

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 30 & 31, 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

Thank You to Pr. Paul Moessner who is preaching this weekend while Pr. Hall is on sabbatical and Pr. Lucy is attending the Nebraska Synod Assembly.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Charles Fuglsang

Kountze Café Lite
9:30—11:00 AM
Free-will Offering

Now 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.

Children's Sermon

Children are invited to sit with their families at the beginning of the service. Following the children's sermon, youth who are going into grade four and younger are invited to follow the adult leader upstairs for the Kountze Summer Reading Program. The kids will enjoy a story book on important life lessons. Coloring sheets, fidgets, and sensory items will be provided. They will return to their families for communion.

Are you an adult interested in reading to the youth? Use the following link or QR code to sign up to read. You may also reach out to Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

<https://tinyurl.com/2epndk6z>



Summer Reading

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>



Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall. While Pr. Hall is out of the country on sabbatical, Adult Forum topics for June and July are still being finalized. A report from those who attended Synod Assembly is planned for sometime in

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

June. Until then, we hope you'll still join us on Sunday mornings for breakfast and fellowship. Adult Forum topics will be posted in the Announcement Page and e-news as they become available.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 1 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

June 4 Thursday

6 PM Wedding Rehearsal
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

June 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry
7:00 PM Peterson & Matteson
Wedding

June 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

June 7 Sunday

Pentecost 2
Homebound Communion
Jun 7 - Jun 12 Camp Week @ CJH
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

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 through 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!

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, June 14

The Ride of Her Life, The true story of a woman, her horse, and the last chance journey across America by Elizabeth Letts

In 1954, 63-year-old Annie Wilkes, left her Maine farm to begin a journey on horseback to Los Angeles, California. She was facing poverty, loss of her farm, and a terminal diagnosis with 2-4 years to live. Annie embarked on a 4,000 -mile trip with little money or maps, horse, Tarzan, and dog, Depeche Toi as her companions. Annie was resilient and bold, and defied the elements and courageously met the challenges during the period in America of the building of the Interstate Highway system. She met many people along the way including Groucho Marx, and arrived in California in 1956. The theme of the book is hope, resilience, courage, and power of community.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Men's Lunch

Thursdays, June 18

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 16,

Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let him 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 deFreese Manor, the Kountze Love Thy 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/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. The current needs for the pantry are soup, beanie weenies, and deodorant. 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/uau5dddp>

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 21—Wednesday, May 27

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 108 11:00: 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 209

Streaming: 64

Pantry Guests Served: 238 (inc. 68 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$7,604.62 (Regular) \$3,144.55 (Specials)

\$367.15 (Debt Reduction)

The Triune God empowers reconciliation with others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples
Monday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	God creates everything
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Live in peace
Wednesday	Acts 3:11-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	Ministry of reconciliation
Friday	Ezekiel 18:24-32	The Lord is fair
Saturday	Psalms 8	Wonderful name of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. 2 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you that you care for us and want us to live in harmony with others; help us to live in peace with all you have created through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, the works of your hands have placed all things under our feet. Help us to remember and always give thanks for the food we eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it take to strengthen a relationship with friends or family?
- When is a time you have had a sense of God's love and peace?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13.

This reading includes the trinitarian language anticipated for this special day: the grace of Jesus, the love of God as Creator and Father, and the unity of the Holy Spirit. Paul uses this language and understanding of God as being the strength of the Corinthian house churches. Paul's two letters to the Corinthians indicate that these house churches seem to be divided by lots of conflict. At the same time they are closely united because of God. Paul tells the people to "[b]e restored," and "live in peace" (v. 11). God's love and reconciling power make it all possible. The embrace of this family-like community is demonstrated by Paul's urging them to greet each other with a "holy kiss" (v. 12). All of this is expected by Paul, not because of the leadership or wisdom of the people, but because of "[t]he grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit" (v. 13) that is promised to be with them all. For Paul, it is the Triune God who makes the reconciled life of the Christian community possible.

Discuss: How does Paul's description of God help the church seek reconciliation?

Pray: **Triune God, bless us always with your grace, love, and shared fellowship with one another so that we may live in peace and be reconciled with all our brothers and sisters in 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 restore a broken relationship with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is Trinity Sunday. In the word Trinity, "tri" means "three" and "unity" means one. Draw a triangle on a piece of paper. Write Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in each of the corners. Think or talk about what each one means to you. In the center of the triangle draw a heart and write the word love. *Pray:* **Dear God, we praise you for your abundant love. Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us. Please help us to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Hosea 5:15—6:6; Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26