

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

January 10 & 11, 2026

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>



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Erica Freeman in memory of her friend, Tina Hampton; given by David Falke

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Bettie Waldorf in memory of Bertha Munson

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.

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 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.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

Book Group

Sunday, January 11

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Join us!

New Member Class

Sundays, January 11 & 18

10:15 AM

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us in the Fellowship Hall Lounge 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, January 25. We're excited to get to know you!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 11 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
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
10:15 AM New Member Class
12:15 PM Book Group

January 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

January 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due
Good News Deadline
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

January 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 17 Saturday

3:00 Grades 7-12 Ice Skating
5:00 PM Worship

January 18 Sunday

Epiphany 2
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
10:15 AM New Member Class
12:15 PM Young Adult Outing

January 19 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Pantry Open
5:00 PM Clinic Board

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Classes

St. Timothy's Lutheran (93rd & Dodge)

Wednesdays, 6-7:15 PM

We'll meet each Wednesday until Lent begins, with the exception of January 21 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 Lutheran Church (13232 Blondo) on January

21. **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!

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 15

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 14. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're coming.

Youth Ice Skating Event

Grades 7-12

Saturday, January 17

3-6 PM

Riverfront Skate Ribbon

1109 Howards St.

We'll meet at the Riverfront Skate Ribbon at 3 PM and then at 4:30 PM, we'll walk to Zios in the Old Market for pizza and pickup there. Plan to come and bring a friend! RSVP to Sheila at sheila@kmlchurch.org so we know how many to plan for.



sheila@kmlchurch.org

Kountze Young Adults (18-30s)

Sunday, January 18

Site-1 Brewing Company

2566 Farnam St.

12:15 PM

Young adults are invited to gather after the 11:00 AM worship service. We'll meet for food, conversation, and connection. Whether you're new or have joined us before, you're welcome to bring a friend and come as you are. All are welcome!



eric@kmlchurch.org

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

MLK Day of Service Hunger Fight

Monday, January 19

1-3 or 3-5 PM

Courtyard by Marriott in Bellevue

3730 Raynor Pkwy

160 volunteers will engage with the community to package 60,000 Taco Mac meals to feed hungry children and families here in Omaha. Use the QR code or link below for more information or to register to volunteer. Groups are welcome.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7skez3>



Digital Safety Workshop for Parents

Sunday, January 25

6:00-7:00 PM

St. Michael Lutheran Church (13232 Blondo)

Childcare provided

This is for parents of youth of any age, and we'll have childcare provided so parents can focus on the presentation.

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

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth registered by the January 31, the 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. 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.

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:

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



Calling all Artists and Makers!

Friday, February 6

6—9 PM

Join us for an Art Show featuring members of our congregation. Enjoy charcuterie while viewing the talent on display. There will be a silent auction for all pieces of art, with the proceeds benefitting the Youth Group Mission Trip. If you are interested in donating your handiwork, please contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. Donations need to be turned in by Friday, January 30 so they can be displayed over the weekend.

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.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are flour, sugar, and body wash. 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.



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, January 1—Wednesday, January 7

Saturday: 26

Sunday: 9:00: 111 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 202

Streaming: 54

Pantry Guests Served: 291 (inc. 99 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$3,310.00 (Regular) \$497.11 (Specials)

\$200.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.		
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Thursday	Matthew 2:13-23	Going to and return from Egypt
Friday	Acts 8:26-40	An Ethiopian is baptized
Saturday	Psalm 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What do you know about your own baptism or recall about a baptism you have seen?
- How is God's love and approval at Jesus' baptism important to his future work?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus' baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus' baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is. Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets, not us. Jesus' presence announces God's ruling activity among Israel and the nations. Jesus' life fulfilled by the word of the prophets leads to his baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one. It is good to reflect on our own baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God's will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone.

Discuss: What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus, "*My Son, the Beloved*"?

Pray: Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what does it mean to serve others in Jesus' name?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God's family. Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person. *Say:* You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42



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