

## 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 16 & 17, 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 in celebration of Bob & Pam Johnson's wedding anniversary; in celebration of John & Lynn Schneiderman's 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

#### Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

##### 8:35 AM Practice

##### Grades K-6

Our Children's Choir will sing this morning for both the 9 and the 11 AM services. Please 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. This will be our last time singing for this school year. Thank you for allowing your child to be involved in our choir.

#### Kountze Café Lite

##### 9:30—11:00 AM

##### Free-will Offering

Beginning this Sunday and through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

#### Sunday School

##### 10:10 AM

##### Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Today is the last day of Sunday School. Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School rooms for a celebration of all the hard work you all put into this Sunday School year.

### 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 17 Neighborhood Gathering

May 24: Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)

### 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"! Come join in the fun! You won't want to miss it!

---

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 17 Sunday

Easter 7

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

8:35 AM Children's 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—  
last day of Sunday School

11:00 AM Neighborhood Gathering

### May 18 Monday

9:00 AM Free Community Resource  
Fair

10:00 AM Pantry

4:30 PM Personnel Committee

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### May 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KCCOC Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### May 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

### May 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

### May 22 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### May 24 Sunday

Day of Pentecost

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

### May 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

Memorial Day (Observed)

OFFICE CLOSED

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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



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

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.

### 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 deFreeze Manor, the Kountze Love Your Neighbor Pantry, YES House, Physicians Mutual, and many other charities focused on helping those in our neighborhood. While

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

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/3sjzfpmk>

### Bikes Needed for Refugee Family

Are you doing a little spring cleaning in the garage? Our refugee family is looking for two used children's bikes with training wheels for their 4- and 6-year-olds. If you have a bike or two your children or grandchildren have outgrown and would like to donate, please contact the church office. Thank you for helping us share a little joy this spring!

### 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 canned pasta, body wash, and bottled water. 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

### Serve Boldy

#### Trinity Lutheran Church

6340 N 30<sup>th</sup> St

July 12-17, July 19-24, and July 26-31

Sun 12-7 PM, MTW, 3-8 PM, with 2-3 hours on Fri. AM

Serve Boldy is seeking a Food Service Coordinator for Serve Boldy during their 3 weeks in Omaha - it's an hourly position - about 20-25 hours a week at \$20 an hour. They are also looking for a Guide in Omaha for the first two weeks listed. If you are interested or know someone that might be interested in cooking for large groups, or are teachers or alumni of camp who might have experience serving youth groups, please contact Sara Jonasen, [sjonasen@gllm.org](mailto:sjonasen@gllm.org). Even if you can only work a couple of those times, they would still be interested in hearing from you. Use the link below or the QR code for a copy of the job description.

<https://tinyurl.com/2kjrse63>



Serve Boldy



### More info next week...

#### Family Swim Party

Saturday, June 13

Westgate Pool—8233 Grover Street

9 AM - Noon

#### Kountze Young Adults Bonfire Night

Saturday, June 13

KMLC Green Space

College Age—30's

8:00 PM

### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, May 14—Wednesday, May 20

Saturday: 27

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

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 292

Streaming: 51

Pantry Guests Served: 229 (inc. 108 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering:

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

\$534.65 (Debt Reduction)

*Eternity is living now with God and with one another.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension of Jesus
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Paul's encouraging words
Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	God's protection
Friday	Ephesians 4:7-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
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

*And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.* **John 17:3 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, give us the Spirit of Christ that we may know you and live with you today and with one another in love. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of orphans and protector of widows, as we enjoy this meal, we pray for food for all people. Amen. (Psalm 68:5)

### A Blessing to Give:

May the God of grace strengthen you.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If you could spend a day doing anything you want to do, what would it be?
- How is God's love different than a friend's love?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 17:1-11.

Being with God in eternity seems to be something we anticipate after we die, but not in the Gospel of John. Eternity is understood as a life that begins now and is experienced through faith in *"the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"* (v. 3). Jesus speaks of his glory. The hour of his glory is his suffering, death, and resurrection. We participate in Jesus' glory as those who remain in the world now protected by God. Eternal life is experienced as a life of glory that knows suffering and also knows God in Christ. A personal relationship with Jesus is not private. We live in eternity now as the body of Christ in the world together. Therefore, Jesus prays that all of his followers *"may be one, as we are one,"* (v. 11) that is, as Jesus and the Father are one. Eternal life involves a relationship to God that knows, trusts, and believes in Jesus as the one who is with the Father. One may ask, "How do you think you will experience eternity after you have died?" John's question would be, "How do you experience eternity now, living with God and with one another in a world that God loves?"

*Discuss:* What difference does it make for you to know that eternity is now, and not just after you die?

*Pray:* **Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of faith that we may experience your presence in our lives through the body of Christ. 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 someone who is experiencing challenges in their life?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven as a cloud took him out of sight. Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Make a dessert in a glass alternating blue gelatin with whipped cream to symbolize the sky, clouds, and Jesus' ascension. While eating the dessert, think or talk about ways you have been or can be a witness for Jesus. After you finish, say the Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23