

### 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)

**August 2 & 3, 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**

#### **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 Labedz.

#### **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.

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

**August 10:** Meet & Greet with Deacon Eric Haitz

#### **Packing of Backpacks**

**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.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### August 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### August 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### August 6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

### August 7 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
7:00 PM Youth Committee

### August 8 Friday

8:00 AM Summer Service Day  
5:00 PM Pantry

### August 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Meet & Greet Potluck

### August 10 Sunday

Pentecost 9  
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—Meet & Greet  
12:15 PM Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Communion Assistants & Lectors Needed

Please consider signing up to serve as a Communion Assistant or Lector in August. We still need people for most dates. Summer schedules can be tricky, and having volunteers in place ahead of time really helps! You can use the links below to sign up. 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

Just one more week for students going into grades 7, 8, and 9 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. 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

### 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



Open Door Mission

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/>

### 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/3yvvh3fy>

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.

### Vacation Bible School

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>

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.

### 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 **canned vegetables, canned meat/fish, popsicles (unfrozen in a tube kind)**. 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/uausddd>



Pantry



### 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 24—Wednesday, July 30

**Saturday:** 32

**Sunday: 9:00:** 94 **11:00:** 62

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 12

**Total:** 200

**Streaming:** 32

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1034 (inc. 321 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 16

#### Offering:

\$15,573.98 (Regular) \$3,031.08 (Specials)

\$337.15 (Debt Reduction)

*Being rich towards God.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Wisdom makes sense
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-11	New life in Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-12	A reason for hope
Thursday	Hebrews 13:1-6	Service well-pleasing to God
Friday	Philippians 4:10-20	Paul gives thanks
Saturday	Psalm 49:1-12	Don't depend on wealth
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven



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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

*And he [Jesus] said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."* **Luke 12:15 (NRSV)**

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

God of truth, free us from false gods that claim to make us happy but leave us unsatisfied; give us peace and joy in your presence through Christ. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; give us joy and laughter in the simple pleasures of this meal and the friends and family we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May you treasure God's goodness and mercy.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is one of your treasured possessions? Explain.
- How is faith in Jesus a treasure for you?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 12:13-21 and Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23.

In these readings, we are reminded that the real treasure of life begins and ends with the abundant joy that comes from the goodness and mercy of God. What a gift from Jesus! It is the richest treasure in life to learn that the joy of life is not found in storing up wealth or in momentary fame. True delight in life can look like an unsolved riddle to those who chase after the stuff of life that decays and disappears. Those who appear to be wise and rich are mere fools because of their vanity. No one has fully learned the meaning of a life that is fleeting and will sooner rather than later be gone. Unlike the man in Jesus' parable who builds bigger barns, the wise soul has Jesus as their teacher and remembers and celebrates the beauty of life in the simple joy of faith and hope in God.

*Discuss:* How has God's goodness and mercy been a treasure for you?

*Pray:* **Awesome God, you alone hold the key to true wisdom and joy, a life that trusts in you alone; help us to be thoughtful, enjoy the many treasures you bless us with, and serve others in love through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### SERVICE

Service: Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share something you treasure with someone else?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 49:1-2 is about the foolishness of trusting in riches. Caring for and the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures with others is a Christian tradition. Learning to give to others begins in the home. Place grapes or cookies in a bowl. Think or talk about how many you would need to be satisfied. The foolish rich man would want them all! How about you? Take a moment to think about all that you have and how you might share with others.

*Pray:* **Lord God, help us to be thankful for your goodness and mercy and to be willing to share our time, talents, and treasures with others. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40