

## 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)

April 18 & 19, 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

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Myrna Esluer in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion from Immanuel Hospital School of Nursing.

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God given by Debbie Robinson in memory of her mother, Pat Neuman, for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### 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-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.

### 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 breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

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

April 26: Reception for New Member and Graduates

### 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

### New Member Class Continues

April 19

10:15 AM

### We're Invited!

Magdalene Omaha 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

ICC Bowlatorium

2701 S 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:events@magdaleneomaha.org) with any questions.

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

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



Magdalene RSVP



Donate

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### April 19 Sunday

Easter 3

Cinco de Mayo Ticket Presale

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

6:00 PM Confirmation

### 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

Cinco de Mayo Ticket Presale

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

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Class

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays, 6 - 7:15 PM

### Brake for Breakfast is Coming to Omaha!

Event by Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Branching Out - Omaha Home for Boys

4343 N 52<sup>nd</sup> St

Friday, April 24

7 to 9 AM

Drive through for free breakfast, cancer screening and prevention resources, and complimentary giveaways, while supplies last. Brake for Breakfast is a free, drive-thru event led by the Nebraska Medicine/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center in partnership with UNL Extension, bringing

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

cancer education to communities across Nebraska. Rise and shine for your healthy future!

### **Omaha's Do Good Days National Volunteer Week April 19 - 25**

#### **KCCOC Tours**

**Friday, April 24, 5 - 7 PM**

**Saturday, April 25, 9 AM - 12 PM**

Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is going to participate in National Volunteer Week for the first time! To get the word out to our congregation and city, the KCCOC Board will be providing tours of Kountze Commons to anyone interested. If you have never been to Kountze Commons or want to see first hand update on all of the great work being done there, join us!

### **Funeral Notice**

**Marie Kubat**

**All Saints Episcopal Chapel (not the Nave)**

**9302 Blondo**

**Saturday, May 2**

**1 PM**

Marie's husband, Jack, wanted to be sure we had information on Marie's funeral. He sincerely hopes that Marie's friends will attend. Pr. Ashley Hall will preach.

### **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. You can purchase your tickets early from Sheila Valquier and save \$5 each or buy tickets at the door.

#### **Ticket Prices:**

Adults (14+): \$20 or \$25 at the door

Kids (6-13): \$5 or \$10 at the door

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



Growing Justice

learning, connection, and community at Glacial Till in Ashland. Join the Nebraska Synod's Social Justice Ministry Teams to explore how we and our congregation can love our neighbor more deeply—in our 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 soap, toothpaste, and cereal. 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/uasdddp>

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 9—Wednesday, April 15**

**Saturday: 43**

**Sunday: 9:00: 116 11:00: 68**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 7**

**Total: 234**

**Streaming: 57**

**Pantry Guests Served: 390 (inc. 174 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20**

**Offering:**

\$20,297.01 (Regular)

\$3,390.78 (Specials)

\$792.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Our eyes have been opened to see the Lord.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus heals a centurion servant
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-7	Jesus heals a paralytic
Friday	Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding the five thousand
Saturday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd



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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

*When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. Luke 24:30-31 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, may your word and the community of faith open our eyes and our hearts to your living presence within us and among us through the Risen Christ. Amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened to you through the breaking of bread, open our eyes now with thankful hearts for this meal. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Risen Lord fill you with joy.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- An eye-opening experience helps us to see something in a different way. What eye-opening experiences have you had?
- When is a time you felt God's presence while singing a hymn or reading the Bible?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 24:13-35.

We have within us the desire for the divine in our lives. As Christians, we want to see Jesus as Lord. We want to have our hearts burning within us. That may have happened weeks ago on Easter Sunday during worship with all the pageantry, song, and in community gathered together to "break bread" (v. 35). For the disciples on the road to Emmaus, even though they had the risen Lord with them and he was teaching them the Scriptures, it was not until the breaking of the bread that he was revealed to them, and they acknowledged that their hearts had been burning within them. Perhaps the sense of the divine in our lives is best recalled in retrospect. We are not in control of the divine in our lives. God is. The Holy Spirit uses our faith stories, the Bible, and the breaking of bread in community to create the burning in our hearts that we want to recall and talk about again and again. That is what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

*Discuss:* What faith story can you tell about a time when you felt God's presence in your life?

*Pray:* **Creator God, give us eyes to see and hearts that burn for the joy of your presence through Christ our Savior and 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 encourage someone to be aware of God's presence in their life?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) was introduced during Lent as a way to experience prayer in our daily lives. Add a little extra movement to your prayers this week and make the shape of each letter as you pray: **(A)** I praise God for..., **(C)** forgive me for..., **(T)** I thank you for..., **(S)** I pray for ..., and finish with amen.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10