

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

July 11 & 12 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 in celebration of Jean Johnson's birthday

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

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.
<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.

July 12: Rev. Bridget Gautieri, ELCA Wittenberg Center, Global Missions

July 19: Pr Hall in Bretten and Strasbourg

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 12 Sunday

Pentecost 7

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

12:15 PM Book Group

July 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

July 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Congregational Council
(please note date change)

July 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

July 16 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

July 17 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

9:00 AM Service Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 18 Saturday

Grundman & Reinken Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

6:00 PM Family Pizza Party

July 19 Sunday

Jul 19 - Jul 22 VBS @ St. Timothy's

Pentecost 8

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

Kountze Care Companions

Do you have a few hours to share each month? We are forming a team of volunteers to assist some of our older members with simple tasks such as sorting and organizing around the house, light cleaning, carrying or putting away groceries, and spending time in conversation and companionship. No special skills are required—just a willing heart and a desire to serve. Whether you can help occasionally or on a regular basis, we would love to have you join us as we care for one another and live out Christ's call to bear one another's burdens. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at the welcome desk, or contact the church office for more information.

Service Fridays Continue

Through July 31

9 AM - 4 PM

Grades 7 - 9

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. 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>



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.



info@kmlchurch

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 Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 by using the QR code to the right or go to:



<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 use the QR code to the right or go to:



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

VBS "Noisy" Offering

Our kids will be collecting coins for the San Andrés Food Pantry to help them buy a refrigerator/freezer and other needed supplies. San Andrés is one of our Mission Field Nebraska congregations just south of us here in Omaha. You can support our youth AND one of our mission partners in Omaha by collecting your own coins this July and donating them. Let's see if our adults can beat our kids in this friendly competition?! We'll have a Noisy Offering on Sunday, July 19 (but we'll accept quiet paper donation as well). Join the fun and let's help our neighbors.

**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.

Halloween Costume Collection

Please bring 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).

School Supply Drive

The youth are 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.

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 are arriving this summer. 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:

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



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.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>



Attendance & Giving Thursday, July 2—Wednesday, July 8

Saturday: 29

Sunday: 9:00: 86 **11:00:** 47

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 171

Streaming: 73

Pantry Guests Served: 262 (inc. 74 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$10,096.68 (Regular)

\$1,827.00 (Specials)

\$57.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's word brings new life and growth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-112	Light from the Lord's law
Thursday	Genesis 25:19-34	Esau and Jacob
Friday	Leviticus 26:1-13	Rewards for obedience
Saturday	Psalms 65:1-13	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. Psalm 65:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of abundant grace and mercy, help us to receive your word of life that we may be your good soil to grow in faith and share your word with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for your eternal care that blesses us with daily food through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God lead you out in joy and back in peace. (Isaiah 55:12)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is needed for a garden to be productive?
- When and where do you receive God's word?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 55:10-13 and Romans 8:1-11.

Yes, we have an awesome God, as noted in Psalm 65:5. In Isaiah 55 that awesomeness is expressed through God's word that is powerful. It does what God intends. It is productive. Isaiah 55 announces the return from exile for God's people. God's word, God's will shall accomplish it. This text is often used at the ordination of a pastor or a deacon. However, could we not also use it at weddings, baptisms, and any other occasion that celebrates God's people living together in faith, hope, and love? God's word is given for all of us to speak aloud to one another for our encouragement and growth in life and faith. God's word at a meal creates thankful hearts for the abundance of God's love with daily food. God's word in the morning, evening, or at bedtime reminds us of the eternal care of God and that we are those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and for whom there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1 and 11). Let's cast God's word into all the corners of the earth, landing on all kinds of soil where it may sprout up and produce an abundant harvest.

Discuss: When are times during the week that you use and speak God's word?

Pray: **Creative God, may the Spirit of Christ create in me the good soil to receive your word and grow in grace. 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 help plant the seeds of God's word with those around you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit" (Matthew 13:23a). Take a sheet of paper and write "Good Soil" across the bottom. Draw a fruit tree with a trunk, leaves, and fruit. On each drawing of fruit, write different ways you show God's love to others. Read what you have written and think or talk about how your "fruits" help you and others grow in their faith. *Then pray:* **Dear God, give us the faith to bear good fruit. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43