

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 19 & 20, 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 Tracey and Thomas Gehringer-Steffen in celebration of their first wedding anniversary.

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Maxine Jensen given by Tom Jensen

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Donald & Arlene Hirsh in honor of their 70th wedding anniversary

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 & 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 20: Fellowship

September 27: 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.

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*

Please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. You can sign up at:
<https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>

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 their honor that day. Join us for a German themed event complete with brats for the entree and a kid's option. 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.

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 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 Bounce Houses Open
10:45 AM Trivia & Bingo
11:30 AM Picnic Buffet
12:15 PM Dedication of the Schneider Link
12:30 PM Stein Holding, Nail Driving Competitions
1:00 PM Bingo & Trivia

September 21 Monday

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Free Community Health Fair
10:00 AM Pantry
4:30 PM Personnel Committee
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

September 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3
6:00 PM Global Mission

September 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Stewardship Committee
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

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM "Boo"tique
5:00 PM Worship
5:00 - 8:00 PM Youth S'more Fun Around the Fire Pit

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 Cafe
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
10:15 AM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/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.

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.

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 Youth Director, Sheila Valquier at her home. Food, games, and connections. Please RSVP to sheila@kmlchurch.org

New Member Classes

Sunday, September 27 & October 4

10:15 AM

If you are considering membership at Kountze Memorial, please join us for our New Member classes and learn more

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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.

Blessing of the Animals **St. Cecilia Cathedral** **700 N 40th Street** **Saturday, October 3** **10:30 AM**

St. Cecilia Cathedral will host an outdoor celebration of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. We celebrate this day with prayer for our pets, in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Please bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier for everyone's safety, or feel free to bring a photo if you prefer! Pr. Hall will represent Kountze Memorial in leadership of this event.

St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker Service **Sunday, October 4** **7 PM**

Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral **113 N 18th St**

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church have, for several years, celebrated St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker, with a communion service focused on prayers for peace. We hope this service can be an invigorating moment of prayer and song. Choir members from several churches will participate. The preacher will be Abby Ybay, Dean of Community Life at The Benedictine Way, an Episcopal monastic community in North Omaha. A cookie reception will follow. Join us!

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.

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!

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are granola bars, peanut butter, and bar soap. 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.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uau5dddp>

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.

Attendance & Giving **Thursday, Sept. 10—Wednesday, Sept. 16**

Saturday: 20

Sunday: 9:00: 152 11:00: 63

Wednesday: 12:15: 8

Total: 243

Streaming: 65

Pantry Guests Served: 633 (inc. 217 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$28,380.79 (Regular) \$2,839.93 (Specials)

\$222.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's generosity is amazing!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Exodus 16:9-21	Bread from heaven
Thursday	Psalms 105:37-45	God's faithfulness to Israel
Friday	Romans 2:1-11	God's judgment is fair
Saturday	Psalms 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 145:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you that you care for all, especially those who feel judged or ignored, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of grace and mercy, we thank you for your care for us that gives us food from your fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's grace be a blessing to you each day.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When has someone surprised you with an act of kindness?
- In Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus told a parable about some vineyard workers. The ones hired last were paid the same as the ones hired first. Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Matthew 20:1-16.

Frankly, we don't really like God's justice. It's too supportive of people unlike us! Like Jonah, we don't want a God who is slow to anger and full of steadfast love for people we don't think deserve it, especially those we would consider our enemies. That is why Jonah ran away from God. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians who had destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. God told Jonah to preach repentance to the Ninevites. Jonah was afraid to do this because he knew of God's love and mercy, something he did not want showered upon his enemies. Jonah was right; it happened, and it angered him. It is like Jesus' parable of the generous landowner where it seems so wrong for people who work in the fields all day to get the same wage as those who started at the end of the day. We tend to think that we deserve God's grace more than others, but God's grace is truly undeserved.

Discuss: How do you respond when someone you believe is undeserving but treated the same as someone who works hard and deserves recognition?

Pray: **Gracious and merciful God, give me faith to love your generosity for all people, especially those who are different from me. In Jesus' name, 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 show kindness to someone you feel has not been treated fairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

September 21st is the day when the Christian church remembers the Apostle Matthew, one of Jesus' original twelve disciples (most of the Gospel readings for this year are from Matthew's Gospel). One day, while seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at Matthew and said two words: *"Follow me."* This was all that was needed to make Matthew, a tax collector, rise and leave behind his pieces of silver to follow Christ. What does it take for someone to follow Jesus? Write a list of words that describe someone who follows Jesus. Take a moment to read through the list. *Pray:* **Lord, we give thanks for Matthew, the tax collector and disciple; help me to open my heart and mind to understand what it means to follow you. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32**