

## 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)

March 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>



**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in celebration of Anna Kidder's birthday given by Mark & Tarna Kidder

### 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.

- March 15: "Why Do We...?" Some Worship Elements Explained  
March 22: "What More Would You Like to Know about 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>



### 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. 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).

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 15 Sunday

Lent 4  
Good News 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  
11:00 AM First Communion Class

### March 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### March 17 Tuesday

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

### March 18 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal  
5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 PM Worship

### March 19 Thursday

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

### March 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### March 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### March 22 Sunday

Lent 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 Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Children's Choir Singing

#### Palm Sunday, March 29

#### 9 & 11 AM Worship Services

#### Practice on March 29 @ 8:35 AM

The children will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 29, at both the 9 AM and the 11 AM services. We will sing at the beginning of the 11 AM service so you will be able to leave immediately after they sing. We will practice in the sanctuary before the 9 AM service at 8:35 AM. We will be singing *Let the Rocks Cry Out!* The children will sing an anthem with the adult choir. Thank you for your support and participation. It is always a beautiful thing to see children involved in our worship services. If you have any questions, you may contact Barb Carlsen at [carlsen.barbara18@gmail.com](mailto:carlsen.barbara18@gmail.com)

### Palm Sunday Path

#### Sunday, March 29, 3-5 PM

#### First United Methodist Church, Omaha 7020 Cass St (72<sup>nd</sup> & Cass St.)

This Palm Sunday we invite Christians and all people of goodwill to gather as a witness to Jesus' message of solidarity with our struggling neighbors. As Christians we stand for loving our neighbors: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger. We stand for truth and dignity, and the worth of every child of God. This ecumenical event will include brief prayers from Bishop Scott Johnson (NE Synod, ELCA) and Bishop Scott Barker (Episcopal Diocese), and short remarks on food insecurity, healthcare access and immigration reform from pastors of the Omaha community. There will be music and lots of time to connect with fellow Christians and community partners!

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

Register using the QR code or at [bit.ly/PalmSundayOmaha](https://bit.ly/PalmSundayOmaha) (registration ahead of time is not required, but helpful). If you are able, bring a palm branch to wave from Sunday morning worship (if that is your tradition), a sign, and a donation of cereal for the Clair Cares Food Pantry.



Palm Sunday Path

**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 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/>

**New Member Classes**  
**April 12 & 19**  
**10:15 AM**

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us for our upcoming new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, April 26. If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org). We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.

**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.

**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 soup, body wash, and canned pasta. 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/uasdddp>

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

**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 18**



Beef Barley Soup  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Assorted Wraps  
Dessert



Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Dinner: 5:30 - 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, March 4—Wednesday, March 11**

**Saturday: 19**  
**Sunday: 9:00: 113 11:00: 64**  
**Wednesday: 12:15: 34**  
**Total: 281**  
**Streaming: 90**  
**Pantry Guests Served: 509 (inc. 155 children)**  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**  
**Offering:**  
\$16,478.02 (Regular)                      \$1,085.54 (Specials)  
\$1,122.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus brings light and new life.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	James 4:11-12	Warning against judging others
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-11	God's ways are not our ways
Friday	Matthew 7:1-5	Judging others
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus



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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)

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Ephesians 5:8-9 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, thank you for overcoming our darkness with the light of Christ; help us live as children of light and to be filled with all that is good and right and true through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you give sight to the blind and food to the hungry. We thank you for your kindness and praise you for your goodness. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Jesus shine through you.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell of a time that you felt you were “in the dark” and needed help to see something more clearly.
- How does the light of Christ help you see the world with hope and love?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41.

In John 9 Jesus sees in the blind man a person who needs mercy and sight. This story is built on an important theme that Jesus is the “*true light, which enlightens everyone*” introduced in John 1:9. Just as Jesus gave sight to the blind man, Jesus gives divine light for all the world. Jesus’ light challenges the Pharisees who think they see yet do not truly see. In 1 Samuel the prophet is to anoint a new king, but Samuel is not able to perceive or see what God sees. A scrawny, youngest son (David) who is originally not even considered as a candidate, is chosen by God to be king. Thankfully, God sees and decides by a standard far different from our own. In our blindness, Jesus comes to us and shows God’s work of healing and new life. The light Jesus brings into the world helps us to see ourselves and others with mercy.

*Discuss:* How has Jesus, the “*true light,*” enlightened your life and helped you see others with mercy?

*Pray:* **Almighty and merciful God, thank you for your ways that conquer human blindness with hope and new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who can you reach out to that needs words and acts of compassion and kindness?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the fourth week in Lent, light four 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 “**S**”, for Supplication, meaning to humbly ask God to provide something for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

*Pray:* **Dear God, just as you healed the blind man, I ask for your healing in the lives of those who are in need of your loving presence including . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41