

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 25 & 26, 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.

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 breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

April 26: Reception for New Member and Graduates

May 3: Reception for Confirmands

Quilt Blessing & Recognition of Graduates

Congratulations to all of our graduates. Join our graduates in the Fellowship Hall between services for a reception. More information on our high school graduates will be in the May Good News.

High School Graduates:

Tucker Owen Haitz
Barrett Hinrichs
Jazmin Gardner
William Edmund Mattson

College Graduates:

Madelyn Hinrichs
Kyra Louise Peterson
Emily Rimington

Welcome New Members!

We are happy to welcome Larry Lee Britton, Jonathan Capps, Lucas & Tessa Futey, Ian Hughes, Jacob & Kelsey Nosal and children Henry, Everett, Isabelle, David Ramirez-Huerta, Anna Renard, and Micah Scarlett as members of Kountze Memorial. Join them in the Fellowship Hall between services for a reception.

Collaborative Confirmation Year End Adventure **Experience RESPECT Educational Theatre** **Sunday, April 26**

RESPECT, a non-profit educational theatre company based in Omaha, will be presenting Choices during our closing adventure this afternoon for this year's Collaborative Confirmation Class. As the church works to empower middle school students to find as many strategies and resources as possible to prevent bullying, to be safer on social media, and to find multiple ways to help themselves and their peers, we are grateful for this partnership that helps equip all of us. RESPECT seeks to help students learn different problem-solving ideas and potential strategies to help themselves and others, as they manage their own strong emotional responses to challenging situations. By collaborating with RESPECT to reinforce the social and emotional learning needs we also help our students apply and live out their faith in practical ways. Since 2000, RESPECT has presented anti-bullying and relationship-empowerment productions to over 600,000 students in preschool through college age in communities across Nebraska and Iowa. We are very grateful for their partnership today and in general in our community!

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

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

April 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
11:30 AM Endowment Board
12:30 PM Circle 3

April 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
April 30 Thursday
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 1 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Cinco de Mayo Event

May 3 Sunday

Easter 5
Homebound Communion
Recognition of Confirmands
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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!

KMLC Book Group

The Bookworm

Sunday, May 3

1:30 PM

The Book Group does not meet in May in recognition of Mother's Day.

We'll meet for lunch and book selection at The Bookworm for the next year. The next book discussion will be June 14 when we begin a new reading list. Please join us then.

Sunday, May 17, 2026

11:00 AM- 1:30 PM

Rain or Shine

Green Space (between Methodist Clinic & Kountze Memorial)

All KMLC children, youth, families, friends, and members, as well as those in the community, are invited to attend the annual Neighborhood Gathering.

Bring the family for FREE food, games, bounce houses, face painting, prizes, balloons, and featuring a live band "Ron and the Renegades"!

See the bulletin insert if you would like to volunteer to help. You can also talk to Jim Smejkal. Come join in the fun! You

won't want to miss it!

Community Resource Fair

Monday, May 18

9 AM- 12:30 PM

Kountze Commons is excited to host its first Community Resource Fair. Numerous community partners will be present to share information about the services they provide. This event is open to all and is sponsored by our partner, Methodist Health Systems. A complete list of vendors and services is available in the church office upon request. Please join us on May 18th!

Halloween Costume Collection

Are you cleaning out closets, the attic or your garage? Do you have years of Halloween costumes tucked away that do not fit anyone in your house? Please bring those gently used costumes to the church! All sizes welcome from infant to adult. Donations can be placed in the brown collection box under the coat rack on the west side of Fellowship Hall. This fall, Kountze Commons will host an event where those in need can come select a costume of their choice. If you have questions on donations or would like to assist in the event in the fall, please reach out to Toby Rees (402-979-1425 or toby@kmlchurch.org).

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are canned pasta, ramen noodles, and 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 grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

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

Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 16—Wednesday, April 22

Saturday: 20

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 73

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 251

Streaming: 39

Pantry Guests Served: 295 (inc. 126 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$23,567.77 (Regular) \$10,094.66 (Specials)

\$1,062.00 (Debt Reduction)

Followers of Jesus shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among believers
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Friday	Romans 12:14-18	Marks of the true Christian
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:44-45 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, keep us close to your care, and in our times of suffering may we trust in you and be cared for by others through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for preparing a table for us that we may be strengthened for our journey as we follow you, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Good Shepherd guard you always. (1 Peter 2:25)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does a shepherd do to care for the sheep?
- Jesus says his sheep listen to his voice and follow him (John 10:3-4). When and where do you hear Jesus' voice?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 2:42-47.

Every year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is the "Good Shepherd Sunday." Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. 1 Peter 2:25 states that Jesus is "*the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*" John 10:4 speaks of the sheep who follow because they know the voice of the shepherd. Acts 2 gives a picture of what the community of the Good Shepherd looks like. It is a people who shepherd one another by sharing their possessions. Together they study the word of God, have fellowship, break bread and pray. Christian shepherds do these things. Daily they worship publicly but also break bread in homes with "*glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people*" (vv. 46b-47a). The result is a community that by its very way of life and by the power of God adds "*to their number those who [are] being saved*" (v. 47b). A community of people caring for one another witnesses to God's love. The outcome is more souls in the sheepfold.

Discuss: How is your home a place to shepherd souls?

Pray: Good Shepherd, thank you for calling out to us through a community that cares for one another publicly and also in our daily lives. 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 provide food, clothing, or shelter to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Draw or find a picture of a sheep. Imagine you are the shepherd for this sheep. Make a list of things you would do to take care of the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with the words, "*The Lord is my shepherd.*" Read Psalm 23 and compare your list with the ways the Lord cares for sheep. How are the lists the same? How are they different? Then take a moment to breathe in and say: **The Lord is my shepherd.** Breathe out and say: **I shall not want.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10