

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

September 20 & 21, 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 Erica Freeman's birthday given by Vicki & Leigh Freeman; given by Shirley Bonneau

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Dave & Pat Studts in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe 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 AM

Free-will Offering

We will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast until September 28, when we will begin serving a full hot breakfast again. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

Sept. 21: Help set up for the Congregational Picnic

Sept 28: Getting to Know You

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.

Sept. 21: Help set up for the Congregational Picnic

Sept. 28: Stewardship: Kick Off and "Imagine" Theme Introduction

Everyone is Invited to Our Annual Church Picnic!

This Sunday, September 21

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Get ready for a day of food, fun, and fellowship at our Annual Church Picnic! Mark your calendars now because this is one event you won't want to miss. Join us at the church for a delicious meal (with a vegetarian option, of course) and bring your favorite side dish to share.

The day will be filled with outdoor entertainment for the kids, and we'll wrap up with everyone's favorite—BINGO!

Singing for THEIR Supper

During the month of September, you will find boxes in the Fellowship Hall with the title of a beloved hymn on it. Put your canned tuna, chicken, or ham donations in the box of the song you like the most. At the end of the month, we will see what hymn won and which staff member chose that as their favorite. Let's stock the Pantry with Protein!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 21 Sunday

Pentecost 15

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe Lite*

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

September 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

September 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 25 Thursday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Worship & Music

September 26 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

September 27 Saturday

3:00 PM Amanda Saxen & Andy Sifers

Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

September 28 Sunday

Pentecost 16

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

2:00 PM Mission Field Nebraska

*Full Breakfast will begin on September 28

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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, crackers and soap. 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 following link 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.



Pantry

Confirmation Classes Continue

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays

6 - 7:15 PM

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!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Help Us Collate the October Good News

Thursday, September 25

9 AM

Come be part of the crew that puts together the Good News! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it. If you can join us, give the church office a call at 402-341-7761 by Tuesday, September 23. That way we can let you know if anything changes. Thanks for helping us get the Good News out.

Mission Field Nebraska

Sunday, September 28

2 - 4 PM

Glacial Till Cider House

1419 Silver St., Ashland

Sip, support, and celebrate at the Spirit of Ministry Open House at Glacial Till Cider House & Tasting Room. You're invited to an inspiring afternoon in Historic Ashland as we raise awareness and support for the life-changing ministries of Mission Field Nebraska. Your \$20 ticket includes a beverage, hors d'oeuvre, live music, and the opportunity to meet the people behind the mission. Learn more and get your ticket:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/news-events/spirit-of-ministry/>



Mission Field NE

Free Community Health Fair

Monday, September 29

9 AM - Noon

Methodist Community Health Clinic and the Kountze Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry are hosting a free health fair at Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. Join us at the Health Fair to learn more about skin health, cancer prevention, heart health, signs and symptoms of stroke, and healthy eating. Screenings will be available for skin, blood pressure, blood sugar, lung health, and breast exams. AND... The Omaha Fire Department will be providing safety training and free smoke detectors. Healthy food samples will be provided as well. The Health Fair is open to all! You do not need to be a patient of Methodist Community Health Clinic or a Food Pantry guest to participate. If you have questions, please reach out to Toby Rees at 402-979-1425 or toby@kmlchurch.org.

St. Francis Peacemaker Service

Saturday, October 4

5 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Memorial and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral collaborate on a Peacemaker Service on the Feast of St. Francis. Join us as we pray for peace in our city, nation, and world. Lutheran Family Services' Chris Tonniges will preach. We will use the Eucharistic Prayer for Peace, written by Br. James Dowd and approved by Episcopal

Bishop J. Scott Barker. The Cathedral and Kountze Choirs will sing together. A cookie reception will follow.

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 4

10 AM—Music & Socializing

10:30 AM—Blessing

St. Cecilia Cathedral

701 N 40th St

Cathedral will host an outdoor celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Bring your pets (dogs on a leash please) to the Cathedral front steps and join in this delightful event for all creatures great and small. Come early and bring your pooch with you to the Pancake Breakfast!

World Day Against the Death Penalty

Eucharist

Friday, October 10

7 - 8 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th Street Omaha

Balancing the Scales invites us to attend World Day Against the Death Penalty Eucharist. World Day Against the Death Penalty is celebrated each year on October 10 to support the call for the end of capital punishment. Episcopal Bishop Barker will preside at the Eucharist and Rev. Stephen Griffith, former executive director of Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and UMC minister, will serve as preacher. Light reception to follow.



We're Looking for a Part-time

Youth Ministry Director

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

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, Sept. 11—Wednesday, Sept. 17

Saturday: 29

Sunday: 9:00: 144 11:00: 69

Wednesday: 12:15: 7

Total: 249

Streaming: 45

Pantry Guests Served: 870 (inc. 233 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$10,629.56 (Regular)

\$3,715.52 (Specials)

\$895.33 (Debt Reduction)

God cares for the poor and needy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager
Monday	Amos 8:4-7	Judgment on Israel
Tuesday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Wednesday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Thursday	1 Kings 21:1-29	Elijah's judgment of Amos
Friday	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Hannah's prayer
Saturday	Psalms 113	The Lord helps people in need
Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." **Psalm 113:7-8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, help us to care for one another, especially the poor and needy, so that your ways may be celebrated on earth through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you care for the poor and the needy, we thank you for caring for us with this gift of food that we may give you praise through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's justice and mercy bless you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you felt cheated by paying too much for something?
- God demands justice for the poor. Why is it important to know this?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Amos 8:4-7.

Being religious can sometimes focus on a private relationship with God. Amos certainly didn't feel his relationship with God was something to be kept private. Amos was not part of the prophetic tradition. He was a shepherd and farmer who raised figs. Nonetheless, God called him to be a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos denounced unfair business practices that cheated people out of what was rightfully theirs. Using false weights and measures to charge people too much for what they got was wrong. Amos knew it, and God denounced it. The wealthy controlled the marketplaces and had little regard for God's demand for justice and mercy. The wealthy couldn't wait for religious observances, like not working on the Sabbath, to be over so that more wealth could be taken from the poor. Amos is an example of biblical faith that cares very much for the needy. Our own personal faith in Jesus has a very public consequence for how we treat others with grace, mercy, and justice.

Discuss: When, in response to God's love, have you shown care for those in need?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you for watching over us and for caring for us in every need; help us to be ambassadors of your mercy and grace to others 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 help someone who has been taken advantage of?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul encourages us to offer "*supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings*" for all those in positions of authority and leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Think or talk about leaders in the world, the country, and your community you have read or heard about in the news. Write their names on a paper. Read the names aloud and then pray: **Lord God, we thank you for those in leadership positions and ask that you bless them in their work. May they use their positions to care for the poor and show honor to you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31