

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
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 24 & 25, 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.

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, fellowship, and conversation. All are welcome—bring your appetite! 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.

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.

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*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

January 25: Welcome New Members

February 1: Preview of Lent

Welcome New Members

Sunday, January 25

9 AM

New members will be received during worship this Sunday. Grab breakfast—and cake—in the Fellowship Hall between services and introduce yourselves to them.

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.

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 25 Sunday

Epiphany 3

Receive New Members

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 Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

4:30 PM Evensong Chili Feed &

Judging @ Luther Memorial

Lutheran Church

6:00 PM Evensong Worship w/Grand

Choir

6:00 PM Digital Safety for Parents @

Saint Michael Church

January 26 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

9:00 AM Good News Assembly

12:30 PM Circle 3

12:00 PM KCCOC Board

January 28 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

January 29 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 30 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 31 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 1 Sunday

Epiphany 4

Homebound Communion

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

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.

Annual Committee Reports

Due Sunday, February 1

If you are responsible for a report in our Annual Report, please have them turned in to Debbie Bogue in the office no later than February 1. Reports are welcome—and preferred—anytime before that date. Thanks.

Scholarships

G h d g d h n r # D s s q # P d u f k # #

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow
> Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

Applications are due on March 1, 2024. Applications received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are soup, pasta sauce, and gloves. 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/uau5dddp>

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

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.

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. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K–12. 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/>



Camp Registrations

Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 6

A View West Shores

110 S. 243rd Street, Waterloo, NE

5:30 – 10 PM

Save the date for Camp Carol Joy Hollings gala. The night promises fun, auction bidding wars (both live & silent), fellowship with friends, and great food. Bring a friend or two or a table's worth. The more the merrier. This year the gala features a fun theme & new ticket option. Do you have items to donate for the auction? You can fill out the Auction Donation Form by using the QR Code below or email Allison at Ablatchford@NLOM.org. More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>



CJH Gala

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, January 22—Wednesday, January 28

Saturday: 14

Sunday: 9:00: 97 11:00: 66

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 187

Streaming: 54

Pantry Guests Served: 336 (inc. 74 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$ 26,890.93 (Regular) \$ 837.00 (Specials)

\$ 2,205.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus lights our way, calling us to follow him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-4	A new day is coming
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Divisions in the church
Wednesday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A light to the nations
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Treasure in clay jars
Friday	John 8:12-20	Jesus is the light of the world
Saturday	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	Trust in God
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.
In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life
as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who reject sin and death, bring light and life to your world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May this gift of food remind us of your light that shines in the world. We pray for all those in need of food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ shine on you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does the word “hope” mean to you? What gives you hope?
- In what ways does Jesus give his followers hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 4:12-23.

The Epiphany season continues with a focus on the reign of God made complete in Jesus. His reign challenges every power and authority on earth. Jesus begins his public ministry when hearing of the arrest of John the Baptist by the governing powers. He moves from Nazareth to Capernaum which is located in Zebulun and Naphtali. The land had been dominated by foreign powers from the time of the Assyrians down to the Greeks and then the Romans. Now, through Jesus, *“the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light”* (v. 16). Jesus’ reign brings life, not death, light, not darkness. In Jesus the work and will of God shines brightly. He gathers disciples and leads people into God’s reign of life and hope: *“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people”* (v. 23).

Discuss: Where do you experience the light of Christ in your life today?

Pray: **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? In the name of Jesus Christ our 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 give hope to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Epiphany is a season that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world so that we may follow Jesus without fear. Make a list of things that can make you afraid. Light a candle and name these fears aloud. *After each fear is named say: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”* (Psalm 27:1).

At the end, pray: **As we face our fears remind us that you are with us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who calls us to live free of our fears and anxieties. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12