

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Anthony Bonacci	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 23 & 24, 2023

*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 160 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 not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip 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 plate.

### **Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices**

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

### **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.

**Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.**



### **Today at Kountze Memorial**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Curt John's 75th birthday; in loving memory of my wife, Joyce E. Hahn given by Wayne Hahn

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in honor of Doris & Rick Viall's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by Albert & Ilse Grage

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God in memory of Carol Olsen given by her sister, Donna Reinig

### **Kountze Café**

No breakfast will be served today due to the church picnic. We will be serving home baked cookies during fellowship time.

### **Faith Formation**

#### **Children's Choir**

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)  
Grades K-6**

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### **Sunday School**

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Youth Forum

#### Lower Level Youth Room

**This week:** we will be doing Group Building activities with a camp representative (aka Snoozy).

**Next Week:** Exploring Faith and Current Events

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall

##### Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** The Gospel of Matthew: An Overview Information **Next week:** The Gospel of Matthew and Judaism

### 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. There will be lots of activities for the young and old alike. We will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall. A buffet style lunch will begin at noon, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to play BINGO. We hope to see you all there!

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### September 24 Sunday

Pentecost 17

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:10 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM ~~Kountze Cafe - Breakfast~~

Home Baked Cookies this AM

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

### September 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### September 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KETV Management Board

12:30 PM Circle 3

### September 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### 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 6-8)

### October 1 Sunday

Pentecost 18

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-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:10 AM New Member Class

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Night Out!

#### Grades 7 & 8

#### Bellevue Berry Farm

#### 11001 S 48<sup>th</sup> 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 <https://rb.gy/6e10r> and return payment and form to Pastor Shari by **Sunday September 24.**

### 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.

### **St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day**

**October 4**

**7:00 PM**

**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (113 North 18<sup>th</sup> St.)**

We have been invited to participate in this simple service that will focus on St. Francis' inspiration as a peacemaker. Our choir will be participating in the service.

### **Cards with Friends**

**Thursday, October 5**

**2:00 PM**

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

### **Blessing of the Animals**

**Saint Cecilia Cathedral**

**701 N 40<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Saturday, October 7**

**Blessing at 11:00 AM**

Pr. Hall will again be participating the "Blessing of the Animals" that occurs with the clergy of St. Cecilia's and Trinity Episcopal as part of the St. Cecilia's Cathedral Fest.

### **KMLC Book Group**

**Fellowship Lounge**

**Sunday, October 8**

**12:15 PM**

**New Members are Welcome!**

This month we will be reading *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*. This is the ninth novel written by best selling author, Allison Pataki. It is historical fiction about Marjorie Merriwether Post, a woman of American Royalty, becoming the wealthiest woman in the United States before she was thirty years old. She was the daughter of C. W. Post, founder of the Post Cereal Company that grew into the General Foods empire of which Marjorie became it's leader through inheritance. Marjorie has led an intriguing life from gluing labels on post cereal boxes as a child in Battle Creek, Illinois, a cycle of four marriages and divorces, mother of three daughters. She outran Nazi's in London, served soup to hungry people during The Great Depression, and greeted and hosted U. S. Presidents and their wives. This is a novel of a strong woman in American History.

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

Thank-you to everyone who donated toilet tissue to the Kountze Food Pantry. It really helps our guests to have hygiene products. This month we are having a soup drive! Please consider picking up a can or two when you shop and place them in Pantry donation box in the Fellowship Hall. As always, we are in need of volunteers, especially on Friday evenings. You can sign up at the following link or contact Susie Henry at [susannfrances@kmlchurch.org](mailto:susannfrances@kmlchurch.org)

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

### **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
- Nov. 12 Friendsgiving
- Nov. 17-19 NE Synod LYON Assembly at Carol Joy Holling Camp

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 28

**Sunday: 9:00:** 166 **11:00:** 58

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 7 **Conf:** 4

**Total:** 278

**Streaming:** 49

**Pantry Guests Served:** 995 (inc. 378 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 21

**Offering:**

\$9,648.15 (Regular)

\$2,697.08 (Specials)

\$612.00 (Debt Reduction)

## Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Psalms 136	God's love never fails
Thursday	Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Friday	Acts 20:32-38	Paul says goodbye
Saturday	Psalms 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons



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*“Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.* **Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food and all that you give, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen. (Psalm 145:8)

### A Blessing to Give:

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.

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

- When is a time you feel you were treated unfairly?
- How would you describe God's generosity? Give an example.

*Read:* Matthew 20:1-16.

Fairness is in the eyes of the beholder. Most of us have experienced a time when we felt we were treated unfairly. It gets all the more frustrating when the sense of fairness is decided by God's grace. Who or what we see that should be last, may end up being first and a privileged recipient of God's generosity. There are times when the apparent unfairness of this parable can sound like good news when we are hurting, needing any help we can get, and can only take what is offered. This parable points to what God offers us—grace upon grace—something that is so much more than we deserve. As a result, our lives are able to respond with overwhelming gratitude. If gratitude is not our response to Jesus' parable, it may lead us to the observation that our sense of being first has missed the point; we may need to review the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13) for God's sense of fairness and living rightly before God.

*Discuss:* When have you experienced God's generosity? How did you respond?

*Pray:* **God of justice and mercy, help us to see as you see and to live with compassion for all and with gratitude for what we receive through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show an act of undeserved kindness to someone this week?

Psalm 145:4 tells us: *“One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.”* Think or talk about people from older or younger generations who have shown and taught you about God's love and generosity through Jesus. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or calling them to say thank you. As a reminder of God's generosity, prayerfully recite: **“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”** (Psalm 145:8)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32