

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

March 28 & 29, 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of in memory of David Penning given by Amanda Plantz

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

We thank our Children's Choir for sharing their musical talents with us this morning. No Children's Choir today or on Easter Sunday. Beginning again on April 12, 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

No Sunday School today or on Easter Sunday, but beginning again on April 12, children are invited to 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

No Youth Forum this Palm Sunday or Easter, but youth are invited to join us again each week beginning April 12 in the during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

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>



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 29: Fellowship (Palm Sunday)

April 5: Fellowship (Easter Sunday Breakfast)

Palm Sunday Path

Sunday, March 29, 3-5 PM

First United Methodist Church, Omaha

7020 Cass St (72nd & Cass St.)

This Palm Sunday, Christians and all people of goodwill are invited 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



Palm Sunday Path

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! Register using the QR code or at 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.

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 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

March 30 Monday

Monday in Holy Week

10:00 AM Pantry

12:15 PM Worship

March 31 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:15 PM Worship

April 1 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week

12:15 PM Worship

April 2 Thursday

Maundy Thursday

First Communion

11:00 AM Lenten Meal

12:15 PM Worship

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

5:00 PM Lenten Meal

6:30 PM Worship

April 3 Friday

Good Friday

12:00 - 3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship

5:00 PM Pantry

6:30 PM Worship

April 4 Saturday

Easter Vigil

Homebound Communion

No 5 PM Worship

10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

April 5 Sunday

Easter

Homebound Communion

7:30 AM Sunrise Easter Worship

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

April 6 Monday

Office Closed

10:00 AM Pantry

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Be a Part of our Holy Week & Easter Worship Services as an Usher, Communion Assistant, or Lector

We invite those who serve as Ushers, Communion Assistants, and Lectors to assist with our Holy Week and Easter services. If you're able to serve, Ushers can sign up in the back of the Nave or at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall; Communion Assistants and Lectors can sign up on SignUp Genius or contact the church office. We appreciate your help.

No Parking

If you are attending the midday services during Holy Week, please remember not to park in the Methodist Clinic parking lot. This lot is for staff and patients of the Methodist Clinic only. You can park in the west parking lot or at the metered spots on Farnam Street. Vehicles with a valid accessible license plate or

placard may park at any meter for free. Everyone else must pay for parking with a credit card by using either the Park Omaha or ParkMobile app or at the multi-space meter which accepts coins or card payment. If you have questions, check the link below for more information:

<https://www.parkomaha.com/parking/on-street-parking>

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



CJH Gala

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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. 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. 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 bottled water, cereal, & toothpaste. 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/uau5dddp>

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!

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



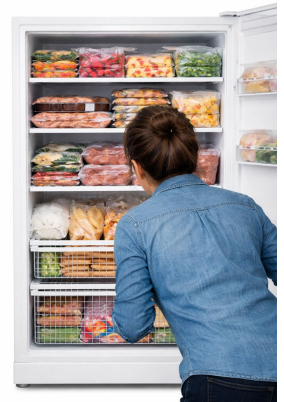
MAUNDY THURSDAY MENU FOR APRIL 2

What's for lunch/dinner?

It all depends on what's in the freezer. A little of this and a little of that. Maybe chili, chicken noodle or broccoli cheese soup... Whatever it is, it will be good. Again!

Come hungry and join us.

Worship: 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM
Cost: Free-will Offering



Attendance & Giving Thursday, March 19—Wednesday, March 25

Saturday: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 148 **11:00:** 80

Wednesday: 12:15: 38 **6:30:** 52

Total: 342

Streaming: 66 (inc. Wednesday)

Pantry Guests Served: 120 (inc. 489 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$14,982.16 (Regular) \$4,525.65 (Specials)

\$297.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 26:14–27:66	Jesus' trial and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	The servant's humiliation
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	Jesus suffers and dies
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for protection
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection



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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

*[B]ut [Jesus Christ] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:7-8 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, free us to trust that the humiliation Jesus experienced from the cross is the path to hope for the world and the source of real power, faith, and love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each day and for this food. May we enjoy the day with courage, faith, and love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the face of God shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What do you do to show someone that you care for them?
- How is Jesus' death on a cross a sign of God's love for you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Many theories have been put forward in the history of the church to state why Jesus had to die to be our Savior. However, one point is clear in the Bible: Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love, a love that is willing to experience a form of slavery, humiliation, and excruciating death, *"even death on a cross"* (Philippians 2:8). Crosses have become forms of jewelry and part of other art forms that point to Jesus' death. However, neither jewelry nor other art forms fully express the pain and humiliation that God in Christ endured to indicate the character of who God is for us. Jesus joins our human existence by making our deepest prayer his prayer: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Matthew 27:46). God in Christ Jesus joins our life experience and from the cross stretches out his arms to say, *"I love you this much."*

Discuss: When you see someone wearing a cross, what does it mean to you?

Pray: **Loving God, you stop at nothing to show us your divine character and the depth of your love. Help us to know and to trust the power of your love for us through Christ. 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 care for someone who has been unfairly treated?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If you received palms during worship, take them home. As we begin Holy Week, say the **ACTS** prayer of giving praise to God (Adoration), asking God's forgiveness (Confession), giving thanks to God (Thanksgiving), and asking God's help for those in need (Supplication) as you light all six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross. After lighting the candles, hold a palm and wave it in your hand as you say, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"* (Matthew 21:9b)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66