

## 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)

May 2 & 3, 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 and the Eternal Candle** are given to the glory of God in honor of Daylan Fleming's Confirmation given by his parents, grandparents, and Godparents

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God in honor of Grace Dey's Confirmation by her grandparents, James & Margit Kegel

### **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**

No Sunday School this Sunday morning, but join us again next week 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.

May 3: Reception for Confirmands  
May 10: Tanzania and Nebraska Synod Together, with Martin Russell

### Confirmation Worship Notes

You will notice a yellow sheet tucked in your bulletin today entitled "Confirmation Worship Notes." Our confirmation students fill these out throughout the year. Join them today—in fun and solidarity! Fill it out and return in the bins in the back with your bulletin.

### 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.

### 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

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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 No Sunday School—  
Reception for Confirmands

### May 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
5 PM Global Mission

### May 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### May 6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
2:30 PM Confirmation Planning  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### May 7 Thursday

9:00 AM East Cluster Meeting  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### May 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### May 10 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 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

### Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 14

7 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
113 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street

We are excited to again partner with Trinity Episcopal for a special Ascension Day service and choral collaboration. Our choirs will sing together for the service. We hope you can join us!

### Camp CJH Work Day

Saturday, May 16

8 AM - 1:30 PM

Breakfast Served at 7:30 AM

Camp Carol Joy Holling needs our help to "set the vibe" at camp for the more than 1,600 campers arriving during the

summer. Bring your friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Individuals and groups are welcome and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes, and gloves. Hats, sunscreen, and water bottles are recommended. Kids are welcome with parental supervision.

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/nlom-events/work-day-2026/>

### Neighborhood Gathering

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,



CJH Work Day

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

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 18<sup>th</sup>!

### Men's Lunch Thursday, May 21 11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

This month, we'll travel back to 1904 and see what two foods gained popularity at the World's Fair in St. Louis. We'll have food, fun, some trivia and a multiple-choice game to test your knowledge. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 19. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let us know you're planning to attend.



[jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)

### Service Fridays June 19 - July 31

9 AM - 4 PM

Grades 7 - 9

Service Fridays are a chance for Middle School Students to spend time in fellowship while giving back to the community. Each Friday, students that are going into grades 7, 8, and 9, are invited to Kountze from to work together in partnership with ministries connected to Kountze and other local non-profits. We will be working with deFreese Manor, the Kountze Love Your Neighbor Pantry, YES House, Physicians Mutual, and many other charities focused on helping those in our neighborhood. While Service Fridays are limited to those going into 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades, we do need some adult support. If you have time, we could use some adult support during our activities. In addition, we will be focusing on collecting hygiene supplies to make care bags. Soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, lotion, Q-tips, and any other basic necessities you can imagine is needed. These items can be dropped off at the Sunday School office. If you have questions about Service Fridays, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact Kristin at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org). Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:



Service Fridays

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

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 cereal, soup, canned pasta. 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/uasdddp>

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

### Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 23—Wednesday, April 29

Saturday: 19

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 44

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 219

Streaming: 41

Pantry Guests Served: 367 (inc. 167 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering: Not available at time of printing

*We are precious in God's sight.*



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                      |                                   |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 14:1-14         | Jesus is the way, truth, and life |
| Monday    | Acts 7:55-60         | The stoning of Stephen            |
| Tuesday   | 1 Peter 2:2-10       | A chosen people                   |
| Wednesday | Romans 8:31-39       | God's love in Christ Jesus        |
| Thursday  | Hebrews 11:29-40     | The faith of heroes               |
| Friday    | Lamentations 3:19-24 | God's steadfast love endures      |
| Saturday  | Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 | Prayer for deliverance            |
| Sunday    | John 14:15-21        | The promise of the Holy Spirit    |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you send us out to witness to Jesus Christ; give us confidence and courage to be your faithful witnesses. Fill us with mercy and love through Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen the body and your word strengthen our calling to be your loving and faithful witnesses in the world. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the steadfast love of Jesus.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you were honored for something you did?
- What are words that you would use to describe God's people?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Peter 2:2-10.

1 Peter helps us to imagine the meaning of Christ's resurrection for our lives. Jesus is the living stone rejected by people yet "*precious in God's sight*" (v. 4). As followers of Jesus, we are living stones built into a sacred community, "*a holy priesthood*" (v. 5). The imagery in this reading is expanded to explore its spiritual depth. We are "*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*" (v. 9). This rich language and imagery all lead us to understand the treasured life we have. We are called to speak of God in Jesus Christ, the one who has brought us out of darkness and into a precious and holy light. Once we were those who had not received mercy, those who were not God's people. Now we are God's people and live lives filled with mercy and honor to be God's chosen people. Jesus' resurrection changed our lives from desperation to empowerment and joy. It is no wonder that we are to be like babes, thirsting for spiritual milk so we may grow into a life that is our inheritance and delight.

*Discuss:* How does being one of God's chosen people affect how you live your life?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, remind us again and again of our holy calling as your chosen people sent out to others with words of mercy and hope through Christ our 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 show mercy to someone who is feeling lonely or in pain?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "*a living stone*" and Jesus' followers "*like living stones*" to be "*built into a spiritual house.*" Gather some smooth stones. Draw a cross on a large stone and write the names of family and friends on the smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the one with the cross on it in a visible place in your home. Think or talk about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. Take a moment to look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21