

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 43, Issue 8

September, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

I am so very excited to begin as your Senior Pastor at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church this month. Our first task, as we begin to pursue mission and ministry together, is to get to know one another – so I let me begin by introducing myself and offering a few ways that you can help me get to know you.

3 Things to Know About Me:

1. Big sister to 6, former foster mom to many, and now adoptive parent to 2, I have a tendency to (try) to take care of everybody around me. I am generally patient, but also a bit of a perfectionist.
2. I've spent my whole life traveling the world and learning to see God through other cultures – first as a military kid, later as a campus minister in Eastern Europe (Belarus). I'm conversationally fluent in Russian & one of my long-term goals is to learn Spanish. I am passionate about the beautiful diversity of the Kingdom (or, Kin-dom) of God!
3. In no particular order, I also love: good conversation over tea or coffee or guacamole, strategy board games, card-making, getting to know new people, bridging cultural and racial divides, making lists, reading – especially sociological texts & historical fiction, cheering for the Duke Blue Devils, and brunch.

3 Ways to Help Me Get to Know You:

1. Tell me your name – the first time you meet me, and the second, and perhaps the 3rd and 4th too. I will work hard to learn your names and what makes you you – but it will take me a little while, so please be patient & remind me.
2. Give me lots of grace. That means a wide “margin of error” in these early weeks – whether it's messing up your name, or just not realizing “how we do things”. And it means speaking up gently and graciously if something is “off” – I won't know if no one tells me!
3. Invite me to have coffee with you (or ice cream...) – my hope is to meet one-on-one with as many of you as I can. It will take a while, I know! The goal is simply to get to know you – your passions, your prayers, your gifts, your hurts and joys.

With great anticipation of the years ahead of ministry adventure together –

Blessings,

Pastor Lucy

Coming in September



September 1
September 1-30
September 4
September 10

September 24
September 24-26

Pastor Lucy Wynard begins her ministry at Kountze Memorial
Register grades 1-6 for Explore! Day Retreat (10/7)
Labor Day - office and pantry closed
Rally Sunday, rededication of stained glass windows
Tri-Faith United We Walk Event
Church picnic
Unfinished Objects Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp

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 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.



Photo by Jake Madison

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.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

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 cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week.

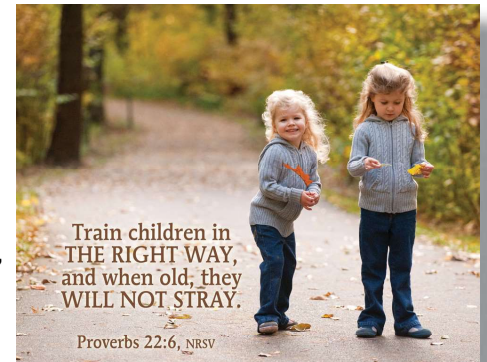
You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by signing up in the Narthex, calling the church office, going online to our giving page, or placing a check in the mail or offering plate marked "flowers, candle, or TV ministry. Please let us know if it is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



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.



Train children in
THE RIGHT WAY,
and when old, they
WILL NOT STRAY.

Proverbs 22:6, NRSV

In this issue...

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- Kountze Common Community Outreach Center (KCCOC)
- Men's Lunch
- New Member Classes
- Orbit Bus Trip (gr 4-6)
- Refugee Family Update
- Stained-Glass Window Rededication Celebration
- Sunday School
- Tri-Faith 2nd Annual United We Walk

GROW with us...



10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

- Sept 3: History and Images of Our Windows, Bruce Nissen and Judy Boltz
- Sept 10: Rally Day and Windows Celebration
- Sept 17: Welcome Reception for Pr. Wynard and Family [to be confirmed]
- Sept 24: 2024 Stewardship Information

Help Connect Students to Campus Ministry!



On college campuses across Nebraska and beyond, you can help connect students to our

Lutheran Campus Ministries! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry has a contact and referral page: <https://nelcm.com/refer-a-student/> Please take a moment to help invite those you know to Christ! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry locations include: Chadron State College, Creighton, UNK, UNL, SECC/Beatrice, Peru State, UNO, and Wayne State College. For more information or to make a gift of support, go to: www.nelcm.com.

New Member Classes

October 1 & 8

10:15 AM



If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please consider joining our new member classes on October 1 and 8 (please plan to attend both classes). New members will be received on Sunday, October 15. Please

call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

come grow with us!



Lift Your Voice in Song!

Kountze Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir will have its First meeting/rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 10.

If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation is now the term that will refer to all things related to Christian Education and Kristin Boe's position is the

Faith Formation Director. Sunday School, Youth Forum, and Adult Forum will be included in the Faith Formation Hour on the Calendar but will continue to have individual announcements. This is a term that the ELCA church-wide uses as well as other denominations. We felt it was important to claim this term.

We are Invited
Tri-Faith 2nd Annual
United We Walk
Sunday, September 10
3:00—6:00 PM



A walk for an inclusive Omaha

Alongside the walk, they will host inclusive-centric programming to make everyone feel welcome, activities to build a sense of belonging, a community fair, an immersive youth art project, entertainment, food trucks, and open houses of the four Tri-Faith buildings. (The Tri-Faith Commons and the 3 faith partners: Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and the American Muslim Institute). Join your pastors for this day of learning and celebration. For more information, please visit: <https://www.trifaith.org/www-2023>. If you'd like to help, sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a622a2f9c25-united1#/>

SERVE with us...

Kountze Food Pantry



The Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toilet tissue for our guests. Even though we only give out 1 roll per person, on request only, we go through a great deal. We appreciate any contributions you can make.

We are desperately in need of Monday morning volunteers to carry groceries to the vehicles of our guests. There are only a few people who are able to do this vital service and they could really use a break! If you could help all or any part of the hours between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, please sign up at the link below or contact Susie Henry at susannfrances@kmlchurch.org

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2023 - 7/31/2023)

Income:

Grants	\$	2,775.00
Donations:	\$	29,906.66
Memorials	\$	<u>19,646.33</u>
	\$	52,327.99

Expenses:

Grant Expense	\$	2,994.81
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Regular Expenses

Aldi	\$	-
Costco	\$	185.94
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$	-
Hy-Vee	\$	-
Dollar Tree	\$	34.82
Family Fare	\$	6,371.09
Food Bank	\$	-
Walmart	\$	1,747.45
Sam's Club	\$	825.64
Other	\$	<u>866.73</u>
	\$	13,026.48

Balance \$ **39,301.52**

Update on the Afghan Refugee Family:

I'm pleased to report that the Afghan Refugee Family we have been assisting is doing well. As you may recall, at the start of 2022, our congregation generously donated all the furniture, household supplies and associated labor to set up an apartment for a newly arrived family of 6 (which increased by 1 within a month). Several members of the Kountze Refugee Task force have continued to assist the family as they have begun to adjust to their new life here. Our support team has expanded to include people from other churches in Omaha as well.

The father in the family continues his work at Walmart and is proud to have received positive reviews and a raise from his manager. We have been able to assist two other Afghans to get jobs there as well. He is making progress in English, but working the night shift limits his availability and energy for English lessons.

Thankfully, his wife has made tremendous progress learning English. And although she never had the opportunity to learn to read or write in Pashto, her native language, she is rapidly learning to read and write English. Almost every day she sends me text messages and she proudly reads aloud simple books we get for her. She achieved another major milestone at the beginning of the summer: she passed the written portion of the driving exam on her first attempt and now has her permit. As with her husband, she was able to take a "picture test" that was designed for people who can't read English. We are now practicing driving each week. Imagine how exciting this is for someone who comes from a place where women aren't allowed to drive!

Fun activities this summer have included a trip to the zoo, a trip to the Children's Museum, two trips to swim at the Armbrust YMCA and attending the World Refugee Day and the (upcoming) Afghan-American Integration Day celebrations. Each outing requires a group of volunteers to organize, but is always very rewarding for all.

This week the two oldest boys are looking forward to returning to school to start second and first grades. The four-year old is very excited to start full day preschool at the same elementary school as his big brothers. I believe that excitement is matched by their mother's who now will only have the two little boys (ages 1 1/2 and 2 1/2) at home with her during the day.

There are still many challenges for the family, but they have made much progress. As with any family of seven, there are ongoing medical and dental issues and the occasional trip to the ER (a broken arm from falling from a tree). Other major challenges are due to the difficulties

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NEWS & Notes...

Refugee Update continued from page 4

working with government agencies and the immigration process. It has been a tremendous learning curve for all of us, but luckily, we now have an immigration attorney to advise and assist with all the paperwork.

The family is so appreciative of all the support from Kountze, but they still need our help. Some areas of need include: assistance with driving lessons or babysitting while I take the mom practice driving; assistance with English lessons; or coming over to get to know the family which helps with learning both English and our culture. Financially, the family is getting by with the dad's wages and some government assistance. However, there is no "safety net" for emergencies or extra expenses (like new winter boots for all those growing feet!). Through the Alternative Gifts program, Kountze has established an emergency fund for the family. Donations to that fund would be gratefully accepted at any time - no need to wait until Advent. Kountze maintains control over the fund and it is only used for approved expenses. Most importantly, beyond these needs, this family continues to need your prayers.

Stained-Glass Window Rededication Celebration

Sunday, September 10

We hope you'll join the celebration of the rededication of our stained-glass windows. There will be lots of activities that day including organ, brass, and choir during both Sunday Worship services. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this special service!

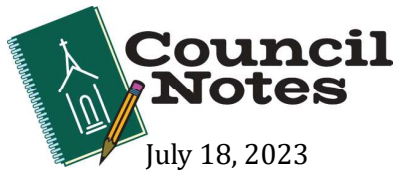
If you would like to donate toward the cost of the celebration, please put "Window Celebration" on the memo line of your check, online giving, or on the pew envelope. Thanks.

Before September 10

- Watch your mailbox for a postcard with information on events of the day as well as some other events happening this fall.
- Pick up a yard sign to let your neighbors know about our celebration. The signs are available at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

Pick up:

- Your pre-ordered T-shirt
- A yard sign to place in your yard
- Your window decal
- KMLC stained-glass window perpetual calendar—\$10



Meeting called to order. Previous minutes approved. Meeting agenda adopted.

Financial Report given by Tim Backora. Report received, approved.

Staff reports given and approved by Council. Jim Smejkal report on stained glass windows: Bovard scheduled to return on August 21, and will take approximately 4-5 days to complete.

Committee reports given and approved by Council. Christian Education Committee will become the Faith Formation Committee. Jerry Fischer will be presenting to the Catholic Biblical Association of America on Kountze Commons & the entities. Progress being made on website for Media & TV committee. Stewardship is adopting "Go And..." slogan; possible new members. Temple Talks will be end of Sept or beginning of Oct. Worship & Music will meet.

Board reports given and approved by Council. Endowment: will meet. No updates from KETV, Medical clinic board. KCCOC: discussion of memorandum of understanding.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Motion to approve Endowment Grant applications, APPROVED. Motion to approve Pastor Bard's photo plaque, APPROVED. Pastor Griffith will resign, his final day being August 15. Pastor Wynard to start September 1, tentatively. Dates to come of welcoming/installation service. Sunday, July 23 will be the farewell for Sarah Jewell.

Motion and approval to adjourn the meeting by a voice vote. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

On September 10:

- Events for children during the Faith Formation Hour
- Coloring books for the children
- Cake
- Special KMLC ice cream from eCreamery. all at no cost
- Stained-glass window walk

Update: Kountze Common Community Outreach Center (KCCOC)

Progress continues on our journey toward a more sustainable future for the KCCOC. Our application for 501(c)(3) status (that is, as an official non-profit entity) with the Internal Revenue Service has been completed and we are awaiting their decision. At the Congregational Meeting in August, KCCOC Board members were elected by the congregation, so that when our non-profit status comes through, the Board will be able to hit the ground running. Board members are: Class I (term expires 2024 at annual meeting): Pastor Lucy Wynard, Dale Broekemeier, Ruth Henneman; Class II (term expires at 2025 annual meeting): Tim Holland; Deb Hinrichs; Kate McCoy Jones; Class III (term expires at 2026 annual meeting): Pastor Ashley Hall; Lisa Chinn; and Jim Smejkal.

At the Congregational Council's July meeting, the provisional bylaws of KCCOC were received and a "memorandum of understanding" between the congregation and KCCOC were approved. In the middle of August, a committee of the Board reviewed applications for the Executive Director position and interviewed their top two candidates. We expect to be able to announce the new director of KCCOC soon!

Finally, the information below addresses some questions that might arise or which arose as we undertook this process. This information has been presented at various Adult Forums and in other congregational documents, but we repeat it here again.

Why was a non-profit organization necessary?

The mission of Kountze Commons will benefit from the dedicated attention of a Board

and Executive Director. The KCCOC Board is entrusted with supporting and equipping the non-proselytizing mission of the congregation and its partners at 2665 Douglas Street. To accomplish this supportive mission and to sustain communication with the congregation, the Board will be selected by the congregation at its regular annual meeting and the Executive Director will be a staff person of the congregation, reporting to the Senior Pastor and Congregational Council.

A secondary benefit to forming a non-profit organization is to aid in its effort to raise funds in support of the mission of Kountze Commons. This move is guided by the framework of our tax laws. The history and organization of Kountze Commons is unique: the mission and vision for a designated building were founded with faithfulness and funding from the congregation; yet, through an initial deposit of funds to make the project feasible, the building at 2665 Douglas Street is owned by the Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. Several grant providing organizations will not give to congregations (religious organizations that exist for proselytizing activities) nor to endowments. Therefore, to legally and effectively raise money to support the mission

of Kountze Commons, a non-profit organization to oversee the mission was formed.

KCCOC is not a secular non-profit organization

To be very clear: KCCOC has a singular fiduciary responsibility: to support and develop the Christ-centered, non-proselytizing, community-facing mission of Kountze Commons, as established by the congregation. Any claim that forming a 501(c)(3) will, by nature, remove Kountze Commons and its mission from the congregation is based on a gross misunderstanding.

There are many kinds of non-profit organizations. Some are entirely secular (with no religious affiliation) and many are historically and missionally related to religious organizations (viz., Lutheran Family Services, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Magdalene Omaha, Catholic Charities, Creighton University, and the Jewish Federation of Omaha, just to name a few local entities). KCCOC is in the second category. That is, founded by the congregation, it remains connected to Kountze Memorial not only as a vital extension of the congregation's mission but also through the selection of its Board and Executive Director, its regular reports to the Congregational Council, and that both the Senior Pastor and a representative from the Congregational Council shall serve as ex officio members of the Board. For tax exempt consideration, the primary concern is whether an entity will make its services conditional on any particular affirmation of faith. The mission and by-laws of KCCOC remain clear: "As a non-proselytizing mission of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, KCCOC values all people as created in the image of God and therefore does not discriminate, withhold, or exclude our services on any prohibited basis (such as creed, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or sexuality)."

KCCOC is not a religious non-profit organization

While honoring and acknowledging its religious foundation, KCCOC (along with its partners and programs) is directed to the needs of the people in our region without regard for their religious affiliation. Neither services nor employment are conditioned by religious affiliation. People of other religious traditions or of no particular faith affirmation are invited as valuable partners in the mission of KCCOC to "feed the hungry, heal the sick, and tend the soul."

The distinction of not being a religious non-profit organization is to help clarify how KCCOC is different from the congregation. Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church (as

are other congregations) is a religious non-profit organization in that it exists to worship, grow, and serve according to sacred Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These theological documents exercise a

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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 11:00 AM service on Sundays, donated altar flower bouquets are taken to hospitalized members, nursing homes or care centers. This is a great way to brighten someone's day and to grow friendships!

Sign up with SignUp Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4DA5A628ABF58-altar>), contact the church office at 402-341-7761, or via email at info@kmlchurch.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Your help is appreciated!

KCCOC continued from page 6

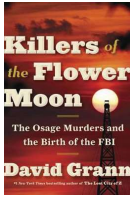
normative (and disciplinary) authority within the congregation in a way that does not apply to KCCOC.

Should you have any questions about KCCOC or the information provided here, please speak with Pr. Hall or any other member of the new KCCOC Board.

KMLC Book Group

Fellowship Lounge
Sunday, September 10
12:15 PM

Killers of the Flower Moon, The Osage Murders, and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann



The Osage Nation was given extremely poor land in Oklahoma to make their home. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they became very wealthy people in the 1920's. Then murders and mysterious deaths and troubled American/Indian relations began to occur to members of the Osage Tribe.

The FBI was newly created and J. Edgar Hoover was the young director. He approved Tom White, a former Texas Ranger, to lead the investigation into the chilling mystery of the Osage. A conspiracy was found to be behind the mysterious deaths of the Mollie Burkhart family and others.

This is a true story of greed, serial murders, and racial injustice. It is a frightening, not easily forgotten, account of a little known part of American history. A movie based on this book is coming to theaters in October.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 21
11:30 AM

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

If Pr. Lucy is available that day, we will have a meet and eat. Where everyone can spend a few minutes sharing with Pr. Lucy a short biography of their history with Kountze, family, and background.

Please sign up Tuesday, September 19 by calling the church office or emailing jim@kmlchurch.org.

Who knows what Jim will have on the menu but it's sure to be good!



Cards with Friends

Thursday, September 7
2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

Kountze Memorial "Old Fashioned Church Picnic"

Sunday September 24
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM here at the Church

Everyone is invited to attend the annual church picnic pot luck, there will be lots of activities for the young and old alike. The church will provide the entrées including a vegetarian option and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or desert to share with everyone if attending.

You are also encouraged to "Bring Your favorite blanket" to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations in our green space between the church and commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall for those who prefer not sitting on a blanket.



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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

Look What's Coming Up!



September 10 is a special day for all the students of Kountze. Not only will they receive the church's blessing for an educational and exciting new year of Sunday School, but it is also the rededication of the stained glass

windows. Several special treats have been planned for the youth including a coloring book designed by member Jonna Holland, pennants to wave as we process out of the church, and specially made sweet treats. Can't wait to see you there!



(2yr-6th gr)
Begins September 17
Sundays, 10:10 AM

We will be learning about Jesus calling the disciples to follow him and do God's work. Through six rotation lessons

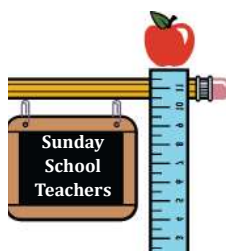
in art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions, the students will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others. Jesus' choice of followers surprised some people, but Jesus was showing that anyone could follow him and do God's work. That includes the youngest members of Kountze!

Register online using the link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/FaithFormation>

Share Your Gifts With Sunday School

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the students of Kountze and be a Sunday School leader once a month, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. Lessons are scripted and all the materials provided and ready to go the day of the lesson.



Children's Choir

Beginning Sunday, September 17
9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

2nd Floor Sunday School Music Room
Grades K-6 - Choir
Grades 7-8 - Director Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has 35 years of experience as a music teacher



and enjoys working with young people.

All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. Students in grades 6-8 who would like to be involved may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help the director lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

Orbit Bus Trip

Grades 4-6
Saturday, September 23
Register by September 15
9:45 AM to around 1:30 PM
Cost: \$5 (bring with you that day)

Upper Elementary students are invited for a bus-riding adventure through Omaha and the New Testament apostles' travels. Apostles are "the ones sent off," so come see where we are being sent as followers of



Jesus! Bus stops include the Gene Leahy Mall and lunch at Kountze Memorial Drop off and pick up at Westroads Transit Center at the corner of 102nd and Nicholas Streets at the Westroads Mall. **We plan to board the ORBT 9:55 AM bus, so don't be late!** Please fill out registration form found at the link below by September 15 and inform Pastor Shari that you will be there.

<https://forms.gle/rzPPPGEauKZkT15c7>

Confirmation Program

Wednesdays, Beginning September 6
6:00 - 7:15 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
(93rd & West Dodge Road)

A joint Confirmation Program will start in the fall on Wednesday, September 6. The first meeting will be group building activities with a Carol Joy Holling Staff member. Each Wednesday night we will meet at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Our class time this fall, will include exploring the bible and Lord's Prayer. We are grateful to gather with the youth and pastors from St. Timothy's, Lord of Love, and Augustana in our learning about the faith and affirming our baptism.



Confirmation Night Out!

Grades 7 & 8

Bellevue Berry Farm

11001 S 48th St. in Papillion

Saturday, September 30

6:30-9:00 PM

Campfire #3

Cost is \$30 per person

Come kick off the fall season with some spooky fun! (Hot dogs, chips and S'mores will be provided.) Cost includes **Haunted Hayrack Ride**, and entry to **House of Terror**, plus a bonfire and food!

Meet at church at 6:00 PM, and we will head to

Bellevue Berry Farm together with

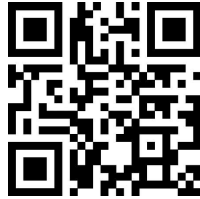
Pastor Shari or meet us there by 6:30

PM. Registration forms can be found in

the Fellowship Hall or go to and return

payment and form to Pastor Shari by

Sunday September 24.



Youth Forum

On Rally Sunday, following the blessing, grab your treats and breakfast and meet us in the green space outside the Link doors for games. Then, join us in the Youth Room on September 17. We will be getting to know each other and the space that we gather in. The following week, September 24, we will be doing Group Building activities.

Then, beginning in October, we will have the following schedule for the rest of the year:

First Sunday (10/1)	Exploring Faith and Current Events
Second Sunday (10/8)	Exploring Spiritual Practices
Third Sunday (10/15)	Bible Study
Fourth Sunday (10/22)	Games
Fifth Sunday (10/29)	Intergenerational Learning in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Youth Events

Grades 1-6:

- Oct. 7 Explore Day Retreat for grades 1-6 at Carol Joy Holling Camp
- Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Pantry Bags

Grades 7 & 8:

- Nov. 10-12 Middle School Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Grades 9-12:

- Oct. 8 Beignet Breakfast Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering
- Oct. 8 5:00 PM - Scary Acres or Hollywood Candy's Dungeon of the Damned
- Nov. 12 5:00 PM - Friendsgiving
- Nov. 17-19 NE Synod LYON Assembly at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Upcoming Opportunities for High School & Young Adults

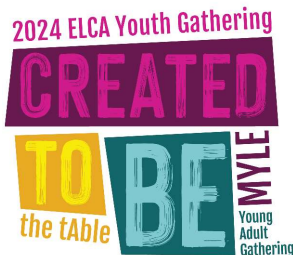
July 16-20, 2024
New Orleans

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering 8th - 12th graders

All 8th - 12th graders are invited to join us in the Youth Room on Sunday, September 10 at 12:15 PM for a meal and information about the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16-20, 2024. We will have travel days on each end. The registration forms with a \$150 deposit are due by October 1. The total cost will be \$500 per individual. The rest of the cost will be covered by the congregation.

Mark your calendars for this meeting and the following dates when we will be uplifting the culture of New Orleans through these fundraisers:

- Oct. 8, 2023 Beignet Breakfast
- Advent Envelope Sponsor Tree
- Feb. 18 Cajun Meal and Music Bingo from 4:30 to



Young Adults Gathering 19 - 25-year-olds

6:00 PM

- March 31 Easter Breakfast
- May 12 Beignet Breakfast

The same time that the ELCA National Youth Gathering is taking place, an ELCA Young Adult Gathering will be happening in New Orleans from July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. Separate daytime offerings will take place with the joining of the Evening Program together with the Youth Gathering.

Please consider attending this event and coming to the September 10 meeting to hear more information. Since this is a new event, plans are still being made. Our hope is the cost will be similar, but are waiting to hear. Please let Pastor Shari know if you are interested.

CALENDAR

September

September 1 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

September 3 Sunday

Pentecost 14

Homebound Communion

10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

September 4 Monday

Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

September 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

September 7 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 10 Sunday

Pentecost 15

Rally Sunday

Stained Glass Window Rededication

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

12:15 PM Book Group

3:00 PM Tri-Faith United We Walk

September 11 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

September 13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

6:00 PM Confirmation

6:00 PM Executive Committee

September 14 Thursday

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 15 Friday

Good News Deadline

5:00 PM Pantry

September 16 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

September 17 Sunday

Pentecost 16

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

September 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

Classroom

September 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

September 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

September 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

September 22 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 23 Saturday

9:45 AM Orbit Bus Trip (gr 4-6)

5:00 PM Worship

September 24 Sunday

Pentecost 17

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

11:30 AM Church Picnic

September 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

September 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

September 28 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 29 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

6:30 PM Bellevue Berry Farm/
Campfire (gr 7 & 8)



If you would like to get to know more church members, this is a great opportunity. You will meet for a meal one time each month in September, October, and November. The dinner can be hosted in homes or at the church, potluck style or out at a restaurant. You get to decide. Please sign up by September 3. We will inform you of your groups by September 6.



1. Xander Gibson, Katie Rohmeyer
2. Jordan Burt, Jason Headley, Linda Heedum, Matthew Szymczak
3. Jan Brady, Julie Huff, Terrie Larkowski, Jacob Martens, Lynn Meyer
4. Dotty Sum, Rhonda Wachholtz
5. Beth Burton, Mark Martens, Nick Pignatore
6. Jack Misbach, Krista Hill
7. Joel Brown, Alice Pickinpaugh, Holly Schmidt, Ardes Weedman, Amy Wendling
8. Allysa Anderson, Susan O'Connor, David Gibson
9. Laura Granneman, Janice Hansen, Jacqueline Jensen, Zachary Martens
10. Christopher Huff
11. Michelle Bottrell, Alexander Stouffer, Kim Vawter
12. Janet Diggins, Matthew Fletcher, Sidney Weddell, Myrt Weible
13. Zoe Brumfield, Ann Starkel, Tony Wilson
14. Emma Hiatt, Teresa Larson, Allen Starkel
15. Jill Earnhardt, Dan Bruckner, David Bruckner, Kimberly Fonda, Robert Johnston, Lewis Stevens, Judy Heim
16. Jacob Pestel, Nancy Rayno, Roy Miller
17. Marie Barrett, Andrew Bruch, Matt Hansen, Jeffrey Meyer, Natalie Stucker, Erin Wolf
18. Glenn Anderson, Barb Carlsen, Jeff Perkins
19. Nicholas Albright, Larry Filbrandt, Melea Headley, Kathy Cole
20. Zach Griger, Ashley Hall, Terry Sanne, Katie Schwieger, Charles Ziegenbein
21. Richard Whitmore
22. Paul Artherton, David Gerard, Joyce Graybill, Amy Kunz, Danielle Waller, Joanna Ziegler
23. Eric Johnson, Amaria Tompkins, Jamie Pfeilsticker, Kenneth Rudie, Grace Wendle, Kathryn Earnhardt
24. Erica Freeman, James Yeshnowski
25. Melissa Meier, Cole Meyer, Thomas Williams, Kristy Clarke
26. Judi Bergjord, Mark Fredrickson
27. Cheri Biggs, Kathleen Hawkins, Mark Rayno, Tracey Saklar, Rod Carlson
28. Curt Johnson, Molly Lyons, Gary Raber, Bev Traub
29. Garrett Day, Jodi Meyer, Douglas Misbach, Lillian Pfeilsticker
30. Jill Gittler, Todd Reckling, Gary Scarpino

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 7/1/2023.....	\$1,860,846.40
Principal Payment, 8/1/2023	\$7,724.75
Interest Payment, 8/1/2023.....	\$5,746.18
Balance, 8/1/2023	\$1,853,121.65

Finances: July, 2023

	July	Year-to-Date
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 82,856.20	\$ 580,941
Expenses:		
Mission Support:	\$ -	\$ 25,833.00
Christian Education:	\$ 60.19	\$ 5,429.83
Facility Costs:	\$ 11,011.68	\$ 108,288.21
Staff Compensation:	\$ 50,689.49	\$ 374,038.53
Worship & Music:	\$ 792.25	\$ 23,586.40
Parish Life:	\$ 1,065.75	\$ 11,346.80
Youth:	\$ 428.51	\$ 8,196.59
Office & Administration:	<u>\$ 3,881.03</u>	<u>\$ 36,888.05</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 67,928.90	\$ 593,581

Church Picnic continued from page 7

A buffet style lunch will begin at noon, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space. And what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes in the Fellowship Hall starting at 1:00 PM!

Please watch the Sunday insert for details and to sign up to attend, help out, or provide a side, you can also RSVP to the Church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org

We look forward to seeing you on September 24!

Pastoral Acts (July 16 - August 15)

Weddings:

Paul Frederick & Christie Hasenkamp
July 15, 2023

Funerals:

Rev. DeeDee Lundahl, July 19, 2023
Judith C. Ryan, August 12, 2023

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
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Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, 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



GO AND...SERVE WITH NEIGHBORS

As Mr. Rogers asked us – “Who is your neighbor?” Love grounds us as we engage with our neighbors living next door, the people in surrounding communities, and those living beyond our own horizons. Accompaniment calls us to use our God-given gifts and talents as we collaborate, learn from each other, and together walk in agape love.

Questions to Consider:

- Who is your neighbor? How do you know?
- What did you discover in walking with your neighbor?
- As you GO with your neighbors, how do you describe your vocation?

Prayer: God of Accompaniment, you meet us where we are at. Help us meet our neighbors wherever they might be and walk with them. Amen.

Suggested Songs: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708) & God’s Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

Learn More at nebraskasynod.org/go-and/

Ready, Set, Go! In the Great Commission, Jesus calls us to GO. We are taking those words to heart.

The Nebraska Synod is embarking on a year-long focus to “Go and...” beginning with the 2023 Synod Assembly. We invite you to be part of this call to GO! During Synod Assembly, we will lean in as God’s people called, gathered, and sent to “Go and...”.

Together, all 90,000 of us, will be focused on responding to Christ’s sending in the Great Commission, to Go and..., and to really live out the joy and hope of Pentecost!