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 **Omaha, NE 68131**
402-341-7761 **www.kmlchurch.org**

October 24 & 25, 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.*

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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of David Penning given by Amanda Plantz

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Amanda Schneiderman's birthday; in honor of Tracey Gehringer-Steffen's birthday, given by husband, Tom

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.
Please Note: On Sunday, November 8, we will have a continental breakfast with pastries and yogurt due to a very light crew that Sunday. There will be doughnuts and yogurt for the Sunday School.

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 25: Bible Sunday & First Communion
November 1: Fellowship

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 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. 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.

Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kits
This Sunday we will bless the quilts and kits made and assembled by our Sewing Group. We will send them on their way the first week of November to be sorted and then they will be sent to where natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes. Our Sewing Group also makes quilts for the Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction and for our graduating seniors. Each quilt reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. Donations to help ship the quilts would be appreciated. Just mark your check, envelope, or online giving to LWR Quilts. Thank you to all of you who cut, ironed, sewed, tied, donated materials, or helped pay postage for these quilts. You have helped in a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. You can find out more about LWR at https://lwr.org/quilts.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

October 26 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry
11:30 AM Endowment Board

October 27 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
12:30 PM Circle 3

October 28 Wednesday
No Confirmation
12:15 PM Worship

October 29 Thursday
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 30 Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

October 31 Saturday
5:00 PM Worship

November 1 Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings - fall back 1 hour
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
12:15 PM Grief Seminar

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Bye-Bye Summer
Daylight Saving Time Is Ending
Sunday, November 1
2:00 AM
Remember to "fall back" one hour next 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 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.

My Omaha: Film Screening and Community Conversation
Saturday, November 7
2 PM
How do we stay connected when we see the world differently? Join us at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for a free screening of My Omaha, a powerful

documentary by filmmaker Nick Beaulieu exploring Omaha's racial history, the racial justice movement, and the ways political differences can divide families and communities. Director Nick Beaulieu and community activist Leo Louis II will join us for a guided conversation following the film. Together, we'll reflect on what we've seen and heard and consider how we can better understand one another across differences. **The conversation continues on Sunday, November 8, during Adult Forum**, when Nick and Leo will return to help us process the film's themes and continue the discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone interested in exploring our community's history, listening to different perspectives, and building understanding across divides. We hope you'll join us for this important opportunity to listen, learn, and engage in conversation together.

KMLC Book Group
12:15 PM
Fellowship Lounge
Sunday, November 8
***Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell**
Hamnet is a historical novel of the plague set in 1580 England during the Black Death Epidemic. The themes of the book are nature, spirit, grief, and pain. The novel has been made into a movie. Join us for good conversation.
NOTE: There will be no book group meeting in December. Happy Holidays!.

Meet Me at the Manger
Saturday, November 14
10 AM - 1 PM
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
A WELCA gathering for all women of the church and their guests
10 AM Registration & Nativity displays
10:30 AM Brunch
11:30 AM Program with Pr. Ashley Hall
An Evening at the Manger
Saturday, November 14 - Following 5 PM Worship
Enjoy the Nativity displays, cookies and coffee, and music provided by young adults.
Share your Nativity Set
Help fill the display with cherished Nativity sets.
BRING YOUR NATIVITY
November 7 & 8, or November 14 before 8:30 AM.
PICK UP YOUR NATIVITY
Sunday, November 15, during or after Forum.

Advent Fair
Sunday, November 22
The Advent Fair will be held a week early this year. By having it on November 22nd, we are hoping that it will be better attended than on Thanksgiving weekend when families might be travelling. Be sure to join in on the fun!

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.

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.

Pantry

Kountze Food Pantry
Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are cereal, soup, and deodorant. 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/uausdddp
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 15—Wednesday, October 21

Saturday: 42
Sunday: **9:00**: 120 **11:00**: 63
Wednesday: 12:15:
Total: 225
Streaming: 47
Pantry Guests Served: 832 (inc. 298 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22
Offering:
$10,808.35 (Regular) $2,035.00 (Specials)
$1,212.00 (Debt Reduction)

Disciples have a trusted relationship with Jesus.

taking faith home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	John 15:12-17	Jesus the true vine
Thursday	John 21:15-19	Jesus and Peter
Friday	Galatians 2:15-21	Justified through faith
Saturday	Psalm 46	God is our refuge
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." **John 8:31-32 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, keep your faithful people steadfast in your word that we may receive your freedom and truth through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God of glory and might, with this gift of food we remember the gift of faith that strengthens us and renews us daily through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be blessed through a relationship with Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:
What words describe the qualities of a good friend?
What words describe a disciple of Jesus Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 8:31-36.

It is the power of the word that Jesus brings that gives us freedom from sin. That word is first and foremost Jesus, the Word that became flesh (John 1:14). Christian disciples "continue" or remain in the freeing and saving word of God. The Gospel of John emphasizes that followers of Jesus are to be in an ongoing relationship with him by continuing *"in my word"* (8:31). To know the truth that sets one free is more than to know information; it is to live in a relationship with Jesus through faith. The challenge at the time of the Reformation—and today as well—is for the church to promote a living relationship with God, a relationship that depends on faith in Jesus, the Son of God. We experience this relationship through worship, prayer, reading the Bible, and serving and loving one's neighbor for the sake of Christ.

Discuss: How do you continue to live each day as a disciple of Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, help me to trust in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and have life in his name. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show Jesus' love as an act of service to others in your community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther wrote the words for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and composed the melody. This well-known hymn is based on Psalm 46. As you read Psalm 46 out loud, pause after reading a word or words that describe God as a mighty fortress. Write them on a sheet of paper. When you finish, take a moment to read through your list. *Then pray:* **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.** (Psalm 46:11)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: **Revelation 7:9-17**; **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**
1 John 3:1-3; **Matthew 5:1-12**