

### 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)

August 8 & 9, 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 the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Neal & Ardis Von Seggern, given by their daughters, Amy & Lisa;

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Randall Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and family

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Tom Jensen in honor of Ron Muchmore's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### 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.



Summer Reading

### 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).  
<https://tinyurl.com/2epndk6z>

### Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

August 9: Fellowship

August 16: Rev. David Mayen of Serving Hands of Hope

### 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*

### 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.

---

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### August 10 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### August 11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### August 12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

### August 13 Thursday

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### August 14 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### August 15 Saturday

Good News Deadline

5:00 PM Worship

6:00 PM All Congregation Pizza & Game Night!

### August 16 Sunday

Pentecost 12

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

---

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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.

### Men's Lunch

**Thursday, August 20**

**11:30 AM**

### Suggested Donation \$10

Jim will be gone, so we're calling in The B-Team and it will be an "All-B" menu. They'll be serving burgers, brats, beans, botato salad, beverages, and Blue Bunny ice cream. Please call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) by Tuesday, August 18 if you plan to attend! Hope to see you there.

### 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.  
☞ 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.)

### Sunday School Leaders Needed

The Faith Formation program is looking for enthusiastic volunteers for the Sunday School students. All lessons are

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

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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org) with questions. You can sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>



Sunday School  
Leaders

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are ketchup, mustard, and toothpaste. 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/uausdddp>



Pantry

### Table Grace Café Golf Tournament

**Friday, August 28**

**Miracle Hills Golf Course**

**(1401 N 120<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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 "Boo-tique"

Kountze Commons is going to host its first "Boo-tique" in September. This event will allow families in need to come shop at Kountze Commons for Halloween costumes. How can you help? Please donate your new or gently used costumes. Costumes can be placed in the donation box under the coat rack on the west side of Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to prepare for the "Boo-tique" or the day of the event, please reach out to Toby Rees at 402-979-1425 or

[toby@kountzecommons.org](mailto:toby@kountzecommons.org).

### 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 30—Wednesday, August 5

**Saturday: 31**

**Sunday: 9:00: 103 11:00: 78**

**Wednesday: 12:15:**

**Total: 212**

**Streaming: 47**

**Pantry Guests Served: 490 (inc. 143 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17**

**Offering:**

\$17,274.34 (Regular)

\$1,908.80 (Specials)

\$127.00 (Debt Reduction)

*We are sent to bring the good news of Christ to others.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                        |                              |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 14:22-33       | Jesus walks on water         |
| Monday    | 1 Kings 19:9-18        | The Lord appears to Elijah   |
| Tuesday   | Romans 10:5-15         | Anyone can be saved          |
| Wednesday | Genesis 41:37-49       | Joseph's rise to power       |
| Thursday  | Psalms 105:1-11        | God's faithfulness to Israel |
| Friday    | 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 | Timothy brings good news     |
| Saturday  | Psalms 85:8-13         | Restoration of God's favor   |
| Sunday    | Matthew 15:21-28       | A woman's faith              |



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life  
as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

**Romans 10:15 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, just as you saved Peter from the stormy waves, we praise you for saving us from the things that overwhelm us.  
Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

You who walked upon the sea, come and join our meal, we plea. Thank you for your care this day; lead us, Jesus, in your way.  
Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God's word be near you. (Romans 10:8)

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Describe something you think is beautiful. What makes it beautiful?
- Who do you know that is spreading the good news of Jesus through their work? What do they do?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 10:5-15.

Paul continues an intricate dance that balances the covenant given to Abraham, Moses, and the larger Hebrew community with fulfilling the new covenant given through Jesus. It is the same God and the same promise: salvation is meant for all. Therefore, our job is not to judge but to proclaim the good news that Christ is the fulfillment of the law. That message only helps if it is heard. What is so beautiful is not really people's feet—what some may consider the least attractive part of a person's body—but the person themselves. People cannot receive the message of salvation without hearing. We are those sent to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to others. We are the ones that are beautiful souls, not because of our feet, noses, or eyes, but because of the good news of Christ told to others.

*Discuss:* How do you use your hands, feet, and voice to spread the good news of Christ?

*Pray:* **Living God, may we see the beauty of the gospel and the beauty of those who share your saving message with us and others 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, where can you go to tell others about Jesus?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus came to the disciples in the middle of the night and calmed their fears. Bedtimes are special opportunities to reflect on one's life in prayer. When you go to bed, think or talk about fears you may have. How does it make a difference to know that Jesus is with you and calms any "storms" or fears that you might experience? Pause for a moment and reflect on your answer. Then say: ***"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety."*** (Psalm 4:8)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28