

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

February 1 & 2, 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

Eternal Candle and Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Steve & Diane O'Connor for the health and welfare of our family and friends.

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

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Forum hour.

- 2/2 Games & Get-to-know each other
- 2/9 Bible study

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

Next week: Budget Presentation

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 2 Sunday

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

February 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
7:30 PM Youth Committee

February 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5 PM Kountze 165th Anniversary Presentation
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

February 6 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 7 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 8 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 9 Sunday

Epiphany 4
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
12:15 PM Book Group

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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!

Kountze 165th Anniversary Presentation

Wednesday, February 5

5—7 PM

If you missed the 165th anniversary presentations during Adult Forum, now is your chance! Come for pizza and a repeat presentation. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or email the church office so we know how much pizza to order.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, February 6

2 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.

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.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, February 20

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Join us for the February men's lunch. We will be celebrating National Pig Day a week early, and you guessed it: we'll have pork on the menu. Who knows what else Jim will have cooked up, but it's sure to be a good time. Come hungry and please sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, February 18.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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

KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Join your Kountze friends at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Spend the week making new friends, spending time in nature, and growing in faith through song, lessons, and testimonies. If you didn't register by the Early Bird registration date, you will need to pay the additional cost and Kountze Memorial will cover the rest of the registration for any Kountze Memorial child/youth. 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 the Early Bird payment on behalf of your youth.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below and follow the directions above:

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

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 23—Wednesday, January 29

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 161 11:00: 79

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 287

Streaming: 52

Pantry Guests Served: 1152 (inc. 407 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$14,263.27 (Regular) \$927.89 (Specials)

\$364.90 (Debt Reduction)

Love is at the heart of the Christian faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected
Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	The Lord chooses Jeremiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Wednesday	Luke 2:25-32	Simeon praises the Lord
Thursday	1 John 3:16-21	God is love
Friday	Amos 5:14-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalm 71:1-6	A prayer for God's protection
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus, that others may see in us our love and faith in you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for the needs of all people; we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have enough to eat through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What makes you feel loved?
- Can you be a person of Christian faith without love? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

This scripture reading responds to some misguided understandings about the Christian faith. Some think their knowledge and their understanding of God is better than others. Their faith is driven by the power of knowledge and a feeling of superiority. The Apostle Paul says that love is at the heart of the message and ministry of the followers of Jesus Christ. The love Paul lifts up *“does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth”* (v. 6). While some might boast of having spiritual powers that can move mountains or grasp deep mysteries, Paul states that love is the real measure of the Christian faith. Christian love lasts forever and shows compassion because it *“believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”* (v. 7). The love Paul preaches is not *“boastful or arrogant”* (v. 4b), but humbly seeks the good of others, recognizing that our knowledge, even our speaking on behalf of God is imperfect. Faith, hope, and love are all important, and because of our imperfect faith and hope, the greatest of the three is love.

Discuss: How has someone shown you God's love?

Pray: **Merciful God, thank you for loving us beyond anything we deserve. Guide us to love others as we have been loved through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show compassion and love to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On February 2nd each year the Christian church remembers Jesus' presentation at the temple forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-38). This festival is called *Candlemas*. It involves candlelight processions and the blessing and distribution of candles. Simeon's words referring to Jesus as *“a light to reveal God to the nations”* (v. 32) provide the biblical inspiration for this. The candles symbolize the purity of Christ. Light the candles that you will use in your home.

Say: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world. May the light of these candles remind us to shine for you so that others may see your love and grace through our actions and words. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30