

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

November 23 & 24, 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 165 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.

Scan to Give Online



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

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.

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

During the month of November, we will be learning about how God provides us with what we need. To begin the Sunday School educational time, **we are serving the students a hot breakfast upstairs.** The kids can enjoy the same breakfast being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

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: Budget Update

Next week: Advent Fair

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24

6 PM

Hosted by and Held at Kountze Memorial

Let's join our interfaith siblings and give thanks to God! A cookie & coffee reception will follow. The offering collected will be donated to Together, Inc.

Alternative Gifts

November 24, December 1, 8, & 15

Between services ~ 10-11 AM

ELCA Good Gifts, Global Mamas, and Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

We will again have the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and give a gift that shares God's love and truly

makes a difference in someone's life. Honor your family and friends with an Alternative Gift this Christmas. This year there will also be some physical items for purchase.

Homemade Peanut Brittle Sale

Urban Ministry Cooperative Parish

November 24, December 1, & 15

Between services ~ 10-11 AM

Noni Cambridge, our Staff Treasurer, is selling homemade peanut brittle for the Urban Ministry Cooperative Parish. The proceeds from this Fundraiser goes to support the Raven Fund. This fund supports the underserved in the North and South Omaha Communities with food, rent, and utility bill assistance. Stop by to see Noni and enjoy a yummy treat while helping others at the same time! Peanut brittle makes a great gift.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 24 Sunday

Christ the King

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 Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

6:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 28 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal

@ St. Peters

November 29 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED—No Pantry

November 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion

9:00 AM Decorate for Advent

5:00 PM Worship

December 1 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Fair

Homebound Communion

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 Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Kitchen Help Needed

Turkey Prep & Cook for Thanksgiving Meal

Monday, November 25 &/or Tuesday, November 26

Kountze Memorial provides and cooks the turkeys for the Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's each year. We need 2 or 3 someones to help with cleaning the turkeys to get them ready to go into the oven on the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Working in the kitchen is always fun and a great way to get to know others that you may only see on Saturday or Sunday while at church. There is a sign-up sheet in the bulletin.

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, November 30

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Annual Advent Fair

December 1

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. **Please bring diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items** that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

Alternative Gifts

November 24, December 1, 8, & 15

Between services ~ 10-11 AM

ELCA Good Gifts, Global Mamas, and Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

We again have the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and give a gift that shares God's love and truly makes a difference in someone's life. Honor your family and friends with an Alternative Gift this Christmas. See the insert in this week's bulletin for more information.

GivingTuesday

December 3

Let's celebrate what we can do in just 24 hours! You are invited to join in the biggest local giving day of the year. It is time to start thinking about what nonprofits and causes you will support and we invite you to learn more and give to Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center and help us Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, and Tend the Soul. There are many local nonprofits who also participate in this amazing day of generosity. GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Please see #GivingTuesday402 or <https://shareomaha.org/> to learn more.

Advent

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

Meals: 11 AM & 5 PM

Cost: Free Will Offering

Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM

Plan to Worship on Wednesdays during Advent and come early for lunch or dinner here at Kountze Memorial. We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals. If you would like to help in the kitchen (always a fun time) please sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org

Something to think about: What are two or three ways that you will cultivate hope this season? How might these ways bring hope to you? To others?

Blood Drive

Sunday, December 8

9 AM—1 PM

Kountze Memorial will host a Blood Drive this Advent. We need 30 to sign up in advance but there will also be room for "walk-ins."

- If you normally give blood, please consider giving here and sign up as soon as possible
- If you haven't given blood before or aren't on a regular schedule, this is a great time for you to consider giving at our Blood Drive and sign up as soon as possible. You can sign up online or at the Welcome Desk (online is preferred).

By giving blood, you can save up to three lives in only one hour every time you donate.

Merry Tuba Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8

3:00 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the Public. It should be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Candlelight Carol Service

Kountze Memorial

Saturday, December 14

Prelude begins at 4:40 PM

Service 5 PM

Reception Following

Nursery Care will be Provided

You, your family, and friends are invited to join us for this special service of sacred scripture and poetry, congregational carols, handbells, brass, organ, and piano. Please join us following the service for a lovely reception and time for fellowship.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15

9 AM

We are excited to hear our children sing and tell the story of Christ's birth. The children (grades Pre K-6) will present the Christmas story with music. Be sure to invite grandpas & grandmas, aunts & uncles, and any other special people your kiddos would like to have here. They always do a great job telling the story.

Kountze Youth Christmas Party

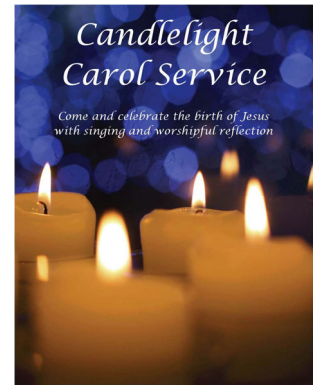
Middle School, High School, College Youth

Kristin Boe's House

Saturday, December 21

3—5 PM

We will decorate sugar cookies, play games, and have a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Please bring a gift—either from home or something you purchase for \$10 or less! RSVP to the church office or at the Welcome Desk.



Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 11/14—Wednesday, 11/20

Saturday: 18

Sunday: 9:00: 188 11:00: 70

Wednesday: 12:15: 7

Total: 283

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 1,063 (inc. 368 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$19,907.48 (Regular) \$5,956.63 (Specials)

\$282.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus Christ's reign is here now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	The time of judgment
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	1 Timothy 6:11-16	The good fight of faith
Thursday	Hebrews 1:1-4	God has spoken by his Son
Friday	Colossians 2:6-15	Fullness of life in Christ
Saturday	Psalm 93	The majesty of God's reign
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	Coming of the Son of Man



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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

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Ever-living God, may all people know of your love, power, and glory that brings healing and new life through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who have established the world and all that is in it, we thank you for giving us this meal, a sign of your love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of heaven and earth bless you to know Christ's reign.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If you had unlimited power, how would you use it to change the world?
- How is Jesus, as "ruler of the kings of the earth" (Revelation 1:5), different from other rulers?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 1:4b-8.

This scripture writing celebrates what glory and power really look like. The Book of Revelation delights in the God who always is, always was, and always will be. God is not some rumored supreme power who intimidates and destroys. Unlike earthly powers that come and go, it is the reign of Jesus Christ that bestows life, love, and joy. It is not the power meant for a few at the expense of many. It is a reign filled with a whole kingdom of priests, meaning all of us, who serve God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving without end. It is a reign that lifts all God's people to share in this power and give glory to God. This Jesus, the one who died as the faithful *witness* (also translated as "martyr") is coming and is here now to love us and free us from the bondage of all other rulers of the earth. This Jesus, the slain lamb, has already arrived in worship, in Holy Communion, and in a whole series of "Amens" that we shout because in Christ we are turning to see God's glory.

Discuss: Where and how do you see the reign of Christ in the world today?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, give us hearts and voices that give you praise as the only one who has the power to be with us always with love and hope through Jesus Christ. 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 others experience the power of God in the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent.

Think or talk about the traditions you have established in your home over the years. Many different types of Advent calendars can now be found in stores and online. Advent wreaths are another tradition. If you have not had a tradition in the past, consider using a calendar or wreath this year as part of your faith journey in your home and gifting them to family and friends as well.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36