worship services on Sunday, September 8. Come be a part of something special!

If you're interested in becoming a vital part of our worship through music, we'd be thrilled to welcome you to the choir. Previous singing experience in high school or college is a plus, but not required. For more information or to join, please reach out to Barb Carlsen at 402-341-7761. We'd love to have you sing with us!

Confirmation Classes Begin

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (93rd & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesday, September 11

6 - 7:15 PM

Plan to join us at Kountze Memorial for a lock-in and service night on September 6-7. More information will be available at orientation on August 28 or by contacting Pr. Lucy.

Children's Choir

Beginning Sunday, September 15

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has over 35 years of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people.

All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

New Member Classes

September 15 & 29

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, October 6. Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

Baptism Reunion

Sunday, September 15

12 PM (following 11 AM Worship)

If you have a child that has been baptized in the last two years (January, 2023—August, 2024), mark your calendars to attend this event. Invitations will be coming your way in August. This event will help you to meet other parents in the church with babies and toddlers, learn about available opportunities the church offers for your children, and also ponder ways that you can share the faith daily in your home as you live out the baptismal promises made on behalf of your child.

Free Community Health Fair

Monday, September 16

9 AM - Noon

Methodist Community Health Clinic and the Kountze Memorial Food Pantry are hosting this free health fair inside Kountze Commons outside of the Pantry as well as near the west parking lot of Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. Available screenings and services include flu vaccines, head and neck cancer screenings, skin cancer screenings, vital signs and glucose checks, healthy eating tips from registered dietitians, smoking cessation tips, and spotting the signs of a stroke or heart attack. You do not need to be a patient of Methodist Community Health Clinic or a Food Pantry guest to participate. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 19

11:30 AM

Cost: \$10.00

Join us for good food, great fellowship, and an all-around good time. Our very own Jim Smejkal will be in the kitchen, so you know the meal will be delicious, even if we're keeping the menu a surprise for now. Stay tuned for more details, but mark your calendars now because this is one lunch you won't want to miss! Let us know if you're planning to attend by Tuesday, September 17 so Jim knows how many to plan for.

Women's Fall Gathering & Soup Luncheon

Saturday, September 21

11 AM

All women are invited to join us...

*You do not need to be a member of a Circle to attend.

*Bring a friend or two. *There is no cost for the lunch.

*Please RSVP by Monday, September 16 so we know how many to plan for. After lunch, Jonna Holland will present highlights from her recent trip to Egypt and Jordan. She'll share what they learned about the religious roots of Egypt through the Pyramids and Temples along the Nile. She'll also show the influences of the "People of the Book" in Egypt: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. She'll share photos of what Moses saw on Mt. Nebo in Jordan, and where the Holy Family stayed in Cairo. She'll conclude with some interesting photos of Petra and the breathtaking Wadi Rum desert in Jordan, which served as the backdrop in several recent movies.

Volunteers Needed

We need your help making this a fun and educational school year for the students of Kountze Memorial.

We need your help in the following areas:

1. Teachers. Are you available once a month to lead a scripted lesson?
2. Assistants. Can you help the teacher with materials and engaging the students?
3. Preschool and Nursery assistance. Once a month volunteer schedule.
4. Snacks! Can you bring healthy treats such as fruit bars, trail mix, granola bars, or crackers? Let me know!
5. Choir assistant. This help is needed once a month, during the 9 AM service to pass out materials for Barb and assist during the Christmas program time.
6. Be on the lookout for "Materials Needed" requests. You might have that certain something we need laying around your house.

Let's help our children in developing a deep connection with the Word of God, fellowship with each other, and service to our community. We appreciate your support! Email Kristin@kmlchurch.org to volunteer your time or ask any questions.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste for our Pantry guests. These items are always available along with bar soap, razors, feminine hygiene products and toilet tissue. We offer deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, shave cream, body wash and lotion on the first Monday of the month. Any donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste (or any of these hygiene products) would be greatly appreciated. You may place your contribution in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall or, if ordering online, sent directly to the Church. As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. We especially need volunteers on Friday evenings and on Monday morning September 16, when Methodist is hosting a health fair at the Kountze Pantry. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Attendance & Giving Thursday, 8/15—Wednesday, 8/21

Saturday: 43

Sunday: 9:00: 152 **11:00:** 71

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 274

Streaming: 62

Pantry Guests Served: 1090 (inc. 362 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$9,734.00 (Regular) \$1,624.80 (Specials)

\$447.00 (Debt Reduction)

The gospel message gives us a courageous heart.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus
Monday	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	Many tribes renew the covenant
Tuesday	Ephesians 6:10-20	The whole armor of God
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-13	The true wisdom of God
Thursday	1 Chronicles 28:20-21	Solomon and the temple plans
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Rekindle the gift of God
Saturday	Psalm 34:15-22	The Lord is with you
Sunday	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Authentic faith



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Ephesians 6:19-20a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us courage to speak and live the faith with boldness and to encourage others with your love and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our body and encourages us in a life of faith through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be made strong and courageous through Jesus Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When something bad happens, where do you turn for comfort?
- Do you feel comforted by God's power when you have experienced difficult times? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 6:10-20.

The language that fills this passage can be uncomfortable. It may seem to convey acts of violence against those who oppose God. However, the focus is on a defensive posture for Christians. These are not tools to attack people but to protect people from evil that assaults the community that follows Jesus. This passage acknowledges that evil power is real, and we do need protection, including the sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 1 begins by announcing God's victory in Christ. The battle is won, but the powers dedicated to oppose God have not gone away. In verses 19 and 20 the author describes being imprisoned in chains but not defeated. The boldness of the author is grounded not in arrogance or one's own power, but in the "mystery of the gospel" (v. 19) that continues to do battle with the present evil age. When it reads "be strong" (v. 10), the Greek means to be made strong through the power of God, not one's own strength to defeat others.

Discuss: How does the Christian faith give you strength during difficult times?

Pray: **God of power and might, help us to face the hurts and pains of this life with hope and faith that reaches out to others with your love 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 help someone who is going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Joshua 24:15b, Joshua speaks for his entire household and says to the people, "[A]s for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Many Christians display this verse somewhere in their homes. It is a testimony to faith in God. Think or talk about what it means for your household to "serve the LORD." Write and complete this sentence, "In my household, I will serve the Lord by...." *Pray:* **Lord God, help us to be reminded daily of your unending faithfulness to us and serve you always. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23