

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

August 1 & 2 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>



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 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>



Summer Reading

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

August 2: Congregational Meeting

August 9: Fellowship

Sunday School Leaders Needed

The Faith Formation program is looking for enthusiastic volunteers for the Sunday School students. All lessons are scripted and materials provided. The children start with breakfast upstairs, providing time for fellowship with the youngest members of Kountze. They then split into their classrooms for a lesson that follows the lectionary of the day. Please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. You can sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 2 Sunday

Pentecost 10

Homebound Communion

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum—

Congregational Meeting

August 3 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 4 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

August 5 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 6 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

August 7 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 8 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 9 Sunday

Pentecost 11

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

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.

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.

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.

All Congregation Game Night!

Saturday, August 15

6:00 PM

The Christian Education Committee is hosting a Game Night for the entire congregation. This cross generational fellowship will begin after the 5 PM Saturday Service. Join us for friendly competition and finger foods. Bring your favorite game night snack or appetizer to share. Games provided, but if you have one to share, bring it! Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk, call (402-341-7761) or email the church office.

Dinners for Eight(ish)

- ☞ Get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months in groups of eight(ish).
- ☞ Meet each month for a meal in September, October, and November
- ☞ Enjoy a meal and conversation with one another.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

- ☞ Consider meeting for lunch instead of dinner!
 - ☞ Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 24.
- See you around the table!

Help Wanted: People Who Sing!!!

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 9, 7 to 8:30 PM

Begin Singing at Worship: Sunday, September 13

Past singing experience in high school or college is a plus but not required. High School students who are involved in their choirs at school are also welcome. Director, Barb Carlsen, would like to hear you sing before joining the choir just to make sure that this group will blend with your type of voice. If you want more information about choir or would like to reserve a time to sing for Barb, please call the church office at 402-341-7761. Rehearsals are generally the first Wednesday of the month, September - May, and on Sunday mornings. (Extra rehearsals scheduled as needed.)

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are granola bars, peanut butter, and bar soap. 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/uaudddp>



Pantry

Truth be Told Bell Ringers

Community Bible Church

3616 S 132nd St.

Friday, July 31

7 PM

This is a free benefit concert to celebrate the USA's 250th birthday, but a freewill offering will be taken to support Voter Information Project, a non-profit, non-partisan organization. Voter Information Project is a place to acquire non-partisan information for Nebraska elections - including candidate responses in their own words, political position job descriptions, ballot issue explanations, and professional input on judges, all accessible for the individual voter's voting districts.

Table Grace Café Golf Tournament

Friday, August 28

Miracle Hills Golf Course

(1401 N 120th St)

Tee Time 8 AM

Entry Fee: \$125 Per Person

\$500 Per Team of 4

Excitement is in the air! Get ready to be part of something extraordinary at Table Grace Ministries'

fundraising event. It's an event like no other, and you won't want to miss it! Every registration to this event will bring Table Grace closer to achieving their mission. Together, we can create a brighter, more compassionate world for all. Our support is invaluable. Golf and network and help others with a hand up! Cost includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, mulligans, and a raffle ticket per player. Not able to golf? Be a golf hole sponsor or putting green sponsor. More information can be found by using the link below or the QR Code.

<https://tinyurl.com/mtdzy94y>



Table Grace Golf

A Note from Camp Carol Joy Holling

"We surpassed our goal, raising \$121,820 at Carol Joy Holling's 38th Annual Quilt Auction!!! God is good! We thank each and every one of you who showed up today despite the heat, as well as our silent auction bidders. Your generosity has ensured that children in need can experience camp, and that is a beautiful thing. We hope to see you next year, July 31st!" The Kountze Memorial Sewing Group donated four quilts that sold for a total of \$425! Browse all of the quilts by using the QR code or go to:

<https://piecd.com/>



Quilt Auction

Save the Date!



Sunday, September 13

*Classes begin
September 20*

We will kick off our Sunday School year with prayers, celebration, games, and fellowship. We are planning a fun and interesting faith-filled school year. We hope you join us!

Attendance & Giving Thursday, July 23—Wednesday, July 29

Saturday: 39

Sunday: 9:00: 100 11:00: 53

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 201

Streaming: 35

Pantry Guests Served: 582 (inc. 172 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$15,992.88 (Regular) \$5,404.37 (Specials)

\$467.15 (Debt Reduction)

God's generosity gives us joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-5	An invitation to abundant life
Tuesday	Romans 9:1-5	God's choice of Israel
Wednesday	Proverbs 28:25-27	The law of God makes sense
Thursday	Psalms 37:18-28	Trust the Lord
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for inviting us to the banquet feast that has no end and is filled with joy and life in your presence through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May God fill you with peace and joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What dream have you had that came true?
- How do your dreams and desires reflect your faith in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 55:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21.

Feasting is a biblical image of God's providence and grace. In Matthew 14, Jesus is feeding the masses, not just five thousand people, but five thousand men plus the women and children. This happens right after the beheading of John the Baptist at another feast, the birthday banquet of King Herod. Just as Jesus' banquet is a far cry from other earthly feasts, so is God's invitation to eat and drink without payment. God's offer of this life-giving nourishment is free. Isaiah 55 includes a challenge to all who want glory and feasting: *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"* (v. 2). Isaiah gets to the heart of the dilemma in our lives: pursuing that which is not important, not essential. Since the time when Jesus fed the masses, God has reached out to all people with the promise of true joy envisioned in a banquet feast that never ends.

Discuss: What is something you have pursued that is not essential to our lives?

Pray: **God of abundant joy, help us to remember and believe that your kingdom gives us a joy like no other 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, how can you support those who are homeless and in need of food?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God's love and care for people is shown in the Bible with stories of meals and feasts. Think or talk about a time you hosted a meal in your home or helped someone else host a meal in your community. In what ways did you care for the guests? When did you feel the presence of God's love? Write a list of words that describe how you felt and what you enjoyed the most about hosting the meal. Pause for a moment and consider when you could host a meal again for friends or a neighbor.

Pray: **Lord, help me to find joy in your abundant care for us. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33