

### 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)

July 26 & 27, 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 in celebration of Dayle Johnson's birthday

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Ilse Grage in memory of Albert Grage

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Karen and Shirley Bonneau in memory of Ruth Bonneau

### **Children's Sermon**

**9:15 AM**

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades Preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**July 27:** Updates on Kountze Commons with Toby Reese

**August 3:** Gretchen Ahrens, Director of Youth and Justice Ministry, Nebraska Synod

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### July 27 Sunday

Pentecost 7

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

### July 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### July 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### July 30 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### July 31 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### August 1 Friday

8:00 AM Summer Service Day

5:00 PM Pantry

### August 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

### August 3 Sunday

Pentecost 8

Homebound Communion

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Packing Backpacks

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Communion Assistants & Lectors Needed for July & August

If you'll be in town for any of the remaining Sundays in July, please consider signing up to serve as a Communion Assistant or Lector. Summer schedules can be tricky, and having volunteers in place ahead of time really helps! Thank you for being part of this important ministry.

### Summer Service Days

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

Fridays through August 8

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 register at:

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



Summer Service Days

### Backpacks and School Supplies

Sunday, August 3

10:10 AM

The Sunday School students will be packing new backpacks full of school supplies to provide to our school aged pantry guests. Please bring school supplies (notebooks, crayons, pencils, folders, erasers, markers, glue, pencils cases, and backpacks) to church by August 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a donation box in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

### 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 **produce from your garden, macaroni & cheese, & canned fruit**. 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 volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the link below to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>



Pantry

### Open Door Mission's Lydia House is having to turn

away women and families in need of housing, because even though they have the space for them, they don't have enough staff to provide quality care for them. They are in urgent need of full or part-time employees. Training is provided.

If you would like to be the hands and feet of Christ in a powerful and practical way, use the link below to get more information or to volunteer. You can also use the link below if you are interested in volunteering at the Open Door Mission with meal service, mentoring a program participant or youth, helping to sort donations, etc.

<https://www.opendoormission.org/volunteer/>



Open Door Mission

### Looking for Sunday School Volunteers

We need your support! The Sunday School department is in need of leadership for the 2025/2026 school year. Each classroom requires a teacher and assistant. All lessons are scripted and materials are provided. If you can help, please sign up at

<https://tinyurl.com/3yvhh3fy>

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

or email Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org) with questions or a link to sign up. Thank you for your consideration.

**Save the Date!**  
**Annual Congregational Election Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 17**  
**10:10 AM**



### Exciting News!

After a process of interviews, prayer, and discernment, the Call Committee and Church Council are thrilled to recommend Deacon Eric Haitz (pronounced "Heights") as our new Associate pastoral team member. Deacon Eric will join us the weekend of **August 9–10** to preach during worship, share in a Saturday potluck, and lead Sunday's Forum. This is an opportunity for you to get to know him and to prayerfully consider calling him to serve with us in ministry. Look for more information about Deacon Eric in the August *Good News*. Feel free to speak with members of the Call Committee or Council about what excites them about his potential ministry here at Kountze Memorial. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 17**, when the congregation will vote on whether to extend a call to Deacon Eric during our Annual Election Meeting.

Our children spent the week on a Road Trip with God in Vacation Bible School, learning that God is with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:9)! As part of their week they collected money for AMMPARO, the ELCA's "strategy to Accompany Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities." The Spanish word "amparo" means "protection" - AMMPARO is one way our wider church accompanies some of the members of our body who are vulnerable and might feel alone, reminding them of God's protection and care that are always with them. If you would like to join the children in giving generously towards this ministry, you may put a gift marked "VBS" or "AMMPARO" in the offering today. Learn more about AMMPARO and how you can be involved at

<https://tinyurl.com/yyxt9psj>



### We're Looking for a Part-time Youth Ministry Director

Are you called to inspire the next generation of faith at Kountze Memorial?

#### Position Details:

- 15–20 hours/week
- \$20,000–\$25,000 salary (based on experience)
- In-person Sundays plus flexible remote planning
- Start Fall 2025

#### Responsibilities Include:

- Lead Sunday Youth Forum (Sept–May)
- Plan mission trips, retreats, service & social events
- Engage with Synod & camp programs
- Recruit & equip volunteers
- Communicate via newsletter & social media

#### We're Looking For Someone Who:

- Connects deeply with faith & youth
- Is creative, organized, tech-savvy
- Communicates well and builds relationships
- Loves teens, teamwork, and church life

**Interested?** Request a job description for more information and submit a letter of interest, resume, and three references to the church office. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact the church office.

### Attendance & Giving Thursday, July 17—Wednesday, July 23

**Saturday:** 66

**Sunday: 9:00:** 134 **11:00:** 51

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 10

**Total:** 261

**Streaming:** 60

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1,047 (inc. 280 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 18

**Offering:**

\$13,617.01 (Regular)      \$643.15 (Specials)

\$472.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus teaches his followers to pray.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer
Monday	Genesis 18:20-32	Abraham haggles with God
Tuesday	Colossians 2:6-19	Fullness of life in Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 32:7-14	Moses appeals to God
Thursday	James 5:13-20	The prayer of faith
Friday	Matthew 6:5-15	Jesus on prayer
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool



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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

*He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." **Luke 11:1 (NRSV)***

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, we thank you that you reach out to us in Christ so that we may enjoy a personal relationship with you filled with hope and confidence. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your care for us goes beyond what we can imagine; we thank you for this food, one of the ways you shower us with your mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God give you confidence in your life of prayer.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who is a person you know that is easy to talk to? Explain.
- How has prayer had an impact on your life?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 11:1-13.

How can one comfortably and confidently speak to the Almighty? Jesus' followers wanted to learn how to pray. Whether we are a person in the role of leadership in the congregation or one who participates regularly in worship and other activities, many of us feel ill-equipped when asked about our prayer life. It is normal to feel that way. There can be a feeling of vulnerability. When Jesus taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer, he did two important things. First, he prayed often, something that is especially noted in the Gospel of Luke. Second, Jesus gave a simple and short outline for prayer: praise God; pray for God's kingdom to be evident in life; ask for food to stay alive; seek forgiveness; and ask for help to avoid times that test our character as a follower of Jesus. All of this is offered to God as "Father," as an intimate relationship of a child to a parent. Prayer involves a personal and trusted relationship with God. Prayer gives praise and thanksgiving to God and requests for the basics in life, including forgiveness for ourselves and for others.

*Discuss:* Who taught you to pray the Lord's Prayer and how often do you pray it?

*Pray:* **Heavenly Father, teach us to pray that we may celebrate our trusted relationship with you and care for all that you have made through Jesus Christ, our partner in prayer. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who can you visit and pray with?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is a practice we need to learn, both as individuals and when in groups. Even Jesus' disciples needed to learn how to pray. Prayer helps us to grow in our relationship with God. What part does prayer play in your daily life? Consider building a daily routine of prayer using the acronym **ACTS** as a guide. **A**doration is praising God, **C**onfession is admitting wrong doings, **T**hanksgiving is thanking God, and **S**upplication is asking and making requests known to God. Take a moment now to use this format and write a prayer for today. Read your prayer aloud and finish by saying "Amen," which means "so be it."

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12  
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21