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**

November 14 & 15, 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 last weekend, November 7 & 8, were given to the glory of God by Mark & Tarna Kidder in celebration of Jane Kidder's 21st birthday and in celebration of Hunter Heidgerken's birthday. Altar flowers this weekend are given by Mark & Tarna Kidder in celebration of Jason Grant's 27th birthday.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Glenn Anderson in celebration of Sharon Anderson's 90th birthday.

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.

Sunday School
10:10 AM
Ages 2 years-6th Grade
Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to

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/pastorlucy/45min

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

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.
November 15: Stewardship & Budget Update
November 22: Advent Fair

Youth Friendsgiving Dinner
Sunday November 15
5 - 8 PM
Get ready for a night of food, friends, and fast-paced fun at our upcoming Youth Progressive Dinner! This isn't your average sit-down meal—we will be traveling to different host homes for each course of the night, delicious appetizers, a filling main course, and wrapping things up with an epic dessert. Make sure to bring your appetite, and your energy, because you won't want to miss a single stop on this unforgettable night! RSVP to Sheila (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to join.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 15 Sunday
- Pentecost 25
- Good News Deadline
- 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
- 5:00 PM Youth - Friendsgiving

November 16 Monday
- 10:00 AM Pantry
- 3:00 PM Finance Committee
- 6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

November 17 Tuesday
- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 12:00 PM KCCOC Board
- 12:30 PM Circle 3 (note date change)
- 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
- 6:00 PM Congregation Council

November 18 Wednesday
- 12:15 PM Worship
- 5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy
- 6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

November 19 Thursday
- 11:30 AM Men's Lunch
- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
- 6:00 PM Circle 5

November 20 Friday
- 5:00 PM Pantry

November 21 Saturday
- 2:00 PM Tracey Gehringer-Steffen Funeral
- 5:00 PM Worship

November 22 Sunday
- Advent Fair
- Advent Alternative Gifts Market
- Christ the King
- 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
- 12:00 PM Decorate for Advent
- 12:15 PM Young Adults Thanksgiving
- 6:00 PM Interfaith Service - Countryside Community Church

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 19
11:30 AM
Guys, do you have a winning chili recipe—or just love a good bowl of chili and great fellowship? Join us for our 7th Annual Men's Chili Cookoff! Sign up at the Welcome Desk, call the church office, or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, November 17 and let us know if you're coming and if you'll be entering a pot of chili or attending as a taster.
Cost:
Chili entrants: Free
Tasters: Suggested donation is a new stuffed animal or toy to be given as Christmas gifts to children served by the Kountze Food Pantry. Cornbread and dessert will be provided. Come sample the entries, vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and friendly competition! Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis. Will Deacon's Delight be the winner two years in a row?

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!

Advent Alternative Gifts Market
Sundays, November 22 thru December 13
9:30 - 11:30 AM
Saturday, December 12, 6 PM
Give gifts that make a difference! Support communities around the world through ELCA Good Gifts, or make monetary gifts to our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic. Shop beautiful, handcrafted fair-trade gifts from Global Mamas artisans in Ghana, including batik home goods, bags, and recycled-glass ornaments. Share the joy of giving while supporting neighbors near and far!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Decorate for Advent
Sunday, November 22
12 PM
You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Young Adults Thanksgiving (20's & 30's)
Sunday, November 22
12:15 - 1:30 PM
Join us for a special Thanksgiving gathering! We'll share a potluck lunch, enjoy some favorite board games, and spend time connecting and celebrating our growing community. Bring a dish to share and come ready for good food, fun, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 22
Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha
6 - 7 PM
Youth Service Project
5-6 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. David McGinness, Youth Director at Countryside, would like to invite all youth, 6-12th grades, to participate in a Pizza & Service night before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service. The youth will be making Walker Bags for Together Omaha. Walker Bags are 1-gallon ziploc bags full of essentials such as water, granola bars, snacks, hand warmers, and soap that Together's Street Outreach team takes out every day to visit our unhoused neighbors. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to let her know if you - and maybe a friend - will be attending.

National Youth Gathering
Registration is Open
Youth Participants and Adult Leaders!
Youth entering 9th grade through those graduating in spring 2027, as well as young adults, are eligible to participate! The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering is on the horizon, and now is the time to start planning! If you've ever been, you know what a formational experience the gathering is! This incredible opportunity brings young people together from across the ELCA for faith, fellowship, worship, service, and an unforgettable experience of being part of a larger church community. Contact Sheila Valquier — sheila@kmlchurch.org or Deacon Eric Haitz — eric@kmlchurch.org for more information. Share this info. with families and young people who might be interested in joining us for this amazing experience.

Mosaic International
A few weeks ago Rev. David deFreese spoke at a Sunday Forum about the connection Mosaic has with the the work being done in and around Moshi, Tanzania to support individuals and their families affected by physical and cognitive disabilities. After that, Bryan Coffey spoke about how to become involved with this amazing work. There are opportunities for you to help spread the word about this program, but also to visit Tanzania and see the miracles occurring there for yourself. Getting involved is a life-changing experience and touches thousands of lives. If you would like to learn more about Mosaic International, check the fact sheet link below:

Mosaic Int'l.

https://tinyurl.com/44myuv36
or contact Carol Stoltenberg through the church office.

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 especially need help on 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.

Pantry

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, November 5—Wednesday, November 11

Saturday: 28
Sunday: **9:00**: 161 **11:00**: 74
Wednesday: 12:15: 14
Total: 277
Streaming: 53
Pantry Guests Served: 733 (inc. 257 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19
Offering:
$23,794.17 (Regular) $1,090.27 (Specials)
$493.00 (Debt Reduction)

The importance of encouraging one another.

taking faith home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	Romans 1:8-15	Prayer of thanksgiving
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalm 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, love, and hope. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

How does encouragement from others help you?

Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly. Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the community of faith. There are important connections between this reading and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this and ignore or hide our calling, the work of God in the world suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency or speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and in history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others, especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us *"salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

Discuss: How are you encouraged by others to live your faith and how do you encourage others?

Pray: **God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walks alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who would benefit from an encouraging word while going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A *talent* in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants (Matthew 25:14-30). One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something and God given. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Think or talk about what talent(s) you have.

Pray: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others may know of your love. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46