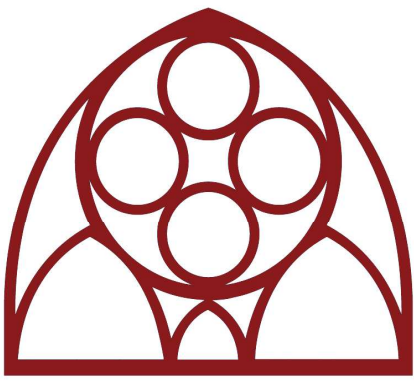




KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 46, Issue 8

September, 2026



FROM THE PASTOR

It's that time of year again – for any family that includes students or teachers, for churches with faith formation programs, it's the back-to-school time! Hopefully you are settling into the routines of the fall. Here at Kountze Memorial, we are eagerly anticipating the kick-off of our Faith Formation year – **Rally Sunday, September 13th**. This year for Rally Sunday we'll have activities and "Open Houses" for all ages, as well as the opportunity to take a photo together as a whole congregation! Just like school pictures, prepare your favorite clothing, mark the calendar so you don't forget, and be ready to smile big and keep those eyes wide open through more takes than you expected.

Rally Sunday – and that whole church photo – got me thinking about where that name comes from and what it means for us in 2026-27. So, given my love for words and etymology, I looked it up. "**Rally**" comes from a French verb **rallier** – meaning "**to reunite or regroup**" (from the Latin re- meaning "again" and ligare meaning "to bind or tie"). It can be used to describe troops reassembling in battle, or bouncing back from an illness ("regathering" your strength), or a group of people meeting together to stir up enthusiasm – for politics, or sports, or faith. Rally Sunday is a reminder of some great theological truths:

- We are one body with many distinct parts and gifts – and we gather those gifts and parts because together we are greater than the mere sum of our parts.

Whether we're talking about voices harmonizing in the choir, the way our dollars stretch further when we pool them and give them away in mission, or the way our time, skills, and experiences working together can help our neighbors at the Food Pantry or through our Lutheran World Relief quilts – **we rally to be more effective and to experience God's power at work in us together.**

- Being together is important. **Gathering both strengthens our worship, and equips us for the mission**

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another.

– Hebrews 10:24-25

God calls us to, individually and collectively. The point is not just the Rally itself – though we (and God) can delight in the joy, the worship, the learning that happens when we gather. It's also the beautiful things that our rallying produces as we move forward together in mission: God's justice, peace, compassion and joy spread beyond the walls of our gathering space.

- **Rallying together is a way to proclaim the Good News.** To share with our neighbors, our community, and the world all that God has done, and all that God promises to do. To remind ourselves and to invite others to join us in spreading this Word of hope, healing and renewal.

I hope you'll join us this Rally Sunday, and in the weeks and months to come! God bless you.

Pastor Lucy



RALLY SUNDAY
Kountze Memorial
Lutheran Church

September 13th, 2026

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.

See page 8 for more info and how to register to help with Sunday School.

WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed and archived on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda. During Advent and Lent these services are in the Sanctuary.



Photo by Jake Madison

Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast Charts

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

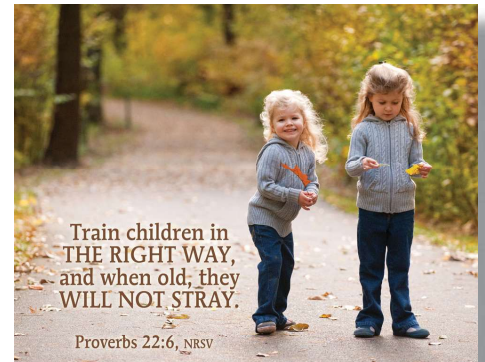
Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$220 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



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. We also have 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.



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GROW with us...



10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

- September 6: Fellowship
September 13: Rally Day
September 20: Dedication of the Rev. Carlos and Jan Schneider Link
September 27: TBD or Fellowship

New Member Classes

Sunday, Sept. 27 & Oct. 4

10:15 AM

If you are considering membership at Kountze Memorial, please join us in September for the next new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, October 11.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org. We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.



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 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.

There will be food, fun, and fellowship for the German themed event, complete with brats for the entree and a kid's option. Dust off your European side dish and dessert recipes to share (not required).

Activities for the kids include bounce houses, face painting and balloons and there will be Oktoberfest games for the adults. Did you know in Germany Oktoberfest is celebrated in September?

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the 9:00 AM service for coffee and pastries.

Watch the weekly Announcement Page for more details.

Help Wanted: People Who Sing!!!

*"It is good to give thanks to the Lord
and to sing praises to Your name, O
Most High." Psalm 92:1*



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.)

Mission Field Nebraska

Sunday, September 27

2 - 4 PM

Glacial Till Cider House

1419 Silver St., Ashland

Your \$30 ticket includes a beverage, hors d'oeuvre, live music, and the chance to hear how Mission Field Nebraska ministries are transforming lives across our synod.

Congregations are asked to donate one themed basket for the Spirit of Ministry silent auction. Coffee Lovers, Family Game Night, Spa Day, Local Favorites, and more.

Aim for a value of \$50-\$100, label your basket with your congregation's name and a brief description, and plan to have donations in by September 8. Donations can be brought to the synod office at 6757 Newport Ave #200, Omaha, NE 68152. Register at

<https://nebraskasynod.org/about-us/spirit-of-ministry-2026/>



SERVE with us...

Kountze Food Pantry



A Note from the Pantry Director:

The Kountze "Love Thy Neighbor" Food Pantry is a welcome place for anyone who needs food. We do not have any limits on the number of times a guest can come to the pantry, and we do not require identification.

Our neighbors are hungry and our mission is to feed anyone who comes through the door.

We are keeping a close eye on the possibility that our guests might be required to have proof of citizenship to receive USDA food.

"Earlier this year, President Donald Trump's administration recommended states take steps to keep undocumented immigrants from accessing emergency food assistance provided by the federal government.

The federal guidance is only a recommendation, meaning states can determine for themselves whether to create citizenship checks for the food. A spokesperson for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services said the agency has not decided whether to enforce citizenship requirements." Flatwater Free Press, July 16, 2026 (<https://tinyurl.com/28etxc7s>)

If this new rule is passed, it would create a strain on the Kountze Food Pantry. The check-in process would require the guests show proof of citizenship. A lot of our guests might not have proof of citizenship even if they were born down the street.

If they couldn't show proof, they could still access the non-USDA products in the pantry, which includes private donations and some Food Bank products. It would be really tricky to manage guests who are citizens (full access to everything) and non-citizens (limited access).

Nebraska DHHS is still gathering information and no timeline is in place yet for a decision. This is the time to contact your governor, Senator or Congressperson to let them know your opinions.

If you'd like to volunteer at the pantry, please go to our Sign-Up Genius and sign up for a shift. Contact Heidi (heidi@kmlchurch.org) or the church office with any questions. Thank you for supporting our mission to feed our hungry neighbors.

<https://tinyurl.com/uaudddp>

Help Us Collate the October Good News

Tuesday, September 29

9 AM



GOOD NEWS

Come be part of the crew that gets the Good News ready for mailing! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it.

If you can join us, give the church office a call by Monday, September 28. That way we can let you know if anything changes and to be sure we have enough for lunch. Thanks for helping us get the Good News out.

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2026 - 7/31/2026)

Income:	June	July
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Donations:	\$ 37,052.65	\$ 42,484.55
Memorials	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 37,052.65	\$ 42,484.55

Expenses:		
Grant Expense	\$ -	\$ -
Regular Expenses		
Capital Sani Supply	\$ 2,029.48	\$ 2,029.48
Dollar Tree	\$ 630.00	\$ 1,181.37
Family Fare	\$ 7,208.97	\$ 7,954.52
Walmart	\$ 1,029.67	\$ 2,236.49
Rent	\$ 33,194.64	\$ 33,194.64
Sam's Club	\$ 1,912.70	\$ 2,436.59
Other	\$ 4,563.32	\$ 4,571.82
Pantry Dir. Salary	\$ 3,265.38	\$ 3,265.38
KCCOC Credit Card*	\$ 23,285.35	\$ 23,285.35
	\$ 73,854.13	\$ 80,155.64

Balance \$ -36,801.48 \$ (37,671.09)



NEWS & Notes...

Free Community Health Fair

Monday, September 29

9 AM - 12:30 PM

Methodist Community Health Clinic and Kountze Commons will host their annual Community Health Fair. The event will include free health screenings, blood pressure, A1c and glucose checks, flu shots, lung cancer screening, skin checks and more!

The event is free and open to all.



2026 Strike out Diabetes Bowling Bash

Maplewood Lanes

3030 N 101st St, Omaha

Sunday, October 11

3 to 5 PM (check in at 2:15)



Do you love to bowl and fight food insecurity in our community? Join Dear Diabetes and Kountze Commons for a Bowling Bash to bring awareness to diabetes and food insecurity.

Registration for a team of 4 is \$125.00, other options are also available. If you don't want to bowl, but would like to provide support you can also sponsor a team from

Kountze. You can register at

<https://givebutter.com/deardiabetes2026bowling>

If you have questions you can reach out to Toby at 402-979-1425. Register by September 30th! Bring 4 canned goods or a bag of flour or Maseca and you will get a ticket for the raffle drawing.

Trunk-or-Treat

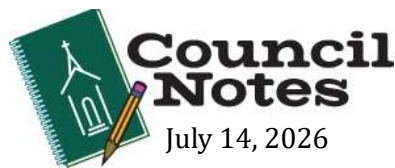
Saturday, October 17

5 - 7 PM

Kountze Commons is hosting its first community Trunk-or-Treat event which will take place in our parking lot and include trunks, games, and family fun.

You can help with the event by decorating the trunk of your vehicle for children to visit, or by donating decorations, game prizes, candy, or your time.

If you are interested please reach out to Toby at toby@kountzecommons.org or 402-979-1425. Join us for this fun event!



July 14, 2026

At its July meeting, the Congregation Council reviewed the church's financial position. Although income has increased over last year, expenses have risen significantly, largely due to increased staffing and wages. Much of the church's available resources remains in designated accounts rather than operating funds. Council also received the good news that a donor has committed \$110,000 annually for three years to support the work of Kountze Commons.

Work continues with the new Realm church management software, including organizing data and developing improved financial reports. Plans are also underway to form a Directory Task Force to begin work on a new church directory—the first since 2019.

The new Kountze website has moved into the development phase. A site structure has been completed, and Debbie and a lay team are working closely with NEEM-TV as content is migrated and reviewed. The goal is to make information easier to find and reduce the number of clicks needed to navigate the site. Council members are encouraged to send website suggestions to Debbie.

Council also prepared for the August 2 Annual Meeting, which included elections and updates on Kountze Commons, the new website, Spark Project Grants, and the Directory Task Force. The Nominating Committee reported that candidates had been identified for the open Council positions.

Other updates included a successful youth trip with ten participants, the hiring of a new Food Pantry Director, consideration of a September church picnic, and preparations for Katie Larson's ordination. Investors Realty began managing the church building in June, and property operations remain under budget. Planning has also begun for next year's 10th anniversary of Kountze Commons, while the Order of St. John celebrates its 85th anniversary this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Bowari Family Update

This August marks five years since the fall of Afghanistan and the end of the 20-year US war there. The Bowari family was among the 122,000



(photo intentionally blurred for privacy)

US troops and allies airlifted out of Afghanistan between August 14 and 25, 2021, one of the largest evacuations in history. In response to this humanitarian need and Jesus' call to care for the stranger, a task force was formed at Kountze in November 2021 to welcome a family. Thanks to everyone's generous response, we were able to set up the apartment for the arrival of the Bowari family and welcome them to their new home on February 15, 2022.

A lot has changed in 5 years, but many challenges remain. The dad, Guldin is working full time at Walmart. The mom, Bibi Hawa, has made a lot of progress with her spoken English. The five boys started school this month: the youngest in preschool and the oldest in 6th grade, all at Holling Heights Elementary in Millard. The generosity of Kountze has supported this family at every stage, from the car donation by Gwen and Don Berney, to the cash donations, to the emergency fund for driving lessons, to the gift cards from WELCA when food stamps were delayed and other times of need.

And now the need is even greater. With the changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill, refugees no longer are eligible for food stamps. This October they will lose Medicaid as well. Guldin and many other Afghans faithfully served the US Army and were promised the necessary support to start a new life for their families here in the US. However, it simply is not possible to support a family of 7 on a Walmart salary. The generosity of our Congregation is needed in these areas. Can you help?

1. Bibi Hawa needs a job. Her spoken English is workable, but she has limited ability to read or write. She is a whiz on her phone, but has never touched a computer. Her expertise is cleaning, cooking, and raising children. She can't drive yet. She passed the test to get her permit, but has not been successful in passing the driving skills test. There is no public transportation from 140th & Harrison. This greatly limits her job opportunities, but she is applying. Do you have any connections to help her?

2. The family needs a second car. Guldin works 2-11:00, Bibi Hawa hopes to work a shift starting at 5 or 6 in the morning so she can be home for the boys at 3:00. Without public transportation, she will need a car. Do you know of a reliable used car for sale or from a family who could donate it? Old is good – as long as it runs reliably! Or, could you make a donation to the refugee emergency fund at Kountze to help them buy one?

3. The family needs food support. Bibi Hawa bakes bread everyday and they eat traditional Afghan food that is Halal (sort of like Kosher – the meat must be processed in a certain way – no pork, no shellfish). As you go grocery shopping, will you think of this family and buy one of these items for them and drop them off in the office marked for Refugee family?

Flour	Raisins
Corn oil	Bag of macaroni
Yeast	Dish soap
Sugar	Bag of white or yellow potatoes
Dried black beans or red beans	Bag of yellow onions
Canned corn, diced tomatoes	Bag of apples
	Bag of mandarin oranges

4. The family needs your prayers. Please pray for Guldin to be able to continue supporting the family; for Bibi Hawa to get her driving license, a car and a job; for the 5 boys to continue to adjust to American life and do well in school; for all of them to stay healthy with no health insurance.

Bless you all for your support of this family and so many others who are in similar situations.

In the Love of Christ,

Jonna Holland

Chair of the Kountze Refugee Welcome Task Force



Halloween "Boo-tique"

September 26

9 AM - 12 PM

Kountze Commons is going to host its first "Boo-tique" and we need your help to make it successful. 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.

If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch.org.

Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

If you are at the 11 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

Pastoral Acts

July 16, 2026 - August 15, 2026

Baptism:

Ella Elizabeth Schoonover, August 2

Weddings:

Hanna Spearman & Noah Schutte,
August 1

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, September 13

The Last Woman of Warsaw by Judy Batalion



Judy Batalion is a historian and has written several nonfiction books. This is her first novel based on historical Warsaw. She began research on this book in 2007 and led to publication of *THE LIGHT OF DAYS*. She did an 18-year study on women and the Holocaust in Poland which resulted in this book.

1930's Warsaw was the largest Jewish Community in all of Europe occupying 30% of the population. The novel gives historical accounts of the city which was a vibrant cultural center prior to WWII, and called "the Paris of the North". The novel focuses on female empowerment, rich and complex landscape of interior Poland, Jewish culture, and ordinary courage before the onset of the Holocaust.

The plot is of two very different young women who develop a powerful friendship. Fanny Zelshinsky is from the Warsaw Jewish elite and aspires to be a fashion photographer rather than follow her parent's desire and impending marriage. Zosia Dror fled her small shtetl in Northern Poland to escape violence and becomes a member of a Labor Zionist Movement. The two meet at Warsaw University and are mentored by professor Wanda Petrovsky who goes missing. Fanny and Zosia team up in search of Wanda avoiding the danger around them. 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.

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!



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!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



Sunday School

After our whole congregation photo on Rally Sunday, September 13 - join the appropriate open house during the faith formation hour at 10:10 AM. There is something for all ages!

- 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, 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.

If you are interested in supporting our Sunday School children by volunteering, we need your help! The Sunday School students are looking for volunteers to teach and assist with weekly classes. We have three levels of Elementary classes, in addition to a preschool room, that need your support. Sign up to teach a class or two by using the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/37t5msmw>

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 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.



First Communion Class

Sunday, October 11

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

If your child is around second grade, or has been showing signs of curiosity surrounding Communion, they would be ready for this class. A light lunch will be served. First Communion

will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Sign up by

emailing Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org or use the sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk if your child/ren will be attending. Contact Kristin if you have questions.



Sundays, beginning September 20

10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

Grab breakfast and a friend and join Sheila Valquier in the Youth Center each week during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

Confirmation Classes Begin

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!



S'more Fun Around the Fire Pit

Youth Bonfire Night

Saturday, September 26

5 - 8 PM

Life is s'more fun around the fire pit! Join together for s'mores and pizza with Sheila at her home. Food, games, and connections.

Please RSVP to sheila@kmlchurch.org

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 25

Students aged 2 and 4 years of age, and those in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 will receive an age-appropriate Bible due to the generous support from memorial donations. The students will receive their Bibles at the start of the 9 AM service and parade into the Sanctuary before joining their parents.



Presentation of Bibles

In a Fellowship Hall in Central Omaha, Confirmation looks a Little Different than it used to.



*Confirmation student volunteers
at the Kountze Memorial Love
Thy Neighbor Food Pantry.*

On a typical Wednesday night in the program year, cars pull into the lot at St. Timothy's from every direction. Families from Lord of Love, Kountze Memorial, St. Timothy's, Immanuel in Bellevue, Messiah in Ralston, Trinity and sometimes a couple of other congregations open doors and send middle schoolers tumbling out with backpacks and Bibles in hand.

This is collaborative confirmation in Omaha. An experiment that has quietly grown into a shared ministry across multiple congregations.

"What if we did this together"

The idea began the way many good church experiments do. Around a table at text study.

In the years after COVID, an associate pastor from Kountze Memorial named what many were feeling. Families wanted to see more kids in confirmation, but people were not all back yet. The question to colleagues was simple. Would anyone be interested in doing it together?

Pastor Kathy Gerking from St. Timothy's did not hesitate. "Yes. Me."

From there, what started with two congregations quickly grew. Within the first year, Pastor Becky from Lord of Love joined in. Other pastors reached out as they realized they had only one or two confirmation age students, or some years none at all.

Each congregation could have tried to go it alone. Instead, they chose a different question. What might be possible if we stopped worrying about whose program this is and simply formed our young people together?

Why they gather at St. Timothy's

Most Wednesday nights from late August through early May, the group meets in person at St. Timothy's. It is not because St. Timothy's is the largest congregation involved. It is because it is central, with easy access from across Omaha and close to Interstate 680.

This year, at the request of families who drive from longer distances, the pastors are adding a simple supper before class. As with everything else, the work is shared. Congregations rotate responsibility for meals just as they rotate teaching and leadership roles.

Shared leadership, shared voices

From the beginning, the pastors have understood that together must mean more than simply combining rosters.

They divide up the teaching, so students hear different voices, perspectives, and stories from week to week. They share responsibility for special events, like orientation night and a fall lock in. The fall lock in has become a kind of tradition in itself. Kountze hosts the overnight, and confirmation students:

- Volunteer together at the Kountze food pantry on Friday evening
- Spend the night in the church building, with time for games, prayer, and conversation
- On Saturday morning, walk together to Table Grace Cafe, another Nebraska Synod ministry, for breakfast

Taken from the Nebraska Synod website. To read the entire article, go to <https://nebraskasynod.org/news/omaha/>

CALENDAR

 SEPTEMBER

September 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 2 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

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

9:30 AM 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

September 7 Monday

Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

September 8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St.

Timothy

September 10 Thursday

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 11 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 12 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 13 Sunday

Pentecost 16



8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast

10:00 AM All Church Photo

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:15 PM Book Group

1:00 PM Young Adult Fall Kick-off Event

September 14 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

12:00 PM KCCOC Board

September 15 Tuesday

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

September 16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 17 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

September 18 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 19 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 20 Sunday

Pentecost 17

Church Picnic & Link Dedication

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast

11:30 AM Picnic Buffet

12:15 PM Dedication of the Schneider Link

September 21 Monday

9 AM - 12:30 PM Free Community

Health Fair

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

September 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

September 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 24 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 25 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 26 Saturday

9 AM - 12 PM "Boo-tique"

5:00 PM Worship

5:00 PM Youth Bonfire

September 27 Sunday

Pentecost 18

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

September 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 30 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code.

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>





1. Xander Gibson, Katie Rohmeyer
2. Jordan Burt, Jason Headley, Linda Heedum, Preston Schirber, Karen Sides, Matthew Szymczak
3. Scott Bishop, Jan Brady, Julie Huff, Terrie Larkowski, Jacob Martens, Lynn Meyer
4. Dylan Allner, Stacie Badura, Dotty Sum, Andersen Taylor, Rhonda Wachholtz
5. Jason Badura, Kristin Bieber, Beth Burton, Mark Martens, Nick Pignatore
6. Krista Hill, Jack Misbach, Leann Steffen
7. Joel Brown, Ruth Gilmore, Holly Schmidt, Amy Wendling
8. Allysa Anderson, Susan O'Connor
9. Laura Granneman, Janice Hansen, Jackie Jensen, Zachary Martens, Spencer Thom, Macy Urban
10. Christopher Huff, Mia Valquier
11. Michelle Bottrell, Alexander Stouffer, Kim Vawter
12. Janet Diggins, Matthew Fletcher, Hal Mangen, Kasadie Rohmeyer-Pratt, Sidney Weddell, Myrt Weible
13. Zoe Brumfield, Beth Reilly, Ann Starkel, Tony Wilson
14. Emma Hiatt, Teresa Larson, Allen Starkel
15. Dan Bruckner, David Bruckner, Jill Earnhardt, Kimberly Fonda, Eric Nathan Haitz, Judy Heim, Robert Johnston, Lewis Stevens
16. Roy Miller, Jacob Pestel, Nancy Rayno
17. Marie Barrett, William Bridge, Andrew Bruch, Matt Hansen, Jeffrey Meyer, Logan Strazdas, Natalie Stucker, Erin Wolf
18. Glenn Anderson, Bev Bonner, Lois Callahan, Barb Carlsen, Jeff Perkins, William Robinson, Timothy White
19. Nicholas Albright, Larry Filbrandt, Melea Headley, Lilly Johnston
20. Zach Griger, Ashley Hall, Karen Johnsen, Gary Lundeen, Terry Sanne, Katie Schwieger, Charles Ziegenbein
21. Brent VanScoy, Richard Whitmore
22. Taylor Brtek, Melissa Carlberg, Rebecca Daugherty, David Gerard, Joyce Graybill, Amy Kunz, Colton Nuzum, Danielle Waller, Joanna Ziegler
23. Kathryn Earnhardt, Eric Johnson, Jamie Pfeilsticker, Kenneth Rudie, Amaria Tompkins, Grace Wendle
24. Erica Freeman, Jack Stephens, James Yeshnowski
25. Kristy Clarke, Nathaniel Holland, Melissa Meier, Cole Meyer, Thomas Williams
26. Judi Bergjord, Mark Fredrickson, Ann Ultsch
27. Cheri Biggs, Rod Carlson, Kathleen Hawkins, Mark Rayno, Tracey Saklar
28. Curt Johnson, Molly Lyons, Gary Raber
29. John Davis, Garrett Day, Jodi Meyer, Douglas Misbach, Lillian Pfeilsticker
30. Erin-Louise Chapman, Lauren Falke, Jill Gittler, Thea Greguska, Todd Reckling, Alexis Yates, Michaela Yates

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance 6/1	\$590,504.68	7/1	\$586,743.09
Principal Payment 6/1	\$3,761.59	7/1	\$3,836.27
Interest Payment 6/1	\$1,943.41	7/1	\$1,868.27
Balance 7/1	\$586,743.09	8/1	\$582,906.82

Finances: June & July, 2026

	June	July	Year-to-Date
Total General Fund			
Income:	\$ 63,241.46	\$ 60,559.01	\$ 603,965.56
Expenses:			
Mission Support:	\$ 4,583.68	\$ 5,833.31	\$ 32,084.18
Faith Formation:	\$ (38.62)	\$ 430.27	\$ 15,869.97
Facility Costs:	\$ 11,371.20	\$ 10,304.17	\$ 109,594.00
Staff Comp. & Benefits:	\$ 82,115.67	\$ 76,513.03	\$ 485,953.30
Worship & Music:	\$ 437.77	\$ 788.65	\$ 23,670.61
Office & Administration:	\$ 1,857.03	\$ 3,014.48	\$ 21,715.01
Membership:	\$ 1,109.68	\$ 926.04	\$ 8,773.48
Finance:	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Leadership:	\$ 1,953.11	\$ -0-	\$ 3,978.11
Justice & Mercy Ministry:	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 39.15
Total Expense:	\$ 103,389.52	\$ 95,560.14	\$ 701,677.81
Total Net Income	\$ (40,148.06)	\$ 36,001.13	\$ (97,712.25)

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
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Omaha, NE 68131-3616
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E-mail: info@kmlchurch.org
Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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Omaha NE 68131
Permit 238

Rev. Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz, Deacon
Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Associate Pastor

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox channel 13 and live
streamed on our website at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/> (you may
watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our website
at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**RALLY
SUNDAY**
Kountze Memorial
Lutheran Church
September 13th, 2026

Join us between services in front of the church for a whole-
congregation photo! This special tradition dates back to the
founding of Kountze Memorial. Come be part of our history, and
help create a memory for generations to come!



*Kountze Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church
OMAHA, NEBR. 132 Members MARCH, 21, 1948.*