

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	Exec. Dir. 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 22 & 23, 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 honor of William Grow given by Trish Daffer; in celebration of Clara Kidder's 26th birthday given by Mark & Tarna Kidder

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Gary Westerman

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.

Adult Forum
Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

August 23: Journey Youth Mission Trip

August 30: Jason Gerdes of Camp Carol Joy Holling

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 Pas-
tor Lucy by fol-
lowing the link or
QR Code. [https://
calendly.com/pastor-
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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 23 Sunday

Pentecost 13
Kountze Café Lite
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

August 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

August 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3

August 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Confirmation Orientation

August 27 Thursday

9:00 AM KETV Board
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:30 PM Worship & Music
Committee

August 28 Friday

Aug 28 - Aug 29 Confirmation
Lock-in
5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal
5:00 PM Pantry

August 29 Saturday

11:00 AM Wanda Frykberg Funeral
3:00 PM Madelyn Hinrichs &
Christopher DeWald Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

August 30 Sunday

Pentecost 14
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.**

We will contact you to tell you who is in your group. See you around the table!

Confirmation Starts Soon!

Families with 7th & 8th (& 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.

Choir Members Wanted!!!

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 - 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.)

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 13

Join us to celebrate the start of the new faith formation

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

year. Our children will lead the procession out of the church at the end of the 9 AM service and we will ALL gather on the front steps for a **whole congregation photo!** Saturday evening and 11 AM service attendees, plan to meet us at 10:00 AM on the front steps. During the Faith Formation hour at 10:10 AM each age group will be welcomed to an **Open House** to learn more about the learning, fellowship, and fun opportunities ahead: 0-2 in the Nursery, pre-K through 6th grade upstairs in Sunday School, 7th-12th graders downstairs in the Youth Center, young adults (18-30) in the Fellowship Lounge, and adults in Fellowship Hall. There will be food and opportunities to register for the year and/or update your contact information and tell us more about your gifts and passions. The first day of Sunday School and Youth Forum will be the following week, September 20th.

Spamtember Men's Lunch

Thursday September 17

11:30 AM

For the third year in a row, we will celebrate Spamtember at the men's lunch. Jim has been researching and creating some of the finest recipes you're sure to enjoy. We may even bring back some of the favorites from the last two years. You won't want to miss your spam at the table. Sign up today at the welcome desk in the Fellowship Hall or email: jim@kmlchurch.org. If you have a favorite spam recipe, please share it and we may try it!

Sunday September 20

Church Picnic/Potluck with Pr. Carlos and Jan Schneider

Buffet line will open at 11:30 AM

Dedication of the Link at 12:15 PM in the Link.

Pr. Carlos and Jan Schneider will be joining us on Sunday September 20th for a picnic potluck and a dedication ceremony in the Link. An anonymous individual has secured the naming rights for the Link and it will be named in their honor that day. We are planning a German themed event complete with brats for the entree and a kid's option. Dust off your European side dish and dessert recipes (not required). Activities for the kids include bounce houses, face painting and balloons. Octoberfest games for the adults. Did you know that in Germany, Octoberfest is celebrated in September? Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the 9 AM service for coffee and pastries. Watch the weekly bulletin for more details.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are pork & beans, canned pasta, and body wash. 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>

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

Attendance & Giving Thursday, August 13—Wednesday, August 19

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 117 11:00: 61

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 217

Streaming: 37

Pantry Guests Served: 510 (inc. 175 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering: Not available at time of printing

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ
Monday	Isaiah 51:1-6	The LORD will bring comfort
Tuesday	Romans 12:1-8	Christ brings new life
Wednesday	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Israelites are oppressed
Thursday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Prayer for the readers
Friday	Ephesians 6:10-20	The whole armor of God
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise God with all your heart
Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow



© 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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I [Jesus] will give you [Peter] the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **Matthew 16:19 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, in a world that can divide us from one another, we pray for your rule of mercy and grace that binds us together in faith and love through Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have food to eat through your abundant and fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the Son of God, give you new life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What motivates someone to break the law or do something wrong?
- How is Jesus' power different from other powers in the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:13-20.

Jesus and his disciples were in Caesarea Philippi, an important center for the Roman government and a place where many gods of the ancient world were recognized and worshiped. They were fickle gods that ruled over human life rather harshly and arbitrarily. You could not trust them. This was very similar to the rule of the Roman authorities. In contrast to such untrustworthy and unkind gods and powers, Jesus as the *"the Messiah, the Son of the living God"* (v. 16) showed compassion and positively transformed lives like the Canaanite woman and her daughter in Matthew 15. Jesus has the power to bind and to loosen lives. Jesus as our Messiah intends to transform our lives from despair to hope, from broken relationships to a life of mutual forgiveness, from lives that are judged and condemned to lives that receive mercy. Jesus gave Peter and the church that power and way of life. Yes, Jesus has the authority to restrict and to free lives, but Jesus' intent is to free, to forgive, and to give new life where suffering and death had once reigned. Now, that message and life-giving power will be Peter's and the church's to do the same.

Discuss: How does knowing Jesus as the Messiah inspire you to serve others?

Pray: **Almighty God, your ways are not our ways; give us hearts and minds to grasp that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God for the sake of the world you love. 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 encourage someone who is in despair or losing hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise: *"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart"* (v. 1a). Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart write a list of things you thank God for in your life. Place the heart in a visible place in your home as a reminder to give thanks and praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Pray: **I give you thanks, O Lord, for all you do to protect me with your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalms 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28