

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 18 & 19, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Joe & Patt Councill in honor of our grandson, Ty, being awarded his Eagle Scout in November.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by the Kountze WELCA Circles

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

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

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: Deacon Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod

Next week: Rev Greg Berger, Assistant to the Bishop

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!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

January 20 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

January 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

January 22 Wednesday

12:00 PM KETV Board

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 23 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 26 Sunday

Epiphany 3

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

Continues

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

New Member Class Continues

January 26

10:15 AM

We will welcome new members on Sunday, February 2. We look forward to connecting with you!

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:

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

- 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>

Ice Skating

Saturday, February 15

3-5 PM

Skate Ribbon

Heartland of America Park

7th Grade through College-aged Young Adults

- Meet at 3 PM at the church or 3:15 PM at the Skate Ribbon at Heartland of America Park.
- Cost is free if you bring your own ice skates, or you can rent skates for \$5.
- Need to RSVP to church office or by signing up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center (in the Fellowship Hall). We will need an email address to send you a waiver form that must be filled out.

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!

Scholarships

Deadline to Apply: March 1

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

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>



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 9—Wednesday, January 15

Saturday: 45

Sunday: 9:00: 167 11:00: 87

Wednesday: 12:15: 14 6:30: 0

Total: 313

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 970 (inc. 326 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 10

Offering:

\$47,699.61 (Regular) \$2,003.25 (Specials)

\$26,027.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' ministry overflows with joy and love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5	Jerusalem will be saved
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Psalm 16:7-11	Song of trust in God
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:10-13	Healing after punishment
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalm 36:5-10	Human sin and God's goodness
Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth



© 2023 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.
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

You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. Isaiah 62:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you take delight in bringing us joy when we are discouraged; help us to use our abilities so that others may see Jesus as the source of your abundant goodness. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant care, we thank you for this food and all that you provide us, signs of your constant love for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of abundant love give you joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What gives you joy?
- When has faith in Christ brought you hope in difficult times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-11.

In the Gospel of John, the first sign of Jesus that pointed to his glory (his death and resurrection) is seen in water turned to wine. That moment leads us to a deep understanding of Jesus' entire ministry. It is about abundance that brings joy, not gloom and doom. The amount of wine Jesus provides from the water jars was excessive, and it tasted very good. Wine in the Bible was meant to gladden the heart. It was associated with a future divine banquet as well as daily hospitality and celebration. The sign of changing water into wine at a wedding feast introduces Jesus' ministry as overflowing with goodness, joy, and love. It turns our shame and embarrassment (like a bridegroom's shame for running out of wine) into simple delight without limits, without measure. It leads us to long for more of what Jesus has in store for us.

Discuss: When is a time that Jesus' overflowing joy and love made a difference in your life?

Pray: **God of love, give us joy in your presence that we may be a sign of your love to others through Jesus Christ 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 share God's overflowing love and joy with someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 we learn that all Christians are given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are given "for the common good" (v. 7). The larger world around us sees these personal gifts as something that emphasizes our own success. For Christians, our gifts are meant to serve others. Write a list of the gifts you feel you have or that others see in you. Take a moment to say each gift aloud. *Then pray:* **Dear God, thank you for the gifts I have been given. Help me to use them to serve others in your name. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21