

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 18 & 19 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 Bruce & Barb Nissen's 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 our 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>

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

July 19: Pr. Hall in Bretten and Strasbourg

July 26: Rev. Robert Moore, PhD, Global Missions in Leipzig, Germany



Summer Reading

VBS "Noisy" Offering

Our kids collected coins during VBS 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

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*

mission partners in Omaha by donating to the noisy offering (quiet paper donations are also welcome). Let's

see if our adults can beat our kids in this friendly competition?! Join the fun and let's help our neighbors.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

July 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

July 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

July 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
3:00 PM Finance Committee

July 23 Thursday

12:00 PM Circle 4 Potluck (note time change)
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

July 24 Friday

9:00 AM Service Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

July 25 Saturday

9:00 AM CJH Quilt Auction
200 PM Katie Larson Ordination
5:00 PM Worship

July 26 Sunday

Pentecost 9
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/3sjzfpmk>

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 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>



Service Fridays



VBS Registration



VBS Volunteers

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Kaitlynnne Larson's Ordination Held at Kountze Memorial Saturday, July 25 2:00 PM

Katie, one of the missionaries Kountze memorial helps support, serves as a Community Organizer and Human Rights Educator with ELCA Global Mission in Bogotá, Colombia. She is remembered each week in our prayers under "Those Serving in Mission." Katie served as our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry from May, 2014 through January, 2017. She graduated from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver in May, 2021 and has served in Bogotá for the past five years. We are invited to Katie's ordination and reception here at Kountze Memorial. Please join us as we celebrate Katie's call and welcome her as a newly ordained pastor in the ELCA.

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

You won't want to miss this beloved tradition filled with colorful creativity, community spirit, and faith impact. Nearly 400 handcrafted quilts made by talented quilters will be on display and up for bid. Each stitch tells a story, and every dollar ensures no one misses out on the joy of camp because of financial need. For more information or to browse the quilts, use the QR code or go to:

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



Quilt Auction Info



View the Quilts



Blessing of the Backpacks

August 8 & 9

Saturday, 5 PM

Sunday, 9 & 11 AM

Bring your school or work bag to church to receive prayers for a safe, productive, and exciting educational year. Following the 9 AM worship service, students are invited to the Fellowship Lounge to stuff backpacks with school supplies. Bags and supplies are generously donated throughout the summer by congregation members and are given to pantry guests at our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are cereal, deodorant, and soup. 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/uasdddp>



Pantry

Attendance & Giving Thursday, July 9—Wednesday, July 15

Saturday: 40

Sunday: 9:00: 98 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 204

Streaming: 37

Pantry Guests Served: 489 (inc. 162 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$12,443.92 (Regular)

\$1,166.02 (Specials)

\$172.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christians are people of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Genesis 28:10-22	Jacob's dream at Bethel
Thursday	Psalms 139:1-24	The inescapable God
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Where do you find hope when you read or hear something bad in the news?
- How does the power of the Holy Spirit in your life give you hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death *"by the Spirit"* that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: *"... we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death ... so we too might walk in newness of life."* Paul speaks of living *"according to the flesh"* (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God. That life-giving Spirit kills the *"deeds of the body"* (v. 13), our life in the flesh (life without God). Life in Christ is a death and life experience, one that leads to hope. As children who can say, *"Abba! Father!"* (v. 15), we are heirs of God's future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we *"suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him"* (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. In faith, we wait for Christ's final victory with hope and patience.

Discuss: How does being an heir of God's future in Christ give you patience and hope?

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; through the ups and downs of life, help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. 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 support and encourage someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships – often in our own homes. Think or talk about the Christian rituals and traditions you do in your home, like prayer and scripture reading. Who taught them to you? Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to a family member or someone else? If not, think about who you can teach them to. *Pray: "Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name." Amen.* (Psalm 86:11)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52