

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**

December 27 & 28, 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Gary Westerman given by Judy Westerman, Amy Dyer, and Eric Westerman

New Altar Flower/Eternal Candle/TV Broadcast charts are up in the Narthex. Be sure to sign up for the date(s) you want to remember or honor someone or an event on.

Children's Choir Grades K-6

No Children's Choir this Sunday. Join us again in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms on January 11.

Kountze Café 9:30—11:00 AM

Continental breakfast this morning, but join us again next Sunday for a hot 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 Ages 2 years-6th Grade

No Sunday School will be held from December 14—January 4. Join us again on January 11.

Youth Forum Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center Grades 7-12

No Youth Forum from December 14—January 4. We'll be meeting again on January 11.

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*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

Pledge Cards

It's not too late to bring your pledge cards back. Please put them in the designated box in the narthex or mail them back to the church office. Contact us with questions - we'd be happy to help. And THANK YOU for your generous gifts - they empower us, together, to do even more than we could imagine toward God's work in our community and around the world!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

December 28 Sunday

Christmas 1
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe -
Continental Breakfast

December 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly

December 31 Wednesday

New Year's Eve
No 12:15 PM Worship

January 1 Thursday

New Year's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

January 2 Friday

No Pantry

January 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion
10:00 AM Paul Carlson Funeral
5:00 PM Worship

January 4 Sunday

Christmas 2
Epiphany
Homebound Communion
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 Adult Forum—No
Sunday School, Children's

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6–12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

\$50 Deposit required for registration

Cost includes transportation, meals, and lodging.

Register ASAP by contacting Sheila Valquier.

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. Scholarships are available.

Contact Sheila Valquier if you are interested.

KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 7- 12/week 2

\$50 Early Bird Savings Until January 31

Join friends and other familiar faces for fun, faith, and fellowship with other Lutherans from around the state. Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth if you register by the January 31 Early Bird Registration date. If you register after this date, you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 7 - 12, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K–12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps. In order for the church to pay the fee, choose:

- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- email a copy of the receipt to info@kmlchurch.org and we will submit payment on behalf of your youth.



sheila@kmlchurch.org

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the QR Code or link below and follow the directions above:



Camp Registrations

<https://www.nlom.org/caroljoyholling/register/>

Calling all Artists and Makers!

The Kountze Art Show will be held February 6. If you are artistically inclined, please consider donating a work for a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Group Mission Trip. Email kristin@kmlchurch.org for donation information.

Youth Giving Tree

Our youth in grades 7—12 have set up a giving tree in the Fellowship Hall. You will see biographies on the tree from some of our youth. The bios are just a little information about them that they want us to know. Their hope is that we can not only learn a little about them, but to sponsor them as well. There is an envelope attached to each bio. Simply take an envelope—leave the bio hanging—and place the envelope inside the offering basket. The funds donated will be used for the Youth Mission Trip and extra-curricular activities that they will have throughout the year. Please help in any way possible as no dollar is considered too little. They appreciate our support and prayers as they Worship \$ Grow \$ and Serve among us!

Behind the Scenes on Sunday Mornings

Church Media is looking for volunteers to help with sound, video, and computer graphics. No experience is needed—we provide hands-on training. If you're curious, stop by on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM and see how it all works. Try it and you might discover a role that's a perfect fit for you. Call the church office or talk to Ron Brown if you think you might be interested.

Confirmation Classes

**St. Timothy's Lutheran (93rd & Dodge)
Resume on January 7.**

Wednesdays, 6-7:15 PM

We'll meet each Wednesday until Lent begins, with the exception of January 20 when we will take a "field trip" to St. Michael Lutheran Church (13232 Blondo) for a Digital Safety for Middle Schoolers workshop from 6-7 PM. Please meet at St. Michael on January 20. Confirmation families - be sure to check your email for a more detailed schedule, updates on a Middle School

Lock-In at Camp Carol Joy Holling, sign-ups for snacks, adult helpers, and more!

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are gloves, socks, 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/uaudddp>

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

Omaha Lutheran Campus Ministry Presents

Evensong—A Grand Choir Experience

Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction

Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, January 25

4:30 PM—chili feed & judging

6 PM—worship

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (1031 Sunset Trail)
We have been invited to consider joining the choir. If any choir members would like to sing, please let Barb Carlsen know. Everyone else is invited to the chili feed and worship.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Dec. 18—Monday, December 22

Saturday: 41

Sunday: 9:00: 117 11:00: 78

Wednesday: 12:15: 27 6:30 47

Total: 310

Streaming: 44

Pantry Guests Served: 649 (inc. 146 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering: Not available at time of printing.

The coming of Christ brings joy but causes fear.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Tuesday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Jesus the high priest
Wednesday	Psalms 103:1-5	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Thursday	Isaiah 41:8-13	Israel assured of God's help
Friday	Exodus 1:15-2:10	Moses is born to a slave people
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear merciful God, bring your comfort and protection to all who experience violence and suffering, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

We thank you for this food; may all who journey through life experiencing hunger be blessed with the food you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May our Lord and Savior lift you up in love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you or someone you know needed protection? What happened?
- Is there a time when you have felt God's protection? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:13-23.

Christmas time is a wonderful opportunity to sing Christmas hymns, see beautiful lights and contemplate peace on earth. However, Matthew 2 brings us back to the daily anxieties and violence that continue around us. Innocent children are slaughtered because a king fears for his power. The slaughter of innocent children continues to this day because of fearful leaders. The holy family flees to a land that once enslaved God's people, yet there the family is protected. People seek protection today as refugees in historic numbers. Christ's birth is powerful because sin and death remain realities. Christ's birth brings violence from those who fear God's design and rule. The life of the church is the life of faithful and courageous opposition to all powers that are an affront to the salvation of God in Jesus Christ.

Discuss: Where have you seen peace and justice shared with refugees in today's world?

Pray: **O, Holy Jesus, your path of love and salvation brings hope to a world that needs your care and grace. Blessed be the name of the Lord. 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 care for refugees or homeless people near you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 148. As you are reading, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. Make a list of all the things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148 (for example: the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters!). Take a moment to read through the list. Think or talk about what you can add to the list that you praise God for (for example: friends, family, and pets).

Say: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 148:1)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18