

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

April 11 & 12, 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

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Mark Andreesen in memory of his father, Earl.

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. 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.

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*

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 a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

April 12: Council Innovative Projects

April 19: Icon Writing Description and Discussion with Jane Tan Creti

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

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.

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**

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

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 12 Sunday

Easter 2

Homebound Communion

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

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays, 6 - 7:15 PM

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're planning to attend.

We're Invited!

Magdalene Omaha 10th Birthday Party ICC Bowlatorium

2701 S 25th St

Sunday, April 19

3—6 PM

They have supported over 1,000 survivors of sex trafficking since their founding in 2016. Magdalene Omaha is grateful to everyone who has made it possible to show over 1,000 times how love is the most powerful force for change in this world so they want to celebrate with a party. All ages are welcome—please RSVP via the link below so they know how many to plan on attending. If you are unable to attend but would like to help, you may donate with the link below. You may also email:

events@magdaleneomaha.org with any questions.

RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/2umsr378>

Donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/mpnvamvp>



Magdalene RSVP



Donate

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!

Growing Justice Together

Sunday, May 3

Time: 2–4 PM

Glacial Till

1419 Silver St • Ashland, NE

Lay and rostered leaders are invited to an afternoon of learning, connection, and community at Glacial Till in Ashland. Join the Nebraska Synod's Social Justice



Growing Justice

Ministry Teams to explore how you and your congregation can love your neighbor more deeply—in your own community, across the Nebraska Synod, and throughout the world. More information can be found using the link below or the QR code.

<https://tinyurl.com/35va454j>

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, canned pasta, and 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 grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

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



Pantry

Stories from your Nebraska Synod

Service Fridays—More Than a Summer Program

The Synod newsletter featured an article on our Service Fridays. Last summer, youth going into grades 7, 8, and 9, were invited to participate in service projects within our church and community. The day began between 8 and 9 AM with a light breakfast, lunch was served, and the day ended at 4 PM. Projects included making art for the pantry and freshening up the youth room, working in the community garden, reading or playing board games with the elderly, and more.

Watch for information for Service Fridays, 2026 and check out the article from the Nebraska Synod by using the link or QR code.

<https://tinyurl.com/3rw44b6v>



Service Fridays

Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 2—Wednesday, April 8

Saturday: 42

Sunday: 9:00: 403 11:00: 195

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 652

Streaming: 140

Pantry Guests Served: 214 (inc. 72 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$11,682.81 (Regular)

\$17,278.29 (Specials)

\$287.00 (Debt Reduction)

Faith in Jesus means a relationship with Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	Mark 10:46-52	The healing of blind Bartimaeus
Thursday	John 4:1-30	Woman at the well with Jesus
Friday	John 4:46-54	Jesus heals an official's son
Saturday	Psalm 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus



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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

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:28-29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, strengthen us in faith; give us the desire to know you more day by day that we may live with love and hope through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we receive this food with joy, knowing that all good gifts come from you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, bring you joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are words that describe your relationship with a friend or family member?
- In what ways can you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

It is hard to read this text and not be influenced by the title "doubting Thomas." However, it is only Thomas in the entire Gospel of John who makes the confession of faith that Jesus is God and more specifically, "My God" (v. 28). In this passage there are at least two important points revealed about the Christian faith: 1) faith is relational (Thomas personalizes Jesus as "My God"), and 2) faith is a lifelong journey. Jesus blessed those who "come to believe" (v. 29). The Greek text denotes a continuous process, not just believing at a certain point in time, but continuing to believe. In a faith that is relational, this ongoing process of believing and relating to Jesus is essential. What Jesus means for us and to us will continue to develop for a lifetime. As we age and as we have new experiences and challenges, the meaning of Jesus for our lives and our world evolves, even as we evolve and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Our relationship with Jesus grows and develops over time.

Discuss: How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, into my life again this day, that I may gladly acknowledge you as my God and have life through you each and every day. 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 others to see Jesus as Lord through your actions and words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, he said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19b). This has become a traditional greeting among Christians as a reminder of Christ's presence. Greet friends and family in your home using these words: "**Peace be with you.**"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35