

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 15 & 16, 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 in celebration of Bob Johnson's 75th birthday

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Marvin Andersen given by his family

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 Faith Formation hour.

2/16 Youth table in Forum - Congregational Mtg.
2/23 Mardi Gras!

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: Congregational Meeting



This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

Confirmation Retreat

February 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

February 19 Wednesday

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

February 20 Thursday

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

February 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 23 Sunday

Epiphany 7
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 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!

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.

Del and Lou Ann Weber

Healing Gift Free Clinic

15th 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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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

Table Grace 2025 Gala

Friday, March 7

6-9 PM

Livestock Exchange Ballroom

4920 South 30th Street, Omaha

We are invited to a wonderful evening of food, entertainment, and giving. The Gala will not only help raise money for those who are hungry but also help give them a hand up in life - providing meals with dignity and an opportunity to start a new life with training and job experience. The Gala will feature stories of impact that will be shared around the tables by people who have experienced transformative life changes through Table Grace first-hand. Starting at 6 PM with a Cocktail hour and Silent Auction. Followed by heavy hors d'oeuvres and program at 7 PM and finishing with a live auction at 8 PM. More information about *The Making of Table Grace*, the Musical Documentary will be revealed at the event! tickets & info are available at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/bd7fb5ee-eba5-4998-9b9c-53f852e5555b>

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>

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!



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, February 6—Wednesday, February 12

Saturday: 21
Sunday: 9:00: 176 **11:00:** 65
Wednesday: 12:15: (No Service—Snow Day)
Total: 262
Streaming: 68
Pantry Guests Served: 818 (inc. 270 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23
Offering:
\$38,275.14 (Regular) \$1,285.91 (Specials)
\$257.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus tells us we are blessed right now.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Acts 13:26-39	Bring the good news
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalm 1	Blessed are the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies



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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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." **Luke 6:21 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless your people like a tree planted by water that bears fruit, even during dry seasons, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen. (Psalm 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8)

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food give strength to our bodies and your word of life feed our souls with peace and contentment. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and contentment.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you feel blessed right now? Explain.
- For a follower of Jesus, what does it mean to be blessed?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 6:17-26.

It is understandable to say we are blessed when good things happen to us. However, Jesus reverses this thinking by addressing the poor, the hungry, those weeping, and those hated. In a reversal of fortunes, they will be the ones who receive riches, food, laughter, and joy. Because of this, Jesus calls them blessed right now. The reverse is true for those who seem to be enjoying life now. They are called cursed. Jesus presents a view of life with very different standards and rewards than most people expect. Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17 also offer this alternative view of life and prosperity. Trusting the teachings of God gives a blessed life, not human powers filled with bad intentions (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus and Jeremiah, the writer of Psalm 1, honor a life that trusts God's word above all else. This is the faith that blesses us with contentment, even joy. Hear and believe Jesus' words from Luke 6 that you, as a follower of Jesus, are blessed, no matter your circumstances.

Discuss: Is it easy or difficult for you to trust that you are blessed right now by Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, your future is filled with good things for those who trust you; give us hearts to trust that your future is filled with grace and mercy through Christ 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 help those who are poor or hungry?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Blessing others is an ancient tradition, a way to speak of God's love and care. It often comes with a physical gesture. It is the act of a faith community that communicates God's word of peace and joy. Offer a blessing to another person, perhaps to a family member when they leave the house or go to bed, or to a friend when you depart from each other's company. When you do so, make the sign of the cross on that person's forehead or hand as a reminder of God's baptismal promise.

Say: **May God bless you with peace and joy.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38