

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
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
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

October 28 & 29, 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. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

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 Amanda Schneiderman's 30th birthday

Reformation

Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29

This weekend we celebrate our Lutheran Heritage and ponder the important work of theologian Martin Luther and those who continue the work that salvation comes to us in grace through faith in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 29

Children ages 2 and 4, and in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 will receive age-appropriate Bibles at the 9:00 AM service.

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

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

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an intergenerational time together with all to hear how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Intergenerational Learning in the Fellowship Hall
Next Week: Exploring Faith and Current Events

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Intergenerational Learning in the Fellowship Hall
Next week: A Lutheran Perspective on All Saints and All Souls

This Week at Kountze Memorial

October 29 Sunday

Reformation—wear **RED**

Bible Sunday

First Communion

Name Tag Sunday

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

October 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

October 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

November 2 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Women and Gender in Luke/

Acts Bible Study

November 3 Friday

Nov 3 - Nov 4 Council Retreat

5:00 PM Pantry

November 4 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

November 5 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-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:15 PM Grief Seminar

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Women and Gender in Luke/Acts

Led by Dulcinea Boesenberg

Thursdays through November 2

6:30-7:30 PM

November 2 - Marriage and Childbearing in the Roman Empire

Very few of the members of the church in Acts are said to be married, and some who are married are denigrated by comparison with those who are single. We will consider why this might be given the legal and social pressures in the Roman Empire to marry and bear children.

The Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly

November 17-19, 2023

Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland, NE!

Grades 9-12 and Their Adult Leaders

Register by November 1 (No late registrations)

What does it mean to Go and... Be Honest? How does honesty impact our understanding of history, scripture, relationships, values and our work as advocates? Deacon Ross Murray will be our guide as we explore what it means to live into our individual call to serve as advocates. Workshops will help you hone your skills as an advocate for others and for issues that are important to you. And with

Bishop Scott Johnson we will learn how we the church Go and... be honest mindful of and honoring the diversity of church and the communities where we dwell. Esther and Nicodemus will be our Biblical role models for the weekend.

Register by November 1 at <https://nebraskasynod.org/event/lyon-2023/>

Grief Seminar

Sunday, November 5

12:15—1:30 PM

Fellowship Lounge

We will join with The Rev. Ruth Tomlinson, a trained facilitator of Walking The Mourner's Path. She will assist us in claiming the story of the ones who have died. A light meal will be served. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend by November 1 so we know how many to plan on for lunch.

Thanksgiving Bags

Help the youth put together Thanksgiving Bags for the Pantry on November 19. Please bring the following and put in Sunday School Thanksgiving Box located by the Pantry donation box **by November 12**. We are collecting the following items:

- Stuffing Mix
- Turkey Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mashed Potato Mix
- Canned Yams
- Canned Pumpkin

Friendsgiving

Sunday, November 12

5:00 PM

In the KMLC Fellowship Hall

All High School, College Youth, and Young Adults (22-35 year olds)

You are invited to attend a Friendsgiving at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Bring a favorite dish to share. Invite your friends. Please consider allergies such as peanuts/nuts, gluten, etc. and those who might be vegan and vegetarian. It is our hope that through this time together of meal and conversation we can explore our gratitude for what friendships bring to our life and how God is a very best friend throughout life.

Middle School Retreat

November 10-12, 2023

Grades 6-8

Carol Joy Holling Camp

This retreat will serve as a good reminder to campers who attended camp about the things they learned during their time there and how they can continue to implement those lessons into their lives. For campers who may not have been able to attend camp, this retreat will serve as a way for them to experience camp in a condensed and meaningful way. Along with the lessons we will learn about God's love and faithfulness, we will also be experiencing some favorite camp activities, God's creation, and of course, fellowship! Cost is \$100.00. Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/ms-retreat>

ELCA Young Adult Gathering Young Adults (19-25-year-olds) July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans

An ELCA Young Adult Gathering will take place at the same time as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Each group will have separate daytime offerings followed by a joint Evening Program. As this is a new event, plans are still being made. We hope you will consider attending this event. Please contact Pr. Shari or the church office if you are interested in attending.. For more info or to register, go to <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering>

Kountze Food Pantry

We are excited to partner with the SpartanNash Foundation, which is our local Family Fare stores. Through November 5, shoppers have the opportunity at checkout to consider donating \$1, \$5, \$10, or rounding up to the nearest dollar. 100% of the funds raised will go directly to the Kountze Food Pantry. We are still collecting canned soup for the Pantry. Please consider picking up an extra can or two and placing them in the donation box in Fellowship Hall. As always, we can use your volunteer help! Please sign up at the link below if you would like to serve at the Kountze Food Pantry.

<https://www.kountze.org/volunteer>

Upcoming Youth Events

Grades 1-6:

Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Pantry Bags

Grades 7 & 8:

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

Grades 9-12

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

GO AND BE



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 49
Sunday: 9:00: 140 **11:00:** 71
Wednesday: 12:15: 9 **Conf:** 5
Total: 283
Streaming: 57
Pantry Guests Served: 1,169 (inc. 393 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19
Offering:
 \$10,455.98 (Regular) \$1,047.53 (Specials)
 \$523.83 (Debt Reduction)

The good news heals our divisions.

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

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	Psalms 141	Prayer for preservation from evil
Thursday	1 Kings 2:1-5	David's instruction to Solomon
Friday	1 Corinthians 16:13-20	Final messages
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is your refuge
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes



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Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. Romans 3:19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, may your grace and mercy cleanse the church and set us free to be your witnesses of hope and peace through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of power and might, thank you for the seas that roar, the mountains that tremble, and for this food that gives us strength and courage for each day. Amen. (Psalm 46:3)

A Blessing to Give:

May God free you to be blessed by our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Is it easy or difficult for you to be silent when you are with friends or family? Explain.
- Silent moments can be a time of renewal as we gain new insights and appreciation for life around us. When has silence been a renewing experience for you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Paul writes to Christians in house churches in Rome. These Christians oppose one another with words and finger pointing. One group is righteous and faithful while the other is not. The church today experiences a similar polarity. Paul speaks to us now as he did then: Be silent! The law that we want to justify our own lives silences every mouth because *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (v. 23). Once Paul declares our sinfulness and judgement on one another, we are ready to hear good news. The good news is that the only thing that justifies us is God's undeserved kindness (grace). Only God is righteous and God's righteousness shown in Christ is more than a morality, it is an activity that brings the unholy world into God's goodness. Through faith, we experience being reconciled to one another and to God through Christ. We are now part of God's righteousness to heal, save the world, and trust that God's goodness can even heal our condemnation of others through faith in Christ.

Discuss: How is this good news for you?

Pray: **Gracious God, thank you for your goodness that acts in our lives and world to bring hope and peace to our divided relationships and world through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, through what words and actions can you show acceptance and care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther wrote the words for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and composed the melody. This well-known hymn is based on Psalm 46. Circle or highlight words in Psalm 46 that you feel describe God as a mighty fortress. Read Psalm 46 aloud and pause for a moment when you read a word that is circled or highlighted. After reading, say, “Amen.”

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12