

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

January 11 & 12, 2025

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

The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs while listening to the lessons of the day (the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall). 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 breakfast.

Youth Forum

Youth Center

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Join us in the Youth Center! Any adults interested in helping with Youth Forum, please contact Pr. Lucy.

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: Why Was Jesus Baptized?

Next week: Deacon Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod

New Member Classes

January 12 & 26

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, February 2. Questions or planning to attend? Contact the church office (402-341-7761 or debbie@kmlchurch.org. We look forward to connecting with you!

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, January 12

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Please join us for a lively discussion.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 12 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
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
10:15 AM New Member Class
12:15 PM Book Group

January 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
5:00 PM KCCOC Board

January 14 Tuesday

No Staff Meeting

January 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline
12:00 PM KETV Board
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

January 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 19 Sunday

Epiphany 2
Annual Reports Due
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

Sunday School Volunteers Needed

If you would like to help assist and lead the preschool or elementary youth one Sunday each month, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. If you would like to help with Youth Forum, please contact Pr. Lucy.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 16

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Kick off the new year with good food and great company at our Men's Lunch! January's gathering promises hearty laughs and warm fellowship—no fancy theme, just the perfect chance to relax after the holiday rush. Stay tuned for menu details, and save the date! Jim's got us covered.

Annual Committee Reports

Due January 19

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have them turned in to Debbie Bogue in the office no later than January 19. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

Dinners for Eight(ish)

February, March, April

Sign up by Sunday, January 19

- Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight(ish).
- Meet each month for a meal in February, March, & April.
- Enjoy a meal and conversation with one another.
- Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
- Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Sunday, January 19.

See you around the table!

Pledge Cards

If you haven't turned your pledge card in yet, it's not too late. There are pledge cards in the back of the Narthex - ask an Usher - as well as at the Welcome Desk. We'd like to have all pledges turned in by January 19 if possible so we have that information for the Annual Report.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Evensong: A Grand Choir Experience!

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry

January 26

4:30-7:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

(322 N. Molley Street, Bennington)

This annual fundraising event to support NeLCM throughout the Omaha area. We are invited to enjoy and judge chili, bid in a virtual silent auction, and sing in the Evensong choir that will feature Holden Evening Prayer and a choir anthem. Use this link <https://tinyurl.com/5cc88mmr> to RSVP to attend the event. Donations to campus ministry can be made by clicking the donate link at www.nelcm.com.

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth if you register by the **January 31 Early Bird Registration** date. If you register after this date, you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 15—20, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K–12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps. In order for the church to pay the fee, choose:

- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"

Email a copy of the receipt to info@kmlchurch.org and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth. If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below:

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>

Youth Mission Trip

Kountze Memorial will join other high school youth and leaders from around the Nebraska Synod this summer on mission in Nashville. The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person
- We will fundraise to offset the cost to families
- Contact Pr. Lucy or Kristin Boe if you are interested!

Our youth are kicking-off the fundraising for this trip with an Envelope Tree. Just like last year, we ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Pantry is collecting gloves for men, women, and children. Men's large and extra-large gloves are especially in short supply. Also, we will accept and distribute new or like-new coats to our Pantry guests if they request them. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry", located in Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are located on the box. As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

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

Scholarships

G h d g d h # r # D s s o j # P d u f k # 4 #

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at:

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

Applications are due on March 1, 2025. Applications

received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail, in person to the church office, or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 16

10:15 AM

Annual Report and 2025 Budget

KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Vacation Bible School

July 20-23

Ages 2 Years to Grade 5

5:15 PM: Family Dinner

6-8 PM: Class

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, January 2—Wednesday, January 8

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 81 11:00: 43

Wednesday: 12:15: 17 6:30: 0

Total: 171

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 907 (inc. 295 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$32,989.21 (Regular)

\$6,485.44 (Specials)

\$7,807.00 (Debt Reduction)

God calls us by name.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our baptismal life and feed us with your power to trust that we are loved by God now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food strengthen us to live in peace and faith through Christ Jesus our Lord, God's Beloved Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know that you are loved.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt abandoned or forgotten? What helped you overcome that feeling?
- The Scriptures tell us that you are God's beloved child. How does this message guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 43:1-7.

The point being made by Isaiah is that we are known by name. We are not forgotten, and we are loved by the creator and redeemer of all of life. From a Nazi concentration camp in World War II, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor, and theologian, wrote a poem entitled *Who Am I?* He explored his inner thoughts and how others might see him from prison and asked the fundamental question, "Who am I?" He gave us the foundational answer: "Whoever I am, Thou knows, O God, I am thine!" The text from Isaiah 43 is a wonderful one to read and use as a prayer during tough times like when we experience a serious illness, loss, or feel held captive to forces that work against us. God's love is eternal, and no life experience will separate us from the saving love of God. Jesus' baptism identifies him as God's unique Son, the Beloved (Luke 3:22). Through Jesus, our lives matter. Through our baptism, we are reminded of what Isaiah 43 passionately confesses: we are God's and never, ever abandoned or forgotten.

Discuss: How does knowing God's love is eternal and that you are never forgotten help during tough times?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope and peace 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 show God's love to someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Baptism happens in a community of faith with the support of others. In Acts 8:14-17, Peter and John supported the newly baptized. "*The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit*" (v. 15). Think about your own or someone else's baptism. By whom and in what ways are the baptized supported? Draw water drops on a sheet of paper. In each drop, write a way you can support someone who was recently baptized. Take a moment to think or talk about how and when you will show that person support.

Pray: **Lord God, in our baptism you call us by name. Thank you for your eternal love. Help us to support one another through our actions, words, and prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11