

## 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                        |
| Danielle Barrett | 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                  |
| Jill Conway      | Director of Kountze Commons           |



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

November 11 & 12, 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.*

## Today at Kountze Memorial

### 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.**



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Dannika Rees for her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday given by parents, Toby & Eric Rees; in memory of Tom Holcombe given by his family

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Dean Anderson by his wife, Darlene

### 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.

## 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.

### Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

**This week: Bible Study** – Created to Be (prep for ELCA Youth Gathering) **Next Week:** Time with Pastor Lucy

### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** What is the "Communion of Saints"? **Next week:** Preview of Advent

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

**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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### November 12 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-5)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour  
12:15 PM Book Group  
5:00 PM Friendsgiving (High School, College, & Young Adults (22-35 yrs))

### November 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### November 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
4:00—6:00 PM KCCOC Open House

### November 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline  
12:15 PM Worship  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### November 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### November 17 Friday

Nov 17 - Nov 19 NE Synod LYON Assembly (gr 9-12) Camp CJH  
5:00 PM Pantry

### November 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### November 19 Sunday

Pentecost  
Pledge Sunday  
Service Project - Thanksgiving Bags  
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-5)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center Open House

**Tuesday, November 14**

**4:00—6:00 PM**

Please join us for an Open House to recognize our volunteers and supporters, celebrate our partnerships, and welcome new collaborations as we *Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, and Tend the Soul.*

### Men's Lunch

**Thursday, November 16**

**11:30 AM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Chili Cookoff!**

**Suggested Donation: Pot of Chili or Stuffed Animal/Toy for the Pantry**

Come eat and vote on your favorite chili. There will be prizes for the top three and a great time of fellowship for all. Call the church office or email jim@kmlchurch.org to sign up. Let us know if you will be entering a pot of chili or just attending. If you're entering a pot of chili the cost is free otherwise suggested donation for the event will be a new stuffed animal/toy to be distributed by the Kountze food

pantry as Christmas gifts for our young pantry guests.

### LYON Assembly

Mia Valquier, Sheyenne Glasgow, and Pr. Shari will be attending LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska ELCA Synod) Gathering November 17—19 at Carol Joy Holling Camp

### Pledge Weekend

**Saturday & Sunday, November 18 & 19**

**"Go and... Be Kountze!"**

During this next week, please consider the wonderful blessings God has given you and then bring your completed Statement of Intent card to worship with you.

### 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Performance of Handel's Messiah

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

### Holland Performing Arts Center

Voices of Omaha presents an annual performance of Handel's Messiah without admission charge as a gift to the community.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**  
**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**  
**113 N 18<sup>th</sup> St** (corner of N 18<sup>th</sup> & Capitol)  
**Sunday, November 19**  
**6:00 PM**

Trinity Cathedral is excited to host this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Let's join our interfaith siblings and give thanks to God! Theme: Unity in a Time of Conflict  
 Speaker: Mike Hornacek, Together, Inc. The offering goes to Together, Inc.

**Decorate for Advent**  
**Saturday, December 2**  
**9:30 AM**

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!

**Annual Advent Fair**  
**December 3**  
**10:00 AM - Noon**

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. Please bring diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

**Norma's Nursery Open House**  
**Sunday, December 3**  
**10:00—11:00 AM**

Stop by the Nursery sometime between 10:00 & 11:00 AM for our nursery renaming event.

**Advent Meals & Worship**  
**December 6, 13, and 20**  
**Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon**  
**Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM**  
**Worship: 6:30**

- Please mark your calendars and join us for Advent meals followed by Worship.
- We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals.
- All meals are free will offering.

**Cards with Friends**  
**Thursday, December 7**  
**2:00 PM**

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

**Annual Merry Tuba Christmas Concert**  
**Sunday, December 11**  
**3:30 PM**

**Held at Kountze Memorial**

Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the Public. It will be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

**Candlelight Carol Service**  
**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church**  
**Saturday, December 16**

**Prelude begins at 4:40 PM**

**Service 5:00 PM**

**Reception Following**

**Nursery Care will be Provided**

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, handbells, brass, organ, and piano. Please join us following the service for a lovely reception.

**Children's Christmas Program**  
**Sunday, December 17**  
**9:00 AM**

Experience the true spirit of Christmas as our little ones share the story of love, hope, and joy through songs and readings. Don't miss out on this wonderful celebration! The children have been working hard and look forward to sharing the joy of the season with us.

We didn't have quite enough magnets to put in the mailing with your pledge card this week. If you didn't receive one, be sure to pick one up next weekend when you return your pledge card.



**GO AND BE ....**



**Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday: 36**

**Sunday: 9:00: 162 11:00: 84**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 18 Conf: 4**

**Total: 322**

**Streaming: 40**

**Pantry Guests Served: 937 (inc. 325 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 8**

**Offering:**

\$22,682.71 (Regular)

\$3,386.13 (Specials)

\$1,658.56 (Debt Reduction)

*Worship that is pleasing to God.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                         |                                   |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 25:1-13         | A parable of the ten bridesmaids  |
| Monday    | Amos 5:18-24            | What the Lord requires            |
| Tuesday   | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | The coming of the Lord            |
| Wednesday | Psalms 106:1-12         | A confession of Israel's sins     |
| Thursday  | Isaiah 1:10-17          | Justice is needed, not sacrifices |
| Friday    | Deuteronomy 16:18-20    | Treat everyone with justice       |
| Saturday  | Psalms 70               | God is wonderful                  |
| Sunday    | Matthew 25:14-30        | Parable of the talents            |



taking  
faith  
home

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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your call for justice and mercy that gives hope to our lives and to the generations to come through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the God who shows mercy on the poor deliver you from harm. (Psalm 70:5)

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Why is care for those in need so important?
- What type of worship do you think pleases God? Explain.

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Amos 5:18-24.

Amos' prophetic words are not addressed to those who are indifferent or have actively rejected faith in God. His message is for those who worship God. He uses words of caution filled with danger and accusation. The worshiping community becomes shaken out of complacency. What God sees and smells and hears in worship is not pleasing. Worship is offered without concern for the needs of the poor (justice) and the wellbeing of the community (righteousness). Worship that is pleasing to God includes the daily life activity of people that shows compassion and delights in healthy relationships. Worship promotes a faithful way of life that is itself a form of worship and praise to God. It is good to know that the power of God's justice is like a flood of water, a deluge, and God's righteousness is constant like a stream that never stops flowing.

*Discuss:* How does worship lead you to acts of compassion that serve the needs of others?

*Pray:* **God of justice and mercy, may our worship life reflect your compassion for the needy and our need for strong and life-giving relationships through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to enable them to have life-giving relationships?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Matthew 25:1-13 is the parable of the foolish bridesmaids who did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to keep the faith alive and "burning" while waiting for Christ's return. We can do this by being ready to do God's work every day. Light a candle to symbolize the light of Jesus' love shining. While the candle is burning write a list of ways you can do God's work every day.

*Pray:* **Dear God, be with me each day. Help me to show love, fairness, and care for others through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen**

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