

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

May 9 & 10, 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

Happy Mother's Day!



Mothering God,

- ♥ Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day.
- ♥ Accompany those yearning to be mothers.
- ♥ Open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives.

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>



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of LeClare Steffen given by Thomas & Tracey Gehringer-Steffen

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,

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

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 10: Tanzania and Nebraska Synod Together, with Martin Russell

May 17 Neighborhood Gathering

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 10 Sunday

Easter 6
Mother's Day
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

May 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

May 12 Tuesday

Election Day
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
4:00 PM Executive Committee

May 14 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord
Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Ascension of Our Lord Service (Trinity Episcopal)

May 15 Friday

Good News Deadline
10:30 AM Kathy Cole Funeral
5:00 PM Pantry

May 16 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 17 Sunday

Easter 7
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 14

7 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 North 18th 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



CJH Work Day

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, 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!

Children's Choir

Singing Sunday, May 17

8:35 AM Practice

We will sing for both the 9 and the 11 AM services. Please

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

arrive at 8:35 AM to practice in the Nave. We will sing right at the beginning of the 11 AM service, so your family will be able to leave immediately after they sing. We will be singing *Every time I Feel the Spirit*. The children will sing the chorus/refrain and play percussion instruments during the verses. The adult choir will sing the verses of this song. If you would like to practice at home, the words to the refrain/chorus are:

*Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray.*

This will be our last time singing for this school year. Thank you for allowing your child to be involved in our choir. Please feel free to contact Barb Carlsen if you have any questions or concerns at, carlsen.barbara18@gmail.com

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!

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 to let us know you're planning to attend.



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 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 7th-9th 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



Service Fridays

about Service Fridays, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact Kristin at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:

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

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).

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. 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 29—Wednesday, May 6

Saturday: 27

Sunday: 9:00: 200 11:00: 54

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 292

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 229 (inc. 108 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering:

\$20,330.97 (Regular) \$508.50 (Specials)

\$534.65 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit is our helper.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:7-8	God will be with you
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalm 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I [Jesus] will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.” John 14:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come, Holy Spirit, give me the faith and strength to love others as Christ has loved me and the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food and the people who have brought it from the earth to our tables, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a loving heart.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you felt alone or afraid?
- Jesus called the Holy Spirit our helper. What do you think the Holy Spirit helps us do?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 14:15-21.

The Gospel of John weaves themes into one another like a beautiful tapestry. That is clearly what is happening in John 14. At the heart of it, Jesus will not abandon his followers. He loves them and wants them to love him by keeping his commandments to love one another (John 13:34). Jesus will remain with us, his followers, through the presence of “another Advocate” (v. 16), just as Jesus himself is an advocate (1 John 2:1). The word “advocate” in the original Greek also means counselor, helper, or intercessor. The Advocate is here to help us. The other advocate is the Holy Spirit, described as “the Spirit of truth” (v. 17), just as Jesus is seen as “the truth” in John 14:6. After Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, he is still with us through the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. The Holy Spirit makes Christ a reality in our lives today so that we may love one another and the world as God does (John 3:16). We are not abandoned after Jesus’ ascension; we are empowered by the Spirit of truth to live out Jesus’ new commandment to love one another and the world.

Discuss: How has the Holy Spirit helped you along your faith journey?

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today is Mother’s Day in the United States. It is a time to recognize and be thankful for those women in our lives who have loved and cared for us and for others. Be a witness for God’s love and reach out to a woman you know who deserves a special thank you with a phone call, text, or a visit. Say this prayer for her: **Lord God, thank you for [name]. May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Please bless her on this day and every day with your love and care. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11