

## 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 14 & 15, 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

### 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>



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in memory of Julie Haug given by her family.

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Marvin Andersen 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.

### 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.

## 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.

February 15: Annual Meeting

February 22: What is the Liturgy?

### Youth Mission Trip Art Show Results

Thank you to everyone who donated items and to those of you who purchased items at our first Art Show. It was a great success

and we're already looking forward to next year! So far we have raised \$2,964 and still have a few remaining items have since received bids on them, so we're not done yet. This is also the last week for the Valentine Mission Trip Donation Tree. It will come down after church on Sunday. If you'd like to participate, please grab a valentine—along with your check -- and place it in the box on the Welcome Desk. Thank you again for your generous support. It means so much to the youth of Kountze Memorial.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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



### February 16 Monday

President's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED  
10:00 AM Pantry Open

### February 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### February 18 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday  
11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal  
6:30 PM Worship

### February 19 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### February 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### February 22 Sunday

Lent 1  
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

### Together in Mission (TIM)

#### Adult Faith Formation Event

Saturday, February 21, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> St

Hosted by St. Timothy's Lutheran Church for the Metropolitan + Lutheran Community and co-sponsored by **Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church**, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Saint Michael Lutheran Church. Join siblings in Christ across Omaha as we grow in understanding, accompaniment, and shared mission under the ELCA umbrella.

#### Featured Speakers:

**Dr. Winston D. Persaud**

Professor of Systematic Theology  
Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Dr. May Burt Persaud**

Instructor in Biblical Languages  
Wartburg Theological Seminary

#### Schedule Highlights

8:30 AM – Coffee & Gathering

9:30 AM – Keynote Address

11:00 AM – Cultural & Mission Workshops

Noon – Lunch

12:45 PM – Bible Study

1:30 PM – Closing Worship

More information can be found by using the QR Code or the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2rd6etkv>

### 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)



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

### Order of Saint John Annual Training

**Sunday, March 1, Noon to 1:30 PM**

**Saturday, March 7, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM**

On Sunday a light lunch will be offered for all Worship Assistants, and the OSJ Sponsors will provide a dessert, so we need to know how many are attending. This year, the *Order of Saint John Annual Training* will take place in conjunction with the upcoming *Worship Workshops for Worship Assistants*. Two dates are available, so you can choose which one works best in your schedule. Please select a date and let the OSJ Sponsors know by Sunday, February 22. **On behalf of the Order of Saint John**, we would like to recognize John Groenjes for his dedication and faithful service as an Acolyte and Crucifer over many years. John is retiring at the end of February as an active member of the OSJ. When you see John, please thank him for his leadership and dedication to the Order of Saint John.

### Worship Workshops

**Sunday, March 1**

**Noon-1:30 PM (light lunch served)**

**Saturday, March 7**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

#### Please RSVP to the church office

If you are a member of one of our weekend worship assisting teams - Ushers, Altar Guild, Lectors, Communion Servers, Media & TV, etc. - OR if you are interested in learning more about volunteering in worship, come to our Worship Workshop. We will spend time in these individual teams reviewing the very practical how-to's and updating you on any new/revised practices. Note: two time slots are offered - the same workshop will be offered at each, but you are welcome to come to both and go to different break-out groups.

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are soap, sugar, and cereal. 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. We are always in need of gently used egg cartons and grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

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

### Summer Youth Mission Trip

**Dates: July 6-12, 2026**

**Grades 8-12**

**Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**\$50 Deposit required for registration**

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

**Register ASAP by contacting Sheila Valquier**

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. 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](mailto:cindy@tablegracecafe.org).



Table Grace Gala

### 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](mailto:Ablatchford@NLom.org). More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to <https://www.nlom.org/gala/>



CJH Gala

## 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, February 5—Wednesday, February 11**

**Saturday: 31**

**Sunday: 9:00: 154 11:00: 78**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 12**

**Total: 275**

**Streaming: 59**

**Pantry Guests Served: 485 (inc. 144 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**

**Offering:**

\$20403.97 (Regular) \$2846.1 (Specials)

\$257 (Debt Reduction)

*Disciples have a mountaintop experience.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	Exodus 24:12-18	Moses goes up to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	2 Peter 1:16-21	Eyewitnesses of Christ's glory
Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Giving, praying, and fasting
Thursday	Genesis 8:1-22	The Lord's promise for the earth
Friday	Genesis 22:1-19	The Lord will provide
Saturday	Psalms 2	The Lord's chosen king
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus



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

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. **Matthew 17:7-8 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and eternal God, help us to be aware of your saving presence in our lives and in our world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share, on every table, everywhere. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you comfort and strength.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you felt God's presence in your life?
- When Jesus was transfigured, a voice from heaven said, "Listen to him." How do you hear and listen to Jesus?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 17:1-9.

In the midst of the challenges and hurts of everyday life, it can be a gift and a source of comfort and strength to have a "God moment" experience. It happened to Peter, James, and John. It also happens to us, that sense that God is near and all is well. Our comfort is not just in any god or spiritual experience, but one that links us to Jesus, the Son of God. He is the one who came to die on another mountain, Golgotha. However, this mountain experience brings together Jesus, Moses, Elijah, and unprepared disciples. What makes this moment a valued "God moment" is that the disciples are comforted by the words, "do not be afraid" (v.7) and their focus becomes exclusively on Jesus alone. What a moment and a gift it is to see Jesus before us and at peace with no need to be afraid.

*Discuss:* When have you had a special moment that gave you a comforting sense that Jesus was with you?

*Pray:* **Dear God, help us to see Jesus in our mountaintop highs and in our valley lows, and may that vision give us courage, comfort, and strength to be your faithful followers. 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 be a good listener to someone who is in need of a listening ear?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Exodus 24, Moses went up on a cloud-covered mountain for forty days and forty nights. We are about to enter another 40-day period of prayer and fasting as we prepare for Ash Wednesday this week. The day before is called Shrove Tuesday and is recognized around the world as a day to eat fattening foods, especially pancakes. Prepare a pancake feast on Tuesday this week to enjoy with friends and family. After feasting, say this blessing: **May God bless you through your journey this Lent.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11