

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 29 & 30, 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Tom Jenkins in memory of Bud Jensen and Howard Jensen

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 30: Jason Gerdes of Camp Carol Joy Holling

September 6: 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>



Sunday School
Leaders

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*

Help Our Lost and Found Find Its Way Home!

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with items looking for their owners! Stop by the counter in the Fellowship Hall near the office's back door and see if anything belongs to you. Items will remain on display for the next couple of weeks. After that, anything still left behind will have to find a new home. Hope you find your missing items.

Dinners for Eight(ish)

We've been told there is still room to sign up for Dinners for Eight. Please be sure to sign up today if you're interested.

- ☞ 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!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

August 30 Sunday

Pentecost 14
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 31 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
11:30 AM Endowment Board

September 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 2 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

September 3 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 4 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

September 6 Sunday

Pentecost 15
Homebound Communion
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

September 7 Monday

Labor Day
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Classes Begin Soon!

**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
(93rd & Dodge)**

Wednesday, September 9

Dinner: 5:45 PM

Class: 6:05 - 7:30 PM

If any students and their adults weren't able to be at the Confirmation Orientation at St. Timothy's on August 26 but want to participate, or if you have questions, please contact Pr. Lucy or Dn. Eric.

We are looking forward to a fun, faith-filled year in Confirmation!

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 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 the Sunday School rooms, 7th-12th graders downstairs in the Youth Center, young adults (18-30) in the Fellowship Lounge, and adults in the 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.

Children's Choir

Beginning Sunday, September 13

9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room

Grades K-6

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has over 35 years

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people.

All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, September 13

***The Last Woman of Warsaw* by Judy Batalion**

The female characters are based on actual Polish women and focuses on the struggle Jewish residents faced in a hostile world. Please join us for enlightenment on this topic.

Young Adult Fall Kick-off Event

Ages College - 30's Adults

Smash Park

8121 S 123rd Street, La Vista

Sunday, September 13

1:00 PM

Come join us for our Young Adults Fall Kick-off! We'll have axe throwing, food, maybe food throwing, and plenty of time to connect and catch up. Whether you've been part of Kountze Memorial for years, just started coming, or haven't been around in a while, you're invited!

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!

Church Picnic Potluck and

Dedication of the Schneider Link

with Pr. Carlos & Jan Schneider

Sunday September 20

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. Oktoberfest games for the adults. Did you know that in Germany, Oktoberfest 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/uausdddp>

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 20—Wednesday, August 26

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 141 **11:00:** 72

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 254

Streaming: 36

Pantry Guests Served: 681 (inc. 208 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$8,436.98 (Regular) \$2,180.25 (Specials)

\$417.15 (Debt Reduction)

To follow Jesus is to be open to suffering.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Jeremiah complains
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-21	Rules for Christian living
Wednesday	Exodus 3:1-15	Moses at the burning bush
Thursday	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as a Christian
Friday	2 Timothy 2:1-13	A good soldier of Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 26:1-8	Prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation



© 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

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to pick up our cross and follow you to serve and love others even when it causes pain and suffering. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the toil and hard work of those who grow, gather, and prepare our food so that we may be fed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ give you courage.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Who do you turn to for support when you are suffering or in pain?
- How does your faith in Christ help you when you are suffering?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:21-28.

In an era when we can do so many things to avoid or stop physical pain, it can be surprising that suffering is still very present. It is also an essential part of the Christian life because Jesus shows us that the way of his painful death on the cross gets at the heart of the Christian faith. Even if Peter knew Jesus was the Messiah, he still did not fully understand. Peter had to be humbled and corrected, and we do, too. God shows the depth of God's love from the cross of Christ. We are invited to join the great movement of divine love by caring, suffering, and celebrating Christ's victory over sin, death, and evil. Part of that celebration of Christ's triumph over death is our openness to the pain of the world. For the sake of love, we join in the suffering of others. It is the path of new life, the resurrected life, which allows us to see the kingdom of God at work through empathy, justice, and a desire to minimize the pain and suffering of others.

Discuss: How does knowing that suffering is an essential aspect of the Christian faith impact how you view life?

Pray: **Compassionate God, help us to see in Jesus' suffering and death the very path of life and love through Christ our Savior and 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 be courageous and help someone who is hurting or suffering?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Jesus' time, the cross was about death. It is not easy to understand or talk about Jesus' death on the cross. The cross is a Christian symbol. It reminds us that Jesus is with us through easy and hard times. We see crosses in many places in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, notice the number of crosses you see in your home and in the community. Each time you see one, be reminded of what it means. *Pray:* **Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross to save me. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20