

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

August 23 & 24, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of William Grow given by Trish Daffer; in honor of Clara Kidder's 25th birthday given by Mark & Tarna Kidder

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.

August 24: Report on the Churchwide Assembly

August 31: Fellowship (Labor Day Weekend)

Youth Back to School Kick-Off Event

Grade 7 Through College Age

Sunday, August 24

5-7 PM (ish)

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**POSTPONED UNTIL
A LATER DATE TBD**

... youth.
... welcome Desk

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This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 24 Sunday

Pentecost 11
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum
5:00 PM Youth Back to School
Kickoff (gr 7-college age)

August 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 26 Tuesday

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

August 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Orientation
& Meal

August 28 Thursday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly
(note date change)
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

August 29 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 30 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 31 Sunday

Pentecost 12
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum

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 24th 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



SS Volunteers

<https://tinyurl.com/3yvvh3fy>

or email Kristin Boe at 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 **cereal, taco seasoning packets, diced tomatoes**. 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/uausdddp>

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

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!



Pantry

Confirmation Orientation (& Meal)

August 27, 2025

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
(93rd & 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.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, September 4

2:00 PM

The group will be taking a break over the summer due to vacations, etc. We'll pick up again on September 4. Have a great summer and we'll see you in September!

Everyone is welcome—make plans now to come be part of the fun!

New Member Classes

September 14 & 21

10:15 AM

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us for our upcoming new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, September 28. If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org. We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.

Handbell Choir

The Kountze bells are looking to start back up again. Our plan is to see how many folks are interested in the group and when would be a good time to rehearse? If you are interested in participating in a bell choir, please talk to Barb Carlsen or call the Kountze office at 402-341-7761. Thank you!

Save a life! Donate Blood!

Kountze Commons &

The Nebraska Community Blood Bank

Sunday, September 21

9 AM—1 PM

Reserve your donation time by going to www.ncbb.org/searchdrives and use sponsor code KOUN. Walkins are also welcome. Donor FAQ's and information will be provided in Fellowship Hall. If you would like additional information please call the Blood Bank at 402-486-9414.



Blood Drive



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 14—Wednesday, August 20

Saturday: 32

Sunday: 9:00: 122 **11:00:** 81

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 245

Streaming: 56

Pantry Guests Served: not available

Medical Clinic Guests Served: not available

Offering:

\$8,478.51 (Regular) \$4,561.35 (Specials)

\$327.00 (Debt Reduction)

Freed by Christ to honor others.

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

Sunday	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and hospitality
Monday	Proverbs 25:6-7	Wise sayings of Solomon
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Service that pleases God
Wednesday	Matthew 25:31-46	Judgment of the nations
Thursday	Exodus 2:16-25	Moses flees to Median
Friday	Proverbs 3:27-30	Be kind to your neighbors
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. **Luke 14:13-14 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, help us to see as you see, that we may give praise to you and honor those we are with for the sake of Jesus Christ, the one who sets us free. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us that we all receive your grace and mercy; for this we thank you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy to honor others.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When was a time you or someone you know were honored? Explain.
- Why do you think Jesus would challenge our current social standards of behavior?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Am I smart enough, rich enough, talented enough, or powerful enough? Do I fit in? Am I acceptable the way I am? These questions can lead to self-doubt and a quiet despair. As Jesus was noticing those who tried to take the seats of honor at the banquet, he reverses these questions. We should ask: "Do I honor others, especially those in need? Does my life value and lift up the lives of those around me?" We are freed from the self-doubting questions and liberated to bring delight to others by simply valuing them. The power to honor others is a position that cannot be taken away from us. We can enjoy the pleasure of others honoring us as well, not because of our status in life, but because we are loved children of God. Through Jesus Christ, we receive grace and mercy. He came to take away our fears, hurts, and disappointments in life. What we need to know is that we are lovable, forgivable, and capable to honor and love others in Christ.

Discuss: When and how have you or someone you know been honored?

Pray: **Loving God, you promise us an eternal banquet of peace and love; help us to enjoy that banquet feast now as we welcome others with generous hearts through Jesus 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 give dignity to someone who doesn't feel valued?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus uses a parable about a wedding to show how God's protocol for good manners is a different way to look at the world. At God's table everyone is welcome. Think or talk about who you would invite if you were hosting a dinner. Write their names on a piece of paper. Look at the names and think about how you could make each guest feel welcome.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, teach us to be humble like you. Help us to welcome all people to God's table in your name. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Proverbs 25:6-7a; Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14