

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 26 & 27, 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

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>



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Tessa & Lucas Futey in memory of Tessa's brother, Macen Holderman

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Tessa & Lucas Futey in memory of Tessa's brother, Macen

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 27: Fellowship

October 4: ELCA Social Statements: What They Are and How They Are Written

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,

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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>

New Member Classes

Sunday, September 27 & October 4

10:15 AM

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If you are considering membership at Kountze Memorial, please join us for our 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.

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 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

September 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 30 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St.

Timothy

October 1 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 2 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 3 Saturday

Homebound Communion

10:30 AM Blessing of Animals

5:00 PM Worship

October 4 Sunday

Pentecost 19

Homebound Communion

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 -

Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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.

Men's Lunch - Octoberfest!

Thursday, October 15

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Join us for another great time of food, fun, and friendship. Jim always keeps us guessing with his menus—whether it's brats, sauerkraut, or something completely unexpected, it's sure to be delicious! Please sign up by Tuesday, October 13 by calling the church office or emailing jim@kmlchurch.org. You can also sign up at the Welcome Desk. Bring a friend. Lederhosen not required.

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 peanut butter, soup, cereal. 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/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. for the raffle drawing.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Sept. 17—Wednesday, Sept. 23

Saturday:

Sunday: 9:00: 0 11:00:

Wednesday: 12:15:

Total:

Streaming:

Pantry Guests Served: 0 (inc. 0 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$ (Regular)

\$ (Specials)

\$ (Debt Reduction)

God instructs, guides, and protects us.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	God's ways are fair
Tuesday	Philippians 2:1-13	Christ shows us humility
Wednesday	Proverbs 4:20-27	Keep to the right path
Thursday	Psalms 78:1-8	What God has done
Friday	James 1:19-27	Hearing and doing God's word
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-9	Prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[W]ork out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:12b-13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, teach us to know your ways and to do them with humility and compassion for all that you have created through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 25:4)

Mealttime Prayer:

Good and gracious God, we thank you for providing for our every need, including the gift of this food; we pray through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you to love and serve humbly.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you ask for help when making decisions? Why or why not?
- How does reading the Bible and having caring conversations with other believers help guide your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 2:1-13.

The Apostle Paul speaks to the church at Philippi and encourages the people to live with others with humility. He uses Christ as our model for this way of life as Christ Jesus took on our human existence and *"humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death"* (v. 8). With this as a guide, Paul exhorts believers to pursue the Christian life because it matters to others, to the world, and to God. Knowing how hard it is to live this life faithfully, he states, *"work out your salvation in fear and trembling"* (v. 12b). It is not fear, however, that prevents us from acting. It is a sense of awe and reverence that frees us to live and act because God is with us, behind, and in front of us in both our actions and our very desire to do the will of God. It can be overwhelming to wonder how to live as a Christian. Paul encourages us to go forth with humility to love others and trust God, knowing that God is present in our lives to shape our very thoughts and actions.

Discuss: Who do you know that role models the Christian life of humility? What is an example you can give about the person?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, guide our days and our deeds in the peace of Christ. 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 help someone who is struggling to choose the right thing to do?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lifting our hands is one way to show praise to God. In the Old Testament there are people (like Leah and Moses) who lift their hands in praise to God. This is an ancient pose of prayer and a motion used to open a person to receiving God's blessing. Think or talk about when and how you pray (kneeling, folded hands, etc.). Then lift your hands and pray: *"To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust."* Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2a)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46**