

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 10 & 11, 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 Julie Dragon, Alexis & Sophia in memory of Steve Dragon

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in honor of Joan Jacobson-Trotter’s birthday from her family

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 11: Reception of New Members & ELCA Statement: Faith and Civic Life
October 18: ELCA Statement: Faith and Civic Life, cont.

Welcome New Members!

This morning we joyfully welcome new members to our congregation. Join them in the Fellowship Hall

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*

between services for a reception, introduce yourself, and help our newest members feel at home.

First Communion Class

Sunday, October 11

11:00 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.

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)

Join us for fellowship and discussion.

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. Please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. You can sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

11:00 AM First Communion Class

12:15 PM Book Group

3:00 PM Strike out Diabetes

Bowling Bash

October 12 Monday

Columbus Day (Observed)

10:00 AM Pantry

October 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

October 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St.

Timothy

October 15 Thursday

Good News Deadline

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

October 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 17 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

5:00 PM Trunk-or-Treat

October 18 Sunday

Pentecost 21

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

and include trunks, games, and family fun. **Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids! Everyone is welcome.** Join us in the west parking lot 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.

Grief Seminar

Sunday, November 1

12:15 - 1:45 PM

Fellowship Hall

The holiday season can be especially challenging when you're grieving. If you're struggling, you're not alone. Join us for a compassionate conversation led by Deacon Sue Simmons. Deacon Simmons has years of experience leading grief groups and she is currently the Bereavement Coordinator for Tabitha Hospice (soon to be Immanuel Hospice.) Come explore ways to navigate your grief and find support within our community. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 402-341-7761 by October 28 so we have an idea of how many to plan on for lunch & materials.

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 rice, lentils, and shampoo/conditioner. 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 especially need more help for Monday mornings.**

There are two shifts available: 9:30–11 AM & 11 AM–1 PM. 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>



Pantry

We're also looking for someone who enjoys working with a computer or iPad to help register guests.

Whether you can give an hour and a half, two hours, or help with guest registration, your time makes a difference for our neighbors.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, October 1—Wednesday, October 7

Saturday: 22

Sunday: 9:00: 138 11:00: 66

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 239

Streaming: 62

Pantry Guests Served: 554 (inc. 209 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$13,952.53 (Regular)

\$2,846.38 (Specials)

\$152.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's grace is powerful and trustworthy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his co-workers
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-14	The people make an idol
Thursday	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	A nation asks for forgiveness
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, guide our thoughts and actions in ways that reflect your reign of goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who promise us a feast of rich food, help us to take joy in this meal today. Amen. (Isaiah 25:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

When did you go to a party that was memorable? What made it memorable?

Who do you think God would invite to a great banquet? Why?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 22:1-14.

The good news of Jesus is powerful and meant to make a difference in the world. God's mercy has the last word. It also includes a divine judgment that says that the marginalized, the "outsider," the "*poor in spirit*" (Matthew 5:3) will be blessed. If we take the grace of God for granted, we not only miss the feast, we miss the fact that "*many are called, but few are chosen*" (v. 14). Jesus is quite aware that many will miss his invitation to a way of life that brings love and salvation rather than hate and judgment. This text is from Jesus' final week before his crucifixion. The people see him as a prophet, a true messenger of God (Matthew 21:46), but soon he will suffer, be humiliated, and die. There will be false prophets who come along. They are like the guest who is not wearing the proper clothing and their message is to be rejected. Our life in Christ will not be associated with messages and actions of indifference, contempt, or hateful revenge to gain an advantage over others. God's grace makes the difference in our lives and world; God's grace is powerful and trustworthy.

Discuss: What are some things we do that might take God's grace and mercy for granted?

Pray: **God of grace and mercy, cleanse us of our way of life that can become indifferent to the people we do not want to see yet are the very people you love 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 help, support, and care for the homeless or those who are often overlooked?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

World Food Day is celebrated each year on October 16. It was founded by the United Nations in 1979 to raise awareness about hunger and malnutrition and to promote healthy food diets for all. There is a theme this week in the Bible readings about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think or talk about what it means to show hospitality. Prepare a healthy meal. Before eating it, take a moment to reflect on how you can help feed others.

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for this meal, a sign of your care for us. Help us to care for others in the name of Jesus our Lord and Shepherd. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22