

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 46, Issue 4

April, 2026

Three Stories that have Shaped My Ministry

Deacon Eric Haitz

The Quiet Ministry of Presence

In 1998, I returned to Twin Lakes Bible Camp in Iowa, where I had grown up, this time as a counselor. I wanted to be the kind of role model who had shaped me. That week, the guest preacher and I spent hours talking about life, music, and faith. On the last day, he said, “Do you have a job? I think you should come work for me—it’ll change your life.”

He worked at a rehabilitation facility for people with brain and spinal cord injuries. My days were filled with intimate, sometimes eye-opening work: helping residents dress, shower, and transfer them for toileting, and supporting them as they pursued goals—earning a GED, learning to cook, even planning a party. Each person had a story, and it was our job to know it.

I was paired with Brandon, a young man about my age who had survived a car accident he caused while drinking and driving underage. Of the four involved, he was the sole survivor. The crash left him with memory loss, slowed reflexes, and speech. I helped him earn his GED, he joined me and my friends for dinners and outings, and experienced pieces of ordinary youth he had nearly lost.

The hardest moments came when he asked why he wasn’t home. We told him the truth, but he would forget by the next day. Each time we sat with him through denial, grief, and anguish. It felt like witnessing death and resurrection over and over, in a single room.

Through Brandon, I began to see God in the quiet ministry of presence. That summer taught me resilience, dignity, and faith: God meets us in the ordinary, calling us to accompany one another with patience, care, and love.

Can You Go Back?

As a second-career seminary student, I returned to the classroom after years away, balancing work, family, and studies. At the start of my first in-person week, I was paired with a roommate. We were very different personalities and didn’t click instantly. With each syllabus, I felt overwhelmed by coursework, responsibilities, and self-doubt.

One evening, I reached a breaking point. Michael noticed and asked if he could pray with me. I agreed. After that brief prayer, he said:

“Question. Having experienced this place, having seen, heard, and felt the call you have...can you go back and pretend none of it happened?”

The answer was no. That experience had changed me and set me on a path I could not abandon. Those words have become a lens for my ministry: every story we hear leaves an imprint. We are called to listen, honor experiences, and act in ways that foster the thriving of each person we meet. Once we have truly heard someone, we are meant to be changed.

That conviction shapes how I try to lead ministry today, especially with young people.

“Why Do They Argue About Things That Don’t Matter?”

In 2024, I served as synod champion for the Western Iowa Synod, coordinating leaders taking youth to the National Youth Gathering. At the Synod Assembly, I worked to involve youth fully. Our theme was “Stir Us Up To Be,” followed by the Gathering’s five words: Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, Disciples. Youth served as ushers, communion assistants, cross bearers, acolytes, dinner servers—every role we could offer. But we also wanted to hear from them: How do they see the church? Do they want more ownership?

After opening worship, we asked ten young people: “What does your church do that you don’t understand?” I braced for questions about candles, vestments, or liturgical details. But the first response surprised me: “Why do they argue about things that don’t matter?”

He told a story from his experience as a communion assistant. He had stacked six cup trays on one side of the altar and four on the other. The altar guild scolded him. “But everyone received communion, right?” he asked.

You see, the sacrament is not in the perfection of our actions, but in the presence we offer and the grace we embody. What matters is that God meets us in the bread and wine, that we serve with love, and that the body of Christ is fed. That young person reminded me that ministry—and the church—is fundamentally sacramental: God’s grace flows through ordinary, imperfect people who show up, listen, and serve.

With thanks,

Dn. Eric Haitz

WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed and archived on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda. During Advent and Lent these services are in the Sanctuary.



Photo by Jake Madison

Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast Charts

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

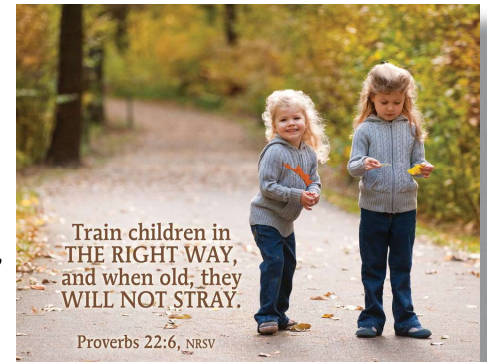
Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$220 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



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. We also have 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.



Train children in
THE RIGHT WAY,
and when old, they
WILL NOT STRAY.

Proverbs 22:6, NRSV

In this issue...

- Camp Carol Joy Holling Gala
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- Confirmation News
- Easter Breakfast
- Easter Egg Hunt!
- Ecumenical Good Friday Speakers
- Healing Gift Free Clinic
- Holy Week & Easter
- Honoring all Graduates
- KMLC Book Group
- Men's Lunch
- Missionary Newsletter
- New Member Classes
- Serious Illness & End-of-Life Care Workshops
- Summer Youth Mission Trip
- Sunday School Teachers Needed
- VBS Announcement

GROW with us...



10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Forum

- April 5: Fellowship (Easter Sunday Breakfast)
- April 12: Youth Extravaganza Update (Deacon Eric and Sheila Valquier)
- April 19: Icon Writing & Iconography Discussion with Jane Tan Creti
- April 26: Reception for New Members and Graduates

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

Good Friday, April 3

12:00 - 3:00 PM

Seven Words from the Cross (with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir)



First Word: Father, Forgive Them

Prof. Thomas Kelly
Professor of Theology and Director, Christian Spirituality Program Creighton University

Second Word: Today, You Will Be with Me In Paradise

The Rev. Carolyn Grice
Pastor, New Life Presbyterian Church

Third Word: Woman, Behold Your Son

The Rev. Andrew Mahoney
Pastor, First Baptist Church

Fourth Word: My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

The Rev. Josh Janzen
Pastor, First Mennonite Church, Beatrice

Fifth Word: I Thirst

The Rev. Juliet Hemphill
Pastor, Bethel AME Church

Sixth Word: It Is Finished

The Rev. Andrew Nelson
Director of Campus Ministry and Community Service
Morningside University, Sioux City, Iowa

Seventh Word: Father, into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit

The Rev. Keith Winton
Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



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.

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

Medical Global Personnel

Arusha, Tanzania

You can find The Swanson's March newsletter at:

<https://tinyurl.com/zrbu8xxa>



come grow with us!

SERVE with us...

Kountze Food Pantry



Kountze's Love Thy Neighbor food pantry is one of the important missions of our congregation. The pantry provides not only food, but also hygiene and other personal care items for guests who shop with us on Mondays and Fridays each week. We have service providers from

Methodist Health Systems and Archwell that join us to provide additional services to guests. Did you know we are the only pantry in the metro area that is open in the evening? What a blessing to guests who work traditional hours and cannot visit another pantry.

How can you help in the mission? There are many ways to participate. You can donate monetary funds, purchase needed items, or volunteer your time. The pantry is always in need of volunteers on Mondays from 9:30 - 11 AM and/or 11 AM - 1 PM and on Fridays from 4:30 - 7 PM to serve guests. There are also additional opportunities to assist in unloading deliveries or picking up items from local grocery outlets.

You can join the team by signing up to volunteer by using the link below or you can contact Toby Rees at 402-979-1425/ toby@kmlchurch.org or any of the Pantry Committee members. Thank you for supporting our mission to feed the hungry.

Food Pantry Report

1/1/2026 - 2/28/2026

Income:

Grants	\$	-0-
Donations	\$	10,207.55
Memorials	\$	-0-
	\$	10,207.55

Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	-0-
---------------	----	-----

Regular Expenses

Capital Sani. Supply	\$	461.90
Dollar Tree	\$	380.25
Family Fare	\$	3,203.78
Walmart	\$	396.34
Rent	\$	16,642.38
Other	\$	662.98
	\$	21,747.63

Balance \$ **(11,540.08)**

Help Us Collate the May Good News

Tuesday, April 28

9 AM



Come be part of the crew that puts together the *Good News*! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it.

If you can join us, give the church office a call at 402-341-7761 by Monday, April 27. That way we can let you know if anything changes. Thanks for helping us get the *Good News* out.

Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday from 8 - 10:45 AM



The youth will be providing egg casseroles, pastries, fruit, and yogurt on Easter morning. If you would like to donate pastries or yogurt to the breakfast, watch for the sign-up sheet in the bulletins and let us know what you're able to provide. All proceeds will go to support our Youth Mission Trip to Nashville this summer, so please be generous if you are able.

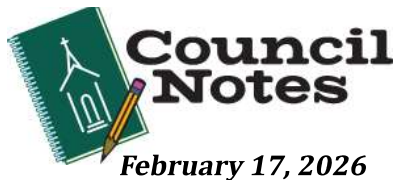
Del and LouAnn Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic

The Healing Gift Free Clinic and Pharmacy is located in Kountze Commons. Free medical services and prescriptions are provided to patients who are uninsured or underinsured. The Clinic is unique as there are not only primary care physicians, but also specialists in rheumatology, nephrology, cardiology, and orthopedics. Behavior Health professionals and dietary care are also available in addition to interpreters. If you or someone you know is in need of care, please call 402-614-4357 to schedule an appointment. Clinic hours are Thursdays from 4 - 6 PM.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Clinic you can also call 402-614-4357 or the church office 402-341-7761.



NEWS & Notes...



The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM and adjourned at 7:18 PM.

The agenda was approved.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved - no changes

Financial Report

- Net income \$9,100.
- Last year net income for the month was higher, but we had less staff at that point.
- Separate discretionary funds are quite solid. How should we highlight this to encourage appropriate use?

Old Business

2026 Annual Meeting – Review

- If we could have the reports out sooner that would be helpful. Requires that office receive timely reports.
- Question on what is our actual congregational count. Perhaps when we do our directory, we will be able to get a more accurate picture.

2025 Fall Council Retreat – Review homework

- Marsha Vance and Rev. Lucy will make another draft of Innovative Project forms and then we might be able to approve electronically before the next meeting.

Stewardship/Time & Talents - Will do more when Ruth is back.

Omaha Streetcar Project

- Our parking lot somewhat being treated like a street so if it is feeling unsafe, we can always block it off but preference is to have access to lot from both sides.
- The access to the interstate should be around 3-6 months. The bridge will be a year. Then we will have the laying of tracks.

Realm Church Management Software

- The more we can get things done in the Realm Software the better. We need staff training to get better handle on all the ways we can use Realm.

Basement water leak/fire suppression system - no more developments

New Business - No new Business

Staff Reports - Approved

- The Art Fair was good; we have some take-aways for next year.
- The question came up around whether we should allow alcohol. This might require a change in our

by-laws? Leon will work with Jim on researching this topic.

- Spots for the youth mission trip to Pittsburgh are filled. The trip is scheduled for July 6 -12; cost is \$750/ person.

Committee & Board Reports (brief highlights of written reports)

Mercy & Justice

- Had a good first meeting. Need to establish committee and next steps.

Worship & Music

- Idea raised of hosting college musical tours.

Finance

- There is a concern that we keep discussing debt as a bad thing but it is basically a mortgage. Perhaps we could reframe this.

Council Member Concerns/Comments

- Next month discuss the Vision Fund(s).
- Discussion of how we start incorporating more social media. We have an organization willing to work with us – met through one of the film crews last year.

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 Holling's 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 link below or email Allison at Ablatchford@NLOM.org. More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>



Other Carol Joy Holling Events

Unfinished Objects Retreat - April 12 - 16

These retreats are for crafters of any kind. Bring your own projects and use this time away to get caught up or do new projects. You'll leave refreshed and ready to start other projects!



Mother Daughter Retreat - April 18 - 19

This retreat is designed for mothers and their 10-13-year-old daughters. This will be a weekend to be present, try new things, grow together, and have fun!

Jay Novicki Day Camp - April 21/22

This is an opportunity for participants (21 and older) with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities to enjoy a taste of camp.

Explore! Day Camp - April 25

The Explore! Day Retreat is a chance for young campers to get out and enjoy camp in one compact and fun day. Explore! gives them the perfect opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building at CJH Camp.

Find out more info at:

<https://www.nlom.org/events/>

A Gift of Peace for You and Your Family

Conversation on Advance Care Planning

Planning for Serious Illness & End-of-Life Care

Wednesday, April 8 @ Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6PM

153 S. McKenna Ave, Gretna

Saturday, April 11 @ St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 10 AM - Noon

6116 Dodge Street, Omaha

Saturday, April 11 @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 10 AM - Noon

13271 Millard Ave., Omaha

Creighton University is hosting several 2-hour events (attend one) which intend to equip people for crucial conversations, led by folks with passion and expertise. Presented by the INTERACT team from Creighton University, a nurse-led initiative focused on Advance Care Planning — helping individuals and families have meaningful conversations so wishes are honored and loved ones are not left guessing.

More information regarding dates and locations as well as registering for the event can be found by using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/4yvnpb92>



We Need Sunday School Teachers!



Please use the link below 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>

Omaha's Do Good Days

April 22 - 25



Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center will be participating by providing tours of Kountze Commons on Friday, April 24 from 5 - 7 PM and Saturday, April 25 from 9 AM - 12 PM. If you have not been to Kountze Commons, join us for a tour to learn about the services we provide for our community neighbors.

If you would like to assist with the tours please contact Jenni Toebben 402-681-8966 or Toby Rees 402-979-1425.

It's time to put the "do" in doing good with SHARE Omaha's Do Good Days!

Do good, give good, and celebrate all the nonprofits that spread good in our community. What will you do? If you'd like to learn about other volunteer opportunities, go to:

<https://shareomaha.org/dogooddays#volunteer>

If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

Pastoral Acts

February 16, 2026 - March 15, 2026

Funerals

Daniel Wolf, March 5

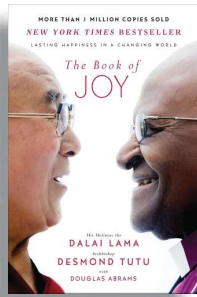
KMLC Book Group

Sunday, April 12

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

The Book of Joy by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond



TuTu with Douglas Abrams

Two spiritual leaders, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond TuTu, met in Dharamsala, India, in April 2015, to celebrate the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday. These two friends spent a week together in conversation and stories about their lives and how to find joy in suffering which they experienced in years of soul crushing violence of oppression and exile.

Douglas Abrams, author and editor, interviewed these two men during the week and is narrator of the book. These men spent the week sharing how to live a life of joy in times of despair through laughter and jokes teasing each other. A sense of humor is necessary to weather what life can throw at us.

Joy is cultivated through daily practice of meditation, gratitude, and serving others. The eight pillars of joy: perspective, humility, humor, acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude, compassion, and generosity are presented in a portion of the book for the reader to practice how to achieve happiness and overcome the causes of stress. The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond TuTu are humble men who have learned how to find peace, courage, and joy which we can all adapt to our lives.

Join us for a joyful discussion. "Laughter is good for the heart".

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 16

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

We're not sure of the menu or if there will be a particular topic for discussion, but it doesn't matter. There's always great food and great fellowship!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 14. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're planning to attend.



Support our Pantry Sponsors

Did you know that we have several community partners that provide food items free of charge or at substantially reduced costs? Kountze Pantry is successful in part because of these gracious organizations. The next time you are deciding where to purchase your groceries, please consider supporting the following:

Family Fare 144th and Center, Omaha
Fareway 1325 Jersey Street, Papillion
Hy Vee 50th & Center, Omaha
Hy Vee 90th & Center, Omaha
Rotella's Bread 108th & Harrison, Omaha

We thank them for their continued support of our pantry.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

The Sunday School hour begins with breakfast served in the upstairs Choir Room. The students take their meal

to their assigned classroom to enjoy. Our curriculum continues to follow the lectionary, providing easy talking points for families later in the week.

Please note: There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday or on May 3, Confirmation Sunday. Please help your student understand the importance and meaning behind Confirmation.

Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6

Join Barb Carlsen and friends for a joyful time of singing and sharing God's love through music! Children in grades K-6 are encouraged to come make music together each week as they learn songs of faith and praise.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Please note: There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday or on May 3, Confirmation Sunday.



Confirmation - Finishing Strong

Confirmation classes at St. Timothy Lutheran resume on **April 8**. We have 3 more class sessions this spring - April 8, 15, & 22 - please make sure your student is there as much as they are able. To close out the year we will have a Confirmation Year-End Adventure the afternoon of **Sunday, April 26**. Look for more details and registration information in your email inbox very soon.



Confirmation "Boot Camp"

Do you have a student who wasn't able to participate in Wednesday night Collaborative Confirmation classes? Do you want a Confirmation "refresher" course? We are looking to do a Confirmation "Boot Camp" this summer for students (and adults) who for whatever reason didn't get the traditional Confirmation experience or would like a little more. Please contact Pastor Lucy if you would be interested in participating and we will look for a good time and format.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 3

9 AM worship and 10:15

celebration

Please send your student's measurements (height and chest) and chosen faith bible verse to Pastor Lucy. We have to order gowns about a month in advance, so we need those measurements as soon as possible. You should have received an email with all the details.



Join us for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter Sunday

Following the 9 AM service



Join us in the Green Space (off the link and weather permitting) for this fun event. Children are encouraged to bring their Easter bags or baskets to be filled with Easter treats.

Omaha Collaborative VBS

July 19-22 (Sunday to Wednesday)

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

(93 & Dodge)

Supper (for families) 5:15 PM

Program 6 - 8 PM

Registration for children & adult volunteers coming soon!



Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to grab breakfast and a friend and go to the Youth Center each week during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.



Service Fridays

9 AM - 4 PM

Service Fridays were a big success last summer. Service Fridays are an opportunity to do volunteer work for the betterment of our church and



community. Last year we pulled weeds and gardened for deFreeze Manor, picked vegetables in the Kountze garden, worked in the Pantry, made a meal for the YES house, and more. We also had a lot of fun playing games and enjoying fellowship. The first Service Friday is on June 19 and will conclude on July 31, with the exception of July 3. Students who have completed grades 6th, 7th, and 8th are eligible to participate. Look for signups after Easter. **Note:** Students should bring their own sack lunch and water bottle. Snacks are provided.

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.



High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, April 26

9 AM



A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place on April 26 from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Cake will be served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation by Sunday, April 12 that will be shown during this time to info@kmlchurch.org.

Honoring all Graduates

Sunday, April 26

9 AM

Reception: 10:10 - 10:50 AM

If you have graduated in the past year or will graduate this spring, please let us know. On April 26 we will uplift the names of all who are celebrating a graduation during the year. Call the church office by April 15 at 402-341-7761 or email info@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you.

Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of all graduates will be in the May Good News and the Sunday bulletin on April 26.



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!



Summer Youth

Mission Trip

July 6-12, 2026

Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth

in grades 8 through 12 (completed 2025-2026 school year) and their adult leaders. In 2026, we will gather in Pittsburgh for service, learning, worship, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith while learning from our neighbors in Pennsylvania. We will work as a team to raise funds to offset the cost. Presence and participation at fundraising events required.

Spots are limited - **register now** by contacting Shelia Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org).

If you would like to help sponsor the trip, donations are welcome. You may give online or by marking your check/envelope "Youth Mission" and putting in in the offering plate. Thank you for your support!

CALENDAR

APRIL

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/First Communion

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 Sunday
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 Easter Breakfast

April 6 Monday

Office Closed
10:00 AM Pantry

April 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

April 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 10 Friday

12:00 PM Mercy & Justice
Committee
5:00 PM Pantry

April 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 12 Sunday

Easter 2
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
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:15 AM New Member Class
12:15 PM Book Group

April 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline
12:15 PM Worship

April 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due
11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
5:30 PM Christian Education
Committee
6:00 PM Circle 5

April 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 19 Sunday

Easter 3
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
10:15 AM New Member Class

April 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 21 Tuesday

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

April 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

April 23 Thursday

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

April 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 26 Sunday

Easter 4
Quilt Blessing & Recognition of Graduates
Receive New Members
Confirmation Year-End Adventure
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

April 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
11:30 AM Endowment Board

April 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
12:30 PM Circle 3
April 29 Wednesday
12:15 PM Worship

April 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code.

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>





1. Bryce Griger, Pat Studts, Donald Zinnecker
2. Dale Enger, Alissa Fial, Genelle Girthoffer, Beckett Stevens
3. David Pafford
4. Kurt Arends, Noah Bieber, Mark Panning, Judy Sealer, Rebecca Zellmar
5. Julie Bratcher, Cassandra Morgan
6. Stephanie Dart, John Fonda, William Fonda, Laurie Houseworth, Vicki Meyer
7. Serenadey Schmidt, Leon Valquier, Zachary Zellmar, Luke Olson
8. Sarah Heimes
9. Lauri Askew, Donald Bass, Connor Cameron, Kay Mayberry, Vickie Wichert, Bob Woodworth
10. Ron Brown, Abby Rigas, Amanda Sifers
11. Dave Falke, Marci Luczynski, Ryan Pemberton, Scott Radwan, Ralph Ross, Rachel Stouffer, Leonard Swanger
12. Janet Darst, Christie Frederick, Mike Jensen, Jennifer Johnson, Robert Johnson, Adam Kotula, Mark Maser, Robert McDowell, Bruce Peterson, Margaret Reinholz, Jenna Woster
13. Thomas Brumfield, Braiden Dragon, Jeffrey Hiatt, Rodger Price
14. Rachael Bruechert, Sandy Fonda, Rhiannon Taylor
15. Darlene Anderson, Leonard Falk, Emma Gardner
16. Justin Bradley, Edward Chand, Titus Pummer, Jack Smock
17. Wanda Frykberg, Claire Furjanic, Brittany West
18. Keith Kotera, Elijah Salmon
19. Rodney Brown, Neely Edwards, Bradley Morrow, Mark Muller, Heather Schirber, Dessire Waller
20. Jeff Clarke, Jessica Dyer, Amy Fischer, Brenda Myers, Gina Samland
21. Susan Malesa, Cameron Miller, Madison Titus, Matthew Woster
22. Gwen Berney, Dan Collett, Mattie O'Kane, Brent Rasmussen, Anola Wheeler
23. Michelle Jensen, Melissa Musick, Rae Ray, Shelley Smisek-O'Connor, Jim West
24. Linda Daugherty, James Holzer, Britten Johnson, Deborah Oshlo, Becca Sedlak
25. Hadley Rief, Henry Rief
26. Ruth Hashberger, Nancy Wiese
27. Cindy Edwards, Sydney Morrow, Alison Ward
28. Bennett Eckhorn, Chloe Johnson, Michelle Kuehn, Kaitlyn Rohde, June Van Bibber
29. John Askew, Stevie Duffield, Gregory Fonda
30. Jianna Crouse, Isaac Gardner, Robert Kreiser, Laura Pribyl, Susan Rauth, Roberta Vanbuskirk, Todd Weiland

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 2/1/2026.....	\$680,369.84
Principal Payment, 2/9/2026	\$75,000.00
Principal Payment, 3/1/2026	\$3,465.47
Interest Payment, 3/1/2026.....	\$2,239.53
Balance, 3/1/2026	\$601,904.37

Finances: February, 2026

	<i>February</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 104,409.51	\$ 205,573.86
Expenses:		
Mission Support	\$ 9,166.00	\$ 9,166.00
Faith Formation	\$ 351.04	\$ 638.20
Facility Costs	\$ 19,164.75	\$ 37,717.70
Staff Compensation & Benefits	\$ 65,570.32	\$ 130,425.16
Worship & Music	\$ 4,641.00	\$ 7,683.90
Office & Administration	\$ 2,417.07	\$ 6,794.09
Membership	\$ 460.93	\$ 1,654.31
Finance	\$ -	\$ -
Leadership	\$ -	\$ -
Justice & Mercy Ministry	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expense:	\$ 101,771.11	\$ 194,079.36
Total Net Income:	\$ 2,638.40	\$ 11,494.50

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam St
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
Phone: 402-341-7761
Fax: 402-341-4841
E-mail: info@kmlchurch.org
Web: www.kmlchurch.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE 68131
Permit 238

Rev. Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz, Deacon
Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Associate Pastor

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox channel 13 and live
streamed on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may
watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our website
at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Holy Week & Easter at Kountze Memorial

HOLY WEEK

**Mon., Tues., Wed.,
March 30, 31, & April 1
12:15 PM**
Eucharist in the Rotunda
Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 2
Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM
(6:30 PM—Worship &
First Communion) (Nursery
available, 0—4 years)
Lunch: 11:00 AM-Noon
(free-will offering)
Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM
(free-will offering)

Good Friday, April 3
12:00 -3:00 PM
Ecumenical Good Friday
Service: Seven Words
from the Cross (with Guest
Speakers, String Quartet and
Kountze Choir)
6:30 PM Tenebrae
(Veneration of the Cross
and Service of Shadows)
(Nursery available, 0—4
years)

Holy Saturday, April 4
10:00 PM
Easter Vigil (Fire, Word,
Water, Eucharist) (There
will be no 5:00 PM Saturday
service)



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Easter Sunday, April 5
• 7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service in
the Link

• 9:00 & 11:00 AM Festival of the
Resurrection (Nursery available)

• 8:00 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast
• 10:10 AM Easter Egg Hunt (in the
Green Space after the 9:00 AM
service)