



✝ 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

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

***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.*



From Pastor Dan

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”
(Psalm 100:1-2)*



Christmas Carols. They can bring such joy and inspiration! During the month of December, throughout the season of Advent, at the beginning of each Sunday morning worship service, we begin with Christmas hymn requests. We take 2 or 3 requests and sing one verse from each one and then the last request will be our gathering song for the day! It's a way for us to enjoy the variety of songs of the Christmas season as we prepare for Jesus coming into the world and celebrate his presence in our lives all year long. Singing these songs also reminds me of the hope we have in his coming again at the end of time.

I realize there are so many other hymns and songs of praise that are also very inspiring, joyful and hopeful. For example, the songs that we sing each week in worship and during our beach

service throughout the summer, songs we hear on our favorite Christian radio stations, through our cell phones or other favorite recordings...which can also be inspiring, joyful and uplifting, reminding us of the love, grace, forgiveness and hope we have in Jesus.

The thing is, whatever your favorite praise music is...either to listen to or to sing along with...the important thing is to “Come before the Lord with joyful songs”, to “Worship the Lord with gladness” and to “Shout for joy to the Lord”. Because in doing so we honor and glorify the God who loves, forgives and redeems us, as well as to be inspired to live our faith in the world around us...no matter what time of year it is!

May God bless you during these most holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Surfin' on God's Grace!

Dan

A Christmas Prayer

Not gold, nor myrrh, nor even frankincense
would I have for you this season,
but simple gifts, the ones that are hardest to find,
the ones that are perfect,
even for those who have everything (if such there be).

I would (if I could)
have for you the gift of courage,
the strength to face the gauntlets
only you can name,
and the firmness in your heart to know
that you (yes, you!) can be a bearer of the quiet dignity
that is the human glorified.

I would (if by my intention I could make it happen)
have for you the gift of connection,
the sense of standing on the hinge of time,
touching past and future
standing with certainty that you (yes, you!)
are the point where it all comes together.

I would (if wishing could make it so)
have for you the gift of community,
a nucleus of love and challenge,
to convince you in your soul
that you (yes, you!) are a source of light
in a world too long believing in the dark.

Not gold, nor myrrh, nor even frankincense,
would I have for you this season,
but simple gifts, the ones that are hardest to find,
the ones that are perfect,
even for those who have everything (if such there be).

- Rev. Maureen Killoran



News Bites

Advent Devotions for Every Age Group! Advent devotional books are available beginning November 24 in the entryway for families and adults again this year! We encourage you to check them out and utilize whichever is most appropriate for you and your family!

The Season of Advent begins December 1! In addition to Sunday mornings, please join us for our Advent Services.

- **December 4th and 11th @ 7:00 pm:** Midweek Advent worship: Holden Evening Prayer. Holden Evening prayer is a really meaningful/beautiful service which is mostly sung by a leader and the congregation. If you haven't attended one in the past, I strongly encourage you to check it out!
- **December 18th @ 7:00 pm:** Advent Worship with our KMLC Preschool telling the story of the birth of Jesus through their annual Christmas Program! It is one not to miss!

Decorating our Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary: We invite everyone attending worship on Sunday, December 1 to help decorate our tree in the sanctuary! When everyone arrives for worship on that Sunday, we invite you to take a Chrismon ornament to hang on the tree prior to the start of worship. It has become a wonderful tradition here at Kure Memorial over the years...and it's always beautiful when it's done!



Birthday Sunday is December 8! Join us for BIRTHDAY CAKE after worship to celebrate everyone with a September Birthday!

Pantry Box Sunday is December 8! We are asking for small jars of peanut butter, microwaveable bowls and microwaveable meals, and Ramen noodles. Items can be donated by leaving them in the narthex. For more information on the Pantry Box Ministry, please contact MJ Shalanski (maryjo.shalanski@gmail.com).



NEW Dance Ministry for Children: We are so excited to bring Liturgical Dance to our church! We welcome all kids - join us for a fun style of dance that expresses worship and praise through movements with songs. It will be super easy and fun choreography so anyone can join! This is another beautiful way to bring energy and love for God to our amazing church. This also is a creative outlet for the children to understand the songs and meaning behind the words of worship through dance! The next practice is right after church on December 8th. Our performance will be at the beginning of church on Dec 15th. We would love to have you there! Feel free to reach out with any questions to Georgeann Christie at 808-205-1627.

Monthly Men's Breakfast for December! Our men's breakfast for December will be **December 14** beginning at 8:30am in the fellowship hall! In the midst of a very busy month...we hope you can join us! 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!



Poinsettias for Christmas! If you plan to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas to beautify our sanctuary, you may bring your poinsettia (with your name on it) and place it in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 22 *after* the Sunday service, through 4pm, Monday morning, December 23! ***If you need to bring them prior to Sunday after the service, please place them on the sidewalk behind the church near the courtyard. (If anyone wants to volunteer to water them, that would be great!)* Remember, the sanctuary doors are unlocked usually between 8am and 7pm every day. **Also...** please let us know the following: who it is in honor, in memory or in thanksgiving for as well as who it is given by. We will need this information by Monday, December 16. Please feel free to take your poinsettia home with you any time after the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. You can email your information to Tracy at kurememorial@kurememorial.com.

Christmas Eve Worship Services: Join us for worship on Christmas Eve at either 10am, 5pm or 11pm! Or all three if you like!

- **10am Service:** This service will include inviting the children to sit around the nativity at the altar and telling the Christmas story. It will also include celebrating Holy Communion.
- **5pm service:** Will include a telling of the Christmas story around a camp fire on the front lawn by the gazebo, followed by a procession into the sanctuary where we will sing traditional Christmas carols, read scripture, hear and reflect on the Christmas message, and have a special time for children! It will also include singing Silent Night by candlelight and celebrating Holy Communion!
- **11pm service:** will be a more traditional Christmas Eve worship service also with candlelight and Holy Communion.

We look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve. *NOTE: one of the Christmas Eve services may be live-streamed, and as soon as we know if we will be able to offer that, we will let everyone know.*

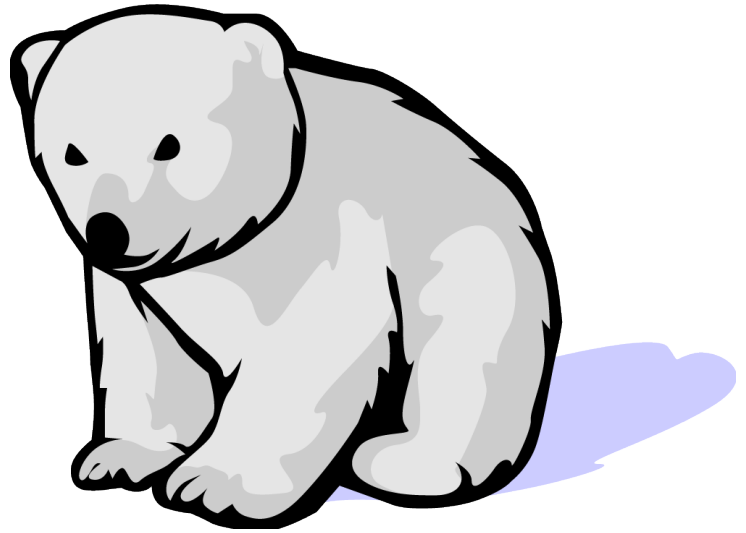
Holy Communion is the Second Tuesday of the Month! Join us on **December 10 at 10:30** for a short Holy Communion Service in the sanctuary. This is an opportunity to gather in a small group setting to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Even if you attend worship and receive communion regularly...it's a chance to gather with others and receive the gift of our Lord Jesus during the week.

Welcome two new church council members: Robert Rhyne and Mel Jones! They were elected during the annual congregational meeting on November 17. They will begin their terms in January.

Federal Point Help Center. Just a reminder that the Help Center will not be collecting food for December. Your donations to the Christmas Basket program (brownie mixes) were greatly appreciated. For information about the Help Center, please contact Michelle or Randy Bock (randy6b6@gmail.com).

We still have 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! 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! They make great Christmas gifts for someone else...or for yourself! Thank you for your support!

2025 Polar Plunge Team KMLC! The Polar Plunge 2025 will take place on **Saturday, February 8!** This event is the major annual fundraising event for Special Olympics New Hanover County! Over the years, KMLC has had both athletes and coaches participate in multiple sports. We know first-hand what a great organization this is. 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 (brrrr!)



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 long-time members, Becky and Tom Wetzel. Melanie worked with students with autism and this is a great way to honor her. **Once we receive a promo code for registration, we will pass along the registration link and the promo code to you all! You will not need to pay anything when you register.** 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 (\$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!). This is certainly not required- just 1 way to keep the fund renourished. We also have a **“Team Feed” on February 7**, 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! I know this seems early...but the plunge is a little bit earlier than previous years. Contact Pastor Dan with questions!



KMLC Pantry Box

The last words in our KMLC Mission Statement affirm that we “love God by serving others.” These words are not just printed on the cover of our Worship outline each Sunday. Rather, they are words that we live by every day. One demonstration of this is our Congregation’s continuing commitment to assist individuals in our local community with food insufficiencies. Your donations of groceries on the 2nd Sunday of each month, designated as “Pantry Box Sunday,” (and, any day!) are a demonstration of this care and concern. In addition to enabling the daily stocking of our Food Pantry Box, your generosity has amounted to **132** bags of groceries for the Help Center since the start of 2024! Thank you so much for your support! A big thank you, as well, to Harriet McNeill. Harriet is our faithful deliverer of these grocery donations to the Help Center.



From the Financial Secretary

As we begin the month of December, we realize that we are coming to the end of the year. It is good to take a look at where we are regarding funding our 2024 Mission Plan. The funds we've received from Tithes and Offerings have faltered a bit this year and we've had to withdraw some funds from savings to supplement our Mission plan needs. We know that we've all struggled with the economy and there's been less money to go around for all of us. We thank all of you who contributed consistently and buoyed us up when funds seemed low. (Of course, we'd welcome any end-of-year additional contributions that you might want to make!)

We are working on the boxes of Contribution envelopes. We hope to distribute them in mid-December. Please notify the Office if:

- a. you have not received a box of envelopes in the past and would like one for your 2025 contributions.
- b. you have had a box of envelopes in the past, but will not be needing one for 2025 because your contribution will come in through Bank Pay, Paypal or Zelle.

End of the Year Contribution Statements will be mailed as close to January 15th as possible. This statement will include all contributions made to Tithes and Offerings as well as special funds such as Flowers & Light, Disaster Relief, etc.

As we prepare for Christmas, may we welcome the gift of God's richness shared with us in so many ways.



I Am There

Now God says to us
What He has already said to the earth as a whole
Through His grace-filled birth:

I am there. I am with you.
I am your life. I am your time.
I am the gloom of your daily routine. Why will you not hear it?
I weep your tears - pour yours out to me.
I am your joy.
Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living
That is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who have no hope.

I am the blind alley of all your paths,
For when you no longer know how to go any farther,
Then you have reached me,
Though you are not aware of it.

I am in your anxiety, for I have shared it.
I am in the prison of your finiteness,
For my love has made me your prisoner.

I am in your death,
For today I began to die with you, because I was born,
And I have not let myself be spared any real part of this experience.

I am present in your needs;
I have suffered them and they are now transformed.

I am there.
I no longer go away from this world.
Even if you do not see me now, I am there.

My love is unconquerable.
I am there.
It is Christmas.
Light the Candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness.
It is Christmas.
Christmas that lasts forever.

- Karl Rahner, S.J., *"The Eternal Year"*

December Worship Assistants

Date	Ushers	Assisting Minister	Reader	Sign	AV
Dec 1	Jack Campbell & Thom Girardot	Kimberly Heath	Jean Graff	Jen Carter	Joshua Petermann
Dec 8	Butch & Garner Von Cannon	Cory Petermann	Robert Rhyne	Amber Lang	Peter Yandow
Dec 15	Joshua & Zachary Petermann	Keith Graff	MJ or children	Jen Carter	Zachary Petermann
Dec 22	Jack Campbell	Tracy Gourville	Chris Keck	Jen Carter	Marcus Matzke
Dec 24 10:00 am	Jack Campbell	Tracy Gourville	Julie Dawson		
Dec 24 5:00 pm	Jimmy Lippard & Jack Campbell	Kimberly Heath			
Dec 24 11:00 pm	Shoffner Family		Kristin Woodie		
Dec 29	Jack Campbell	Kimberly Heath	Julie Dawson	Amber Lang	Cory Petermann

Thank You Notes...

(From Welcome Home Angel...)

"A good person is a gift to the whole world" - Heidi Wills

Dear Kure Memorial Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of \$372.50 to Welcome Home Angel!

Your support creates a healthier, more loving environment for our Angels. Families report improved physical and mental health, reduced mobility challenges, and increased safety, allowing them to stay in their homes longer.

With your help, we continue our mission to *help families be families* by creating customized living spaces for children with special healthcare needs, from sensory rooms to wheelchair-accessible areas. Your contribution provides relief and joy to these families, allowing them to focus on what matters most: supporting each other.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the families we serve, thank you for making a meaningful difference!

Sincerely,

Craig Wagner
CEO

Welcome Home Angel is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and this note should be kept as your receipt. No goods or services were provided to you in exchange for your contribution- only our sincerest gratitude. Tax ID: 26-1638488

3175 Wrightsville Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403

WelcomeHomeAngel.com | (910) 679-6901



North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

RECEIPT

From:
NC ELCA Synod
1988 Lutheran Synod Drive
Salisbury, NC 28144

To:
Kure Memorial Lutheran Church
PO Box 1
Kure Beach, NC 28449

Item	Total Given
Donation for NC Disaster Relief Fund	\$2,800.00

Kure Memorial,
Thank you for your kind donation to the NC Disaster Relief Fund. We are beyond grateful for your generous spirit. Your donation will go towards providing care and emergency assistance for those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

With thanks and blessings,

Rev. Emily Lemoine

Rev. Emily Lemoine
LDR Carolinas Administrator
NC Synod ELCA

*Kure saints,
you all know what it's
like. Thank you. We and
western NC feel the love!
Sp. Jim Smith*

...from the ELCA Synod (disaster relief fund)

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 Worship & Sunday School 12:15 Lunch Ministry			7:00 pm Advent Service	Happy Birthday Janet Barden 7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 Book Group Happy Birthday Harold Larson	Happy Birthday Peter Yandow
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 Worship 12:15 Lunch Ministry Birthday Sunday PANTRY BOX SUNDAY Happy Anniversary James & Diane Lippard	7:30 AA Meeting	10:30 Holy Communion 11:00 Prayer Circle 1:30 Property Ministry Team 6:30 Church Council Happy Birthday MJ Shalanski	Happy Birthday Dani Cape David Denne 7:00 pm Advent Service	Happy Birthday Chris Keck 7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 Book Group	8:30 Men's Breakfast Happy Birthday Kylie Palamara Ashley Mullen
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 Worship 12:15 Sunday Lunch Ministry	7:30 AA Meeting	11:00 Prayer Circle	7:00 pm Advent Service & Children's Program	Happy Birthday Barry Nelder 7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 Book Group Happy Birthday Natlle Green	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 Worship & Sunday School 12:15 Sunday Lunch Ministry	7:30 AA Meeting	11:00 Prayer Circle Christmas Eve Services: 10:00 am, 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm	CHRISTMAS 	7:30 AA Meeting		Happy Birthday Conrad Swann Happy Anniversary Carlene & Wayne Van Dyck
29	30	31				
10:00 Worship & Sunday School 12:15 Sunday Lunch Ministry	Happy Birthday Francesca Hughes 7:30 AA Meeting	Happy Birthday Grey Von Cannon New Year's Eve				

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for those who are Homebound, Hospitalized and have Special Concerns: Andy Karch; Anna Brindley; Aris Mora; Barry & Sandra Nelder; Bexley Wissman; Bill Clark; Chastity; Carl Ford; Clara, Josh & Tori Swartz; Danny Peterson; Don Ging; Eleanor Lundy; Ellen Prevette; Evie Frey & Rachel Brendle; Gabby Portu; Gray Autry; Herb Flammer; Jean Behanna; Joe Prusa; John Gorville; Joseph Murtha; Ginny Murtha; Ken May; Kim Clark; Laura McMahan; Linda Britt-Kell; Lyndsay Girardot; Lindsey Pooler; Margaret Burgham; Matthias Warne; Maxine Jordan; Megan Peoplis; Nicky Hamm; Pat Hankin; Paul Paiva; Pete Peterson; Rick & Sharon Ellis; Rose & Andrew Kuebler; Senka Gambino; Steve Post; Steve Siferd; Terry Hambel; Trudy Ford; Troy Samuels; Whitney Johnson & family; the Pritchard family; Logan and Ken; Patrick Gavigan; MacKenzie Clark; Sandro Vera; Todd Hanlon; Gary Cox; Shirley Plastid; Wyatt; Shane; Claudine Ward.

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

Pray for the missions of our church:

Federal Point Help Center; Coupons to Service men's families; Good Shepherd (food & supplies); Katie B Hines Senior Center lunch program; New Hanover County Special Olympics; KMLC Preschool; Trinity Grove; The Sunday Lunch Ministry; Alcoholics Anonymous

Students Attending College:

Rachel Pivik - Wayne Community College in Goldsboro; Braden and Joshua Quinn – Brevard College; Eathan Quinn – NC State; Mia Shoffner - UNC Pembroke; Preston Gourville - Vanderbilt; Jordan Gourville - University of South Carolina; Sydney Roy - Cape Fear Community College; Jade Denne - UNC School of Medicine Chapel Hill; Deirdre Portu – UNCW; Evan Shoffner – Cape Fear Community College

Military Personnel Serving:

Col Wayne Lett at McDill Tampa; Duncan Fortney at Mildenhall Air Force Base in the United Kingdom; John Brandon in Wayton, Utah; Marley Von Cannon at a Naval Base in Walton County Florida; Nick Schwenker – Fort Liberty, NC; Pastor Drew Goodson, US Navy Chaplain; Rileigh Fortney at Maimstrom AFB, Montana; Steven Blum at Fort Liberty, NC

KMLC Staff

Pastor: Dan Keck
Church Office Manager: Tracy Barton
Musician & Choir Director: Kristin Woodie
Coordinator, Youth & Family Ministry:

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2024

Gayle Palamara, Jim Hargrave, Peter Yandow, Eleanor Lundy, Cory Petermann, Marcus Matzke, Butch Von Cannon Ann-Marie Cooper, Christine Hughes, Matthew Shuttleworth

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Gayle Palamara
Vice President: Jim Hargrave
Secretary: Peter Yandow
Treasurer: co: Eleanor Lundy
co: Marcus Matzke

MINISTRY TEAMS Chairs and Council Liaisons

Discipleship:	Chair, Darcy Hearne Liaison, Butch Von Cannon	910-547-9847 336-847-1912	darcellalee@aol.com voncannoninc@aol.com
Service:	Chair, Kelley Hargrave Liaison, Jim Hargrave	616-886-2283 910-431-6204	jkhargrave@sbcglobal.net jkhargrave@sbcglobal.net
Resource:	Chair, Peter Yandow Liaison, TBD	910-398-3583	petermyandow@yahoo.com
Property:	Chair, Keith Graff Liaison, Christine Hughes	309-370-7786 609-534-3377	khgraff@charter.net chughes101815@gmail.com
Worship:	Chair, TBD Liaison, Gayle Palamara	910-431-6204	gaylepalamara@yahoo.com
Nurture:	Chair: Liaison,		
Pre-School:	Director, Celeste Carpenter Liaison, Matthew Shuttleworth	910-409-5572 910-264-7941	kmlc.preschool@gmail.com matthewshutt123@gmail.com
Endowment:	Chair, Garner Von Cannon Liaison, Ann-Marie Cooper	910-458-1948 910-431-6204	graychan@aol.com ACooper@allstate.com
AV Coordinator:	Cory Petermann	402-968-8592	atecoryjp@yahoo.com



Poinsettias

If you plan to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas to beautify our sanctuary, you may bring your poinsettia (with your name on it) and place it in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 22 **after** the Sunday service, through 4pm, Monday, December 23! ***If you need to bring them prior to Sunday after the service, please place them on the sidewalk behind the church near the courtyard. (If anyone wants to volunteer to water them, that would be great!)* Remember, the sanctuary doors are unlocked usually between 8am and 7pm every day. **Also...** please let us know the following: who it is in honor, in memory or in thanksgiving for, as well as who it is given by. We will need this information by Monday, December 16. Please feel free to take your poinsettia home with you any time after the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. You can email your information to Tracy at kurememorial@kurememorial.com.

Given in honor of:

Given in memory of:

Given in Thanksgiving for:

Given by:



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