

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 23 & 24, 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



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>



Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Will Gardnier and Arnold Steffen given by Thomas & Tracey Gehringer-Steffen

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 Labedz.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

May 24: Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)

May 31: TBD

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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 Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum—
Fellowship

May 25 Monday

Memorial Day
(Observed) OFFICE
CLOSED

May 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3

May 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 28 Thursday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Worship & Music
Committee

May 29 Friday

Synod Assembly May 29-31
5:00 PM Pantry

May 30 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 31 Sunday

Holy Trinity
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

2026 Nebraska Synod Assembly

May 29 - May 31

Kearney, NE

The theme of the 2026 Synod Assembly is Broken Open. Attendees will explore "Broken Open," where scars become sacred and vulnerabilities, sources of strength. Our members attending the Assembly will be challenged, encouraged, and broken open to the surprising grace of God at work in them, in our congregation, and across the Nebraska Synod. They will be giving a report of their experiences sometime during Adult Forum in the next few weeks.

KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 7- 12/week 2

Twenty eight of our young people will be attending camp at Carol Joy Holling this summer. Be sure to ask them about their time at camp. They'll have a lot to report!

Carol Joy Holling 38th Annual Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 25

Just a reminder that the funds raised from the CJH Quilt Auction helps to provide a great camp experience for the more than 1,600 campers that will be arriving this summer. While the auction isn't until July, quilts may be delivered to the camp anytime between now and July 15. If you're not able to donate a quilt, plan to attend the auction and bid on one or two... or six. Quilts in the past have gone for anywhere between \$25 and \$20,000. There's something for every budget, and it's a very good cause. For more information or a donation form, go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/quilt-auction/>

Family Swim Party

Saturday, June 13

9 AM - Noon

Westgate Pool

8233 Grover Street

All ages youth preschool to high school and their families are invited for a "Summer Has Begun Pool Party". A lifeguard will be on site for our private event and drinks and food will be available. Hope to see you there! Contact Sheila if you have any questions.

Kountze Young Adults Bonfire Night

Saturday, June 13

8:00 PM

Join us for a cozy evening around the fire with good food, games, and great conversation! Bring your friends and come enjoy cornhole, giant Jenga, a hot dog bar, and the magic of a crackling bonfire in the Green Space at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Whether you're new to Kountze or have been around awhile, this is a relaxed chance to connect and unwind together. College age through 30's welcome!

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 Thy

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 volunteers 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. Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/3sjzfpnk>

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).

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, cereal, cereal! They really need 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/uauusddd>

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

"Gray Area Thinking" with Ellie Krug Messiah Lutheran Church

5015 S. 80th Street

Tuesday, June 2

6— 8 PM

Free and Open to All

What does the phrase "diversity and inclusion" actually mean? How can we move beyond grouping and labeling of other humans to make an organization - or even our personal lives—more diverse and inclusive? Can we really build a just and inclusive world, especially in this time of such division? We have been invited to join national speaker, transgender writer and "human inclusionist" Ellen "Ellie" Krug as she discusses organizational culture and culture change and conducts her human inclusivity training, Gray Area Thinking®. This training provides an easy-to-understand toolset on how to be more welcoming of anyone who is "Other" in our society.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, May 14—Wednesday, May 20

Saturday: 17

Sunday: 9:00: 134 **11:00:** 81

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 241

Streaming: 50

Pantry Guests Served: 240 (inc. 119 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$10,508.28 (Regular) \$662.79 (Specials)

\$202.00 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit moves us to act with forgiveness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing helpful deeds
Thursday	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Rules for the new life
Friday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples



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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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." **John 20:21-22 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, through the Holy Spirit you send us into the world to speak, forgive, and give peace in the name of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit, help us to bless the world with your love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for giving food to all you have created; open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you peace.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How does forgiving someone breathe new life into a relationship?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit is at work in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-23.

Those first disciples were fearful and huddled in a locked room. We all have had experiences of being frozen in fear and wanting to hide. Jesus knows this. Just as he did with those first disciples, Jesus enters our anxious lives, sends us out of our locked rooms, and releases us from our fearful confinements. The crucified and risen Jesus enters our lives with the power of the Holy Spirit. He sends out his followers of all generations to conquer those destructive forces with a peace that dares to forgive. On Pentecost we are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit that breathes Jesus' life-giving and life-freeing forgiveness into the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus sends out disciples like us into the world with peace. That peace is not simply a good feeling filled with the absence of struggles. Jesus' peace is a life-giving power to conquer our fears and timidity that we may courageously extend a word of divine forgiveness to others.

Discuss: How has the Holy Spirit moved you to act with the power of peace and forgiveness for others?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, breathe on us your holy breath that we may go forth into the world to share your peace and the power of forgiveness. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, to whom can you offer a word of forgiveness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we recite the Apostle's Creed, we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church...". With the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the holy catholic church with a small "c" (meaning the whole Christian church on earth), we are reminded of the gifts of faith we are given through the Spirit. We celebrate this day as the day the church received the Holy Spirit. Read or recite the Apostle's Creed and talk about what it means to you.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20