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 7 & 8, 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/pastorlucy/45min

Today at Kountze Memorial

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: This 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.
November 8: My Omaha Discussion
November 15: Stewardship & Budget Update

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!.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 8 Sunday
Pentecost 24
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
12:15 PM Book Group
12:15 PM OSJ Training

November 9 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry
4:30 PM Personnel Committee

November 10 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 11 Wednesday
Veterans Day
9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

November 12 Thursday
Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 13 Friday
5:00 PM Pantry

November 14 Saturday
10:00 AM Women's Gathering - Meet Me at the Manger
5:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Evening at the Manger

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 Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
5:00 PM Youth - Friendsgiving

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Worship & Music Committee
Meeting Thursday, November 12
6:30 PM

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.

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.

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.

Kountze Food Pantry
Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are granola bars, peanut butter, and bar soap. 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.

Do you have Halloween costumes that you don't want to store until next year in hopes they will be worn again? Or costumes that didn't get worn this year? Did you see a costume on clearance the last time you were shopping at the store? Kountze Commons is accepting costumes now to prepare for our "BOO-tique" next year. Children, adult and pet costumes are appreciated! Also, thanks for making our first "BOO-tique" this year a success! Questions or need assistance with your donation call Toby at 402-979-1425 or toby@kountzecommons.org.



December 2, 9, 16
11 AM & 5 PM Advent Meals
12:15 & 6:30 PM Advent Worship

December 12
9 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
5 PM Candlelight Carol Service (Prelude 4:40 PM)

December 13
9 AM Children's Christmas Program
3 PM Tuba Christmas Concert

December 24
4, 7, 11 PM Worship

December 25
10 AM Worship

Attendance & Giving
Thursday, October 29—Wednesday, November 4

Saturday: 21
Sunday: **9:00**: 128 **11:00**: 67
Wednesday: 12:15: 9
Total: 225
Streaming: 46
Pantry Guests Served: 712 (inc. 246 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13
Offering:
$9,966.54 (Regular) $1,168.74 (Specials)
$197.00 (Debt Reduction)

Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Joshua 24:14-28	The tribes renew the covenant
Thursday	Psalm 78:1-8	Tell the children God's word
Friday	Luke 21:29-38	Be always on the watch
Saturday	Psalm 70	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" **Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Has there ever been a time you felt you were not ready for something? What happened?
- How does your Christian faith call you to a sense of urgency and readiness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish bridesmaids and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (Matthew 26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable of the bridesmaids, the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in sight. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. Unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30