

### 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
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)

**May 24 & 25 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 or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it 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 plates 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 Pas-  
tor Lucy by fol-  
lowing the link or  
QR Code. [https://  
calendly.com/pastor-  
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



### **Today at Kountze Memorial**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Pam & Bob Johnson in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; given by Doug & Judy Heim in memory of their daughter, Stacie Heim Olson

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God given by Tracey Gehringer & Tom Steffen in memory of Arnold & LeClare Steffen and Leo Gardnier

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **9:15 AM**

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

### **Kountze Café Lite**

#### **9:30—11:00 AM**

#### **Free-will Offering**

Through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

### **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.

**May 25:** Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)

**June 1:** Fellowship (Synod Assembly)

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 25 Sunday

Easter 6  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite -  
Breakfast  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 26 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)  
OFFICE CLOSED  
No Pantry

### May 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### May 28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### May 29 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord  
9:00 AM Good News  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:30 PM Ascension of Our Lord  
Worship Service @ Kountze

### May 30 Friday

May 30 - Jun 1 Synod Assembly  
5:00 PM Pantry

### May 31 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### June 1 Sunday

Easter 7  
Homebound Communion  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite -  
Breakfast  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
6:00 PM Cantare! Omaha Concert  
at Kountze Memorial

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Ascension Day Liturgy

Thursday, May 29

6:30 PM

#### Held at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, we will be hosting the liturgy. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome. **If you would be willing to be an Usher for the evening**, please contact Jim Smejkal (jim@kmlchurch.org) or call the church office.

### Cantare! Omaha Concert

Welcome Summer!

Held at Kountze Memorial

Sunday, June 1

6:00 PM

Join Cantare!, Omaha's premier Renaissance Vocal Ensemble for their annual spring fundraiser. Cantare! presents a 40-minute concert, followed by a light hearted, delectable hors d'oeuvres & dessert reception & silent auction serenaded by Cantare!. New repertoire of Madrigals, motets, Sea Shanties and more! Proceeds support outreach programs, to bring Renaissance music to area residents in elder care & veterans' communities, and their development program for High School singers. Come for the music, contribute to support enriching the community! Suggested donation \$50 at the door or online.



Cantare!

### KMLC Book Group

Sunday, June 8 - *Broken Harbor* by Tana French

12:15 PM

#### Fellowship Lounge

There's still time to read the book and join us for great conversation at this month's Book Group! Whether you've read every page or just started, all are welcome.

### Youth Summer Kick-Off Event

Grade 7 and Up

Sunday, June 8

5-8 PM

#### Link/Courtyard

Come and join us for a time of fellowship & fun to kick-off the summer. We'll have hotdogs & s'mores around the firepit, games, and a chance to hang out and get to know other Kountze Memorial young people. Friends are welcome! Open to youth going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up, including recent high school graduates. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk or by calling or emailing the church office. Contact Pastor Lucy at [lucy@klmchurch.org](mailto:lucy@klmchurch.org) with any questions.

### 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. To check on available dates use the QR code or the link below.

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>



CJH

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

### Summer Service Days

**2025/26 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Fridays, June 20 - August 8 (closed on July 4)**

**8 AM - 4 PM**

This summer, students going into grades 7, 8, and 9 are invited to participate in service projects within our church and community. The day will begin between 8 and 9 AM with a light breakfast, lunch will be served, and the day will end at 4 PM. Projects include making art for the pantry and freshening up the youth room, working in the community garden, reading or playing board games with the elderly, and more. We know families with children this age are often very busy in the summer. Participation is encouraged on whatever days and times fit your schedule. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk or you can call/email the church office to let us know you'll be attending. Contact Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org) with any questions.

### Lutheran Collaborative VBS (All free!)

**Held at Luther Memorial Church**

**1031 Sunset Trail (61<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org)) or Pastor Becky (402-740-1985 or [pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org](mailto:pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org)).  
<https://luthermemorial.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



VBS

offered before and after lunch. Quilt donations can be delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp between June 1 and July 21. Quilts cannot be accepted after July 21. Please submit in a plastic bag with donation form that can found at:

[www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction](http://www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction)

### Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers to help provide occasional care for our children in the nursery. Volunteers are willing to be contacted when our regular nursery staff are out of town or otherwise unavailable. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our youngest members, making a positive impact in their lives and in the lives of their families! Duties include playing with children, changing diapers, and providing a warm and loving environment. Training will be provided. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact our Nursery Director Shannon Picha at [nursery@kmlchurch.org](mailto:nursery@kmlchurch.org).

### 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 cereal, vegetable oil, and spices.** 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. 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. Please use the link or QR code to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>



Pantry

### Carol Joy Holling Camp 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction

**Saturday, July 26, 2025**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Carol Joy Holling Camp**

It's time to think about the quilt you'll donate to Carol Joy Holling Camp. The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts. It is held rain or shine. Friends and families are welcome. Our kitchen will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and a selection of favorite salads from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon request. Concessions will be



Quilt Auction

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, May 15—Wednesday, May 21**

**Saturday: 27**

**Sunday: 9:00: 174 11:00: 94**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 9**

**Total: 304**

**Streaming: 52**

**Pantry Guests Served: 156 (inc. 30 children) (Friday only)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17**

**Offering: Not available at time of printing**

*The Holy Spirit will teach Jesus' followers.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the Counselor
Monday	Acts 16:9-15	Paul travels to Macedonia
Tuesday	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	River of life
Wednesday	Numbers 6:22-27	Blessing for the people
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	Hebrews 12:14-17	Life in peace
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for his disciples



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
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

*"Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"* **John 14:23 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Ever-present God, your love and peace never end; we thank you for your promise to be with us always, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtimes Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, on us to rest, our table to grace, and our food to bless. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine upon you. (Psalm 67:1)

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☐ Who is one of your favorite teachers?
- ☐ Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach his followers. How do you think that would happen?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 14:23-29.

Jesus promises that he and his Heavenly Father will make a home with Jesus' disciples. That home is based on a love between Jesus, his Father, and the followers of Jesus. Disciples of Jesus do not simply receive a message from Jesus as though they are learning a lesson in school. Jesus' message teaches followers about a love relationship with Jesus that gives them the Heavenly Father and leads them into the world with peace and hope, not fear and anxiety. Jesus' disciples were understandably worried because they have just learned that Jesus is leaving them. Jesus' response to their fears and anxieties is that they will receive the Holy Spirit who will teach them all they need to know, everything that Jesus has taught them. It is a way to promise an ongoing relationship with Jesus. When we feel lost or alone, Jesus' words are a love letter that brings us comfort and confidence as his followers.

*Discuss:* How can Jesus comfort you and give you peace when you feel lost or alone?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, we thank you for your loving presence that promises us peace and confidence in place of our fears and anxieties 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 a person when they feel afraid or troubled?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Numbers 6:24-26 is a traditional benediction many recognize: *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."* Psalm 67 is very similar. A Benediction is a prayer offering God's help and protection. Benediction means *"good word"* and is also called a blessing. This week practice a ritual blessing every night before closing your eyes.

*Say:* **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.** (Psalm 67:1)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26