

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 27 & 28, 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>



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God given by Mark & Tarna Kidder in celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; given by Judy Westerman in memory of Gary Westerman on their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

### 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 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>

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Adult Forum

#### Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

- June 28 Growing in Faith, Building a Foundation:  
Youth & Young Adult Ministry at Kountze  
Memorial
- July 5: Fellowship

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### This Week at Kountze Memorial

#### 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

#### June 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

#### June 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

#### July 1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

#### July 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

#### July 3 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

#### July 4 Saturday

Independence Day  
Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

#### July 5 Sunday

Pentecost 6  
Homebound Communion  
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

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### For Your Calendar/News & Notes

#### 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 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:

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



Service Fridays

#### 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!

<https://tinyurl.com/yv88e79r>



Pride Festival

#### It's a Pizza Party!

#### Saturday, July 18

#### 6 PM (after 5 PM Worship)

#### Kountze Families with Children through Grade 12

Worship with us Saturday evening, and then stay for pizza afterwards. You can also just come for the pizza. Outdoor activities provided in the green space. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk, use the QR code, or call the church office (402-341-7761) to let us know you'll be attending.

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

**Omaha Collaborative VBS**  
**July 19-22 (Sunday to Wednesday)**  
**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**  
**(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)**  
**Supper (for families) 5:15 PM**  
**Program 6 - 8 PM**  
**Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> 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:



VBS Registration

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

**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:



VBS Volunteers

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

**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!

**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 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>

**KMLC Young Adults Coffee Talk**  
**Urban Abbey (1026 Jackson St.)**  
**College Age - 30's**  
**Sunday, July 26**  
**12:30 PM**

We'll gather with Pastor Debra McKnight to learn about the ministry of Urban Abbey, explore its unique presence as a coffee shop, bookstore, and United Methodist congregation, and enjoy conversation together over coffee and non-coffee drinks. All are welcome. Bring a friend and join the conversation.

### **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](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 gently used grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

### **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 18—Wednesday, June 25**

**Saturday: 28**

**Sunday: 9:00: 83 11:00: 62**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 8**

**Total: 181**

**Streaming: 43**

**Pantry Guests Served: 503 (inc. 152 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18**

**Offering:**

\$9,409.77 (Regular) \$4,535.07 (Specials)

\$462.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Freed by God's grace.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Leviticus 25:35-43	The year of jubilee
Thursday	John 8:31-38	True disciples
Friday	Hebrews 6:1-12	Danger of falling away
Saturday	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary



## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.* **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a holy life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you been tempted to do something, you knew was wrong? What happened?
- How would you describe a life that is guided by Jesus Christ?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “*where sin increased, grace abounded all the more*” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith gave license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul. What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to a life opposed to God. What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “*to God as instruments of righteousness*” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. A life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend. Paul writes, “*I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations*” (v. 19), so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence.

*Discuss:* Does knowing of God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to be hospitable and welcome someone into your home?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said that anyone who welcomes one of his followers welcomes him, and in turn welcomes his Heavenly Father (Matthew 10:40). Extend a welcome to a new friend or new neighbor to join you for a meal in your home. Think of ways to make them feel welcome. Remember that in serving your visitors you are serving Christ himself! *Pray:* **Lord, open our hearts to welcome you each day, and open our hands to serve others in love. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30