

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

September 12 & 13, 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 by Trish Daffer in honor of William & Patricia Grow

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Tracey and Thomas Gehringer-Steffen in memory of LeClare Steffen

Hot Breakfast is Back!

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir - Begins Today - & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive 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.

September 13: Rally Day

September 20: Fellowship

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,

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*

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.

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. A background check is required for anyone over 18. Please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. You can sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>

Welcome Back Choir!

Our choir is back beginning this week and we're happy to hear them again! If you have had singing experience in high school or college or are a High School student involved in choir at school, it's not too late to join our choir. If you want more information about choir please talk to Barb Carlsen or call the church office at 402-341-7761 and we'll be sure she reaches out to you. Rehearsals are generally the first

Wednesday of the month, September - May, and on Sunday mornings. (Extra rehearsals scheduled as needed.) We hope to hear you in choir!

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!

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 13 Sunday

Pentecost 16

Rally Sunday

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 Cafe

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 Potluck

Dedication of the Schneider Link

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 Fellowship, coffee, & pastries

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:30 AM Bounce houses open

10:45 AM Trivia & Bingo

11:30 AM Picnic Buffett

12:15 PM Dedication of the Schneider
Link

12:30 PM Stein holding, nail driving
competition

1:00 PM Bingo & Trivia

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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

Sunday, September 20

Buffet line will open at 11:30 AM

Dedication of the Link at 12:15 PM

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 the Schneider's honor that day. We will have 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.

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

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.

Confirmation Classes

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Wednesdays

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!

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are cereal, soup, and deodorant. We are always in need of gently used grocery bags. 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 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.



<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, Sept. 3—Wednesday, Sept. 9

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 93 11:00: 38

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 177

Streaming: 35

Pantry Guests Served: 209 (inc. 55 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$20,406.1 (Regular) \$4,669.25 (Specials)

\$9,322.00 (Debt Reduction)

The people of God forgive.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 7:12-18	The Lord appears to Solomon
Thursday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Friday	John 8:1-11	Jesus intercedes for a woman
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers



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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

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases. Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to forgive; help us to love and forgive as we are loved and forgiven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you a merciful heart.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When someone says something hurtful to you, how do you react?
- How does God's merciful forgiveness make a difference in our relationships?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work and a denarius was one day's wage. Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages. The differences are extreme to make a point. God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name*" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "*forgive your brother or sister from your heart*" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again and again. Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life.

Discuss: How does this story challenge the way you think about forgiveness, especially God's forgiveness?

Pray: **Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to 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, how can you extend a word of forgiveness to someone who has hurt you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The theme this week in the Bible readings is forgiveness. Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Write a note to that person. Take a moment to read your note silently. Hold your note as you pray the Lord's Prayer. Pause for thought when you pray, "*forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,*" then finish the prayer. Choose whether or not to send the note to them.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16