

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

September 14 & 15, 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.

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.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

Thank you



for supporting the ministries of Kountze

Memorial Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Charlie Ziegenbein's 30th birthday given by Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein; given in celebration of Glenn Anderson's 90th birthday

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. There are Children's Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The schedule for September is slightly changed. This morning, we'll serve biscuits & gravy, potatoes, and fruit. Next week is our picnic, so join us for donuts and stay for the picnic lunch! Hot breakfast will begin in October.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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: 165th Anniversary Presentation

Next week: Fellowship (Congregation Picnic Set up)

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.

Baptism Reunion

Has been postponed

Contact the Church Office for more information

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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Pentecost 17

Good News Deadline

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

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9:00 AM - Noon Pantry Health Fair

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

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9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KETV Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

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12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

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11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

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5:00 PM Pantry

Vhshwp eh#54#vdxgd|#

11:00 AM Women's Fall

Gathering

5:00 PM Worship

Vhshwp eh#5#xqgd|#

Pentecost 18

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

A Spamtember Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 19

11:30 AM

Recommended Donation: \$10.00

"Beef might be for dinner" but "Spam is what's for lunch". We will sample a few spam recipes and learn more about the history of Spam. This is sure to put Jim's culinary skills to the test but rest assured everyone is promised a great time of food and fellowship. Please RSVP at the welcome desk, call the church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org to reserve your spot at the spamtacular event.

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.

Everyone is Invited to Our Annual Church Picnic!

Sunday, September 22

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Get ready for a day of food, fun, and fellowship at our Annual Church Picnic! Mark your calendars now because this is one event you won't want to miss. Join us at the church for a delicious meal (with a vegetarian option, of course) and bring your favorite side dish to share. The day will be filled with outdoor entertainment for the kids, and we'll wrap up with everyone's favorite—BINGO! Please sign up as you are able on the insert in today's bulletin to let us know if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

Worship Assistant Training

Sunday, October 6, 12:15 PM or

Sunday, October 13, 10:10 AM

- Join us for a training of Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild
- All current servers are encouraged to attend for a refresher course
- If you are interested in learning more about Worship Assistants, please contact the church office to register or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall

Help Wanted!

We have a growing number of youth (7th-12th graders) and young adults (college and young career-aged) involved in the congregation, and especially in this interim period as we figure out staffing, we could use some extra help making sure these important members of our congregation are welcomed and

invited to Worship + Grow + Serve as well. Here are some you might be able to help:

- Host an event in your home - simply provide snacks or a meal & a welcoming space.
- Chaperone an activity for our youth - just come and be an adult presence for a Confirmation or youth group event.
- Help lead Youth Forum on Sunday mornings - on a rotational basis once a month, curriculum / leadership guidance provided.
- Donate - snacks, meals, supplies, coffee, or the money to purchase those things. We all love food - and they're the way to a young person's heart!
- Other... - maybe you have your own ideas - we'd love to hear them

If this is an area where you might be able to help this year - even just once or twice, please let Pastor Lucy know!

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, 9/5—Wednesday, 9/11

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 157 11:00: 58

Wednesday: 12:15: 16

Total: 262

Streaming: 48

Pantry Guests Served: 1025 (inc. 354 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering:

\$15,315.11 (Regular) \$4,119.25 (Specials)

\$387.00 (Debt Reduction)

Followers of Jesus take up the cross.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross
Monday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Tuesday	James 3:1-12	Controlling the tongue
Wednesday	Acts 17:1-9	Uproar in Thessalonica
Thursday	Isaiah 53:1-12	The suffering servant
Friday	Matthew 18:31-34	Jesus foretells his death
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-9	A prayer of thanksgiving
Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest



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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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Mark 8:34 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for showing us the depth of your love for us and the power of suffering through the cross of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that refreshes us and the cross that saves us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ give you peace and hope.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know suffered rejection.
- How would you describe a follower of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 8:27-38.

If you listen to certain people or read writings by some who claim to know what it means to follow Jesus, you might think that discipleship is about power, worldly success, wealth, and health. Those who describe discipleship in this way do not come close to knowing Jesus as the Messiah (Christ). In Mark 8 Jesus tells the crowd, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (v. 34b). This makes it clear that to know Jesus Christ, is to know the path of rejection, suffering, and death. This reading is a difficult one for those who desire to follow Jesus. As painful as Jesus' description is, taking up the cross results in being freed and not feeling ashamed of Jesus' message, especially when we find ourselves among those who do not accept the power of the cross. This good news, the "gospel" (v. 35), frees us to see Jesus as we take up our crosses and leave behind any fear of powers that destroy life, love, and hope.

Discuss: How does faith in Jesus Christ free you from your fears?

Pray: **Dear God, you who lift up the lowly, we thank you for Jesus who experiences the pain of rejection, suffering, and death that we may know the cross as the path to life and love. 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 has been rejected by others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

James 3:1-12 emphasizes that what we say can offer words of encouragement or words that destroy others. Verse 9 encourages us to use our tongues to bless others, not hurt them. Write a list of words or phrases that can be used to encourage others. Think or talk about someone you know who needs to hear words of mercy and kindness and plan to reach out to them. *Pray:* **Lord God, please help us to use our tongues not to hurt others but to care for others and to thank and praise you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37