



✝ 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 2025 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

“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 March 2. 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! In a way, this is the continuation of the Christmas story, however we don’t really know how long after the birth of Jesus the Magi actually showed up in Bethlehem! 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, this year beginning with celebrating the Baptism of Jesus on January 12, 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 (*Luke 3:15-17; 21-22*). On the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” at the wedding banquet through his first miracle when he turns water into wine (*John 2:1-11*). On the Third Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” when he reads and fulfills scripture in his hometown synagogue (*Luke 4:14-21*). On the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, it’s the continuation of the story of Jesus in his hometown when his words anger the crowds (*Luke 4:21-30*). On the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” when he calls his first disciples. (*Luke 5:1-11*). On the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” through miraculous healings and what’s referred to as “The Sermon on the Plain” (*Luke 6:17-26*). And then on the Seventh and final Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is “made known” as he continues preaching “The Sermon on the Plain” (*Luke 6:27-38*).

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.

Surfin' on God's Grace!

Dan

News Bites

Thank You! The service team would like to thank the KMLC congregation for their overwhelming support for the brownie mix drive for the Help Center Christmas basket this year. We were asked to collect 125 boxes of brownie mix and we exceeded that amount by 50 boxes. Congratulations to the south side for donating the most boxes. Many people will benefit from your generous donations.



January Birthday Sunday...will be on Sunday, January 5...following worship! We hope you will join in celebrating everyone with January Birthday!

Sunday, January 5...is also the day we will “undecorate” the church following worship! We would love as much help as we can get! We hope you will stick around! So...after having a piece of birthday cake in the fellowship hall for birthday Sunday...come on over to the sanctuary to help!

Pantry Box Sunday is January 12! We are asking for small jars of peanut butter, microwaveable bowls and microwaveable meals. 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).

For the Ladies: We are doing a SPEED ROUND of SECRET SIS!!!! We'd like to invite all of you to participate in this sneaky fun activity aimed at encouraging, praying for, and connecting with one another! You can find all of the information on the table in the entryway or ask or email Chris Keck (chriskeck01@gmail.com) about it. It's back by popular demand! Be sure to sign up to be part of the fun!

Monthly Men's Breakfast: Our men's breakfast will be **January 25 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!

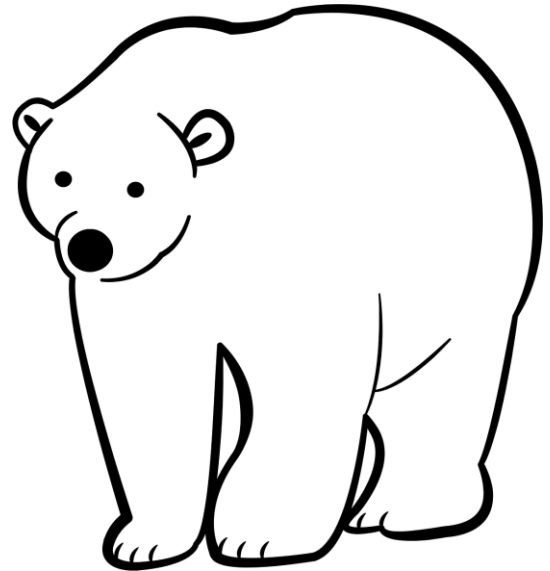
Holy Communion on the Second Tuesday of the Month! We invite you to join us on **January 14 at 10:30**, for a short Holy Communion Service in the sanctuary. This is an opportunity to gather in a small group setting to receive the gift of Holy Communion. And, even if you attend worship and receive communion regularly...it's a chance to gather with others and receive the gift of our Lord Jesus during the week. So mark your calendars...and if you can't make it this month...make plans to join us in January! Feel free to contact Pr. Dan as well to make other arrangements.



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 27th at 5:00 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 me (elundy@elundy.org) or the office know if you can join us.

Sunday Lunch Ministry: A huge “thank you” to the Island Men for their very generous donation of \$700.00 to the Sunday Lunch ministry!! We continue to provide brown bag lunches on Sunday, currently providing 50-60 lunches/week. Please contact Jean Graff if you would like to become involved. We can use shoppers, before service preparation, and distribution assistance. It’s a great ministry! (Jean Graff: kjeb415@charter.net or cell 309-339-9272)

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!

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!

Federal Point Help Center. The Help Center pantry is asking for rice (1 lb bag), pasta sauce, canned meat, and small jars of peanut butter for January. Items can be left in the narthex. For information about the Help Center, please contact Michelle or Randy Bock (randy6b6@gmail.com>).

Rice Bowl Offering: this month the offering will be on January 26, and the donations will go to the Carolina Beach Elementary School.

Liturgical Dance!

Our new Liturgical Dance ministry for children is off to a wonderful start! They did a fabulous job on their first time out dancing to the song, "Go Tell it on the Mountain" in December! It is so awesome to have a new and different way of expressing God's word through dance! We are looking forward to the next time they share with us! We are planning on this being a regular part of our worship service. Thank you Georgeann Christie for heading up this new ministry!



Reflection For Martin Luther King Day

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

– Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prayer

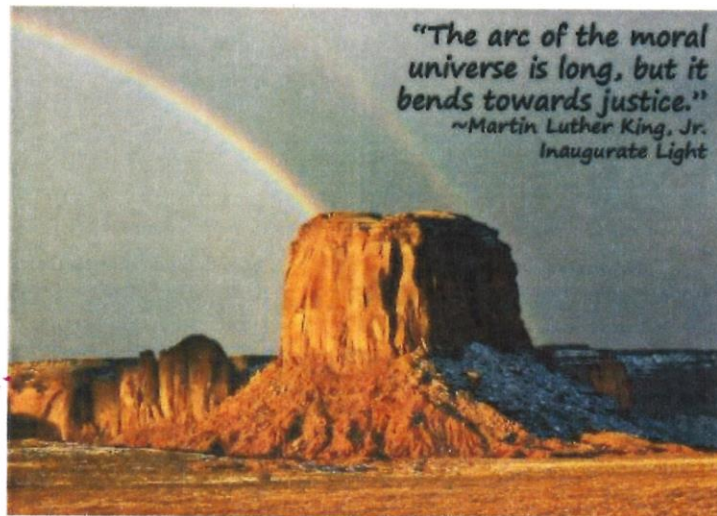
Gracious God,

We live in times of deep division, mistrust, and violence. Bless in a special way our celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Open our hearts and minds to your truth and renew our commitment to justice and peace, pursued through cooperation and love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might realize and accept that we are all members of the same human family, created in your image and likeness. May the example of Dr. King inspire us to see in one another, sisters and brothers, with a common origin and destiny, guided by the conviction that together we can nobly fulfill the promise of our nation.

We pray in the name of the God who is our creator and who calls us to create communities of justice, freedom and peace. Amen.

What is one action you can take or one commitment you can make today that will advance Dr. King’s dream of a free, just and equal society?



KMLC Pantry Box

Our Food Pantry Box is a daily ministry that assists people in our local community who are experiencing food insecurities. June 28th is a special date for the Pantry Box. It was on that date in 2022 that the Box was installed. Based on statistics provided by the Federal Point Help Center that supported a need for a Pantry Box, Church Council approved the project in April 2022. John Ellen coordinated the plan with the Kure Beach Town Council. In May, Keith Graff began work on the design and construction of the Box, with input from Peter Yandow. Once the construction was finished, the Box was erected by Keith, Peter, Nick Stephanos, and Mario Picinnin. It began receiving visitors shortly afterwards. Over the past 2 1/2 years, those visitors have steadily increased. Pantry Box Sundays (2nd Sunday of the month) were initiated in August 2023 to meet the need for increased groceries to stock the Box. A team of Stockers share the responsibility of monitoring the Box on a day-to-day basis. Currently, we have 11 individuals from the Congregation involved in stocking the Box—in addition to coverage from the Prayer Circle on Tuesdays. A HUGE thank you to all of these individuals for their faithful commitment to this ministry. Additional thanks goes to Butch and Garner Von Cannon and their Kure Estates HOA. For the past 2 years, the Kure Estates HOA has sponsored a quarterly food drive to benefit our Food Pantry Box. Those quarterly drives have helped tremendously with keeping our Pantry Box shelves stocked. Finally, KMLC continues to regularly support the Help Center via grocery donations. In 2024, 132 bags of groceries were transported from our church to the Help Center. Special thanks to Harriet McNeill, our dedicated grocery picker-upper and deliverer!

- MJ Shalanski, Pantry Box Coordinator

From the Financial Secretary

We thank all of you who have generously contributed Tithes and Offerings in support of our 2024 Mission Plan. We are also grateful for your contributions for Rice Bowl, Disaster Relief and all of our other special programs in 2024. A detailed report, with an overview of all contributions given to KMLC, will be included in the Congregation Reports written for part 2 of our Congregation meeting.

Some reminders:

1. Offering envelopes for 2025 are inside the Church entrance. Make sure you pick up yours. If you wanted a box and didn't receive one, please inform Terry Hambel or the Church Office.
2. We hope to send out 2024 Contribution Statements mid-January. All of your contributions will be included - tithes, special gifts, flower donations, etc. Many folks use these for tax purposes.
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 or Marcus Matzke 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.

-Terry Hambel

January Worship Assistants

Date	Ushers	Assisting Minister	Reader	Sign	AV
Jan 5	Thom Girardot & Emery Walters	Cory Petermann	Jim Hargrave	Jen Carter	Marcus Matzke
Jan 12	Mel & Pat Jones	Keith Graff	Jean Graff	Amber Lang	Joshua Petermann
Jan 19	Beth Gavigan & Jack Campbell	Kim Heath	MJ Shalanski	Jen Carter	Peter Yandow
Jan 26	Don & Debbie Price	Tracy Gourville	Robert Rhyne	Amber Lang	Zachary Petermann





A Prayer to Welcome the New Year

(Excerpted from Christianity.com)

The start of a new year offers a time of reflection on the past year and inspiration for the year ahead. Ending the year with a grateful heart is a powerful way to refocus and renew our outlook on life, whether the past year brought success, fulfillment, and joy, or grief, setbacks, and struggle.

God of all life and time, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we come before you with hearts full of anticipation and gratitude. We thank you for the gift of life and for the journey that has brought us to this moment.

Lord, we acknowledge the highs and lows of the past year – the joys and sorrows, the victories and challenges. Through it all, your presence has been our constant source of strength and hope.

Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you our loved ones, our communities, and the world. May our family bonds grow stronger, our love deepen, and our moments together become cherished memories. May joy, unity, and happiness reign within our family circles throughout the year ahead.

May your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. Give us the strength and the courage to bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division. Bring justice where injustice reigns and peace where there is war.

In the name of Jesus, we welcome the new year with open hearts, renewed faith, and the confidence that you will be with us every step of the way. Amen

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Happy Birthday Gayle Palamara	7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 Book Group	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 Worship 12:15 Lunch Ministry Birthday Sunday "Un-decorate the church Sunday"	7:30 AA Meeting	11:00 prayer circle 6:30 Church Council		7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 Book Group	Happy Birthday Chandler Von Cannon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 Worship PANTRY BOX SUNDAY 12:15 Sunday Lunch Ministry	Happy Birthday Emery Walters 7:30 AA Meeting	10:30 Holy Communion 11:00 Prayer Circle 1:30 Property Team meeting		7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 Book Group	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 Worship & Sunday School Congregational Meeting 12:15 Sunday Lunch Ministry	7:30 AA Meeting	11:00 Prayer Circle 2:00 Service Team Meeting Happy Birthday Jamie Ebersole	Happy Birthday Julie Dawson Georgia Ging	Happy Anniversary Barbara and Todd Vought 7:30 AA Meeting	9:30 book group	8:30 Men's Breakfast
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:00 Worship & Sunday School Rice Bowl Offering 12:15 Sunday Lunch Ministry	5:00 Book club 7:30 AA Meeting	11:00 Prayer circle		Happy Birthday Darcy Hearne	Happy Birthday Nancy Campbell Georgeann Christie	

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; Trudy Ford; Troy Samuels; Whitney Johnson & family; the Pritchard family; Logan and Ken; Patrick Gavigan; MacKenzie Clark; Sandro Vera; Todd Hanlon; Gary Cox; 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: Kelley Hargrave (interim)
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