

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

February 28 & March 1, 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 by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

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.

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.

March 1: Fellowship

March 8: Variety of Liturgies for 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 for any questions you may have.

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



SS Teachers

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

March 2 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 4 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

March 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 6 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 7 Saturday

3:00 PM OSJ Training & Worship Workshops
5:00 PM Worship

6:20 PM High School Night Out

March 8 Sunday

Lent 3
Daylight Savings--spring ahead 1 hour
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
12:15 PM Book Group

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 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

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.

High School Night Out

Get Out Omaha Escape Room

Saturday, March 7

Meet at KMLC at 6:20 PM (we leave promptly!)

Think you can escape? Join us for an Escape Room adventure in Omaha! After we beat the clock, we'll head to the Old Market for ice cream. Please RSVP to Sheila at sheila@kmlchurch.org or use the QR code above. Bring a friend. Bring your brain. Don't get locked in.



sheila@kmlchurch.org

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 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 30th 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.



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 2nd. 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.

Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 11

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

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6–12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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 canned pasta, dry pasta, 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. We are always in need of gently used egg cartons and grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddd>

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

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)

LENTEN MEAL MENU FOR MARCH 4

Choice of
Potato Soup
or Minestrone
Ham or Chicken Salad
Croissants
Assorted Cookies

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

All KMLC children, youth, friends, and families are invited to join us.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, February 26—Wednesday, March 4

Saturday: 28
Sunday: 9:00: 125 11:00: 72
Wednesday: 12:15: 36
Total: 279
Streaming: 86
Pantry Guests Served: 358 (inc. 97 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served:
Offering:
 \$12,020.04 (Regular) \$3,667.52 (Specials)
 \$728.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are blessed to bless others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world
Monday	Genesis 12:1-4a	The call of Abram
Tuesday	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	God keeps his promise
Wednesday	Jeremiah 17:7-8	Trust the Lord
Thursday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
Friday	Numbers 6:22-27	Blessing for the people
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well



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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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, as you bless us each day in faith, help us to bless others through your never-failing love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you who watch over our going out and our coming in, we thank you for this food that nurtures us day by day, through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you every day.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it mean to be blessed?
- Abram and Sarai were called to God to bless all the families of the earth. How do you think this affected the way they lived?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 12:1-6.

Abram and his wife Sarai are sent on a faith quest. They look rather foolish to the world. They leave the security of a kinship community to go out and trust an unknown God while becoming foreigners in a strange land. The faith of Abram and Sarai in this passage is not defined by doctrines or clear convictions. Faith is a walk of life where people learn who their God is through a trusted relationship. This is true in the Gospel of John as well where faith is never a noun. It is always a verb, an action that trusts in a relationship that recognizes that one's entire existence is dependent upon God. That is what faith looks like. And it has consequences for others because faith is never a private affair: *"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3b).

Discuss: How would you describe the journey of faith that you have been on?

Pray: **Living God, you call us to ventures we cannot fully imagine. Help us to trust you and know you will lead us all the days of our lives, through 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 might you bless someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the second week in Lent, light two of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents **"C"**, for Confession, meaning to confess one's sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Pray: **Dear God, I confess that I do not fully place my trust in you. Forgive me for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42