

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 8 & 9, 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 Karen & Steve Jacobson in memory of their dear friend, Debby Engler

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Pat's sister given by Robert & Pat Ranney

### Children's Choir

9:15 AM

#### K-6<sup>th</sup> 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-6<sup>th</sup> 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 Faith Formation hour.

- 2/9 Bible study
- 2/16 Youth table in Forum - Congregational Mtg.

### 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 Presentation

**Next week:** Congregational Meeting

### 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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### February 10 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry

### February 11 Tuesday

- 10:00 AM Patricia Muller Funeral
- 12:30 PM Staff Meeting

### February 12 Wednesday

- 9:00 AM Sewing Group
- 12:15 PM Worship
- 1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
- 4:00 PM Executive Committee
- 6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### February 13 Thursday

- Council Reports Due
- 9:30 AM WELCA Board
- 11:30 AM Property Committee
- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 14 Friday

- Valentine's Day
- 5:00 PM Pantry

### February 15 Saturday

- Good News Deadline
- 3:00 PM Ice Skating (gr 7—Young Adult)
- 5:00 PM Worship

### February 16 Sunday

- Epiphany 6
- Confirmation Retreat
- 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—Congregational Meeting

### February 17 Monday

- Office Closed
- No Pantry

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## 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!

### Ice Skating

#### Saturday, February 15

3—5 PM

### Skate Ribbon

#### Heartland of America Park

#### 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) by Tuesday, February 18.

### 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

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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!

### **Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Tuesday, February 25**

**Reception: 4:30— 6:30 PM**

Born from a mission at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, where it initially operated within Sunday school classrooms, the HGFC has evolved into an independent 501 (c)(3) nonprofit now housed at the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. This all-volunteer clinic, complete with a licensed pharmacy, provides free medical care to underserved individuals, emphasizing well-being for the body, mind, and spirit. HGFC's dedicated team of volunteer healthcare professionals offers a wide array of medical services for both acute and chronic conditions. All services, including prescribed medications, are provided at no cost. The clinic relies entirely on the generous contributions of time and expertise from its staff and medical volunteers. HGFC invites the Kountze community to join in celebrating this milestone and consider supporting their continued mission of providing vital healthcare to those in need.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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>



### **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 30—Wednesday, February 5**

**Saturday: 29**

**Sunday: 9:00: 163 11:00: 81**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 5**

**Total: 278**

**Streaming: 59**

**Pantry Guests Served: 894 (inc. 279 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12**

**Offering:**

\$12,435.64 (Regular) \$2,204.10 (Specials)

\$297.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus calls his first followers.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-13	The call of Isaiah
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The call of Paul
Wednesday	Psalm 36	Human sin and God's goodness
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Deuteronomy 7:6-11	The Lord's chosen people
Saturday	Psalm 138	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain



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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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:10b-11 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to tell others of your mercy at work in the world that they may know of your loving power through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthen for thy service be. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with grace and mercy.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How do you describe your daily routine?
- How would you respond if Jesus asked you to leave your home and daily routine to follow him?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 5:1-11.

Jesus calling Simon Peter, James, and John to follow him is part of a miracle story. The first scene, if not a miracle, is at least surprising: a first-century crowd pressing in on Jesus who was a rather unknown traveling speaker at the time. The more recognizable miracle is the catch of fish, an unbelievable amount of fish for those who had just fished all night without catching a thing. Next, Simon Peter, aware of Jesus' holiness and his own unworthiness, is afraid of being close to Jesus. However, Jesus changes Simon Peter's fears by giving him a new calling for his life to be a disciple. Now, Simon Peter will help more people get close to Jesus. Finally, Simon Peter, James, and John leave their prior life's work to follow Jesus, leaving all else behind. From beginning to end, the story contains the miraculous work of God. This story tells us to expect the unexpected grace and mercy that Jesus brings to us and the entire world.

*Discuss:* When have you experienced God's unexpected grace and mercy?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, your presence in our lives is full of grace and mercy; help us to extend that grace and mercy to all through Christ Jesus, our 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 care for others with God's surprising mercy?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah was involved in worship when he received his call as a prophet. The word worship comes from the Old English word "worthship". We worship not only to praise God for God's worthiness but also to receive our own worthiness as those loved and sent by God into the world. God uses ordinary people like Isaiah and the disciples to do extraordinary work. In what ways do you feel called and sent into the world to serve God? Make a list of talents and gifts you have and think about how they can be used to serve God.

*Pray:* **Generous God, you call us by name and send us out to tell of your extravagant love for us. Give us the faith, strength, and courage to be your followers. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26