

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 25 & 26, 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

Thank You to Rev. Greg Berger, Assistant to the Bishop, Nebraska Synod for preaching today. During Forum today, he will speak about the Synod & our partnership in mission as well as the Call Process.

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.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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: Rev Greg Berger, Assistant to the Bishop

Next week: New Member Reception and What is “Candlemass”/Feast of the Presentation?

New Member Class Continues This Sunday, January 26 10:15 AM

Evensong: A Grand Choir Experience! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry This Sunday, January 26 4:30-7:00 PM

St. John’s Lutheran Church (322 N. Molley Street, Bennington)

Join the Omaha Lutheran Campus Ministry for Evensong: A Grand Choir Experience. Enjoy a chili cook-off and silent auction followed by Holden Evening Prayer with the grand choir. Experience worship, music, faith, and food as we lift our voices together in hope. All are welcome! A free-will offering to support the ministry is encouraged.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

January 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
11:30 AM Endowment Board

January 28 Tuesday

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

January 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Planning Meeting @ Luther Memorial

January 31 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

February 2 Sunday

Epiphany 4
Presentation of Our Lord
Homebound Communion
Receive New Members
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

Good News Assembly

Tuesday, January 28

9:00 AM—1:00 PMish

If you have a few free hours, we would be glad to put you to work helping to assemble the Good News. There is a great, fun core group to work with. No need to RSVP. Just show up Tuesday morning if you’re able. Thanks!

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>

Sunday School Needs Your Empty TP Rolls

We are saving toilet paper rolls for a Sunday School project. Please bring your empty rolls to the Sunday School office throughout the month of February. Thank you!

Cards with Friends

Thursday, February 6

2:00 PM

We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first Thursday of the month for a time together playing cards. Bring a snack to share if you would like. All are welcome.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, February 9

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

SACRED NATURE: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World by Karen Armstrong

Please join us for a meaningful discussion and time to connect with fellow book lovers.

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

Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars®

Did you know that if you are a Thrivent member, you can direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds to a favorite nonprofit organization or cause?

For more information, go to:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Pantry is still 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 16—Wednesday, January 22

Saturday: 32

Sunday: 9:00: 116 11:00: 68

Wednesday: 12:15: 11 6:30: 0

Total: 227

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 904 (inc. 285 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering: Not available at time of printing

Jesus sets us free.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth
Monday	Nehemiah 8:1-10	Ezra reads God's law to the people
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	One body, many parts
Wednesday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of deliverance
Thursday	Leviticus 25:1-24	The year of jubilee
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christian freedom
Saturday	Psalms 19	God's glory in creation and the law
Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, for your message of freedom that is more desired than gold and sweeter than honey, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 19:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food that strengthens the body and your word that strengthens our souls, we thank you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of Christ Jesus bless you and set you free.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What burdens or worries do you have? What would help set you free from them?
- Jesus came to set us free. From what would you like Jesus to set you free?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 4:14-21.

This is Jesus' first sermon in Luke. That makes it a particularly important message, one that reveals recurring themes in Jesus' ministry. Jesus chooses to read from Isaiah 61. The message is clear. Jesus has God's Spirit to encourage the poor, free captives, give sight to the blind, and set free those who are burdened. Finally, he is to announce the "year of the Lord's favor" (v.19), a phrase that represents the year of jubilee announced in Leviticus 25. Every fifty years slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven, and lands lost to debts would be returned to ancestral owners. This keeps society from unraveling into unlimited wealth for some and perpetual poverty for others. Jesus brings all sorts of new beginnings for powerless people. Jesus would be one of the powerless and die on a cross as a criminal. His life, death, and resurrection become the good news for a world where unfairness and abuse of powers seem to win the day, but never really will in God's rule.

Discuss: Where is there a need in today's world for Jesus' freeing power?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for freeing us to serve you with thanksgiving and serve our neighbor in love, through Christ Jesus who preaches good news for all. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you help someone be released from their worries?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The closing prayer in Psalm 19 is often used at the beginning of sermons, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer" (v. 14). Pray this verse as part of a morning prayer ritual to honor the day and see your actions and thoughts as a form of praise to God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40