

## 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 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 memory of Kelcey Renee Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and 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.

March 22: "What More Would You Like to Know about Worship?"

March 29: Fellowship (Palm Sunday)

### 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

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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  
10:00 AM Scholarship Committee  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

### March 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### March 24 Tuesday

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

### March 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

### March 26 Thursday

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

### March 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### March 28 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### March 29 Sunday

Passion/Palm Sunday  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
No Sunday School, Children's Choir, or Adult Forum—Fellowship  
3:00 PM Palm Sunday Path

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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



Palm Sunday Path

of time to connect with fellow Christians and community partners! Register using the QR code or at [bit.ly/PalmSundayOmaha](http://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.

### 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 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

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

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.

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are toothpaste, muffin mix, and pasta sauce. 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/uausddd>

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



### Cinco de Mayo Saturday, May 2 6-8 PM

Come celebrate with an evening full of music, flavor, and fun! Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a festive Celebration the whole family can enjoy. Sample a delicious spread of authentic Mexican food and homemade desserts, sip on refreshing mock margaritas, and experience the lively sounds of Omaha's own Mariachi band, Mariachi Los Caballeros, performing live! Throughout the evening, try your luck with our raffle baskets as well. Whether you come for the food, the music, or the community, there will be something for everyone.

Ticket Prices at the door:

Adults (14+): \$25

Kids: \$10

Ages 5 & under: Free

Bring your friends, bring your family, and come celebrate together with great food, great music, and great company! Proceeds to benefit youth attending the Pittsburgh trip this summer!

## 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)

### Holy Week & Easter at Kountze Memorial



**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 30, 31, & April 1**  
12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

#### Maundy Thursday, April 2

11 AM Lunch (free-will offering)  
12:15 PM Worship  
5 PM Dinner (free-will offering)  
6:30 PM Worship & First Communion

#### Good Friday, April 3

12-3 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir (Come and go as your schedule allows.)  
6:30 PM Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery)

#### Holy Saturday, April 4

10 PM Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist)  
(There will be no 5:00 PM Saturday service)

#### Easter Sunday, April 5

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link  
8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast  
9 & 11:00 AM Festival of the Resurrection  
10:10 AMish Easter Egg Hunt in the Link after the 9 AM service



### LENTEN MEAL MENU FOR MARCH 25

Lasagna Soup or Broccoli Cheese Soup  
Italian Toasted Ciabatta's  
Dessert

**Come hungry and join us!**

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, March 12—Wednesday, March 19

**Saturday:** 29  
**Sunday:** 9:00: 98 11:00: 49  
**Wednesday:** 12:15: 43  
**Total:** 266  
**Streaming:** 103  
**Pantry Guests Served:** 163 (inc. 42 children) (closed Monday)  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 10  
**Offering:**  
\$22,101.00 (Regular) \$8,027.98 (Specials)  
\$1,252.65 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus' resurrection means new life now.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Romans 8:12-17	Wonderful future of God's people
Thursday	1 Peter 1:1-9	A real reason for hope
Friday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem



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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

*Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* **John 11:25-26 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of life and hope, we thank you for the promise of the resurrection and the power it brings to us each day through Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the strength we receive through this food and the faith and hope we receive through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God free you from all burdens and give you peace.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something you are looking forward to do in the future?
- How does the promise of Jesus' resurrection influence your life today?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 11:1-45.

With the story of the raising of Lazarus, Jesus makes it clear that he is not only the source of *"the resurrection on the last day"* (v. 24), but the source of life now. Jesus does not just say he is the resurrection. He says, *"I am the resurrection and the life"* (v. 25). In this story we gain understanding of what it means that Jesus is the *"Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world"* (v. 27). The future hope of the resurrection is so important and so real that it changes our life in the present. Even though Jesus weeps with his friends, grief does not control his—or our—life. Our lives are to be freed from the daily powers of sin, fear, and death. *"Unbind him and let him go"* (v. 44) is the message for us, too. Jesus comes to us when our burdens are many, to unbind us and set us free. Jesus says, *"[Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die]"* (v. 26).

*Discuss:* How does faith in Jesus impact your priorities, your values, your relationships?

*Pray:* **God of resurrection promise, remind us of the new life we are given each day 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 can you help or support someone who is grieving a loss?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the fifth week in Lent, light five of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) has been introduced as a way to pray. This week use this acronym (**ACTS**) as a guide for prayer.

*Pray:* **Dear God, I praise you for . . . , forgive me for . . . , I thank you for . . . , I pray for (name of people or situations) . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66