

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 17 & 18, 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>



Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God given by Ilse Grage in memory of her sister, Ute

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 18: David deFreese & Mosaic

October 25: Bible Sunday & First Communion

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

October 19 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

October 21 Wednesday

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

October 22 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 23 Friday

Youth Haunted House
5:00 PM Pantry

October 24 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

October 25 Sunday

Reformation
Bible Sunday
First Communion
Confirmation Movie Night
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
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

Reformation

Sunday, October 25

We invite you to wear **RED** for the day as we celebrate our Lutheran Heritage and ponder the important work of theologian Martin Luther and those who continue the work that salvation comes to us in grace through faith in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

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.

Confirmation Movie Night

Sunday, October 25 (Reformation Sunday)

3 PM - 6 PMish

Immanuel Lutheran Church

104 Galvin Rd N, Bellevue

Omaha Collaborative Confirmatoin has a special event planned. We will gather at Immanuel Lutheran Church for a film screening, pizza, popcorn, and fun! Our goal is to educate a bit about the historical struggle that led to the Protestant Reformation and the reason why our churches are called "Lutheran." This gathering will replace our regular Wednesday session, so we will not be meeting on October 28 – sessions will continue on November 4.

Bye-Bye Summer

Daylight Saving Time Is Ending

Sunday, November 1

2:00 AM

Remember to "fall back" one hour Saturday night.

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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.

Meet Me at the Manger Saturday, November 14 10 AM - 1 PM

- **November 7 & 8** - May bring Nativity sets to church
- **November 14** – May bring Nativity sets to church before 8:30 AM
- WELCA Event – for all women of the church and their guests
 - 10 AM Registration and Nativity sets on display
 - 10:30 Brunch served
 - 11:30 Program - Pr. Ashley Hall
- **November 14** – Following the 5 PM Service
 - Nativity Sets available for viewing
 - Cookies and coffee
 - Music provided by young adults
- **November 15** – nativity sets may be picked up during or after Forum.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 22 Countryside Community Church 13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha 6 - 7 PM

Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude, reflection, and community as congregations from across Omaha's

diverse faith traditions come together for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

Following the service, all are invited to enjoy a dessert reception, a sweet opportunity to connect and continue the conversation with neighbors old and new.

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Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are pork & beans, canned pasta, and body wash. 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>

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 8—Wednesday, October 15

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 118 **11:00:** 61

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 223

Streaming: 53

Pantry Guests Served: 640 (inc. 225 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$8,605.98 (Regular) \$991.35 (Specials)

\$202.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are a people of faith, hope, and love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Isaiah 45:1-7	Cyrus serves the Lord
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The example of faith
Wednesday	Exodus 33:12-23	Moses' intercession
Thursday	Psalms 99	Our Lord is king
Friday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Saturday	Psalms 96:1-13	Sing a new song
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, use our gifts, our faith, our hope in you, to do labors of love for the sake of Jesus Christ and his reign on earth. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for how you provide for us and for the hands that have brought this food to us today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith, love, and hope. (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

When have you been proud of an accomplishment? What did it take to make it happen? Who helped you?

God can use your efforts to accomplish God's will on earth. Does this surprise you? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 45:1-7.

Cyrus is a Persian king. He is not part of God's chosen people through Abraham, Isaac or Jacob.

Cyrus does not even know the God of Israel, and yet Cyrus does God's will by setting God's people free to return home from exile in Babylon. Isaiah lifts up the supreme power and authority of God's rule throughout the world. Apart from the Lord, there is no god. All that is, is God's. It is easy for us to forget that God can use others outside of the body of Christ to do God's will on earth. It is no wonder that Psalm 96 commands all the earth to sing to the Lord. In the midst of the tragedies that happen all too often around us, it is important to remember that we are a people of hope and trust in the God who holds all things together. The Apostle Paul wrote with thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' faith, love, and hope. As a chosen people, Paul gladly affirms that they do God's work of love on earth through their "work of faith" and "steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Discuss: How does knowing of God's rule on earth give you hope? How does it encourage you to act with love and faith?

Pray: **God of power and might, we thank you for your glory that breathes hope and love into all corners of the earth 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 and support someone as a way to do God's work of love?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 96 is a song of praise to God. It tells of the sea roaring, the creatures and fields rejoicing, and the trees singing. In what ways do you praise God through sounds and music? Sing a favorite Christian hymn. Think or talk about what the words say about God. *Then say:* **Sing a new song to the Lord! Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord, sing and praise his name.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46**