

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 Slight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 22 & 23, 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 is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike & 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. Thank you to our Children's Choir this morning for sharing their musical talents with us.

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.

3/23 Special speaker— their involvement and history at Kountze Memorial

3/30 Join the adult forum at the youth table

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: Introducing the New Director of KCCOC (pending)

Next week: God as Father, Creator, and Almighty (Nicene Creed)

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 23 Sunday

Lent 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

March 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3
7:30 PM Youth Committee

March 26 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship
March 27 Thursday
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 28 Friday

1:05 PM Piano Tuning
5:00 PM Pantry

March 29 Saturday

10:00 AM Vinn Stephens Memorial Service
5:00 PM Worship

March 30 Sunday

Lent 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
12:00 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Good News "Collating Party"

Wednesday, March 26

9:00 AM

As we gear up for another edition of the Good News, we're reaching out to you for a little extra support in the collating department. And, we serve lunch! This month, Jim and his Lenten Meal Crew will be serving lunch! So, if you're up for a bit of teamwork and a whole lot of fun, join us in this delightful adventure of collating camaraderie. If you're able to lend a hand in this behind-the-scenes task, please call the church office to let us know. Please feel free to attend the 12:15 Lenten Worship service at 12:15. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our church community in such a meaningful way.

Sewing Group

Wednesday, March 26

9:00 AM

We're rescheduling the Sewing Group from March 11 that was rescheduled to March 19, to this Wednesday, March 26. It doesn't look like there's a chance of storms, so we should be good! If you would like to come and help, quilting expertise is not necessary. If you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt. Come and join the group this month! You can stay

for lunch and attend the 12:15 service afterward if you would like.

Carol Joy Holling 12th Annual

Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 5

5 - 10 PM

A View West Shores

110 S 243rd St

Waterloo, NE

Join the camp to bring Faith: Alive! by celebrating the work done through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Our participation enables NLOM to provide opportunities to campers no matter their ability to pay for camp. All are welcome here. This will be an evening of fun, auction bidding wars, fellowship with friends, and great food. To find out how to donate items for the silent auction, how to become a sponsor, to buy tickets, or any other information about the Gala, go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

First Communion Classes

Sundays, April 6 & 13

12:00 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2nd grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email her at Kristin@kmlchurch.org to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

New Member Classes

April 27 & May 4

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 18. Questions or planning to attend? Contact the church office (402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org). We look forward to connecting with you!

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.

- 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!
- To help with fundraising for this trip, there are envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. 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!

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Pantry is in immediate need of toothbrushes and toothpaste. We also are collecting razors, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and any form of hand soap. Also inexpensive hand can openers. 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>



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Attendance & Giving
Thursday, March 13—Wednesday, March 19

Saturday: 18
Sunday: 9:00: 150 **11:00:** 79
Wednesday: Snow Day
Total: 247
Streaming: 64
Pantry Guests Served: 690 (inc. 248 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14
Offering:
\$8,496.50 (Regular) \$2,899.81 (Specials)
\$1,132.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are fed by God's love to bear good fruit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	John 15:1-11	Jesus the true vine
Thursday	Colossians 1:9-14	Paul thanks God for the Colossians
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father



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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

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. Psalm 63:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, feed us with your loving power so that our lives may reflect your love for others through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that feeds us, your love that strengthens us, and your call to love others that inspires us, we give you thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God surround you with love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What difference does it make if you practice something daily?
- What are some of your daily practices that strengthen your faith to live a life of loving service?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 13:1-9.

We can be tempted to evaluate the successes or failures of others and sometimes speculate about their futures. In Luke 13, Jesus stops this speculation and turns our attention back to ourselves to look at our own lives. We are to live lives that reflect a God-centered life (repentance). Our lives are valued and are to bear the fruit of our loving God. In Jesus' parable of the fig tree, the unfruitful tree is not cut down immediately. For three years the tree is nurtured to bear fruit. A fourth year is even added to give it a chance to produce fruit. Our lives are to bear the fruit of God's love in Christ. We must be fed and cared for so that we may bear the fruit of a God-centered life. Our inspiration to be nurtured in faith is not the fear of being cut down but the love of God in Christ that feeds us and frees us to love God and our neighbor.

Discuss: What practices (like prayer, worship, reading Scripture, service, or other Christian traditions) help feed you so that you may bear the fruit of a God-centered life?

Pray: **Nurturing God, you feed us with the power of your love through Christ; help us that we may enjoy a life of repentance through Jesus 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 support and nurture the life of someone else?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This third week in Lent we reflect on "Give us each day our daily bread" (v. 3). Add this verse to verses 2a and 2b from the first and second weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32