

## 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 21 & 22, 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>



**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Martens given by Mark and Stephanie Martens

### 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 22: What is the Liturgy?

March 1: Early Christian Worship

### We Need Sunday School Teachers!

Please use the link below or the QR Code to sign up to help lead the youngest members for Kountze in their Faith Formation. All the lessons are provided beforehand, scripted, and materials provided. Contact Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) for any questions you may have.

<https://tinyurl.com/8s4k6ax4>



SS Teachers

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### February 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM KCCOC Board Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### February 25 Wednesday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly  
11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal  
6:30 PM Worship

### February 26 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 28 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### March 1 Sunday

Lent 2  
Homebound Communion  
Scholarship Application Deadline  
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  
12:00 PM OSJ Training & Worship Workshops

## 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)

### 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.

### Sweat Pants Sunday

#### Kountze Young Adults (18—30's)

#### Sunday, March 8

**12:15 PM**

1 Samuel 16:7b *"For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."* Young Adults (18-30s) are invited to come as you are, messy hair, don't care, sweatpants are a must! We'll be playing

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

board games, card games, pool, air hockey, in our comfiest attire on Sunday, March 8, following the 11:00 AM worship service. We'll meet at 12:15 PM for pizza, 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. Seriously, all.

### **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

### **First Communion Class** **Sunday, March 15** **11:00 AM**

A light lunch will be served for participants and their families. The student's First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students in the second grade, or those showing a curiosity about Communion, are encouraged to attend. Please register with Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.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**



CJH Gala

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/>

### **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**  
Any donation is welcome and appreciated. Thank you for your support!

### **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, gloves, & deodorant. 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.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

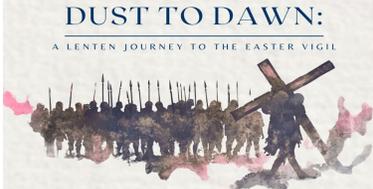
If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.



Pantry

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

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



**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)

## LENTEN MEAL

Menu for February 25

- Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Tomato Basil Soup
- Assorted Wraps
- Vegetarian Option Available
- Triple Berry Cobbler

Everyone is welcome.  
Come hungry and join us!

Worship: 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM  
Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Dinner: 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
Cost: Free-will Offering



### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, February 12—Wednesday, February 18

**Saturday: 25**  
**Sunday: 9:00: 162 11:00: 76**  
**Wednesday: 12:15: 79**  
**Total: 484**  
**Streaming: 79**  
**Pantry Guests Served: 392 (inc. 113 children)**  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**  
**Offering:**  
\$15,587.49 (Regular) \$3,451.33 (Specials)  
\$252.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus faces temptation and conquers evil.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	First sin and its punishment
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Adam and Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ was raised to life
Thursday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Love wipes away many sins
Friday	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear one another's burdens
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world



© 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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. **Matthew 4:10-11 (NRSV)***

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, it is difficult to face the evil within and around us. Thank you for facing and conquering the power of sin through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

God of steadfast love and mercy, we thank you for this meal and all that you do to care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you safe from evil.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Why is it sometimes difficult to talk about evil and sin?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good times and bad times? Explain.

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 4:1-11.

After his baptism, Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness, a place that tests one's true character. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and the misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is without compromise. We, on the other hand, can find it easy to compromise goodness in the presence of evil by tolerating comfort over justice, worship of false gods, and powers that hurt others without grieving us. In a world where little compromises can lead to major wrongs and injury to others, it is good to know that our Savior faced down evil and won. Evil is real and does real damage to God's creation, including human beings and their relationships. The good news is that as fallible and susceptible as we are to evil, in the end, it does not and cannot win. God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

*Discuss:* What can we learn from Jesus' response to temptation?

*Pray:* **Eternal God, you who never give up on us and oppose every evil, we thank you for your steadfast love and mercy through Christ Jesus. 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 someone who is afraid to try something for fear of making a mistake?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

To establish a ritual during Lent, make a Lenten Candle Cross. Place six purple tea-light or votive candles in the shape of a cross, using a white seventh candle for the center. Each week, a candle will be lit during prayer time in your home. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) will be introduced as a way to pray. This first week in Lent represents "A" for Adoration, meaning love, respect, and worship. [Light one purple candle]

*Pray:* **Dear God, we praise your name and worship you. I praise you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17