

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

April 12 & 13, 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 by Amanda Plantz in memory of her father, David Penning

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.

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.

April 13: Fellowship

April 20: Easter Fellowship

First Communion Classes

Sundays, April 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.

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, April 13

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

The Women by Kristin Hannah

Join us!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 13 Sunday

Palm Sunday

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 Book Group

12:15 PM First Communion Class

April 14 Monday

Monday in Holy Week

10:00 AM Pantry

12:15 PM Worship

7:30 PM Youth Committee

April 15 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

April 16 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week

12:15 PM Worship

April 17 Thursday

Maundy Thursday

First Communion

No Clinic

11:00 AM Lenten Meal

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Meal

6:30 PM Worship

April 18 Friday

Good Friday

No Pantry

12:00 - 3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship

6:30 PM Worship

April 19 Saturday

Easter Vigil

No 5:00 PM Worship

10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

April 20 Sunday

Easter

7:30 AM Sunrise Easter Worship

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Easter Breakfast

April 21 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM Pantry

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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) or 402-341-7761. We look forward to connecting with you!

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, May 4

9:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be

served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation no later than April 27. The photos may be brought to church or emailed to info@kmlchurch.org. Please be sure to have your names on the photos. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day for the graduates.

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 4

If you are a graduate in this past year, please let us know by Tuesday, April 15. We need to know your name, who your parents are, where you are graduating from, major if applicable, and what will be next for you. On May 4 we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

info@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be listed in the May Good News and in the Sunday Bulletin on May 4.

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 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!

Lutheran Collaborative VBS (All free!) Held at Luther Memorial Church 1031 Sunset Trail (61st St. & Western Ave.) July 20-23

**Preschool (potty trained) to Grade 5
5:15 PM: Family Meal
6-8 PM: Programming**

This year, we are going on a "Road Trip with God". Our studies will be based off of the Bible verse Joshua 1:9 - "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Join us as we discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make

new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Register or volunteer by using the QR code or link below. If you have questions/concerns, please contact Kristin Boe (kristin@kmlchurch.org) or Pastor Becky (402-740-1985 or pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org).



<https://luthermemorial.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. **The current needs this week for the pantry are rice, pasta, and pasta sauce.** 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 Maundy Thursday (Free-will offering)

Lunch:

Chicken Noodle Casserole
Green Beans
Roll
Strawberry Shortcake

Dinner:

Assorted Soups
Pulled Pork
Dessert provided by the Valquier family in honor of the First Communion of Nicholas

Everyone is welcome. Join us!

Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 3—Wednesday, April 9

Saturday: 28

Sunday: 9:00: 166 **11:00:** 62

Wednesday: 12:15: 37 **6:30:** 54

Total: 347

Streaming: 10

Pantry Guests Served: 695 (inc. 186 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$30,956.11 (Regular) \$3,236.4 (Specials)

\$1,293.33 (Debt Reduction)

The amazing depth of God's love!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes
Monday	Luke 22:14-23:56	The Last Supper and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1-19:42	The suffering and death of Jesus
Saturday	Psalm 31:9-16	A prayer for protection
Sunday	Luke 24:1-12	The resurrection of Jesus



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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

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." **Luke 23:34a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of mercy, thank you for entering our experience of weakness and sin and for sending us out into the world with courage and grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a sign of your steadfast love that protects us through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Is it easy or hard for you to forgive someone? Explain.
- If you were alive during Jesus' time, what would you have asked him?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 23:1-49.

The crucifixion of Jesus tells us a lot about ourselves and about our God who defeats human frailty with forgiveness and new beginnings. The crowds praise Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and then within a week say, "*Crucify, crucify him*" (v. 21). Peter promises to be faithful to Jesus but at a crucial moment denies him three times. The people give false witness about Jesus to make him look bad in front of Pilate. The leaders, the crowd, and the soldiers mock Jesus, but their words bear the truth of who he really is. Two criminals are killed along with Jesus. One ridicules Jesus while the other seeks his tender care. Through Jesus, God is willing to enter our world and participate in vulnerability, injustices, betrayal, suffering, and death. It shows the way of Jesus' cross as the way of true peace, true life, and true hope. It is the very example of God's amazing love.

Discuss: Who do you most identify with in the story of Jesus' crucifixion?

Pray: **Merciful God, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you endure our lies, our fears, and our sin; we praise you for enduring it all from the cross to bring salvation to us. 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 is suffering?

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). The conclusion to the Lord's Prayer is an added doxology, an expression of praise to God, not found in Luke 11. This Palm Sunday we shout Hosanna as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Take time to reflect on the words of the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer: *For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.* Add these words to verses 2a, 2b, 3, 4a and 4b from the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth weeks in Lent by writing them around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what these words mean to you. *Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: