

January 2024



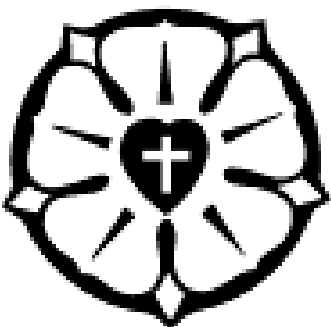
✠ Sunday Worship 10:00 am

117 N. 3rd Ave. | PO Box 1 | Kure Beach, NC 28449
Church Office: 910-458-5266

Website: www.kmlc.org | Email: kurememorial@kurememorial.com

JANUARY 2024 – NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, No. 98



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.*

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’” (Matthew 2:1-2)



Epiphany. The word “Epiphany” means, “to be made known”. It is celebrated every year on January 6, followed by the Season of Epiphany that takes us up to the Sunday of the Transfiguration, which this year is February 27. The day of Epiphany is the day that we celebrate the Magi (or Wise Men) traveling from the East to seek out and worship Jesus, the newborn King! We really don’t know much about them. We don’t know where they were from, although historically Magi were Persian astrologers, which explains their identifying and following “his star” (vs 2).

What strikes me about these Magi is that they traveled a great distance seeking out Jesus to worship him. Somehow...they knew Jesus was the one who “has been born king of the Jews.” Somehow...they knew this was the one who was worthy of worship and reverence. And they went to great lengths...and great distances to seek out this one who was made known to them!

On each Sunday during the Season of Epiphany, beginning January 7, in the Gospel story each week, we read about Jesus “being made known” in different ways to different people. On the First Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of our Lord, we read about how Jesus was “made known” through the preaching of John the Baptist as well as through God’s voice from heaven revealing him as God’s son at his baptism (*Mark 1:4-11*). On the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” to Philip and Nathaniel (*John 1:43-51*). On the Third Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” to his first disciples along the Sea of Galilee (*Mark 1:14-20*). On the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” through his teaching in the synagogue and when he cast out a demon from a man (*Mark 1:21-28*). On the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” through his miraculous healings and his teaching throughout Galilee. (*Mark 1:29-39*).

During this Season of Epiphany, as we think about how Jesus was revealed to different people in different ways through the gospel readings each week, **I invite you to think about how Jesus is revealed to you in different ways and through different people in your life.** How is it that Jesus is made known to you in the various circumstances that you experience? How do you make known the love, grace, forgiveness and mercy of Jesus in the world around you? It could be in simple ways or it could be in dramatic ways. Whether it be simple or dramatic, may the presence of Christ fill your life in powerful ways.

Special Note: Speaking of Epiphany... Join us on **Friday, January 5 at 7pm for our annual outdoor Epiphany service** entitled, **“Epiphany; Come to the Light”**, to celebrate the Light of the world being made known to the Magi (*Matthew 2:1-2*). Bring your lawn chairs, hot chocolate, coffee, or tea! We will have several fire pits around for warmth as well as to remind us of the light of Jesus being made known to us as well as in the world around us! It will be a short service, filled with music and joyful celebration! **The children who attend “Faithful Fun Fridays” will be helping to lead the service! We will also have “S’mores” following the service over the campfires!** We hope you will make plans to join us! The service will be livestreamed as well, for those of you who either prefer to stay home or are not able to be here in person!

Surfin' on God's Grace!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

December flew by for our youth with lots of fun events!

Sunday School students began learning the The Ten Commandments in the Dig In program. They also participated in choosing animals for our Global Barnyard that was part of our November Rice Bowl Offering. We were able to purchase 1 fish farm, 4 chicks, 1cow, 4 piglets, 2 goats and 2 bee colonies from the Global Barnyard!



Our preschoolers have started their new Sunday school program filled with crafts and learning sheets.

If you would like to join our amazing Sunday School program, please feel free to reach out, we are looking for teachers and assistants.



Faithful Fun Friday looked a little different in December.

Our youth began a new tradition of caroling through our lovely Kure Beach neighborhoods.

The children had a blast and brought joy to many others, including local police officers at their holiday party.

This will be a great tradition for them to continue for many years!



Children/Youth and Family Ministry Updates

Our children's Christmas party was held last weekend. We had 13 children attend! They were able to participate in lots of fun keepsake crafts, games and fellowship. Parents were able to drop off their little ones so that they could continue their holiday tasks. This couldn't have been possible without the help of our awesome church volunteers!!!



In January we will hold Faithful Fun Friday during the Epiphany Service on Friday, January 6th from 5:30-7:30. Children will have dinner and practice their readings for their participation in the service.

Children and Family Ministry Kure Memorial Lutheran Church

1/5 - **Epiphany Service** 5:30 to 7:30 (K-Up)

This will replace Faithful Fun Friday for January

2/9 - **Faithful Fun Friday** 5:30 to 7:30 (K-Up)

3/8 - **Faithful Fun Friday** 5:30 to 7:30 (K-Up)

3/24 - **Easter Eggstravaganza** 11:00am to 1:00pm

4/12 - **Faithful Fun Friday** 5:30 to 7:30 (K-Up)

5/10 - **Faithful Fun Friday** 5:30 to 7:30 (K-Up)

Questions please email kmlcfamilyministry@gmail.com

Be sure to get your fridge magnet for all the Spring upcoming events

Thank you for all your support!
Christine Hughes
kmlcfamilyministry@gmail.com

Monthly Men's Breakfast for January! Our men's breakfast for January will be **January 20 beginning at 8:30am** in the fellowship hall! If you plan to bring something, please let Pastor Dan know! He will be at church to unlock, set up and get coffee started by around 8am...so if you would like to come early to help out or just to have coffee and chat...that would be great! Looking forward to seeing you all!

2024 Polar Plunge Team KMLC! The Polar Plunge 2024 will take place on Saturday, February 17! This event is the major annual fundraising event for Special Olympics New Hanover County! All the action will take place in Kure Beach at the Ocean Front Park near the Kure Beach pier. In the past we've had over 50 people be part of our team and it has been a great time...as well as being meaningful! Our team will take part in the 1-mile fun walk...or if you are more energetic(!) you can do the 5K...or you can do the plunge if you feel motivated (brrrrr!)! Or...come out and enjoy the festivities! The KMLC Polar Plunge Team is once again made possible through a \$1000 contribution to the Special Olympics New Hanover County, in memory of Melanie Wetzel, daughter of Becky and Tom Wetzel. Melanie worked with students with autism and this is a great way to honor Melanie. ***Once we receive a promo code for registration, we will pass along the registration link and the promo code to you all!*** As we have done in the past, we are inviting anyone in the congregation to donate part or all of the typical fee of participating back to that same memorial fund, which is \$30 for those doing the "1 mile fun walk/run or 5K" or \$40 for those doing the "plunge and walk/run". That way we will be able to have a team in Melanie's memory for more years to come! (Please make your check out to KMLC and write "Polar Plunge" in the memo line!) ***We also have a "Team Feed" on February 16***, the Friday night before the plunge, as we have done in the past, which is always a great time! More information on that will be coming...so stay tuned! ***At the end of the newsletter, you will find the schedule of events for "Plunge Day"!*** Contact Pastor Dan with questions!

Faithful Fun Friday: In January we will hold Faithful Fun Friday during the Epiphany Service on Friday, January 6th from 5:30-7:30. Children will have dinner and practice their readings for their participation in the service.

Service Ministry Team UPDATE: Hello! My name is Kelley Hargrave, I am honored to be chairing the service team here at Kure Memorial. My husband Jim and I decided to make Wilmington our year-round home in August. We have been coming to Carolina Beach for the winter since 2016. We have 2 children, Jen Carter, who is one of Kure Memorial's sign language interpreters and Justin who lives in Shelbyville, TN. I'm excited to be a part of this church and am honored to have a wonderful group of people making the service team a success for our church. Please don't hesitate to contact me at jkhargrave@sbcglobal.net

Service Ministry Team Meeting: We will continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom- **January 9th, 2:00 pm will be our next meeting on Zoom!** We would love to have you join us! Please reach out, we have many opportunities to get involved- Kelley Hargrave jkhargrave@sbcglobal.net.

Church Council Meeting: The Kure Memorial Lutheran Church Council meeting is on **Monday, January 8th at 6:30**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

"Un-decorate the Church": **On Sunday, January 14th**, we will **"undecorate" the church** following worship! We would love as much help as we can get! We hope you will stick around!

Friday Morning Book Group: We are excited to begin again in January 2024! We will meet at 9:30 am at 316 Goldsboro. ***We will only meet 2 times in January 5th and 26th.*** For more information or if you would like to join us, contact Sarah Tardio at 513-532-8276 or beechfmly@gmail.com.

January Birthday Sunday: We hope you will join in celebrating everyone with a January Birthday on **Sunday, January 7, 2024**- immediately following Worship.

Church Council Meeting: The Kure Memorial Lutheran Church Council will be meeting on **Monday, January 8th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Pantry Box Sunday: Our next Pantry Box Sunday will be on **January 14th, 2024!** We are collecting Peanut Butter and boxed cereals on Pantry Box Sunday! Thank you!

The Sunday Lunch Ministry: Sunday Lunch continues each Sunday at 12:15. Serving brown bag lunches to folks in need in the Carolina Beach area. *We need volunteers to assist with lunch preparation before and after service as well as distributing lunches at the Community Center on Cape Fear Blvd from 12-1.* Please email Jean Graff (jean_s_graff@charter.net) or phone 309-339-9272 or just talk with me at church.

Greeting Card Ministry: If you have an individual on the "Friends & Family" list that appears weekly in the Bulletin, a student, or member of the Military and would like that person to receive a "**Thinking of You**" card from our Church, please email MJ Shalanski at maryjo.shalanski@gmail.com Thank you!

Coupons for Military Families: Please donate manufacturer coupons that are valid now, or recently expired coupons, for military families. All coupons can be placed in the designated box in the narthex or brought into the church office Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Barbara Vought.

KML Preschool: will be **starting enrollment for the 2024/2025 school year on January 17th** for all current families and church members. *Open enrollment for the public will begin on February 1st, 2024.* For more information contact Celeste at kmlc.preschool@gmail.com

Book Club: During the first few months of the year, we get together and discuss books we have recently received or read. At our meetings in January – March we take turns (4-5 each meeting) talking about our selected books. It's a good opportunity to learn more about the group and our varied interests. (And it gives the organizer a break!) Our January meeting will be on **Monday, January 22nd at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Come and tell us about your favorite book and enjoy fun, fellowship, food and of course, a great discussion. Please let Lynn know if you can join us.

Choir: *It's still not too late to join us for choir!* We will be meeting at 6pm sharp each Wednesday. Come, let us sing! Chat with me after church service if you are interested in joining the choir. Thanks! Kristin knwoodie@gmail.com

Federal Point Help Center: The local help center for the month of January are collecting: **Canned meat, Pasta sauce, Dry pasta and Jelly** (small jars please) Please place in designated basket at the entrance of the church (Narthex).

We still have a few Attractions Books for sale! If you haven't already purchased yours, here is your chance!! Attractions Books are still for sale for \$30 per book, of which Kure Memorial gets \$12.50! All proceeds will go toward our next mission trip which will be this summer! Please see Pastor Dan after worship or give him a call at 910-619-8979 to get your copy(ies)! You can also stop by the church office to get them! Thank you for your support!

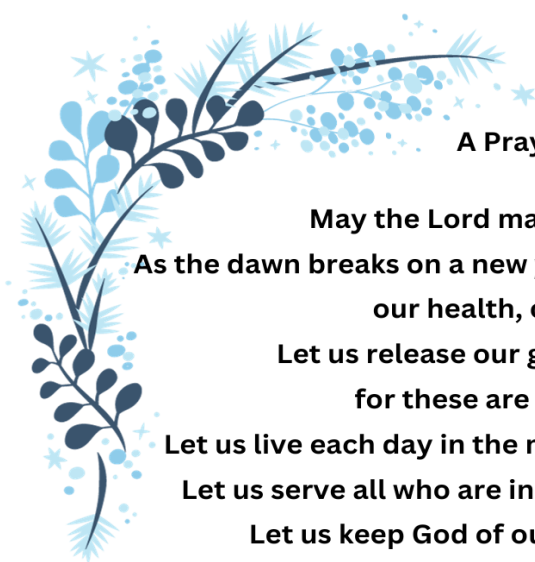
The Prayer Circle: The Prayer Circle meets weekly on **Tuesdays at 11:00a.m.** inside the church to pray, join us! Contact Lynn in the office for more details at 910-458-5266, or kurememorial@kurememorial.com.

Property Ministry Team: The property ministry Team meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

Sanctuary Flowers: To sponsor sanctuary flowers, please choose an available Sunday date from the [sign-up form on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church \(Narthex\)](#). The cost of sponsorship for the floral arrangement is \$25.00. Your dedication will be acknowledged in the Sunday Bulletin. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary. The arrangement is yours to take home to enjoy after service! For more information, please contact Lynn during church office hours at 910-458-5266.

Sanctuary Candle: Our Sanctuary Candle burns continually, signifying the unswerving presence of the spirit of the Lord in our hearts and in our lives. To sponsor the sanctuary candle, choose an available Sunday date from the [sign-up form on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church \(Narthex\)](#). The cost of sponsorship is \$5.00; an acknowledgement will be made in the Sunday Bulletin. For more information, please contact Lynn during church office hours at 910-458-5266.

POEMS AND PRAYERS



A Prayer for the New Year

May the Lord make our New Year a happy one...

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear:

our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains,
for these are nothing but binding chains.

Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.

Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts
and to chant God's name each day.

Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth
and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.

May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and
peaceful new year.

—Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Day's Lyric

Having reflected on the previous year as portrayed on social media, Amanda Gorman wrote "New Day's Lyric" to celebrate the hope that the New Year brings



May this be the day we come together.

Mourning, we come to mend,
Withered, we come to weather,
Torn, we come to tend,
Battered, we come to better.

Tethered by this year of yearning,
We are learning
That though we weren't ready for this,
We have been readied by it.
We steadily vow that no matter
How we are weighed down,
We must always pave a way forward.

This hope is our door, our portal.
Even if we never get back to normal,
Someday we can venture beyond it,
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
But reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.
What was plagued, we will prove pure.
Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,
Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,
Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;
Those moments we missed
Are now these moments we make,
The moments we meet,
And our hearts, once altogether beaten,
Now all together beat.

Come, look up with kindness yet,
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,
But to take on tomorrow.

We heed this old spirit, in a new day's lyric,
In our hearts, we hear it:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.

Be bold, sang Time this year,
Be bold, sang Time,
For when you honor yesterday,
Tomorrow ye will find.
Know what we've fought
Need not be forgot nor for none.
It defines us, binds us as one.

Come over, join this day just begun.
For wherever we come together,
We will forever overcome.



FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Shout-out! A big Thank You for a job-well-done. We met and even surpassed the funding needed for our 2023 Mission Plan. We are grateful for our families who contributed to our success. A detailed report will be included in the Congregation Reports written for part 2 of our Congregation meeting.

Some reminders:

1. Offering Envelopes for 2024 are inside the Church entrance. Make sure you pick yours up. If you wanted a box and didn't receive one, please inform Lynn in the Office.
2. We hope to send out 2023 Contribution Statements mid-January. All of your contributions will be included - tithes, special gifts, flower donations, etc.
3. As we begin a New Year, consider making your Tithes and Offerings a monthly budgeted item. Have your bank mail in your offering to Kure Memorial. Eleanor Lundy can give you our Bank numbers for you to set up automatic payments.
4. If you are one of the families contributing through Paypal, consider switching to Zelle or Bank payments. We ask this because Paypal deducts a higher percentage of your contribution as user fees. Thus, your contribution to KMLC is lessened when using Paypal.

Finally, God's blessings of Peace, Hope and Prosperity to you and your families throughout the New Year. May all of us share our time, talents and resources to keep KMLC's Mission Plan alive, dynamic and a beacon of light in our community.

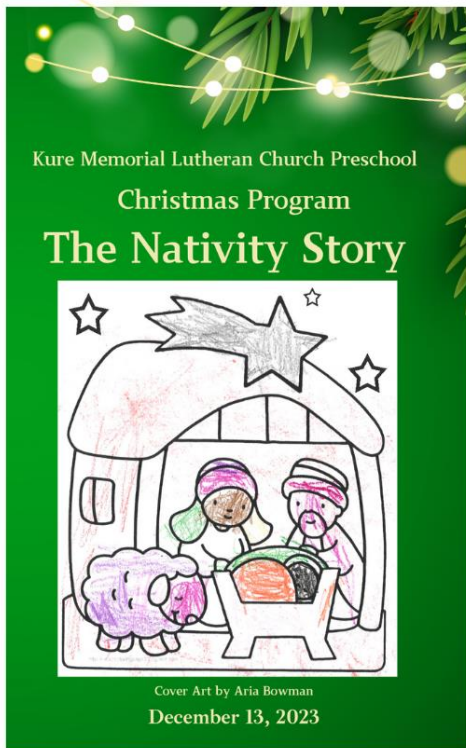
JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Ushers	Assisting Minister	Reader	Sign Language Interpreter	AV Operators
January 7, 2024	Thom Girardot and Emery Walters	Cory Petermann	Julie Dawson	Jen Carter	Colby Shoffner
January 14, 2024	TBD	Keith Graff	Jean Graff	Amber Lang	Cory Petermann
January 21, 2024	Butch and Garner Von Cannon	Cory Petermann	MJ Shalanski	Jen Carter	Peter Yandow
January 28, 2024	Patrick and Beth Gavigan	John Ellen	Kristin Woodie	Amber Lang	Marcus Matzke

* **Ushers:** If there should be a conflict with the Sunday that you are scheduled for, please let me know as soon as possible and I will make the necessary changes. Thank you for serving, Jack (jncambell45@yahoo.com)

* *Are you interested in being a Worship Assistant? Please contact Lynn in the Office 910-458-5266*

PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Nativity Story presented by the 4 year old class

Mary - Rome Paredes
 Angel Gabriel (e) - Leighton Overstreet
 Joseph - Nicholas Hughes
 Donkey - Katie Johnson
 Innkeeper - Airlie Flynn
 Cow - Ellie Ginsberg
 Dove - Willow Reavis
 Shepherd - Dominic DePierro
 Shepherd - Marco Vera
 Sheep - Sylvia Graves
 Star - Eleanora Wooten
 Wiseman 1 - Lucas Smith
 Wiseman 2 - Benjamin Kennedy
 Wiseman 3 - Leon Vera
 Camel - Azalea Upton
 Gold - Leo Bush
 Frankincense - Stella Maphis
 Myrrh - Maddox Abernathy

Songs

Sing a Happy Hallelujah Christmas Song
 Clip Clop
 Twinkle Twinkle Special Star
 Baby Jesus We Love You
 Happy Birthday Jesus
 The Angel Sing
 Go Tell It On The Mountain

Angel Choir

Samantha Brown	Kai Callahan
Beckett Wyble	Nash Anderson
Noa Smith	Kai Smith
Ivy Culler	Dre Drown
Adalei Ellis	Xander Gilewicz
Kinsley Karch	Piper Karch
Luna June Rankin	Ellarie Smith
Harrison Wooten	George Beaver
River Biggs	Britt Blackburn
Aria Bowman	Odhran McCarthy
Olivia McLean	Stanley Nowitzky
Vada O'Rourke	Miles Potter
Ellie Simmons	Ollie Smith
Avery Soltysik	Josie Springer
Zoe Wolf	Abigail Davis
Charles Ginsberg	Lila Kennedy
Walker Malkmus	Wyatt White

A special Thank you to our Teachers and Director

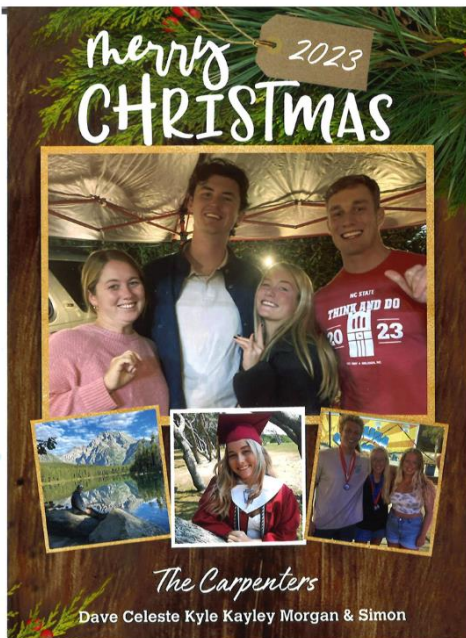
4 year old teachers	3 year old teachers	2 year old teachers
Teresa Milton	Crystal Bowles	Christine Hughes
Tracie DiCello	Jacqueline Kodetsky	Caroline Stevenson
	Christine Hughes	Jill Shoffner
		Susan Landry
	Preschool Director	
	Celeste Carpenter	



THANK YOU NOTES



The
Wilmington
Team

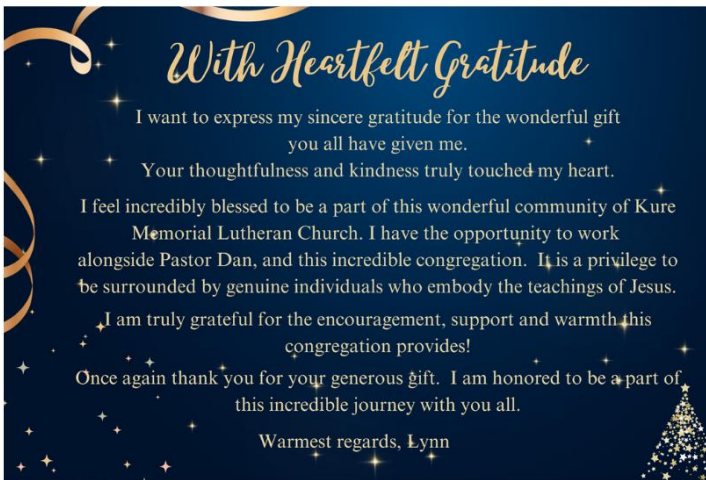


TO the KMLC Church unqu

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift you have provided myself and the rest of the preschool staff. It means a lot!

But more importantly thank you for trusting me to head up the preschool program for years to serve our local community. What a joy it is to work in partnership with this wonderful congregation!

Thanks again for the gift, love and support to me & my family!
Merry Christmas! *Althea Carports*



Have a very Merry Christmas

...Christmas joy to you we bring!

To Kure Memorial Lutheran Church

Thank you for collecting all the brownies! I know all the individuals will enjoy the brownies. The Help Center also thanks you for your support all year. We appreciate all you do.
The Help Center @ Federal Point

Pastor:	Dan Keck
Church Office Manager:	Lynn Galindo
Musician & Choir Director:	Kristin Woodie
Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry	Christine Hughes

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2023

Gayle Palamara, Beth Gavigan, Marcus Matzke, Ann-Marie Cooper, Matthew Shuttleworth, Christine Hughes, Cory Petermann, Jim Hargrave, Roshell Heckendorf, Butch Von Cannon

COUNCIL OFFICERS-

President:	Gayle Palamara
Vice President:	Beth Gavigan
Secretary:	Roshell Heckendorf
Treasurer:	Marcus Matzke

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

Worship–	Ann-Marie Cooper
Resource –	Peter Yandow
Nurture –	Roshell Heckendorf
Service –	Kelley Hargrave
Discipleship –	Darcy Hearne
Preschool–	Celeste Carpenter
Property –	Keith Graff

COUNCIL LIAISONS

Beth Gavigan
Matthew Shuttleworth
Christine Hughes



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 2024
KURE BEACH OCEAN FRONT PARK, 105 ATLANTIC AVE, KURE BEACH

Polar Plunge Schedule of Events

- 11:00 am** Gates open. Enjoy live music, DJ, silent auction, raffle, costume contest, food & much more!
- 11:00 am** On-site Registration/Packet Pickup opens
- 12:00 pm** Costume Contest
- 1:00 pm** On-site Registration for race/Packet Pickup close
- 1:30 pm** 5k Starts
- 1:35 pm** 1 Mile Run/Walk Starts
- 2:00 pm** Raffle Closes
- 2:00 pm** Silent Auction Closes
- 2:45 pm** Awards Begin (This time is approximate)
- 3:00 pm** PLUNGE Line Up
- 3:05 pm** PLUNGE

Fees to Participate

Plunge Only	\$30	1 Mile Fun Run/Walk.....	\$30(All-Abilities)
5K Run Only	\$30	Combo.....	\$40
5K Run Only	\$40	*Combo includes Plunge and 5K or 1 Mile Run 5K	
Day of Event	\$40		
Plunge with Pooch.....	\$30		

Students & Teachers Discount: Students and teachers who are plunging receive a \$5 discount.(School ID is required)

*****prices will be raised on January 5th*****

The more money you raise, the better the prize!

Each family is encouraged to raise at least \$100 to help maintain free programming!

Each participant will be eligible for prizes based on the amount of money they have personally raised.

- **\$150 - \$200:** Polar Plunge long sleeve shirt and event t shirt!
- **\$200 - \$300:** The above and a Special Olympics beanie!
- **\$300 - \$500:** The above and a crewneck sweatshirt!
- **\$500 - \$1500:** The above and a Special Olympics lawn chair!
- **\$1500 and above:** The above and a Special Olympics rolling cooler OR rolling duffel bag!

Please register at www.specialolympicsnhc.com

If you have any questions, please call 910-341-7253 or email brooke.deamaral@wilmingtonnc.gov