

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

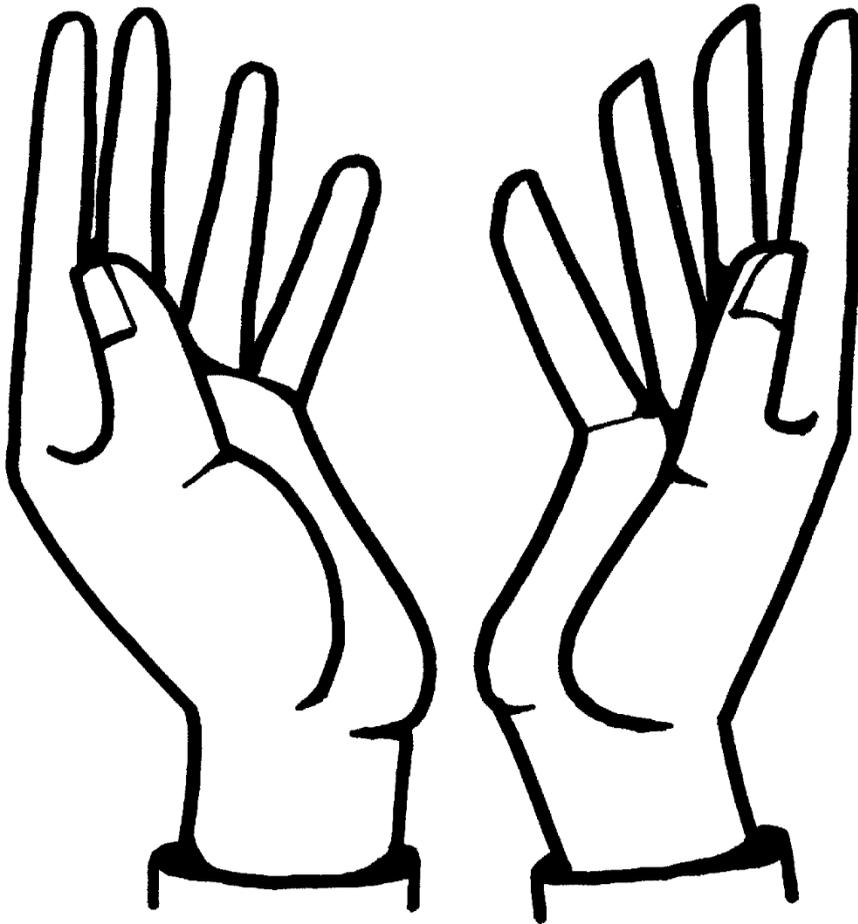
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

August 24, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.
Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!</p> <p>2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!</p> | <p>3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.</p> <p>4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

- P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- C** To you alone, O God, we cry;
the Holy One we name you, for you alone are God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, mighty and immortal,
- C** you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-8 (read responsively)

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
² **Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**6 O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**7 You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.**

**8 Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not

on the Sabbath day.”¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water?”¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?”¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.</p> | <p>2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.</p> |
| <p>3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.</p> | |

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☞ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☞ Hear us, O God.

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Prayers this week: Pam Brown, Wanda Frykberg, Gary Westerman

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Nina Castro, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Tracey Gehringer, Dale Grundman, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Sharon Miley, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Tollefson, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliott, fiancé of Dannika Rees; Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenburg Center, Germany; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

- 📄 The peace of Christ be with you always.
- 📄 And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. You may use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY

On Eagle's Wings

words and music by Michael Joncas
arr. by Mark Hayes
Emily Rimington, *vocalist*

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

We Place upon Your Table, Lord

ELW 467



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them



grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er



work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

Text: M. F. C. Willson, 1884-1944, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Creator God,
C in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
... be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

- P** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
G **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** The kingdom of God is set before you.
G **Let us eat and rejoice.**

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

ELW 610

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?</p> <p>2 From ev'ry ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.</p> | <p>3 In conflicts that destroy our health
we recognize the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?</p> <p>4 Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.
- 2 As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still
with pow'r to heal again.
- 3 You touch us through physicians' skills,
through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends
who lift our lives in prayer.
- 4 When nights are long with wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
your calming peace to know.
- 5 We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

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(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Mothering God,

G you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

ELW 510

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.</p> | <p>2 Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.</p> |
| <p>3 Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.</p> | |

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✝ ✝ ✝

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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 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 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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high
Bring

**POSTPONED UNTIL
A LATER DATE TBD**

...g recent
... youth.
... welcome Desk

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

<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.



SS Volunteers

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/uasdddp>

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. Walk-ins 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