

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

March 29 & 30, 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**

#### **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. 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-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.

**3/30** Join the adult forum at the youth table

**4/6** Meet Deacon Korra during the Adult Forum

### 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.

**3/30** God as Father, Creator, and Almighty (Nicene Creed)

**4/6** Meet Deacon Korra

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### March 31 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### April 1 Tuesday

Voting at KCCOC

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### April 2 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Meal

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Meal

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### April 3 Thursday

No Pantry

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Worship

### April 4 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion

Meet Deacon Korra

5:00 PM Worship

6:00 PM Potluck—Bring a dish to share

### April 6 Sunday

Lent 5

Homebound Communion

Meet Deacon Korra

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 Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:15 PM First Communion Class -  
Attend April 6 or 13

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Carol Joy Holling 12<sup>th</sup> Annual

#### Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 5

5 - 10 PM

A View West Shores

110 S 243<sup>rd</sup> 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/>

### Meet Deacon Korra

Saturday, April 5 (Potluck), 5 PM

Sunday, April 6, 9 & 11 AM

Adult Forum, 10:15 AM

See the insert in this week's bulletin for more information. Join us!

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email her at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

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

### 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 ([info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)) or 402-341-7761. 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](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>

### 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 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

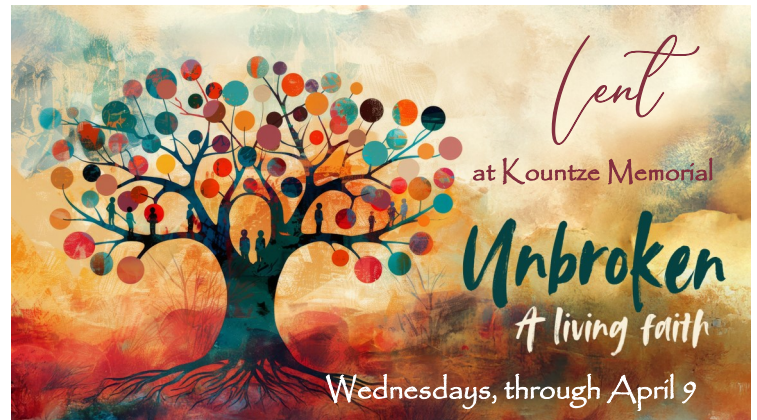
To help with fundraising for this trip, there are envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. We ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is need of your gifts and service. The current needs this month for the pantry are cereal, razors, and shaving cream. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Also, if you get cards, calendars, pens, etc. in the mail that are taking up room in your "junk drawer," you might consider donating those items to the pantry as well. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. You are welcome to volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. We are using a new sign up format, so please use the link or QR code to sign up (even if you are a regular volunteer or signed up on the old form) and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>



Menu for April 2 (Free-will offering)

Ham & Bean Soup  
Broccoli Cheese Soup  
Italian Sliders

Dessert

Everyone is welcome. Join us!

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, March 20—Wednesday, March 26**

**Saturday:** 26

**Sunday: 9:00:** 154 **11:00:** 64

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 98

**Total:** 342

**Streaming:** 59

**Pantry Guests Served:** 759 (inc. 225 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 12

**Offering:**

\$29954.18 (Regular) \$4900.12 (Specials)

\$537.15 (Debt Reduction)

*God's generosity and forgiveness is for all.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father
Monday	Joshua 5:9-12	The passover at Gilgal
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:9-12	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Proverbs 11:24-25	Be generous
Thursday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Friday	Colossians 1:15-23	The work of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany



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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

*“But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”*

**Luke 15:32 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, thank you for restoring us to a loving relationship with you and for sending us out to extend your love to others.  
Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your goodness is beyond belief; may we receive this food and your love for others with thankful hearts through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a generous heart.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Have you ever felt judged for a choice you made? Explain.
- How would you describe God's generosity?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

People can easily identify with this reading. It is one of Jesus' best-known parables. In Jesus' day there was a culture of shame and honor. The shaming in this parable is clear. The father is shamed by the request of the younger son to take his inheritance early, and the younger son is shamed by his returning home as a failure. He has done so many things wrong. The older son might be shamed because the father is spending the older son's inheritance on an unworthy brother. He is angry. In our own context, shaming is still a reality but so is anger and family divisions. This parable challenges us to examine the generosity of God, let go of our shaming, anger, and judgmentalism. We are to welcome those who in our eyes are not seen as worthy and celebrate with them that God's generosity is for them as well as for us.

*Discuss:* How does God's generosity and forgiveness challenge your judgment of a friend? a family member? a neighbor?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, you lavish your love on us in ways we cannot see and do not earn; help us to celebrate your goodness to us and to all 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 someone who has been judged unfairly?

### 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 fourth week in Lent we reflect on *“And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us”* (v. 4a). Add this verse to verses 2a, 2b, and 3 from the first, second, and third 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:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8