

## 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)

June 6 & 7, 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 by Kyra Peterson & Chris Mattson in celebration of their marriage

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

Now through Labor Day weekend, we are 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).

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



Summer Reading

#### **Adult Forum**

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. A report from those who attended Synod Assembly is planned for sometime in 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.

#### **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*

### 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!

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### This Week at Kountze Memorial

#### 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

#### June 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

#### June 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

#### June 10 Wednesday

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

#### June 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

#### June 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

#### June 13 Saturday

9 AM – 12 PM Family Swim Party  
5:00 PM Worship  
8:00 PM Young Adult Bonfire

#### June 14 Sunday

Pentecost 3  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM Book Group

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### For Your Calendar/News & Notes

#### Kountze Memorial Youth Ministry Parent Survey

Parents/guardians, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts regarding our Youth Ministry Program. This survey is anonymous and will help us plan youth activities and Sunday Youth Forum for next year. Please do not include your name or your youth's name unless you would like someone to follow up with you. The survey can be found by using the QR code or the following link.



Parent Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/yhmp3jsf>

#### 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.

#### 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](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let him know you're planning to attend.

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

### 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 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org). Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:



Service Fridays

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

### 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. 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>

### School Supply Drive

The youth will be hosting a school supply drive this summer. We are asking for supplies and backpacks to fill for our Love thy Neighbor Pantry in Kountze Commons. Notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens, glue, scissors, etc. are welcome. Please bring items to church by August 2. We will be stuffing backpacks on August 9.

### Carol Joy Holling 38<sup>th</sup> 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, use the QR code or go to:



CJH Quilt Auction

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

### Attendance & Giving Thursday, May 28—Wednesday, June 2

**Saturday: 24**

**Sunday: 9:00: 102 11:00: 46**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 7**

**Total: 179**

**Streaming: 75**

**Pantry Guests Served: 408 (inc. 120 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15**

**Offering:**

\$19,507.26 (Regular)                      \$1,504.26 (Specials)

\$182.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Trust in the promise and power of God's grace.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                       |                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 | The call to follow Jesus        |
| Monday    | Hosea 5:15-6:6        | A call to repentance            |
| Tuesday   | Romans 4:13-25        | God's promise realized by faith |
| Wednesday | Deuteronomy 5:28-33   | Moses mediates God's will       |
| Thursday  | 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 | Request for prayer              |
| Friday    | Ephesians 5:28-33     | Let love be your guide          |
| Saturday  | Psalms 50:7-15        | What pleases God                |
| Sunday    | Matthew 9:35-10:23    | The sending of the twelve       |



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#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[A]s it is written, "I have made you [Abraham] the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.*

**Romans 4:17 (NRSV)**

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us faith and courage to follow you and to touch the lives of those around us with your grace, mercy, and healing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the one who gives us hope now and always. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May you have trust in God.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What happens in a relationship when someone makes a promise and doesn't keep it?
- Abraham grew strong in his faith because of God's promise. How does trusting God's promises help you grow in faith?

#### DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 4:13-25.

Some Christians in Rome believed one first had to become Jewish by following God's law before one could be a follower of Jesus. However, Abraham, our father in the faith, did not have the law and circumcision that was required to become Jewish. That came later through Moses. What Abraham had was trust in the promise of God, the God who "gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (v. 17). We, too, "share the faith of

Abraham" (v. 16). We trust in the promise of God and the power of God's grace that resurrects life through Jesus. Abraham's and Sarah's bodies were old and unable to give birth to a child and, therefore, to a new nation. But it happened, not because of Abraham's or Sarah's ability to birth a child but because of the God who makes promises and keeps them. We are inheritors of Abraham's right relationship with God through faith that trusts the God who "raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (v. 24).

Discuss: God makes promises and keeps them. How does knowing this help you grow in your faith?

**Pray: Creator God, we thank you for giving us new life in Christ through faith, a gift of your never-failing love and grace. Amen.**

#### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how does following Jesus help you to reach out to someone in need?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus saw Matthew and said to him, "Follow me" (Matthew 9:9). And Matthew got up and followed him. One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace. Some have a cross or a fish symbol tattoo somewhere in a visible place on their body. Think or talk about a time you or someone you know was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Write a list of words that describe a follower of Jesus. Take a moment to read the words aloud.

Then pray: Dear Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow. May we do so with love and mercy toward others in our daily lives. Amen.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]**