



✝ Worship 10am

117 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. | PO Box 1 | Kure Beach, NC 28449

Church Office: 910-458-5266

Website: [www.kmlc.org](http://www.kmlc.org) | Email: [kurememorial@kurememorial.com](mailto:kurememorial@kurememorial.com)

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# DECEMBER 2020 – NEWSLETTER

*Volume 20, No. 60*

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***Our Mission Statement** – As joyful followers of Jesus Christ, we welcome and care for all people. We boldly proclaim the Good News, share our faith, and love God by serving others.*

***Our Statement of Welcome** – Accepting those who Christ has already accepted, Kure Memorial Lutheran Church affirms that all people, regardless of race, national origin, sexual orientation, or economic status, are unconditionally welcome to our community of faith and are invited to join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry.*

*“...and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)*



“...and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

“Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?!” “Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about...”

I’m sure these words sound familiar to many of you! They’re from my all-time favorite Christmas show, “A Charlie Brown

Christmas”! That show is so meaningful to me that our daughter, Lindsey, gave me a Charlie Brown nativity set for my Christmas gift a few years ago. It’s not only cute, but each of the characters have part of the Christmas story from Luke’s gospel written on them! Then this year, one of our families gave me a coffee cup with Charlie Brown, Snoopy and his infamous Christmas tree on it, along with a stuffed Charlie Brown! And last year for Christmas my family gave me the book, “A Charlie Brown Christmas” along with a stuffed Snoopy! (You will be hearing more from the Charlie Brown story on Christmas Eve...so stay tuned!)

Maybe I like the show so much because the context of the show still very much reveals life in our own time, where commercialism seems to overshadow what Christmas is really about...as it comes on the heels of “Black Friday”...which this year I think began before Halloween! And these shopping days usher in the advertising of all the toys, gadgets and technology systems that they tell us we can’t live without!

Or maybe it’s because the story is a reminder that in the midst of the craziness of life, when we may feel we have lost control, the Christ child comes breaking into our world in sometimes subtle ways bringing us peace and joy and comfort and hope. I think the story also opens our eyes to the bigger picture so that we might put life in perspective and focus on the beauty of what God has done for us in the tiny Christ child.

Many of you may remember that my annual Christmas invitation is for you to leave out one Christmas decoration for the coming year so that you would be reminded of Jesus coming into our world. My Charlie Brown nativity set is what we always leave out as our reminder of the peace, joy and hope God gives us in the person of Jesus, who broke into our world in the most unexpected way! And you know what...he continues to do so even in the midst of the craziness that has been going on over this last year!

Christmas Blessings to all of you!

Surfin' on God's Grace!

Pastor Dan

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

We are excited to introduce McLean Robinson as our Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry!



McLean is a teacher at Forest Hills Elementary School in Wilmington. McLean is energetic, joyful and has lots of experience working with children and youth. She is anxious to get started and is looking forward to meeting not only our children, youth and families, but our entire congregation as well. I know you will welcome her with enthusiasm and joy! We are excited for her to be an integral part of our ministry team!

### From McLean:

Hi Kure Memorial! I am McLean Robinson and I am so excited to join the staff as Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator. I look forward to meeting all of you in the many avenues we have in 2020! If you would like to schedule a quick FaceTime call with your child/children please email me at [mcleangrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:mcleangrobinson@gmail.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

To: Friends and Members of Kure Memorial Lutheran Church;

I would like to thank everyone for your patience and understanding regarding the “remote” November congregational meeting. Thank you to those who responded via paper ballot or phone.

The 2021 Mission Plan was approved as were the Church Council candidates. Cory Petermann and Peter Yandow will begin their second three year term. Their valuable insight and dedication is much appreciated.

Ann-Marie Cooper and Beth Gavigan will be our newest members. Terry Hambel will be leaving council having served six consecutive years. Thank you Terry and to those that serve on our church council and all who help with the mission of Kure Memorial Lutheran Church.

Congregational President,  
Todd Vought

## NEWS BITES

### Re-Gathering for Sunday morning worship at Kure Memorial:

As you all know (*hopefully!*)...we are back to worshipping together again! Wahoo! Our Re-Gathering plan is for us to continue gathering at our normal time of 10am each Sunday outside in the lawn area near the gazebo, at least on days when it is warm enough to do so! Please bring a lawn chair, your trusty face mask/covering and join us for worship! **For those with health concerns or who can't be in the sun or heat, or if it's too cold or windy, we also have seating available in the sanctuary** with the appropriate distancing. We are projecting the service via Zoom onto a screen for you to view the service. Sound from outside is brought directly into the sanctuary so you can follow along! For those who are out of town or either wish to or need to stay home to join the service, you can view the service on Facebook Live or through Zoom, as we have been doing. To view on Facebook Live, you can continue to find us on our church Facebook page [here](https://www.facebook.com/Kure-Memorial-Lutheran-Church-113882918643415/) or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/Kure-Memorial-Lutheran-Church-113882918643415/>. If you prefer to view it through Zoom...make sure you are on our email list!

Please let Pastor Dan know your email address if you aren't getting his emails! Our worship outline is emailed to folks on our email list and can also be found on our website: [kmlc.org](http://kmlc.org) so you can follow along! **Rain and Cold weather plan:** On Sundays when it is raining or threatening to rain as well as when it will be too cold, we will continue to livestream our services from inside the sanctuary. An email will be sent out that morning, so on those questionable days...be sure to check your email before coming for worship! *At this point, the bishop's office is recommending that we stick with the state recommendation of no more than 10 people indoors. As soon as that changes to permit larger gatherings, our worship team and church council have agreed on a plan to have 2 services to allow us to gather safely inside! More information will be coming when the time comes!*

**Annual Kure Beach Christmas Show:** As many of you know, the Kure Beach Christmas Show has been a holiday highlight in the Kure Beach community for many, many years. KMLC's Tammy Ebersole, who directs it, along with many other KMLC youth and adults are always participating in the show! This year, as most things, it will be virtual. Be sure to tune in on Saturday, December 12 beginning at 7pm. You can find it on the Town of Kure Beach Recreation Facebook Page! Be sure to check it out! For more information and to access the Kure Beach Facebook Page, click [here](#) or you can use the following link: <https://www.townofkurebeach.org/news/kure-beach-fantasy-christmas-show-goes-virtual>

**Men's "Coffee and Conversation" Scheduled for December 19...in the lawn area near the gazebo!** Hey gentlemen...bring your lawn chairs, mask and a cup of coffee, and come out and join us at **8:30am** for "Coffee and Conversation"! We will meet alongside the church in the lawn area near the gazebo...on these chilly days, there is more sunshine to warm our souls...and our bones! For those who have come, it has been great to see everyone and get a chance to visit. Hope to see you here!

**Advent began Sunday, November 29!** The season of Advent is among us! And it certainly looks different this year. Our Midweek Advent Holden Evening Prayer services are being held in our sanctuary and livestreamed via Facebook Live and Zoom. Each week an email will be sent out with links to each so you can tune in! So if you are not on our email list, please let Pastor Dan know and we'll get you connected! We learned from our first service, that we need to provide the words to the service so everyone can follow along easier. So, if you plan to join us on Wednesdays at 7pm, we invite you to stop in at the church to pick up a Holden Evening Prayer service booklet so you can follow along. We just ask that you please bring your copy back at the end of the Advent season so we can use them again next year! You will find them on the small table as you enter the sanctuary! If you wish to have one dropped off to you at your home, please contact Pastor Dan about that too! And we'll make sure to get you one! Our next 2 services will be December 9 and 16 at 7pm.

**Blue Christmas Service of Care, Hope and Healing:** We will have our annual Blue Christmas Service of Care, Hope and Healing on Monday evening, December 21 beginning at 7pm. It is a service of hope, for those who have difficulty finding joy in the season of Christmas. At this point, this will be livestreamed only, so expect the Zoom and Facebook links to be emailed to you the weekend before, at the latest! We hope you will join us!

**Christmas Eve at Kure Memorial!** We will have three services this year.

**The first two services will be held outdoors around the campfire!**

**One at 5pm and one at 7pm.** Our plan is to gather outside near the Gazebo around the campfire for a short, but meaningful Christmas Eve worship, including Holy Communion! If the weather is chilly...dress warm, because we will be staying outside this year! You are invited to bring your own chair and face mask, like we do on Sunday Mornings. Additional chairs will be available for guests and for those who don't bring their own. We will also have face masks available too, for those who don't bring them. **We are making plans to livestream the 5pm service!**

**The third service will be our late service at 11pm.** At this point, if gathering restrictions stay as they are, the 11:00 service will just be livestreamed, not in person.

**Zoom and Facebook Live links for both services will be sent out the week of Christmas!** If conditions change and we are allowed to gather in person with a larger crowd, we will update you on those plans...so stay tuned!

**As you continue your financial support for our ministry...Or if you have gotten out of the routine, since we haven't been meeting in person every week...** Here is a reminder of the options for continuing your contributions to meet your lifestyle. You may either drop off your offering (either in the church or at the church office), mail it to the church office (P.O. Box 1, Kure Beach, NC 28449), set us up in your bank online "bill pay" system, or go to our website, [kmlc.org](http://kmlc.org), and donate through our new online donate options. ***Your continued support is crucial for us to continue doing the ministry God is calling us to do...especially during these trying times over the last few months when our income has been down and it has been more difficult to do the things God has put on our hearts!*** Thank you so much for your continued support!

**Most things continue to be put on hold for the month of December!** However, we are still collecting food for the **Help Center** in Carolina Beach. You can drop items off at the church. Or if you prefer not to go out, but would like to donate something, you can leave it on your doorstep and someone will come and pick it up to get it where it needs to go! Please don't hesitate to contact the church office if that is the case and we would love to help out!

**Help Center Christmas Gift Food Bags this year:** Well...our collection of canned vegetables is over...and was a HUGE success...as it always is! You all are so amazingly generous! As you know, during the month of November we collected canned vegetables for the Christmas food bags the Help Center will put together for all the food insecure individuals, couples and families in our island community. For our first goal, we were hoping to collect 150 cans, enough for one per family. If we surpassed that goal, our second goal was to collect 300 cans, enough for 2 cans per family. ***Our total collection for this year was 455 cans of vegetables!!!!*** Thank you all so much for the support, love and care for our community! The number of individuals and families visiting the Help Center has taken a definite increase: In November there were 370 individuals and 138 households who were clients of the Help Center. These are the greatest since last winter. People are staying in town hoping to find work. The community has been very generous as Help Center shoppers have been able to keep up with the demand. Cash donations have been extremely helpful because it allows the shoppers to keep the shelves stocked when varied items are in need.

Laurie Taylor of the Help Center who coordinates this effort told me (Pastor Dan), "Your little church is simply amazing! God works miracles through you!" And I think she's right! Thank you all again!

Anne Hope Marvin says KMLC has provided generous ongoing support and she is so grateful every month with how the community is served.

**Needs for December 2020 include:** peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned and/or boxed food, canned pasta sauce and tuna.

\*The Christmas Basket program is underway. Distribution will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you any questions call Anne Hope Marvin.

Anne Hope & Tim Marvin  
910- 458-4057

**The KMLC Church Council News:** Will meet Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Masks, seating apart and having clean hands are all required.

**Service Team:** will not be meeting in December. The next meeting will be held, via Zoom, on Tuesday, January 12th, at 2:00.

Our church's Service Team is partnering with the Carousel Center in Wilmington with their "Holiday Hugs" program. The Center assists children who have been victimized by physical or sexual abuse. We have received the names of 6 youth from one family, 3 boys and 3 girls, ranging in age from 17 to 4 and their wish lists. Terry Hambel and Eleanor Lundy are teaming to do the shopping. Gifts must be delivered to the Center no later than December 8<sup>th</sup>. We need help from the Congregation, in the form of monetary donations, to fulfill these wish lists. We hope that you can be generous with your response to these children. If you can help, you can either drop off or mail your donation to the Church Office (PO Box 1 Kure Beach 28449) in an envelope marked, "Carousel Center." Or, you can include your donation with your regular weekly envelope, noting "Carousel Center" and the donation amount on the front of the envelope. Additionally, there will be separate baskets, marked "Carousel Center," on the tables at our outdoor Worship services on November 29 and December 6—weather dependent! Thank you so much for your willingness to help the children from this family experience a Merry Christmas!

**Friday morning book group** goes continue to meet Friday mornings from 9:30am to 10:30am. The new meeting place is now John Shalanski's house in Kure Beach.

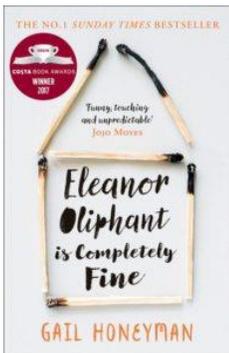
The group is currently reading *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. The four agreements are:

1. Be impeccable with your word.
2. Don't take anything personal.
3. Don't make assumptions
4. Always do your best

The reading schedule is as follows:

\*December 4<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 3    \*December 11<sup>th</sup> – Chapters 4 & 5    \*December 18 – Chapters 6 & 7

**Book Club:**



During December we will be reading *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. We will meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM to discuss the book, probably via Zoom. More details will be in the January newsletter.

From Harper Collins:

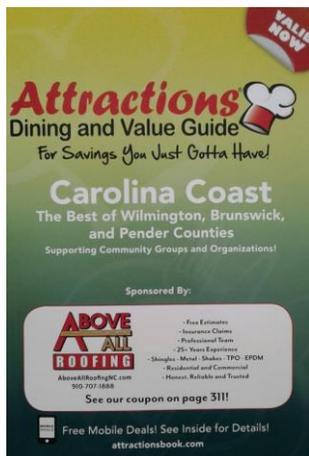
Eleanor Oliphant has learned how to survive – but not how to live.

Eleanor Oliphant leads a simple life. She wears the same clothes to work every day, eats the same meal deal for lunch every day and buys the same two bottles of vodka to drink every weekend.

Eleanor Oliphant is happy. Nothing is missing from her carefully timetabled life.

Except, sometimes, everything.

One simple act of kindness is about to shatter the walls Eleanor has built around herself. Now she must learn how to navigate the world that everyone else seems to take for granted – while searching for the courage to face the dark corners she's avoided all her life. Change can be good. Change can be bad. But surely any change is better than... fine?



We've got a great idea for the perfect Christmas Gift...and...at the same time supporting the group traveling to Costa Rica in the summer of 2021!! It's smaller than a bread box. It's larger than a matchbox car. Any guesses? You're right! An Attractions Book!! Coupons in this year's book are good from now until the end of 2021! It would even be a stocking stuffer for yourself! The cost per book is \$25. \$10 from each book will go toward the Costa Rica Mission Trip fund to support our mission trip. Please tell your friends and neighbors. **You can contact Pastor Dan at 910-619-8979 or pdannybeachguy@gmail.com for your copy...or if you have questions. You can either stop into the office for your copy or we will deliver it to your door!** Talk about service with a smile! Over the last several years, funds from these books have been a great help to our traveling groups. And we have appreciated your support! We've had fun using the coupons to try out new restaurants...and return to our favorites!

**From the Financial Secretary:**

For the month of November, we received contributions from 52 families (an increase from 39 families last month). Two families used our on-line donation program and seven families used their Bank BillPay. Our tithes and offerings fell short of our Mission Plan goal. We are counting on receiving \$4,368.50 per week for 5 weeks. Thus our November goal was \$21,842.50. Actual tithes and offerings were \$16,038, resulting in a deficit of \$ 5,804. We know these have been trying times for all of us and we are grateful for the sacrifices you continue to make to support Kure Memorial's Mission Plan.

A few other items to share with you:

-- The boxes of Contribution envelopes are on a table in the back of the Church. Remember to pick your up.

If you wish to receive a box for 2021 and your name is not there, please let Pastor Dan or Terry Hambel know.

-- Church Council has decided that the Advent Offerings we receive are designated for our Covid Cares Fund so that we may continue to assist those members of our Congregation who are experiencing financial difficulty at this time.

-- This Sunday, December 6th is your last opportunity to donate for the Carousel Center family we've adopted this Christmas Season. Your donation helps buy them their needed items.

-- As we approach the end of 2020 (thankfully) we invite you to look over your charitable giving for the year. You may wish to make an extra contribution to support our Church community. When you complete your 2020 Federal Income tax, if you do not itemize, you have the opportunity to deduct \$300 for charitable contribution this year only. If you have not made a charitable contribution, now is the time to take advantage of this deduction.

May God continue to bless all of us so that we may all live out the Mission of Kure Memorial.

**Congratulations to Ann-Marie Cooper** for being named Best Financial Planner in the annual Star News program to identify Wilmington's best!

Reflection from our Bishop Tim Smith:



## Hope is Stronger Than Memory

This time of year is so very nostalgic, even sentimental for those of us so charmed or privileged. We long for what was, for our ghosts of happy Christmas Past to visit sooner rather than later with its flood of happy memories. We long for them, cling to them, count on them to affirm and renew what we thought we always knew and even deserved. Good things, like family, relationships, childlike faith, and wonder. For the privileged, there's no feel-good, fail-safe panacea-like Christmas.

The other day while driving, this peppy tune from the Broadway musical "Mame" came on the radio, and I joyfully sang along, even though I can be the most stubborn "no Christmas music until Christmas" grinch!

*WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS* From the show "Mame" (1966, Jerry Herman)

Continued on next page ...

## “Bishop’s Reflection continued from page 7...

12/3/2020

Hope is stronger - NC Synod ELCA

*Haul out the holly. Put up the tree before my spirit falls again*

*Fill up the stocking. I may be rushing things, but deck the halls again now.*

*For we need a little Christmas. Right this very minute.*

*Candles in the window, carols at the spinet*

*Yes, we need a little Christmas, right this very minute*

*Need a little Christmas NOW!!!*

But did you realize this song, in the context of the musical, was sung by Auntie Mame and the cast during a sweltering, thoroughly depressing Georgia July? (I remember at least the sweltering part!) Things aren’t going well at all for Auntie Mame. Her plantation-owner husband has died in a freak accident, and her nephew from New York has just come to live with her. The 1929 stock market crash has left her on the verge of bankruptcy. “How,” this transplant from the North into Deep South Georgia wonders, “can we make things better?” Desperate times call for desperate measures.

Haul out the holly! Fill the stocking! Candles in the window! Carols at the spinet! Nothing chases the blues away like Christmas! And we need it, NOW. Right this very minute. The tune is so upbeat that it’s easy to miss the deep angst in the lyrics. “Because I’ve grown a little leaner, grown a little colder, grown a little sadder, grown a little older and I need a little angel, sitting on my shoulder, need a little Christmas NOW!”

Ah, that word that makes Advent so frustratingly counter-cultural even without a pandemic and the prospect of a vaccine that can restore a little normality. [Vocabulary alert as pandemic invokes this word so regularly: “normalcy” is technically not a word. It’s “normality.” No such thing as its opposite, “abnormalcy.” Nope. Abnormality. Rant over.]

We are—with or without a pandemic, without glorifying the past or minimizing the struggle of the present—by definition, the people whose faith acknowledges that as strong as memory is, hope is stronger still. Life isn’t fundamentally about either the destination or the journey. It’s about who accompanies us. Relationships are, finally, only as strong as the future they promise. That’s why we put all of our eggs in one basket, the basket of Jesus, stronger even than our sinning, stronger even than our dying. The one whose future has death not ahead, but in the past, and therefore not just the one who came, but will come again in power.

Continued on page 9...

“Bishop’s Reflection continued from page 8...”

12/3/2020

Hope is stronger - NC Synod ELCA

...which brings us back to Advent that announces, awaits, prepares for, aches for that one’s coming.

“Keeping Advent” means not letting anything, not our proud past, not even Christmas, obscure our hope, watching, waiting, repentance. Yes, I’ve all but sold my soul to the Amazon Prime culture of instant gratification. I prefer it all right now. But oh, how we all NEED to learn and to recover and to practice hopeful WAITING! All will be well in the end, and to the extent that all is NOT well, this is NOT the end!

How much more poignant this year, as in-person gathering hopes for families, much less congregations, are still very much up in the air, as the snowball rolls down the hill toward 300,000 virus deaths, as racial and political and economic ideologies and realities split family and nation. So yes, “We want a little Christmas. Right this very minute. Vaccine distribution. Fulfillment to win it.” But Advent invites us into the counter-intuitive, spiritually and emotionally necessary posture of active waiting. Faith. I’m with you, Mame. Got my tree up. Blared Christmas carols last week. Earliest ever. But need a little Advent NOW!

Walking with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim".

Bishop Tim Smith

## Federal Point Historical Society Presidents Letter

### Part III

In 1953 the growing congregation began planning for a new church building to replace the barracks church. Their first full time pastor, Rev. David Johnson, had a background in building design and construction, so he took a lead role in planning the new church. He designed a traditional cruciform, cross-shaped, floor plan and building with modern low lines, a Roman brick exterior and contemporary windows. Interior walls would be masonry painted concrete block. The roof was to be supported with arches and purlins laminated on the job from three quarter inch Douglas fir timber.

Everything was put on hold until after clean up from Hurricane Hazel which came ashore on October 15, 1954. Hazel is the only Category Four Hurricane to hit our area in all of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to date. It came in on a lunar high tide, wreaking havoc and leaving much devastation.



On February 6, 1955 groundbreaking ceremonies were held with Dr. F. L. Conrad, President of the North Carolina Synod. Assisting him were Mrs. Ernest Lineberger of the United Lutheran Church Women and Miss Judy Lewis from the Kure's Luther League. The barracks church was moved to the back of the lot and they laid out the foundation. Again, the men of the church were the volunteer labor. The only paid full time worker was Bob Ford as Construction Supervisor with Rev. Johnson acting as advisor. Construction went quickly and soon cranes were lifting the arches and purlins into place.



Next month: Kure Memorial Lutheran Church, Part IV

**Help with Sunday Mornings...as long as the weather holds!** As exciting and refreshing as it is to worship outside together on Sunday Mornings...there is more to do to prepare for our service! For those of you who have attended our outdoor worship services...when we weren't rained out, you noticed the sound system was set up, the keyboard was in the gazebo, several tables were set up for offering baskets, worship outlines, extra face coverings and hand sanitizer as well as for Holy Communion. Preparing Holy Communion has also taken on a new look! We need to add to the team of folks willing to be scheduled to either help set up or help take down. Our goal is to have some people each Sunday for each task so that each person won't have to spend more than 15 or 20 minutes and not have to volunteer every Sunday! **If you are willing to lend a hand on an occasional Sunday, please contact Pastor Dan! We would love to have you as part of our team!** Many hands make light work!

### The Sunday Lunch ministry

Join this ministry by making sandwiches and filling bag lunches beginning at 11:15 a.m. We adhere to the social distancing guidelines. The lunches are then distributed at the Community Building on Cape Fear Blvd, next to Sea Merchant. \*\*\*\*Additional questions or if you want to help, contact Jean Graff, [kjeb415@charter.net](mailto:kjeb415@charter.net) or call 309-339-9272

### December Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Ushers
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Nick Schwenker	Kristin Woodie	
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Beth Gavigan	Cory Petermann	Mario Piccinin, Renee & Lee Reitzel
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Graff	Jean Graff	Mira & Tony Sabetti and Patrick Gavigan
*If you are available to volunteer as a worship assistant during any of the Christmas Eve services, please email the church office at the email address <a href="mailto:kurememorial@kurememorial.com">kurememorial@kurememorial.com</a> .			
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 5pm Service			
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 7pm Service			
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 11pm Service			
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Marcus Matzke	Chris Keck	Rhonda & Richard Geisel and Gary Bianchi

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Because we are continuing to practice and navigate through social distancing guidelines and policies, we will not be having sanctuary flowers for December 2020.

**Sanctuary Lamp:** Our Sanctuary Lamp burns continually, signifying the unswerving presence of the spirit of the Lord in our hearts and in our lives. To sponsor the sanctuary lamp, choose your Sunday date and the loved one or occasion you wish to honor and sign up in the Fellowship Hall. The cost of sponsorship is \$5; an acknowledgement will be made in the Sunday Bulletin.

*December 6<sup>th</sup>:*

*December 13<sup>th</sup>: The Palamara family / In honor of Kylie P.'s Birthday!*

*December 20<sup>th</sup>:*

*December 27<sup>th</sup>:*

## **A Prayer of Thanks**

God, You are good, and Your steadfast love endures forever! Even in the hardest seasons, I always have a reason to worship You.

Thank You for giving me victory and abundant life in Jesus Christ! Although I don't deserve it, You shower me with unconditional love and forgiveness.

And so no matter what the future may hold, I will shout for joy because You are with me. You comfort me and bless me. Nothing compares to You and no weapon can stand against You. In all things, I am more than a conqueror through You!

Be glorified through me, God. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart bless Your name.

I want my life to bring You praise.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

# A great new idea to introduce just in time for the holidays!



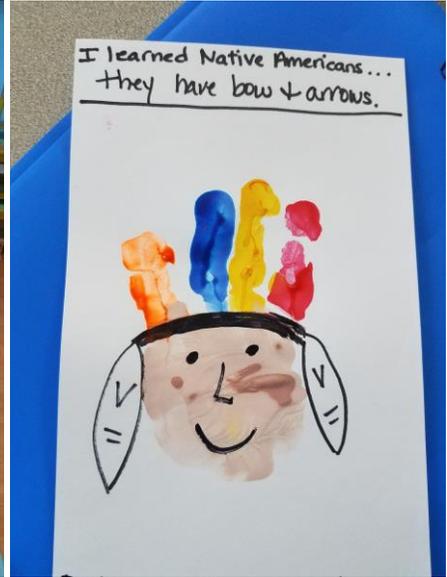
## The Presence Jar

**PORTICO**  
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

See how the simple act of setting a daily intention can help you live with greater presence. Cut the following 31 (plus 2 bonus) daily activities into strips, add them to a jar, and choose one to try each day. By practicing presence, you can let go of distractions and focus on what matters most during the busy month of December.

<p><b>SING A SEASONAL SONG</b> E.g. Joy to the World, Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman</p>	<p><b>MEDITATE</b> Sit in a relaxed position and notice your breathing — clear your mind of other thoughts.</p>	<p><b>DECLUTTER ONE ROOM</b> An organized living space can reduce your overall stress level.</p>
<p><b>NAME ONE THING YOU'RE GRATEFUL FOR</b> E.g. friends, laughter, good coffee, pets</p>	<p><b>INCREASE YOUR STEPS</b> Take an extra walk today, whether it's through your home or around the block.</p>	<p><b>SAVOR A SNACK</b> Whether a piece of fruit or a baked treat, take a moment to truly enjoy the experience of eating.</p>
<p><b>IDENTIFY A MOVEMENT OF CHOICE TO INCORPORATE INTO YOUR DAY</b> E.g. walk, stretch, plank</p>	<p><b>NOTICE SHAPES IN THE CLOUDS</b> Reconnect with your surroundings using your imagination.</p>	<p><b>LISTEN TO THOSE AROUND YOU</b> Pay attention to their words, their actions, and practice compassion for their feelings.</p>
<p><b>MAKE A MEAL TOGETHER</b> E.g. pancakes for breakfast, chicken with roasted veggies for dinner</p>	<p><b>TAKE A MOMENT TO NOTICE NATURE</b> It's amazing what can go unnoticed when you're going about your day.</p>	<p><b>SPEAK OR SEND A WORD OF HOPE</b> Be a light in the darkness for those around you.</p>
<p><b>BAKE A FAVORITE SEASONAL RECIPE</b> E.g. Christmas cookies, gingerbread, rice pudding</p>	<p><b>LISTEN TO YOUR BODY</b> Don't push through your feelings! Eat when you are hungry, rest when you are tired.</p>	<p><b>APOLOGIZE</b> If something is weighing on your heart, seek reconciliation to find peace.</p>
<p><b>TAKE A BREAK FROM ELECTRONICS</b> Instead, start a conversation or play a card game with a loved one.</p>	<p><b>REFLECT ON A MOMENTO</b> Sit with a treasured item for five minutes and explore its significance in your life.</p>	<p><b>MAKE TIME FOR YOUR PASSION</b> Release your creativity and reconnect with yourself!</p>
<p><b>DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL COMMIT TO</b> E.g. yes to coffee with a friend, no to hosting your extended family</p>	<p><b>SHARE YOUR HEART</b> Voice your gratitude, love, frustration, or pain with someone you care about.</p>	<p><b>PRACTICE PATIENCE</b> Focus on your breathing to reduce stress and give yourself time to respond rather than react.</p>
<p><b>DO AN ART PROJECT</b> E.g. color, paint, stamp, scrapbook, sculpt</p>	<p><b>SMILE</b> Give yourself the freedom to feel and share your joy.</p>	<p><b>DONATE TO A FOOD SHELF</b> Consider how fortunate you are. Take this opportunity to share with others this season.</p>
<p><b>GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP</b> Go to bed early after at least an hour without screen time.</p>	<p><b>LAUGH</b> Whether at a joke or a stressful situation: find the humor and enjoy the moment.</p>	<p><b>SHARE YOUR FEARS</b> Openness helps to relieve stress and move forward when you feel stuck.</p>
<p><b>READ A BOOK</b> Immerse yourself in the story and be present with the characters.</p>	<p><b>SHARE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS</b> E.g. give a compliment, pick up a stranger's tab, give to a charity</p>	<p><b>SHARE YOUR DREAMS</b> Voicing your dreams can create accountability and open your mind to new possibilities.</p>
<p><b>VISIT A LONELY PERSON</b> This season can be difficult for many. Share the gift of your time with someone who needs it.</p>	<p><b>MAKE YOUR BED</b> Instead of adding another task to today's to-do list, make your bed when you wake up. Done!</p>	<p><b>TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM</b> Sharing love is the most powerful way to connect with those around you.</p>

As the ELCA's benefit ministry, Portico works to empower whole-person well-being — so you can live well. For more wellness content visit [PorticoBenefits.org/wellness](https://PorticoBenefits.org/wellness) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



*The Help Center of Federal Point*

*P.O. Box 54- Carolina Beach, NC 28428*

*Phone: 910 458-2777*

October 5, 2020

Pastor Dan Keck  
Kure Beach Memorial Lutheran Church  
PO Box 1  
Kure Beach, NC 28449

Dear Pastor Dan,

We, at The Help Center, want to thank you and your congregation for the support that you have given us throughout the years. You have been a trusted partner in our mission of assisting those in need.

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted hardship on many in the community, The Help Center has been blessed with an abundance of contributions both in the amount of food collected and in financial donations.

Churches, organizations, businesses and the towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach along with individuals have gone above and beyond in their generosity to the center. This has made it possible for us to assist, even those, who do not live in our community.

While we have been fortunate, we realize that many of our loyal supporters have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Because of this, we feel that any monetary donations that you have scheduled for The Help Center be postponed until this crisis is over and life returns to normal.

Sincerely

Executive Committee  
The Help Center of Federal Point

## December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					9:30-Friday morning book group	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Janet Barden
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10- Worship (InPersonOutdoor/Face Book/Zoom livestream) 1215- Sunday lunch  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Harold Larson	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Peter Yandow		7-Advent service	<i>Happy Birthday</i> MJ Shalanski	9:30-Friday morning book group  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dani Cape  <i>Happy Birthday</i> David Denne	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Chris Keck  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Susan Shearin 7-Kure Beach
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10- Worship (InPersonOutdoor/Face Book/Zoom livestream) 1215- Sunday lunch	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Kylie Palamara  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ashley Mullen		7-Advent service		9:30-Friday morning book group	8:30-Men's coffee and conversation
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10- Worship (InPersonOutdoor/Face Book/Zoom livestream) 1215- Sunday lunch  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Barry Nelder	7-Blue Christmas service of Care Hope and Healing			Christmas Eve <i>Happy Birthday</i> Judy Kurf  5-outdoor Christmas Eve service  7- outdoor Christmas Eve service  11- indoor Christmas Eve service	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
27	28	29	30	31		
10- Worship (InPersonOutdoor/Face Book/Zoom livestream) 1215- Sunday lunch	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Conrad Swann  <i>Happy Anniversary!</i> Beth & Lee Wrenn  <i>Happy Anniversary!</i> Carlene & Wayne Van Dyck			<i>Happy Birthday</i> Grey Von Cannon		

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## ✠ REMEMBER IN PRAYER ✠

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### HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED, SPECIAL CONCERNS

**Teri Massey, Anne Burkauskas, Nancy Baker, Ellen Prevatte, Ted Prevatte, Maxine Jordan, Lisa Lee, Barry Nelder, Emily Barber, Irene Girvan, Nancy Spaller, Bob Stuart, Barb Stuart, Mina Piedmont, Betty Swann, Joanne Adams, Marge Lucido, Cathleen Applegate, Carol Ochs, Hannah Dumbrowski, Victoria Sanchez, Aris Mora, Morgan Smith, Billy Ward, John Walker, Pam Solstad, Morgan Davison, Kaitlin Sprague, Gene Snuggs, Lisa, Frank Dyson, Beth Loony, Belle Hunt, Megan Peoplis, Vaughn & Cathy Schweitzer, Andra Ciparis, Clifford Johnson, Beth Deaton, Jennifer Von Cannon, Don Bowman, Carol Tonneson, John Vrba, Marge McClosky, Richard Laudati, Joe Wright, Ruth Ann Getsinger, Leonel Marin, Rosa Marin, Damaris Marin, Steve Jones.**

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

**Sandy Hunt and Ginny Blauboer (Buckley), Tracy McKay, Tom Grady, Pat Hankin (Hambel), Paul Piedmont (Piedmont), Kristi Johnson, Cyndie Heath, Jami Harris, Jac Schlagle, Lexi Westfall (Hitchcock), Senka Gambino, Jean Behanna, Rick & Sharon Ellis (Lundy), Terry Ford & Carl Ford (Rehder), Arlo Bond (Jordan), Joey (Palamara), Pat Addington (Hearne), Julian, Jason & baby Jackson (Full), Mary Adobato (Vecchio), Megan Manley (Cox), Beverly Lynn (Kure), Richard White (Prevatte), Arden Buckley & Erin O'Brien (Buckley), Brad Cook (Shearin), Kari Craig, (Palamara), Bridges family (Lundy), Larry Gilbert (Wrenn), Anne C., Claire Houston, Tammy V., Dave Stultz, Matt Stultz, Pastor Tom Schutt, Belle Hunt, Steve Siferd, Janet Kassor, (Keck), Barbara Gavigan (Gavigan), Robin Stoehr (Gourville) Meghan O'Brien (Campbell), Kent Parker (Shearin) Barbara Murtha (Hambel/Lundy).**

*Please pray for the caregivers as they care for those who are ill.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF OUR CHURCH

Federal Point Help Center / Coupons to Service men's families / KMLC Preschool / Girl Scout Troops #867, #901 and #155 / Good Shepherd (food & supplies) / Trinity Grove / KMLC Youth Group / Katie B Hines Senior Center lunch program / The Lutheran Church of Costa Rica/ Casa Abierta-La Carpio / Seamen's Center

### STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGE / SEMINARY

Emily Graff-Luther Seminary / Tommy Ullring-Cape Fear Community College / Katelyn Copenhaver-Santa Fe College / Jordan Pivik- East Carolina University / Rachel Pivik-ECU / Katie Elkin-Duke Divinity School / Andro Keck- University of South Carolina / Vegas Vecchio- University of Washington, Seattle / Heather Keck-Medical University of South Carolina / Mackenzie Clark-Hood College, Maryland / Nick Schwenker-Appalachian State / Matthew Shuttleworth-Cape Fear Community College / Mia Shoffner-East Carolina University / Sydney Maguire-College of Charleston / Preston Gourville-Vanderbilt / Kelsey Bloch-Wake Tech / Kari Bloch-Wake Tech.

### MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING

Col Wayne Lett in Frankfort, Germany; John Brandon in Wayton, Utah; Steven Blum at Fort Bragg; Christopher Bennett in San Diego, CA; Marley Von Cannon at a Naval Base in Walton County Florida; Brandon Muehl at Fort Bragg, NC; Jacob Clinton at Fort Geiger, NC; Thomas Stafford at Ft. Bragg, NC.

### COSTA RICA MICRO LOAN RECIPIENTS

Rosa Marin, Aida Marin, Raquel Marin: Village of Guatuso / Zoraida Hernandez, Raul Perez: Village of Quitirrisi / Ana Yensi Rivera: La Carpi / Alexa Araya: San Jose / Marta Dodero.

**Pastor:** Rev. Dan Keck  
**Church Office Manager:** Courtney Jalloh  
**Musician & Choir Director:** Kristin Woodie  
**Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry** McLean Robinson

**COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2020**

Steve Shuttleworth, Terry Hambel, Dottie Herman, Eleanor Lundy, Peter Yandow, Gayle Palamara, Cory Petermann and Todd Vought.

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**President:** Todd Vought  
**Vice President:** Gayle Palamara  
**Secretary:** Peter Yandow  
**Treasurer:** Eleanor Lundy  
**Financial Secretary:** Terry Hambel

**COMMISSION CHAIRS**

Worship – Dottie Herman / Kristin Woodie  
Resource – Peter Yandow  
Nurture – TBD  
Service – M.J. Shalanski  
Discipleship – Barbara Vought  
Preschool– Celeste Carpenter  
Property – Keith Graff

**COUNCIL LIAISONS**

Dottie Herman  
  
Gayle Palamara  
Terry Hambel  
  
Eleanor Lundy  
Peter Yandow