

## 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 22 & 23, 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**

### **Children’s Choir & Children’s Sermon**

**9:15 AM**

#### **Grades K-6**

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.

**Note:** No breakfast next Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month). We'll have cookies, coffee, and water. For you as you enjoy the Advent Fair. We'll see you again next Sunday for a full breakfast!

### **Sunday Breakfast – Come Lend a Hand!**

Do you enjoy the smell of coffee brewing, lively conversation, and helping people start their Sunday with a good meal? The Kountze Breakfast Committee is looking for a few more helping hands for setup and cleanup on Sunday mornings. We especially need volunteers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, and we're also looking for “subs” who can fill in when regular helpers are unavailable. You'll work side by side with experienced volunteers, learn the rhythm of the kitchen, and share in the fun and fellowship that happens behind the scenes. If you'd like to know more or try it out, please contact Sherri Labedz at 402-578-4331 and learn what it's like to serve in this simple but very meaningful ministry. Thank you for considering being part of the Sunday Breakfast team!

### **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, *continued*

### Sunday School

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 23:** Imagine: What's Next?

**Nov. 30:** Advent Fair

### 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**Christian, Jewish, Muslim**

**Sunday, November 23**

**6 PM**

**Hosted at Temple Israel**

**13111 Sterling Ridge Dr, Omaha**

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 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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### November 23 Sunday

Christ the King

Advent Alternative Gift Market

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

6:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving  
Service—Temple Israel

### November 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

10:00 AM Debra Woosley Visitation

11:00 AM Debra Woosley Funeral

### November 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

9:00 AM Good News Assembly

### November 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### November 27 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving

Meal @ St. Peters

### November 28 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

### November 29 Saturday

9:30 AM Decorate for Advent

5:00 PM Worship

### November 30 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Alternative Gift Market

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 Advent Fair

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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.

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

### **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**

**Sunday, 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.

### **Youth Progressive Dinner**

**Sunday, December 7**

**Grades 7-12**

**5—8:30 PM**

Please join us for our annual Progressive Dinner! Invite friends and plan for an evening of fun as we travel to host homes for our meal, and return to Kountze for dessert. We will depart from the church at 5 PM and plan to return by 8:30 PM. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier at [sheila@kmlchurch.org](mailto:sheila@kmlchurch.org)

### **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.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 14**

**9 AM**

The kids are working hard to learn some of your favorite Christmas hymns. Come learn about the story of Christmas as told by our students!

### **"Noisy Offering"**

**Sunday, December 14**

We will have a "Noisy Offering" competition between the elementary students, youth groups kids, and the adults.

Save up your change and we will have containers to pour your coins into the appropriate space. All the proceeds will go towards the ELCA Good Gifts program.

### **Summer Youth Mission Trip**

**Dates: July 6–12, 2026**

**Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**Early Bird Registration: \$750 until December 31, 2025**

**Regular Registration: \$800 January 1–April 1, 2026**

**\$50 Deposit required for registration**

**Cost includes transportation, meals, and lodging.**

**Register by April 1, 2026**

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth in grades 8 through 12 and their adult leaders. In 2026, we will gather in Pittsburgh for service, learning, worship, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith while learning from our neighbors in Pennsylvania. We will work as a team to raise funds to offset the cost. Presence and participation at fundraising events required.

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. 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/uausdddp>

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, Nov. 13—Wednesday, Nov. 19**

**Saturday: 22**

**Sunday: 9:00: 165 11:00: 72**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 10**

**Total: 269**

**Streaming: 53**

**Pantry Guests Served: 756 (inc. 239 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 9**

**Offering:**

\$19,130.18 (Regular) \$5,841.74 (Specials)

\$462.00 (Debt Reduction)

***Give thanks for the reign of Christ.***

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	A message of hope
Tuesday	Colossians 1:11-20	The supremacy of Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 22:1-17	A call to repent
Thursday	Philippians 4:4-9	Pray with thanksgiving
Friday	Revelation 21:1-8	The new heaven and new earth
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our mighty fortress
Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 23:5 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, help us to give thanks for your reign and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

##### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Lord of lords, and King of kings, with a voice of thanks we gladly sing. Give us now our daily bread, gratefully received in heart and head. Amen.

##### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with compassion.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Would you rather be a shepherd or a king? Explain.
- How would you describe the reign of Christ the King?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Jeremiah 22:3-17 and 23:1-6.

In the Old Testament, kings were referred to as shepherds because of their task to care for the sheep, the people. To understand how the kings (the shepherds) had failed God's task for them, it is helpful to read Jeremiah 22:3-17. The kings had not protected those most prone to abuse in society, that is, foreigners, widows, and orphans. The kings had gained extreme wealth by underpaying the poor and they had blood on their hands for not showing compassion for the needy and the poor. The reading from Jeremiah 23:1-6 announces God's rule on earth. On Christ the King Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus is the "righteous Branch" raised up by God to rule all the earth wisely and to "execute justice and righteousness in the land" (23:5). Jesus' reign is seen from the cross where injustice, pain, and death are overcome by God's eternal reign of justice, mercy, and life forevermore.

*Discuss:* What is the difference between an earthly king and Christ the King?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, you who expect care for widows and orphans, give us courage and faith to trust in your heavenly powers and serve others through Christ, our Lord and King. 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 someone who is struggling?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday in the church year. Advent, the next Sunday, is the beginning of the new church year. Think about or make a list of how you were involved in the congregation's ministries in the last year. What were some highlights? How did you grow in your faith? Who did you get to know better? Think or talk about how you might be involved in the coming church year. *Pray:* **Dear God, we ask that you work in and through our faith community as together we continue to grow in our faith. Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44