

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
Heidi Pospisil	Pantry Director
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

June 20 & 21, 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



To all fathers and father figures on this special day. Thank you for the love, strength, and guidance you provide.

Today, we celebrate you and the incredible role you play 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 honor of Patricia Grow given by Trish Daffer; in memory of Hannah Rief on her 24th birthday given by her parents and siblings

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of LeClare Steffen given by Thomas & Tracey Gehringer-Steffen

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Mark Andreesen in memory of his father, Earl

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 Labedz.

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

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

6/21 Fellowship

6/28 Growing in Faith, Building a Foundation: Youth & Young Adult Ministry at Kountze Memorial

This Week at Kountze Memorial

June 21 Sunday

Pentecost 4
Father's Day
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 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 23 Tuesday

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

June 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

June 25 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

June 26 Friday

9:00 AM Service Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

June 27 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

June 28 Sunday

Pentecost 5
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

VBS Volunteer Meeting

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

June 24

6 PM

Pizza will be provided

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:

<https://tinyurl.com/yhmp3jsf>



Parent Survey

Service Fridays

Through 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>



Service Fridays

Youth Social Justice League Summer Field Trip

Tuesday, July 21

9 AM—4 PM

Middle and high school youth are invited to join us and the Urban Abbey Youth Social Justice League for a day of exploring Omaha's "third spaces"—places where people gather, connect, and build community. Participants will

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

visit several locations, ride the ORBT, and learn about inclusion, community building, and social justice. Hosted by the Kountze Mercy & Justice Team. Please scan the QR code to **register by July 1** or go to:



Justice & Mercy

<https://forms.gle/Cyctn3TdoCtmsBnX9>

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" 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

Do you have years of gently used Halloween costumes tucked away that don't fit anyone in your house any more? If so, please bring those gently used costumes to the church to be donated! 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 gently used grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

Celebrate Pride with Us!

July 17-18

The Heartland Pride Festival & Parade is just around the corner. Once again, Kountze members have the opportunity to gather in community to watch the parade, or participate with the Reconciling In Christ congregations of the ELCA. Scan the QR code or visit the SignUp Genius with the link below to indicate that you are interested. More specifics about where and when to meet will be sent to those who sign up. Let's share love and community together!



Pride Festival

<https://tinyurl.com/yv88e79r>

Omaha Collaborative VBS

July 19-22 (Sunday to Wednesday)

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Supper (for families) 5:15 PM

Program 6 - 8 PM

Pre-K through 5th Grade

Five Omaha Area Lutheran Churches have joined forces to serve together. Our program this year is "Snowball Mountain Challenge - Find your Strength in God." Each evening begins with a simple meal provided in the Café for all participants and their families. Children will rotate through story stations, craft activities, science experiments and of course games! Please register your child/ren now so we can have all the supplies needed and be ready for a great week together. The child registration form can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2m5trfbd>



VBS Registration

Middle-High School students are welcome

to participate as staff to make this a great learning experience for all. Adult volunteers are also needed. Volunteer registrations can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/29ppewa2>



VBS Volunteers

FYI: For those ages 18 and over, we will be requiring a background check through your home church, if you haven't already done one. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents to VBS. We are happy to have you!

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 packing backpacks on August 9.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, June 11—Wednesday, June 17

Saturday: 19

Sunday: 9:00: 114 11:00: 49

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 193

Streaming: 39

Pantry Guests Served: 427 (inc. 102 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 8

Offering:

\$10,840.96 (Regular)

\$2,511.58 (Specials)

\$162.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ gives new life to make a difference in the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael are sent away
Thursday	Psalm 86	Save me, Lord
Friday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old and the new life
Saturday	Psalm 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others



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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

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. Romans 6:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to trust that all we are and hope to be is found in the new life we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all good things come from you; thank you for your goodness that gives us food to eat this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God set you free. (Psalm 69:18)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are three things that are important to you?
- What do you think it means to pick up your cross and follow Jesus? (Matthew 10:38)

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 10:24-39.

Core values are important because they define what we stand for and who we are. Jesus says that following him is an all-or-nothing proposition. It is non-negotiable. Sometimes we must let go of what we treasure in life to gain what really counts in God's kingdom. In the process, Jesus gives several stark contrasts, many of which are hard to hear. Following Jesus will lead some to be rejected by family, which was a reality in first century Christianity and can be true today, too. Acknowledge Jesus and he will acknowledge you. Deny him and he will deny you. Amid these tough passages is Jesus' repeated theme of not being afraid. Jesus warns us not to deny him before others, but Peter does deny him three times before Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 26:69-75). Peter learns that mercy, not judgment, is the ultimate core value in the kingdom. God's mercy takes away our fear. Jesus calls us to make a difference and to rely on him. We all falter. Jesus doesn't. This is the dramatically different way of life that moves us from fear and judgment to grace and mercy.

Discuss: How does God's mercy help you face your fears?

Pray: **Dear God, may our life in Christ give us peace and good courage as we live each day with others. 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 encourage someone to be courageous and face their fears?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father's Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42