

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons
Sheila Valquier	Youth Director
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 15 & 16, 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Lynn Schneiderman's birthday; in celebration of the marriage of Dannika Rees & Takao Elliott given by Eric & Toby Rees

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon **9:15 AM**

Grades K-6

We thank our children's choir for sharing their musical talents with us this Sunday at both services. Again next Sunday, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. 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

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

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, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening

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, *continued*

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.

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

You are invited to grab breakfast and bring it to the

Youth Center each week during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

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.

Nov 16: Fellowship

Nov 23: Imagine: What's Next?

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 16 Sunday

Pentecost 23

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

November 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

November 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 Circle 3

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

November 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.

Timothy

November 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Chili Cook-off

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

November 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

5:30 PM Council/Staff Dinner

November 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 23 Sunday

Christ the King

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's 6th Annual Chili Cook-off Lunch

Thursday, November 20

11:30 AM

Guys, do you have a winning chili recipe—or just love a good bowl of chili and great fellowship? Join us for our 6th Annual Men's Chili Cook-off! Sign up at the Welcome Desk, call the church office, or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, November 18 to let us know if you're coming and if you'll be entering a pot of chili or attending as a taster.

Cost:

- Chili entrants: Free
- Tasters: Suggested donation is a new stuffed animal or toy to be given as Christmas gifts to children served by the Kountze Food Pantry.

Cornbread and dessert will be provided. Come sample the entries, vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and friendly competition! Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis.

Young Adult Friendsgiving

Thursday, November 20

6:30 PM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our next 20's & 30's gathering! We'll share a potluck meal, play some favorite board games, and spend time connecting and celebrating our growing community. Bring a dish to share and come ready for fun and fellowship! Sign up at the Welcome Desk or email Dn. Eric @ eric@kmlchurch.org.

30th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Christian, Jewish, Muslim

Sunday, November 23

6 PM

Hosted at Temple Israel

Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude, reflection, and community as congregations from across Omaha's diverse faith traditions come together for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This year's theme, *Reconciliation Out of Brokenness*, invites us to explore how forgiveness, compassion, and shared learning can

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

heal and renew both hearts and communities. Through prayer, music, and messages from multiple faith leaders, we will celebrate the strength that emerges when we gather across differences in the spirit of hope and thanksgiving.

Following the service, all are invited to enjoy a dessert reception, a sweet opportunity to connect and continue the conversation with neighbors old and new. In that same spirit of unity and care, this year's service will also raise funds to support Together, our local Omaha nonprofit working to end hunger and homelessness. Our collective goal is to raise \$5,000 to help fight food insecurity and ensure that every neighbor has access to nourishing meals this season.

Advent Alternative Gift Market

Sundays, November 23 - December 14

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Saturday December 13 (after the Candlelight Carol Service)

Plan to shop now! Shop next door to the Kountze Café area beginning November 23. Shop ELCA Good Gifts for different monetary gifts that fight hunger and transform lives. Shop physical handmade gifts from Global Mamas that support women and their families in Ghana. Donate to the Kountze Memorial Healing Gift Free Clinic and/or our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry to help local families in honor of your family and friends.

Candlelight Carol Service

Saturday, December 13

Prelude 4:30 PM

Service 5:00 PM

The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church! We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture and Poetry, Congregational Carols, Communion, and Choral, Handbell and Instrumental Music. Please join us for this special evening as we journey through Advent and celebrate the Birth of Our Savior! Nursery care will be provided. Cheese and Dessert Reception Following the Service.

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, November 29

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm

and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Advent Fair

November 30

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be collecting toiletries with an emphasis on 3 in one wash, razors, deodorant, lotion, and toothbrushes/toothpaste for the Kountze Pantry guests.

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 pasta, peanut butter, and soup. 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.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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

Pantry Dinner in a Bag: Check out the insert in your bulletin and prepare a bag/bags for our Pantry. These kits are designed to be budget-friendly and easy to prepare, containing shelf-stable ingredients and a recipe card. A different recipe card will be in your bulletin now through Advent, and you can find more recipes online if you would like to pack a bag or two or six for our Pantry guests.

Attendance & Giving **Thursday, Oct. 30—Wednesday, Nov. 5**

Saturday: 28

Sunday: 9:00: 130 **11:00:** 87

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 255

Streaming: 45

Pantry Guests Served: 968 (inc. 365 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering: Not available at time of printing.

Jesus promises to protect us in tough times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Monday	Malachi 4:1-2a	The day of judgment
Tuesday	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Warning against idleness
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Joshua is appointed the leader
Thursday	Psalm 27	Trusting God
Friday	John 14:23-31	The Holy Spirit is promised
Saturday	Psalm 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And he [Jesus] said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them." Luke 21:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the past, present, and future, help us to endure difficulties knowing that you promise to protect us now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the fruit of the earth that feeds us and for your love that protects us we give you our thanks and praise through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you peace.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When was a time you were afraid? Explain.
- How can faith in Jesus get you through tough times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 21:5-19.

This reading in Luke uses apocalyptic language, meaning it has a focus on the end times and worldwide struggles. Jesus tells his followers not to guess when the end times will come. Disasters and tragedies have happened and continue to happen around the world. When such times come and people experience major crises in their lives, it is good to know that *"not a hair of your head will perish"* (v. 18). For those who witness to their faith during times of crisis, it is also helpful to know that Jesus will provide the words and the wisdom. While we may anticipate difficult times, we are not to be led astray and worship that which is not eternal, even a beautiful temple like the one in Jerusalem. We are not to speculate about when the end will come or to follow false saviors. Life can be scary and difficult. We need to hold on to Jesus and his promise to hold on to us to the end.

Discuss: What are some disasters or tragedies happening in today's world? How can faith in Jesus help us endure such times?

Pray: **Almighty God, when wars, earthquakes, and other scary things happen, help us to lean on you alone and trust your eternal care through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 support those who are facing a natural disaster?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 98 calls on all the earth to make a joyful noise. Take a walk outside and look at God's creation around you. When you return home, draw a picture or write a list of things you saw. Then make up your own tune to use as you sing these words: ***O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.***

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43