

### 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 16 & 17, 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

**Pastor Hall** is away this Sunday on a previously scheduled vacation, celebrating a surprise birthday with friends. Unfortunately, this coincides with the date chosen for the Congregational Meeting, so he will be unable to attend.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Patt & Joe Councill in honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; in memory of parents, Anne & Charles Forslund, given by daughter, Christine

### 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.

**August 17:** Congregational Meeting

**August 24:** Report on the Churchwide Assembly

### This Sunday!

**Annual Congregational Election Meeting**

**10:10 AM**

**Fellowship Hall**

- Vote on Council and Endowment Board Members
- Vote on whether to extend a call to Deacon Eric Haitz



## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### August 17 Sunday

Pentecost 10  
Blessing of Backpacks  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Congregational  
Meeting—Vote on Council,  
Endowment, & Deacon Eric

### August 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### August 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### August 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### August 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### August 22 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### August 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### August 24 Sunday

Pentecost 11  
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  
5:00 PM Youth Back to School  
Kickoff (gr 7-12)

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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! Go to Sign Up Genius or call the church office to volunteer.

### Street Car Construction ALERT! Effective Now

We have been notified that the North bound off ramp to Harney/Dodge Street from I-480 is closed until approximately the end of October for manhole relocation and water main construction. They will post detour signs. If you are coming from the South, you will need to exit at the Leavenworth exit, go East (right) to 24<sup>th</sup> Street then North (left) to Farnam Street, and then West (left) to the church.

### 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.



### 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 fruit, pasta sauce, and chili beans**. 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 QR code or the link below to sign up and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.

### All Aboard for Men's Lunch! Thursday, August 21

11:30 AM

**Suggested Donation: \$10**

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, August 19**

This month we're pulling into the station with a 1930's train dining car theme—and you won't want to miss the ride! Come enjoy a hearty meal, great company, and a bit of railroad flair. Join us for good food, conversation, and a few surprises along the way! Please RSVP by Tuesday, August 19—Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let us know you plan to be aboard.

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

### Youth Back to School Kick-Off Event

Grade 7 Through College Age

Sunday, August 24

5-7 PM(ish)

Link/Courtyard

Open to youth going into grade 7 and up, including recent high school graduates and college age youth. Bring a friend. Sign-up at the Welcome Desk

### Dinners for Eight(ish)

September, October, & November

Sign up by Monday, August 25

Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight(ish).

- Meet each month for a meal in September, October, and November.
- Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
- Enjoy a meal and conversation with one another.
- Singles, couples, you and a plus 1 - all are welcome!
- Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 25. See you around the table!

### Confirmation Orientation (& Meal)

August 27, 2025

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Do you have a student who will be in 7th or 8th grade this fall? We are once again partnering with St. Timothy's, Lord of Love, and Luther Memorial Lutheran Churches for Confirmation on Wednesday nights from 6 -7:15 PM. Mark your calendars!: Our Confirmation programming kicks off with an orientation Meeting & Meal for both students and their adults at St. Timothy's on August 27 at 6 PM AND... a lock-in and service night here at Kountze, September 5-6.

### Kountze Memorial Adult Choir

Rehearsal, Wednesday, September 3, 7 to 8:30 PM

Begin Singing at Worship, Sunday, September 7

Join our Kountze Memorial Adult Choir, where we sing praises to God and enjoy fellowship together. Previous singing experience a plus but not necessary. Contact Barb Carlsen (402-341-7761) if you're interested or have questions.



### 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, August 7—Wednesday, August 13

**Saturday:** 44

**Sunday: 9:00:** 159 **11:00:** 78

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 13

**Total:** 294

**Streaming:** 42

**Pantry Guests Served:** 909 (inc. 184 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**

**Offering:**

\$13,105.7 (Regular)      \$1,472.97 (Specials)

\$237.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Our faith is strengthened by a cloud of witnesses.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division
Monday	Jeremiah 23:23-29	God's word is like fire
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Faith in God
Wednesday	Joshua 2:1-24	Rahab's story
Thursday	Judges 16:23-31	The death and triumph of Samson
Friday	Luke 10:25-37	Good Samaritan
Saturday	Psalms 82	Justice for the weak
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath



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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

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.* **Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Redeeming God, you know our broken lives and suffering; give us faith in Christ so that we may endure the pain and rejoice in the comfort of your eternal care. Amen.

#### Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, it is your will that we be fed and cared for; thank you for this food as a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God's eternal comfort give you joy.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you or someone you know been unfairly treated?
- How does your faith help you to face conflict in daily life?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Hebrews 11:29-12:2.

The Daily Bible Readings for this week have a common thread: God's judgment will prevail. God's ways are not the ways of earthly powers that abuse the poor and weak and that bring pain and suffering to the righteous. The good news is that God's ways will conquer all evil and that we have "a cloud of witnesses" (12:1) to remind us of what is true and just, good and faithful. The cloud of witnesses may be parents, grandparents, or other mentors. It may be voices from the past like Rahab, Samson or a long list of biblical characters. More recent witnesses include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Corrie Ten Boom, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oscar Romero, Desmond Tutu, and a host of others who witnessed to Christ's love and opposition to hatred. We need the voice of Jesus and all the witnesses of peace, mercy, and justice to stand up to the forces that promote suffering of any kind. In Jesus, we are called to endure suffering with confidence in God and know the joy that is ours for all eternity.

*Discuss:* Who do you consider as a faith role model and part of your cloud of witnesses?

*Pray:* **Almighty and merciful God, help us to endure the pain and suffering from all that opposes your reign and to rejoice in the promise of your eternal love 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 be a witness of Jesus' love for someone who is hurting?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to "lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely." Find a small stone and hold it while you think or talk about things that keep us from living and acting the way Jesus wants us to (e.g. being rude or nasty to each other, lying about something we did or did not do, taking something that doesn't belong to us, and not helping others). *Pray:* **Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we don't follow you. Help us to fight against sin and to keep our eyes on you. Amen.** Then throw the rock away to symbolize God's removal of our sins through Christ.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8  
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17