

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
October 3 & 4, 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 Ralph & Jane Ross

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

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.

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

October 11: Reception of New Members & ELCA Statement: Faith and Civic Life

Sunday School Leaders Needed

The Faith Formation program is looking for enthusiastic volunteers for the Sunday School students. All lessons are scripted and materials

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*

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>

New Member Classe Continues
Sunday, October 4
10:15 AM

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
10:15 AM New Member Class
7:00 PM St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker Service @ Trinity Episcopal

October 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

October 7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

October 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 9 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 10 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

October 11 Sunday

Pentecost 20
Receive New Members
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
11:15 AM First Communion Class
12:15 PM Book Group
3:00 PM Strike out Diabetes Bowling Bash

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, October 11

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman (the #1 book in the Thursday Murder Club series)
The Thursday Murder Club is the first in a five book murder series by British author Richard Osman. It is a clever, laugh-out loud, suspenseful novel set in a retirement residence village in England. Four, septuagenarian residents are members of the Thursday Murder Club who meet weekly to review old unsolved police crimes. Readers find this series of murder mysteries very entertaining and a tribute to the older population. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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)

Just a reminder if you registered, to bring 4 canned goods, 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!

Haunted House

Friday, October 23

Youth Grades 7 - 12

Bellevue Berry Farm

11001 South 48th Street Papillion

6 - 9 PM

Are you ready for a FALL-TASTIC event? Come join us for a Haunted House and Hayrack Ride experience! We will meet at the main building at the Berry Farm. Email Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to RSVP.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 25

October 25, Reformation Sunday, is also Bible Sunday for our youth. This is a well loved tradition where the youth of Kountze Memorial receive an age-appropriate Bible thanks to the generous support from donations for Bibles. Children aged 2 and 4, plus those in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 receive a Bible each year. All

students are invited to lead the choir into church at the start of the 9 AM service to receive a blessing for their Bibles and will then join their parents. There will not be Sunday School this Sunday. The students are encouraged to eat breakfast in the Fellowship Hall with their parents to celebrate First Communion with their peers. Pre-school will be held for the service only.

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.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are ketchup, mustard, and toothpaste. 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/uasdddp>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Sept. 24—Wednesday, Sept. 30

Saturday: 18

Sunday: 9:00: 141 11:00: 86

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 255

Streaming: 75

Pantry Guests Served: 705 (inc. 232 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$9,984.1 (Regular) \$1,276.77 (Specials)

\$467.81 (Debt Reduction)

Faith in Christ gives us confidence.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:14-18	Final exhortation
Thursday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul's instructions to Timothy
Friday	John 14:1-7	Jesus the Way to the Father
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[A]nd be found in him [Christ], not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. **Philippians 3:9 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you. (Psalm 80:7)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

What values and qualities do look for in a friend?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We really don't appear to get it. We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi. He points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why bad things happen to good people. Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This theology of the cross sees life in death, sees joy in suffering, and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation.

Discuss: How does your faith in Christ free you to experience suffering with hope?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them 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 be a good friend to someone by caring for their needs?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. *Pray: Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14**