

## 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	Facility & Events Director
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
Dan Collett	Facility Assistant
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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**February 7 & 8, 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>



### **Today at Kountze Memorial**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in celebration of Thomas Jensen's birthday given by his family

### **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-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.

## 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.

February 8: Budget Preview

February 15: Annual Meeting

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### February 8 Sunday

Epiphany 5  
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  
10:10 AM Budget Preview  
12:15 PM Book Group

### February 9 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### February 11 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

### February 12 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 13 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 14 Saturday

Valentine's Day

5:00 PM Worship

### February 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline  
Transfiguration 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 Café - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour  
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Scholarships

#### **Deadline to Apply: March 1**

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 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

**Applications are due on March 1, 2026. 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](mailto: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 deodorant, cornmeal, and flour. 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/uausddd>

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



Pantry

### 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.

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

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. If you would like to help sponsor the trip, donations are welcome. There is a Valentine Tree at the top of the ramp to the Youth Room where you can take a valentine and return it to the church office with your donation inside. Any donation is welcome and appreciated. Thank you for your support!

### KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

**June 7 - 12/week 2**

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial child/youth if you didn't register by the January 31 Early Bird Registration 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. Call/email the church on instructions so we can pay the early bird cost. Instructions are also in the weekly e-news.

### Table Grace Café Gala

**Friday, March 6**

**6 - 9 PM**

**Livestock Exchange Ballroom**

**4920 S 30<sup>th</sup> St**

We are personally invited to attend the Table Grace Café Gala. You won't want to miss this event - there will be amazing food, great auction items to help raise money for those who need a hand up, and entertainment. For more information, to purchase tickets, sponsorship packages, or to RSVP, use the QR Code or email cindy@tablegracecafe.org.

### Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala

**Saturday, April 11**

**A View West Shores**

**110 S. 243<sup>rd</sup> 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/>



Table Grace Gala



CJH Gala

### Streetcar/Roadwork Update

On Monday, February 9, 28<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed between Farnam and Douglas to build a new water main and construct the bridge abutments. Farnam will be closed at 26<sup>th</sup> Street, with access limited to local businesses only for those heading west. This closure is anticipated to open in approximately three months. Please use only the Douglas Street entrance/exit if possible because they want to deter traffic from going past 26<sup>th</sup> Street as much as possible. Some of the parking meters in front of the church will be unbarged and usable. Meters will be enforced and must be paid for as usual unless you have a valid accessible license plate or placard.



### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

**Ash Wednesday, February 18**

**Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25**

#### DUST TO DAWN:

A LENTEN JOURNEY TO THE EASTER VIGIL



▪ **Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM**

(6:30 PM is livestreamed)

▪ **Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon**

(free-will offering)

▪ **Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

(free-will offering)

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, January 29—Wednesday, February 4**

**Saturday: 27**

**Sunday: 9:00: 139 11:00: 72**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 11**

**Total: 249**

**Streaming: 61**

**Pantry Guests Served: 427 (inc. 132 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**

**Offering:**

\$38,978.43 (Regular) \$5,399.89 (Specials)

\$8,592.00 (Debt Reduction)

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:15-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:18-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalm 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen.  
(Isaiah 58:7)

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with trust in God.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Being forgiven can look like weakness. How is Jesus' death on the cross a powerful gift to the life of the church?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.*

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" because it is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need.

*Discuss: How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?*

*Pray: God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world.*

**Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus calls his followers the "salt of the earth and the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home, give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: "**Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**" (Matthew 5:16)



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)