KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 46, Issue 10 November, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Grateful – A to Z!

Gratitude is underrated magic – on a list of things that have way more power than we think to make things better, especially considering how simple they are. (Other things on that list include water, reading, and eating dinner with someone at an actual table with no screens.) Are you anxious? Afraid? Too busy or feeling helpless? Just plain grumpy?? Gratitude could be the medicine you need. And this is a great month to practice it – not just because of Thanksgiving, but also because of Election Day and the impending holiday season, and well, the state of the world. SO, here is my non-exhaustive list, from A to Z, of things I love about Kountze Memorial:

Administrative Professionals, **A**ltar Guild, **A**dult Forum, **A**rchives team, **B**eautiful Banners, **B**reakfast teams & **B**acon, **B**ook Group, **B**ell Choir, **C**hoirs of all types, **C**ongregational **C**ouncil, **C**lergy partners, **C**ollaborative **C**onfirmation students & **C**ollaboration in general, **C**offee, **C**ustodians, **D**ancing little ones, **d**eFreese Manor, **E**aster, **E**ucharistic Ministers, **E**ndowment Board & **E**ndowment Funds, **F**ood Pantry (and just **F**ood), all our **F**inance **F**olk, **F**un, **F**aith **F**ormation, **F**orum, **F**lowers, a **F**abulous **F**acility & **F**acilities team!, **G**OD, **G**odparents & **G**randparents, **G**lobal Mission, **G**ood News, **H**omebound members & those who visit them, **H**ealing Gift Free Clinic, **I**nstruments and **I**nstrumentalists of all ages, **I**nclusion, **I**nterfaith partners, **J**esus!, **K**ids in worship (and everywhere else), **K**ountze Commons, **L**WR quilts & kits, **L**ectors, **M**ercy & Justice team, **M**oney Counters, **M**usicians, **M**emorials, **M**issionary visitors, **M**embership team, **M**edia team, **N**eighbors, **N**oise (I'm glad it's not very quiet around here!), **O**rder of St. John, **O**utreach, the church **O**ffice, **P**araments, **P**roperty team, **Q**uilters, **Q**uestions, **R**ivalries (GBR! Go Bears!), **S**ound Board, **S**tewardship team, **S**cholarships, **S**taff team, **S**ummer **S**ervice youth & projects, **S**unday **S**chool **T**eachers, **T**.V. broadcast, **T**hanksgiving services, **U**shers, **V**olunteers – SO many volunteers!, **V**.I.P. Pizza, **W**ELCA **W**omen, **W**orship & Music team, Stained Glass **W**indows, all those who go the e**X**tra mile!, **Y**outh, **Y**OU, **Z**… I can't come up with a Z… help me out?!

What have I missed on my list? What's on yours?

What are you grateful for, A to Z – about your spouse, your family, your job, your faith, your congregation, your life? Take a few minutes and make a list – it will make you feel better! And I'd love to see your lists too.

Grateful for all God's gifts – grateful for you!

Pastor Lucy

A Plea for Your Giving...

We've reached the time of year when our "summer slump" – the usual downturn in giving over the summer months – catches up with us, and we find ourselves short on funds at hand. We need about $100,000 a month to cover operating expenses, and so far this year, giving has fallen about $15,000 short of that each month. By the end of August, that gap had accumulated to around $125,000. In stark terms, our checking account currently has less than $70,000 in it!

There are some simple and some complicated realities at play here. Let me be clear: as a congregation, we have plenty of money. I mean that in two ways.

First, we have money in various accounts and funds. The problem is that most of it is already designated for specific purposes – Food Pantry, major facility needs, TV & Media Ministry, Youth Mission, and more. We can't use those funds to pay the electric bill or the Youth Director's salary (or anyone else's!). We need both kinds of funds: designated funds set aside for the mission needs we know we have, and regular, monthly operating funds. We need both to keep doing the ministry we know God has called us to do!

But when I say we have plenty of money, I also mean that I know and trust that, as a church community, all we need is among us. God has provided and will continue to provide for what God calls us to do. And if we, as staff and lay leaders, keep you informed and faithfully steward the ministry God has given us together, I believe we collectively can and will give to support it.

Continued on page 3

WORSHIP with us...

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed and archived on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM until 12:00 PM as well as other Occasional Special Church Services.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda. During Advent and Lent these services are in the Sanctuary.



Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

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. We also have 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.



Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast Charts

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and the cost is $20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is $7.50. The television broadcast is $220 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is in honor/memory/celebration of someone. Thanks.



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GROW with us...

10:10 - 10:50 AM
Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

November 8: My Omaha discussion
November 15: Stewardship & Budget Update
November 22: Advent Fair
November 29: Fellowship (Thanksgiving weekend)

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.

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

Medical Global Personnel
Arusha, Tanzania



You can find The Swanson's October newsletter at:
https://tinyurl.com/ycycffw3

A Plea for Your Giving – continued from page 1

So this is your Pastor & Treasurer, sharing our current situation. Can you give an extra gift this month? Please prayerfully consider it. Most of all, let's continue to trust God to provide, one way or another, all that we need.

P.S. You'll soon receive a (pretty different!) stewardship mailing and pledge card for 2027. We'll also talk more about budget and stewardship at Adult Forum at 10:10 AM on November 15. Please plan to join us!

31st Annual 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.

Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to a service project and pizza party beforehand. More info. on page 9!

Candlelight Carol Service



Saturday, December 12
Prelude 4:40 PM
Service 5 PM

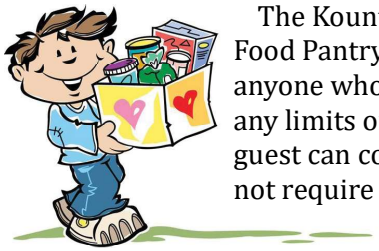
The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church! We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture and Poetry, Congregational Carols, Communion, and Choral, Handbell and Instrumental Music. Please join us for this special evening as we journey through Advent and celebrate the Birth of Our Savior! Nursery care will be provided.

Cheese and dessert reception following the service.

come grow with us!

SERVE with us...

A Note from the Pantry Director:



The Kountze "Love Thy Neighbor" Food Pantry is a welcome place for anyone who needs food. We do not have any limits on the number of times a guest can come to the pantry, and we do not require identification. Our neighbors are hungry and our mission is to feed anyone who comes through the door. The pantry is open Mondays from 10 AM - 12:45 PM and Fridays from 5 - 6:45 PM.

Over the past few months, the number of guests coming to the pantry has been steadily growing. As I'm writing this in October, I estimate we will serve 1,000 more people than we did in September. We are averaging 25 new families each pantry – that's 50 new families a week who are seeking food.

If you'd like to get involved in helping feed our neighbors, you are welcome to come join our mission!

We are always looking for volunteers. We are hoping to find some volunteers who like to work with computers and can help by entering our guest's information into the computer. It is not complicated to learn and we'd be happy to train you!

If you'd like to volunteer at the pantry, please go to our Sign-Up Genius and sign up for a shift by using the link below:

https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp

Don't have time to volunteer but still want to help? We love getting donations of shelf stable food. Canned soup, cereal, peanut butter, pasta, and canned tuna are some items we are not able to get from the Food Bank on a regular basis. There is a bin in the Fellowship Hall where donations can be placed.

Contact Heidi at heidi@kmlchurch.org or the church office with any questions. Thank you for supporting our mission to feed our hungry neighbors.

See page 11 for the Food Pantry Financial Report

Help Us Collate the December Good News

Tuesday, November 24
9 AM

Come be part of the crew that gets the Good News ready for mailing! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it.

If you can join us, give the church office a call by Monday, October 26. That way we can let you know if anything changes and to be sure we have enough for lunch. Thanks for helping us get the Good News out.

Advent Alternative Gifts Market

Sundays November 22, 29, December 6, & 13
9:30-11 AM
Saturday, December 12 – after Candlelight Carol Service
ELCA Good Gifts and Global Mamas

For more than twenty years KMLC has offered Alternative Gifts during Advent, primarily using the ELCA Good Gifts program. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving gifts, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts provide critical support to the ministries and programs that support the needs of people in Third World countries so they can become self-sufficient. Some examples that your monetary gifts purchase are goats, chicks, school supplies, water systems, bees, and so much more.

We also support our Love thy Neighbor Food Pantry and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic with monetary gifts during this Alternative Gifts Market.

Global Mamas from Ghana, Africa is a community that works together to create a life of prosperity for themselves and their families. From plain white organic cloth to handmade, dyed, stamped, vibrant products—batik bags, aprons, button boxes, bowl cozies, coasters, table runners, napkins, tea towels, hot pads --are created by these skilled craftswomen. Their beautiful glass beads, made from discarded glass bottles into Christmas ornaments were sold out last year. These women are fully invested in fair trade principles as they improve the economic outlook for themselves and their families. For more information, go to:

globalmamas.org

NEWS & Notes...

Council Notes

September 15, 2026

Council reviewed August income of $65,503.60 and expenses of $93,311.53. Summer giving has been weaker than usual, and additional staffing has increased expenses. Although the congregation is operating at a deficit, its overall financial position remains strong. Council also discussed clarifying how designated gifts may support ministry expenses, including staffing and facilities.

Pr. Carlos and Jan Schneider will be present on September 20 for the naming of the Schneider Link.

This year's stewardship effort will feature a booklet of ministry photos, stories, and financial information, mailed to each household with a pledge card. Council and the Stewardship Team will explore ways to encourage year-round giving and share the impact of our ministries. A November budget preview forum was suggested.

Work continues on the church directory and Realm database, including updated member information and a time and talents inventory. A volunteer directory committee has formed. Website planning is also underway, and volunteers are being sought to help develop a manageable social media strategy.

Children and youth participation continues to grow, with 18 Kountze students among the 37 enrolled in collaborative confirmation. Additional Sunday School volunteers are welcome. The legal clinic is expected to launch in October, with Ralph Ross serving as volunteer administrator.

Upcoming Mercy and Justice activities include forums on church social statements and civic engagement, along with plans for a screening and discussion of My Omaha. Property discussions included repairs to the steps and obtaining a bid for part of the roof.

The next Council meeting will take place during the Council Retreat on Saturday, October 24, approximately 9 AM–2 PM, replacing the regular October meeting.

Pastoral Acts

September 16 - October 15, 2026

Baptisms:

Logan Richard Phillips, Sept. 27
Marshall Eugene Phillips, Sept. 27

Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's

Thanksgiving Day, November 26
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
St. Peter's Catholic Parish (709 S 28th Street)

The dinner is co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Preparations are under way and volunteers are needed to:



- help clean turkeys Monday afternoon
- donate pies/desserts
- help cook turkeys in the Kountze kitchen
- set up Wednesday at St. Peter's; serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal

This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome.

Please fill out the insert in the bulletin, contact Pr. Hall, or sign up at the Welcome Desk to volunteer. Monetary donations to help cover the cost of the turkeys will be most appreciated.



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.

Blessing an Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree

In the German and Scandinavian traditions of Christianity, the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree became important symbols of the Advent and christmas Seasons. These symbols can also be important opportunities for families to pray together; to discuss the Christian message of the season, as well as to share family stories. Blessings and prayers (i.e., devituibs) around the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree are common and available from many Lutheran resources. Here are two:

Blessing the Advent Wreath



The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. All may make the sign of the cross as a parent/ leader says:

℣ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (℟) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (verses 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (verses 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (verses 2-7) is read. These readings may be done by the children.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, a parent/leader says:

℣ Let us pray: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟ **Amen.**

Blessing of a Christmas Tree



(Whether done on Christmas Eve or when the tree is put up earlier).

With the family gathered, all may make a sign of the cross. A parent/leader says:

℣ Let us pray: O God,who made this holy night [or, if done before Christmas Eve: this holy season] shine with the brightness of new light. Bless this tree which we adorn with lights to honor him who comes to enlighten us. Let us see in this tree your beautiful simplicity and humble strength. Let this tree remind us of our responsibility for the care of your good earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟ **Amen.**

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, is December 1

There are many ways you can assist in our mission to "Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick and Tend the Soul", at Kountze Commons. All donations made on Giving Tuesday will be utilized to further our very important mission and to expand our reach within the community. You can donate online at www.kountzecommons.org or on www.kmlchurch.org, or by dropping your donation at the Church Office. Thank you for dedication to those in need!

December 2, 9, and 16
Lunch: 11 AM – Noon
Supper: 5 – 6:30 PM

Advent lunches and suppers 2026 are just around the corner:

- Please mark your calendars and join us for one or all three meals this year.
- Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and meet at Kountze for lunch or dinner.
- We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals.
- All meals are free will offering and served with choice of coffee, water, or tea.

We can always use volunteers to help with prep, serving, or clean-up throughout the day even if it's just an hour or two. Please sign up at the welcome desk or by emailing jim@kmlchurch.org if you can help.

Note: Confirmation Youth are expected to attend Advent services and meals as part of their continued learning.

If You are Hospitalized...



If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please be sure to let the church office know at 402-341-7761 or e-mail info@kmlchurch. org.

Help Deliver Altar Flowers to the Sick & Homebound



After the 11 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets can be taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes, or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

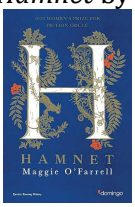
If you are at the 11 AM service and know of someone who would like to be remembered in this way, please take one of the bouquets to them. If you attended another service but would like to deliver flowers, please call the church office on Monday to see if they are still available.

Your help is appreciated!

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. A young Latin tutor, Wm. Shakespeare, referred to as the "husband" or "father" in the novel, and his wife, Anne (Agnes),Hathaway, live in Stratford-upon-Avon. Agnes is an illiterate, peasant woman, eight years older than Wm., who loves nature and is knowledgeable of the healing power of herbs and plants. They have three children, Susanna, and twins, Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet becomes suddenly I'll from an illness described as the Bubonic Plague, and dies at age eleven. The family becomes fractured after his death. The name Hamnet is interchangeable with Hamlet. Shakespeare wrote the tragic play, Hamlet, in 1599-1601 as an attempt to struggle with the grief of the loss of his son. Agnes attends the theater when Hamlet opens on stage.

The themes of the book are nature, spirit, grief, and pain. The novel has been made into a movie. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and discussion.

NOTE: There will be no book group meeting in December. Happy Holidays!.

Men's 7th Annual Chili Cookoff 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?

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!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...



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 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.

If you are interested in supporting our Sunday School children by volunteering, we still need your help! The Sunday School students are looking for volunteers to teach and assist with weekly classes. We have three levels of Elementary classes, in addition to a preschool room, that need your support. Sign up to teach a class or two by using the link below:

https://tinyurl.com/37t5msmw

Sunday School Volunteer Opportunity



Do your talents lie in the theatre arts? Barb Carlsen and Kristin Boe are looking for volunteers adept at costume design and directing skills. We can especially use your talents for our Christmas Program. A couple parents to help with lining up is also needed. Thank you for considering!

Children's Choir

Sundays, 9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)
2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room
Grades K-6



All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.



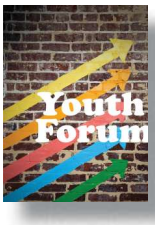
December 13
9 AM Worship Service

We have been practicing and getting ready to share the Good News with you! We hope your children can make it to as many choir rehearsals as possible. They are held during the 9 AM service sermon time in the Upper Rooms.

Confirmation Classes Continue

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
(93rd & Dodge)
Wednesdays, November 4, 11, & 18.
Dinner: 5:45 PM
Class: 6:05 - 7:30 PM

There won't be class the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or during Advent. Confirmation will continue in January.



Sundays, 10:15 AM
Youth Center
Grades 7-12

Grab breakfast and a friend and join Sheila Valquier in the Youth Center each week during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

First Communion



We rejoice with Emilia Mara Fischer, Drake Alan Aubry, and Silje Ruth Pignatore who recently received their First Communion. May they continue to grow in faith, strengthened by God's grace and the love of our church family.

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.

Advent Fair

November 22



The Advent Fair will be held a week earlier this year so we can avoid the Thanksgiving weekend and you can begin your Advent already prepared. Please join us in making Advent Wreaths, ornaments, and other crafty items while enjoying the fellowship of our church family. All are welcome!

Art Show



Saturday, January 16

Calling All Artists and Makers! The 2nd Annual Kountze Art Show is coming! Share your creativity while helping raise funds for next summer's Youth Gathering in Minnesota. We welcome creations of all kinds—paintings, quilts, photography, sculptures, knitting, woodwork, stained glass, collages, accessories, upcycled projects, and more!

Last year's show featured a wonderful variety of work, and we look forward to celebrating even more of the talent at Kountze in January. Every donated piece helps support our youth! To donate a creation, please contact Kristin Boe Hendrix at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

National Youth Gathering

Registration is open for Youth Participants and Adult Leaders!

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.

Who can attend?

Youth entering 9th grade through those graduating in spring 2027, as well as young adults, are eligible to participate!

The time to act is NOW! Registration is open, and the priority registration rate is available, prices go up the longer we wait.

Priority registration: October 21–November 11, 2026

Regular registration: November 12, 2026–February 10, 2027

Don't wait to start the conversation!

Want to learn more or find out how to register? Contact either:

Sheila Valquier — sheila@kmlchurch.org

Deacon Eric Haitz — eric@kmlchurch.org

Help us spread the word! Share this post with families and young people who might be interested in joining us for this amazing experience.

Youth Service Project



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha
November 22
5-6 PM

David McGinness, Youth Director at Countryside, would like to invite all youth, 6-12th grades, to participate in a Pizza & Service night (5-6p) before the 6pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service on Nov. 22.

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 - may be attending.

News from Camp Carol Joy Holling

This summer, Camp Carol Joy Holling...

- served 1,672 campers from 11 different states,
- 47% of those campers received financial aid,
- 486 were first-time campers,
- 90 senior high campers attended, and
- 53 Summer Ministry Team Members from nine states and six countries!

First Annual "Boo"-tique and Trunk-or-Treat



Kountze Commons hosted its first "BOO-tique" and Trunk-or-Treat this year. The "BOO-tique" was open on two occasions and it allowed guests to shop at no cost for holiday costumes for themselves, their families and pets. This event was amazingly successful. The joy we witnessed from children and adults who were able to choose a holiday costume was humbling.

Over 200 people attended Trunk-or-Treat with 13 trunks, a fire truck and police cruiser. Guests trunk-or-treated in the parking lot and then proceeded to the Link where they tried their luck at the cakewalk, duck pond, fishbowl, fish pond, and costume contest. Those who joined us even got a pumpkin!

These events surpassed our expectations for our first year and we cannot wait to begin planning for next year. Thank you to everyone who decorated their trunks, brought candy or costumes. Also, a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make these events such a success!

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

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
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM Grief Seminar

November 2 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

November 3 Tuesday
Election Day
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 4 Wednesday
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

November 5 Thursday
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 6 Friday
1:30 PM Larry Jacobsen Funeral
5:00 PM Pantry

November 7 Saturday
Homebound Communion
2:00 PM My Omaha Film Screening (at Kountze Memorial)
5:00 PM Worship

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

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

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

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
5:00 PM Worship

November 22 Sunday
Advent Fair
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 Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:00 PM Decorate for Advent
6:00 PM Interfaith Service - Countryside

November 23 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

November 24 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly

November 25 Wednesday
12:15 PM Worship

November 26 Thursday
Thanksgiving
OFFICE CLOSED
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peters

November 27 Friday
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

November 28 Saturday
5:00 PM Worship

November 29 Sunday
Advent 1
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 Adult Forum

November 30 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code.
https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min



1. Myrt Hinrichs, A Jones, Cameron McCarthy, Sherry Nickel, Daniel Reeves, Cody Schramm
2. Penny Matuszeski, Richard Nelson
3. Danna Grinnell
4. John McDermott
5. Lora Sarich
6. Kimberly Grassmeyer, Jane Kidder, Jacob Nosal, Melissa Osentowski, Charlie Wachholtz
7. Patrick Kuehn, Corey Wagg, Tiffany Zaporowski
8. Randy Rolfe, Wyatt Salmon, Angie Svacina
9. Tyler Anderson, Pamela Duffield, Doug Heim, Paul Nippert, Carolyn Wheeler
10. Robin Jones, Paulette Luetje, Katrina Venn, Tyler Willson
11. Janette Catron, Scott Dixon, Timothy Snyder, Dean Vancaster
12. Zeya Klemmensen, Deanna Lundin, Jameson McShane, Christina Raber, Dannika Rees, Jeanne Schramm, Claire Smock
13. Anthony Jones, Kris Olson, Eleanor Ward, Diana Wilkins
14. Sharon Anderson, Wyatt Debutts, Sydney Dietrich, Jeremiah Hashberger, Christopher Vawter
15. Blake Gittler
16. Ty Councill, Robin Ferguson, Christopher Fischer, Terri Krisor
18. Kristen Freier, Hailee Kjeldgaard, Cole Schramm, Audrey Ward
19. Vanessa Bang, Braden Bonacci, Antonio Costanzo, Colton Putnam, Lynn Schneiderman, Jeanette Sikora, Sarah Willson
20. Zoe Fischer, Ken Johnson, Garrett Zaporowski
21. Jamie Andrews, Justin Diggins, Paul Gittler, Bryon Line, Stacy Martin, Matthew Minturn
22. Katharine Lefebvre, Derek Reichert, Sarah Reida, Carol Stoltenberg
23. June Anderson, Kyle Johnson, Kent Rasmussen, Roberta Worm
24. Benjamin Brinkman, Emma Chand, Tristan Johnson, Kyra Mattson, Doug Reed, Nick Wemhoff
25. Damon Bartek, Nancy Kirkvold, Jacob Stier, Benjamin Svacina
26. Dennis Beckman, Evelyn Fialho, Jeremy Lange, Kara Radwan, Michael Stoynev
27. Adam Arispe, Sean McLeod, Duane Retzlaff
28. Walter Nash, Donna Reinig
29. Brigita Freier, Benjamin Hinrichs
30. Kay Bannick, Carl Englert, Stefanie Ervin, Katie Harshbarger, Josh Kellams, John Mertz, Debbie Robinson

Food Pantry Report

1/1/2026 - 9/30/2026

Income:		
Grants	$	-0-
Donations	$	61,118.25
Memorials	$	-0-
	$	61,118.25
Expenses:		
Grant Expense	$	-0-
Regular Expenses		
Capital Sani. Supply	$	4,101.88
Dollar Tree	$	2,142.37
Family Fare	$	7,954.55
Walmart	$	7,493.06
Rent	$	49,468.59
Sam's Club	$	2,436.59
Other	$	4,571.82
Pantry Director Salary	$	6,530.78
KCCOC Credit Card*	$	23,285.35
	$	107,984.99
Balance	**$**	**(46,866.74)**

*Pantry Expenses from 2025

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 9/1/2026	$579,120.23
Principal Payment, 9/1/2026	$3,798.26
Interest Payment, 9/1/2026	$1,918.41
Balance, 10/1/2026	$575,321.97

Finances: September, 2026

		September		*Year-to-Date*
Total General Fund Income:	$	84,571.76	$	754,040.92
Expenses:				
Mission Support	$	4,583.50	$	41,251.18
Faith Formation	$	580.38	$	6,155.69
Facility Costs	$	17,607.88	$	151,448.88
Staff Comp & Ben	$	70,220.95	$	624,044.61
Worship & Music	$	2,657.10	$	2,8891.34
Office & Admin	$	1,417.87	$	2,6670.85
Membership	$	2,290.37	$	1,1867.58
Finance	$	-	$	-
Leadership	$	-	$	3,978.11
Justice & Mercy	$	-	$	(255.85)
Total Expense:	$	99,358.05	$	89,4052.39
Total Net Income:	$	(14,786.05)	$	(140,011.47)

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Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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Rev. Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz, Deacon
Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Associate Pastor

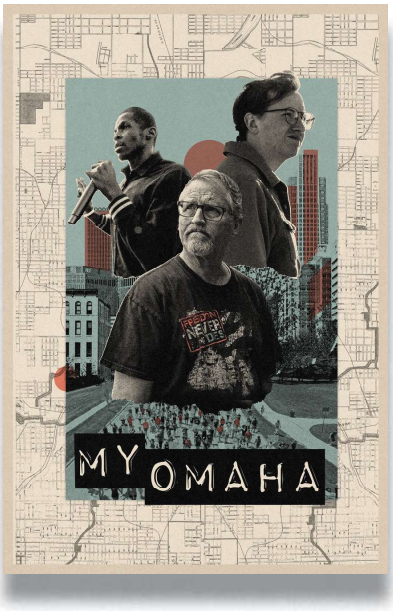
Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is televised live on Cox channel 13 and live streamed on our website at https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/ (you may watch the live-stream any time)

A bulletin is available on our website at https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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.