

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

June 7 & 8 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 Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades Preschool-5th grade may join our Faith Formation Leaders 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.

June 8: Report from Synod Assembly

June 15: Fellowship

KMLC Book Group

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

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Join us for great conversation at this month's Book Group! Whether you've read every page or just started, all are welcome.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Summer Kick-Off 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 7th 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 with any questions.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 8 Sunday

Day of Pentecost
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM Book Group
5:00 PM Youth Kick-off (gr 7+)

June 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee

June 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

June 13 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 14 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

June 15 Sunday

Holy Trinity
Father's Day
Jun 15 - Jun 20 Camp Week @ CJH
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Sewing Group

Wednesday, June 11

9:00 AM

Our Sewing Group gets together on the second Wednesday of each month to sew quilt tops, attach backing and binding, and to tie quilts. The quilts are given to Carol Joy Holling Camp for their Annual Quilt Auction, to Lutheran World Relief, and to our high school graduates. Quilting expertise is not necessary. If you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt. Come and join the group this summer!

Stories From the Holy Land

with Pastors Adam & Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

Saturday, June 14

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

1031 Sunset Trail

Free & Open to the Public

Pastors Jordan and Adam share stories of the life-changing work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), the realities of life in Palestine, and ways that the people of the ELCA can help fellow Christians in the Holy Land. For more information, contact Gretchen Ahrens at 404-583-4591 or gretchen@nebraskasynod.org, or go to the following website to register:

<https://tinyurl.com/holylandstories>



Holy Land

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

Men's Lunch

Thursday, June 19

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

Join us in the Fellowship Hall in June as we explore International Picnic Day. And what would a picnic be without fried chicken? Will Jim order out or try his hand at oven fried chicken? You'll have to attend to find out. Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 17. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@klmchurch.org to let us know you're coming.

Summer Service Days

2025/26 7th, 8th & 9th 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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 register at:



Summer Service Days

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4EA8A629A0F49-57146062-service#/>

Compassion & Courage, Not Controversy

Adult Forum

Sunday, June 22

10:15 AM

Fellowship Hall

Pr. Lucy invites us to join her during Adult Forum to talk about questions of how and why and what it looks like to be God's church in this divided age. How do we do that in a way that honors God and produces in us the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)? We'll talk together about:

- A biblical approach to difficult conversations.
- What does it look like to treat each other with dignity and compassion – especially when we disagree?
- How much disagreement can we and should we tolerate in our community? How do we do that, practically?
- What are the essentials that unite us?

We hope you'll join in the conversation.

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/>



VBS

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.

Carol Joy Holling Camp 37th 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. 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



Quilt Auction

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 bottled water, spaghetti noodles, and deodorant.** 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/uausddd>



Pantry

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, May 29—Wednesday, June 4

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 93 11:00: 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 247

Streaming: 51

Pantry Guests Served: 179 (inc. 54 children) (Mon. # NA)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$9,570.55 (Regular) \$1,038.00 (Specials)

\$287.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are children of God through the Holy Spirit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:8-17, 25-27	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	Filled with the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	Romans 8:14-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Isaiah 44:1-5	God's blessing on Israel
Thursday	Galatians 5:16-25	The fruit of the Spirit
Friday	2 Kings 2:1-15a	Elijah ascends to heaven
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator and provider
Sunday	John 16:12-15	The Spirit will guide you into truth



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. **Romans 8:15-16 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us faith to know that we are children of God and inheritors of your eternal love that gives us confidence to live as a follower of Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, all creation looks to you to give us food in due season; we thank you that you open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

Child of God, may you be filled with the Holy Spirit.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What do you think it was like to be a slave in the ancient world?
- How do you think a first century slave felt to be told that they had been adopted as a child of God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 8:14-17.

In the first century Roman Empire, slavery was much more common than Roman citizenship. Being adopted by a family of means was a dream come true. Roman citizenship carried with it protection and opportunity. Paul uses that contemporary context to emphasize what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. Paul states that *"all who are led by the Spirit of God"* are adopted as *"children of God"* (v. 14). Pentecost focuses on the giving of the Holy Spirit for the ministry of the church. It conveys the intimacy of a familial relationship that promises a grand inheritance, but the promise of glory comes with the promise of the suffering of Christ. It is in suffering that God's love is displayed from the cross. On Pentecost Sunday, that suffering love leads the church into the world with God's saving power and glory.

Discuss: How does knowing that you are an adopted child of God impact your life?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that makes us your children and gives us an eternal inheritance with Christ; give us grace to accept the glory and the suffering of a life in Christ. 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 feel that they are valued as a child of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday. It is when the apostles began to spread Jesus' message. It has been recognized as the birthday, the beginning, of the church. Red is the traditional color for Pentecost Sunday. Buy or make a cake. Decorate it with red icing. Place candles on the cake to represent flames and to symbolize the Holy Spirit. Buy birthday party plates and hats and have a Pentecost party. Sing Happy Birthday to the church before cutting the cake. Close the party with this reading from Psalm 104:35b.: **"Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!"**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15