

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 15 & 16, 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 given by Christine Forslund in memory of Anne & Charles Forslund

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

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? Only a few more weeks left, but there's still time. 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>



Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

This weekend we welcome Rev. David Mayen to preach in worship and lead our Adult Forum. Rev. Mayen leads the Dinka-speaking Sudanese congregation supported by Mission Field Nebraska Synod ministries, and he is the founder and Executive Director of Serving Hands of Hope Foundation (SHOHF). You can learn more about SHOHF and Rev. Mayen on their website, servinghandsofhope.org, and by coming to Forum in Fellowship Hall at 10:10 AM on Sunday.

August 23: Journey Youth Mission Trip

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 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

August 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

August 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KCCOC Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

August 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

August 20 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

August 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

August 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

August 23 Sunday

Pentecost 13

Kountze Cafe Lite

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

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, potato salad, beverages, and Blue Bunny ice cream. Please call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email info@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, August 18 if you plan to attend! Hope to see you there.

Confirmation Starts Soon!

Families with 7th & 8th (and some 9th) grade students

You should have received emails regarding registration and upcoming dates for Confirmation. If you did not, please let Deacon Eric or Pastor Lucy know ASAP! Confirmation Orientation is at St.

Timothy's Lutheran (93rd & Dodge) at 5:45 PM on Wednesday, August 26. That meeting includes a meal and both students and their adults should attend. Kountze Memorial will host a Lock-In & Service event to kick off the Confirmation year on August 28-29; classes at St. Timothy's begin on September 9. Register via the link sent by email - or contact omahaconfirmation@gmail.com. Pastor Lucy or Deacon Eric are happy to answer any questions you might have.

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!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

☞ Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office by Monday, August 24. We will contact you to tell you who is in your group. 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 rice, lentils, and shampoo/conditioner. 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/uasdddp>

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.

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, August 6—Wednesday, August 12

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 106 **11:00:** 67

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 220

Streaming: 68

Pantry Guests Served: 514 (inc. 164 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$21,155.27 (Regular) \$3,389.11 (Specials)

\$302.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' ministry is for all nations.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph and his brothers
Thursday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Friday	Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, we thank you for your mercy and grace that is meant not only for those we know and love but for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for this food and for all those who have planted, harvested, transported, and prepared it for us this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you. (Psalm 67:1)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What have you learned from someone who speaks another language or comes from a different culture?
- It is easy to overlook how God's grace and mercy is not just for us but for all people. How can you extend kindness to someone of a culture that is foreign to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 15:21-28.

The Canaanite woman is central to this story for many reasons. She is a woman, and she is a foreigner, both good reasons for Jesus not to talk to her. He is especially not to address her plea before addressing the needs of the Jewish people, *"the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (v. 24). This woman is also a critical figure because her plea for help changes Jesus' response to her. It is not easy to understand how this woman seems to teach and change Jesus, but she does. The result, however, is clear: Jesus' ministry, like that of the God of the Old Testament (Psalm 67) is for all the nations, not just the sons and daughters of Abraham. This story lifts up the essential mission of Jesus and the church of all generations. As Jesus directed us in Matthew 28:16-20 (the Great Commission), we are to make disciples of all nations, not just our ethnic group, not just "our people," and not just our own nation.

Discuss: What opportunities do you have in your community to show God's love to a foreigner or a stranger?

Pray: **Generous God, help us to see the breadth and depth of your love for all people in the world 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 reach out to someone who needs to hear kind and loving words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (the temple in Jerusalem) a *"house of prayer for all peoples"* (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about where, when, and how you pray in your home. In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"? *Pray:* **Lord Jesus, we come to you in prayer. Help us to show faith in you today and every day. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20