

## 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 18 & 19, 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 Lynn Schneiderman's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday; given with loving thanks in honor of our dear parents, Bob and Wilma Wallin by Ann Harrington, Lyn Ziegenbein, Julie Kaewert

### 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** – Time with Pastor Lucy **Next**

**Week: Games**

#### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Preview of Advent **Next week:** Fellowship

#### LYON Assembly

Mia Valquier, Sheyenne Glasgow, and Pr. Shari will be attending LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska ELCA)

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Synod) Gathering November 17—19 at Carol Joy Holling Camp

### **Pledge Weekend**

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

**“Go and... Be Kountze!”**

Statement of Intent cards will be brought forward during Communion. There is a basket in both the Nave and Rotunda.

### **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.

### **Progress Not Perfection**

#### **Recovery Meeting**

#### **Kountze Commons—Lower Level**

**Sundays, 3:00 PM**

For information contact David Tollefson (402-943-8150)

### **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.

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## **This Week at Kountze Memorial**

### **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

3:00 PM Recovery Meeting

### **November 20 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

5:00 PM Council Ministries

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### **November 21 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### **November 22 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship

### **November 23 Thursday**

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving

Meal @ St. Peters

### **November 24 Friday**

OFFICE CLOSED

### **November 25 Saturday**

5:00 PM Worship

### **November 26 Sunday**

Christ the King

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**

### **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!

### **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.

### **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.

## Advent Meals & Worship

December 6, 13, and 20

Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon

Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship: 6:30

- 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 10

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.

We didn't have quite enough magnets to put in the mailing with your Statement of Intent card. If you didn't receive one, be sure to pick one up this weekend when you return your pledge card. Additional cards and magnets can be found in the back of the Nave and in the Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Desk.

## GO AND BE ....



## 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.

## 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

This month the Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss, or flossing picks. Please place donated items in the marked box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone for donating soup in October! We can always use more grocery bags. We use both plastic and paper. Please sign up with the link below if you would like to serve at the Kountze Food Pantry.

<https://www.signupwithme.com/join/kountze-food-pantry>

Wrr krwB Wrr frq@B

Thanks to a grant from endowment our building management system that controls the heating and A/C in many parts of the building has been replaced this week. Please bear with us as we make adjustments to make sure temperatures are more stable and comfortable for everyone.

## Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 181 11:00: 88

Wednesday: 12:15: 9 Conf: 5

Total: 323

Streaming: 48

Pantry Guests Served: 1,080 (inc. 407 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$14,333.69 (Regular)

\$2,712.32 (Specials)

\$1,087.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus calls us to action.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	James 1:19-27	Hearing and doing the word
Thursday	James 2:14-26	Faith without works is dead
Friday	1 John 3:18-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalm 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" Matthew 25:23 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, you know our frailty and limitations. Give us faith and courage to act with boldness for the sake of your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

For this food that nourishes us, for the people that support us, and for your goodness that renews us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May you experience the joy of your God through Christ our Lord.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are some thoughts, principles, and beliefs that guide your daily life?
- How does the Christian faith help guide you in your daily life?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus' parables, stories that teach a religious lesson, are powerful. They have a message for us. They get into our heads and make us think. In this reading, is God like the master who is *"a harsh man, reaping where [he] did not sow"* (v. 24)? Of course not. Parables are not necessarily stories that place God as one character and us as another. Just as the actions of the master lead to a definite action by the slave, so our God leads us to definite action. Followers of Jesus are gifted with valued contributions for the work of God's kingdom. God's grace and mercy blesses people through our actions. So act, not for personal benefit but for the joy of living in the grace of God. Christianity is not meant to be simply a philosophy that we think about but a life we experience with others and with God. It includes a *"wise heart"* (Psalm 90:12) that gives attention to what matters and what brings kindness and joy to the world.

*Discuss:* What gifts and opportunities has God given you to care for others and give witness to the love of God in Christ?

*Pray:* **God of abundance, your judgments are true and full of compassion for all that you create. Give us wise hearts to give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ. 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 with acts of kindness that reflect the abundant love of God?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The apostle Paul writes *"encourage one another and build each other up"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Think or talk about ways you can be affirming and encouraging to others. Name one person in particular and write a note to them to tell them a gift you have recognized in them, what you appreciate about them, and give words of encouragement to them. End the note with a blessing: Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and always. (1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46