



KLC 'Ohana News

To Share the love and word of God through worship and service to others.



DECEMBER 2023

KIHEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Ron Rucker



Christmas Eve Service Info

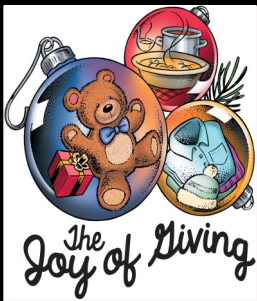
We will be having 2 Christmas Eve services beginning at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm on December 24th. The services will include readings, communion, and music from soloists, the congregation, and our chimes group. We will conclude with the lighting of candles while singing Silent Night and our hula group dancing the traditional Filipino 'Pandango sa Ilaw' ('Dance of Light'). Please accept our invitation to join us during this holiest time to worship our Lord and Savior. Mahalo.

ATTENTION KLC MEMBERS! DECEMBER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

In an effort to streamline the budget process our church Council is publishing a final budget for approval at the meeting on December 17th. You may pick up a paper copy of the packet at the church or [click here to receive it digitally](#). The packet includes the meeting agenda, the full budget, and a condensed version for you to look at before the meeting. The full budget has every line item in it and includes notes. The condensed version is just the bottom line for each budget section. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING &
BUDGET VOTE 

Sunday, December 17th right after service.



KEIKI CHRISTMAS

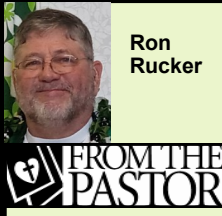
This year we continue our tradition of purchasing Christmas Gifts for the children served at the Keolahou Food Pantry. We are also collecting rolls of wrapping paper. Any donations are gladly accepted. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please label your check or envelope with "Keiki Christmas". For more information, please contact Renee Romerdahl.

Mid-Week Advent Holden Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday during Advent, December 6th, 13th, 20th, we will be hosting Holden Evening Prayer starting at 5:00 pm. It is a service with prayers and singing throughout. Everyone is welcome to join. If it is well attended, we may add a potluck dinner following. We will let you all know after the first one.

Holden
Evening
Prayer





Ron Rucker

ALOHA FROM PASTOR RON RUCKER

Aloha from Pastor Ron,

Welcome to Advent and a new church liturgical year. In preparation for our four Advent Sunday services, I began by reviewing the litany we will use for the lighting of our Advent candles. There is a different responsive litany for each Sunday and I was struck by the congregational responses in each of those litanies. They are: "Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.", "For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.", "With God all things are possible.", and "Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord." These are beautiful phrases with a wonderful theological progression. I suspect I should be encouraging each of you to think on each of these phrases for the entire week to which they are applicable. On the other hand, I also see great value in using all four phrases each day of Advent as devotional thoughts. May we all wait with joyful expectation to once again meet the baby Jesus face to face.

Hopefully, you will hear and see more about this elsewhere, but after great discussion the Transition Team has decided to pause the transition process until after the holidays. The Transition Team will meet again in early January to develop a new timeline for the transition and call process. The team members are Dave Ballaine, Mark Haley, Renee Romerdahl, Vicki Nelson, and Zel Terluin. During these holidays, I encourage all of you to take a little time to express to one or more of these Transition Team members how you currently feel about KLC in general and also specifically about the KLC transition process. What are your concerns? What do you think **really** needs to be **heard** from you?

I am sure you all know that I really like to quote Chad Bird. Well, I recently found out that he and I, to some degree, also have truck driving in common. The following is an edited version of a fundraising post he did for 1517. "Let me tell you a story. It is 2016, 4 AM. My alarm goes off. I walk from the bedroom into the kitchen, pour a cup of strong coffee, and go back to my garage, where my study is. There, at my computer, for another two or three hours, I write. One day a week I podcast. Then, around 7:30 AM it's off to my job at Southeastern Freight Lines. I am a truck driver. I deliver and pick up freight in an industrial section of San Antonio. I write books, I drive a semi. I podcast, I push pallets. Over time, when speaking opportunities increased, it seemed like I had two jobs, working 70-75 hours a week. I was happy but, truth be told, really exhausted. To some of you who have been reading my writings for years, this is no surprise. But to many of you, I am a new voice. You are still getting to know me. I drove in the oil and gas fields of the Texas panhandle for about 3 years, then in the freight industry for almost 10 years. It was a great job. I worked with great people. But the last time I drove a truck was four years ago, in November 2019. What changed? What changed was a gift from God: instead of having two jobs, I could have just one. Doing what I love. Serving all of you. The job offer was to be a Scholar in Residence for the nonprofit 1517, whose mission is to declare and defend the Good News that we are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone. Before I had been a truck driver, I was a pastor then a seminary professor who taught Hebrew and classes in the Bible, especially the Old Testament. This position with 1517 would enable me to use those gifts and draw on that experience. Through 1517 God has enabled me to teach the Bible with an Old Testament accent, to give hope to others by giving them Jesus, to share with others the Good News that has sustained me through some of my most trying times in life, especially these last two years. I am beyond grateful."

My point is that I knew some of this about Chad but not all of it. Now I wonder what else is there in Chad's background and life that has also influenced his view of life and theology? You know – lenses, perspectives. Then I wonder about those around us here at KLC. Do we just kind of know about each other or do we have deeper knowledge of each other's experiences and life? Think about taking a little extra time this Advent, and maybe this entire liturgical year, to get to know a little bit more about your fellow KLC family members.

May all of you have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

If you need my assistance or just want to chat, feel free to call Cate in the church office or to call or text my cell phone, 907-841-6992.

Presidents Message

As we enter the advent season, we anxiously await our Savior's birth, God's gift to the world. During the Christmas season we often exchange gifts with friends, family, and each other. As Christians, the gifts given at Christmas are symbolic of the tributes made to the baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men after his birth during the story of the Nativity. This year I ask, what gift will you give to Kihei Lutheran Church this Christmas? Last month you pledged your monetary support for the church. While your generosity is greatly appreciated, it is only a part of what we give to KLC throughout the year.

This Christmas I am asking you to consider how you can give your time and talents as a gift to KLC. Think about a way you could help our congregation. It might be teaching Sunday School once a month, helping with the Media desk, serving on the property team, baking treats for hospitality, serving on a committee or church council, joining a choir or the music ministry, or lending a helping hand when needed. There are so many ways to become more active in our congregation and to give your helping hands.

Two areas of highest need are Sunday School Teachers and Media helpers. Media is a high priority, as we have more on-line worshipers every Sunday than we have in-person worshipers. It is essential that we are able to continue to record and stream our services. Nels Romerdahl will be leaving Maui in March, so we need to start training volunteers for media now!

You may think you don't have the required skills, or are not needed, or that there are already enough volunteers. I assure you that this is NOT true, we always need more helping hands and volunteers. There is always someone to offer guidance, support or training if needed. You are always welcome to give something a try, in fact, I encourage you to try out a couple of different things and see what fits you best. One of our members has already told me what she is adding as an additional way to serve our congregation this year.

You will find a gift box labeled "To: KLC" under the church Christmas tree. There will also be gift cards for you to place in the box. On the gift card you will write your name and the gift of time or talent that you will give as your Christmas gift to KLC this year.

What will be your gift?

Renee Romerdahl

How Can I Help?

Here are a few suggestions of things you can do during December. We're sure you can think of other ways to be involved.

- Instead of the Be the Change Box, save your change for the Noisy Offering the last Sunday of the month. The money will go to the Kihei Youth Center.
- Plan to attend the December 17 annual meeting.
- Bake cookies for the fire-displaced residents of Kelawea Mauka.
- Join in Christmas caroling at Kelawea Mauka. This will be on December 15. Watch for the time.
- Be part of the Wednesday evening Holden Prayer Services at 5:00 during Advent.
- Be sure to attend one of the Christmas Eve services – 5:00 and 7:30.
- If you have not yet given your pledge card or time and talent surveys, fill them out and give them to the office.
- Share the holidays with someone you know by inviting them to a Wednesday service and Christmas Eve service.





Council Secretary's Report from the September 2023 Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the KLC church council was held in person with a quorum present. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by Zel Terluin.

Pastor Ron Rucker has joined the Advisory Board for the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He reported that we need one more Sunday school teacher.

Treasurer Margie Terluin reported that the giving for the week of November 14 was \$3,528.00. Year-to-date income is \$257,192.08 and year-to-date expenses are \$232,122.28. The balance in the General Fund is \$54,053.59 and the balance in the Fire Relief Fund is \$61,674.76. The separate line item for the Kelaewa grant is \$18,987.60.

Sue Moorcroft reported that the back flow will be repaired on December 14. Also, she shared the revised schedule for mowing. Twice a month the entire property will be mowed. Twice a month only the front will be mowed. The church is going forward with replacing the lights on the lanai.

Vicki Nelson reported that our current worship media person is moving in March and we will need a replacement. Volunteers will be sought. Zel Terluin reported that there will be three Wednesday services during Advent at 5:00 pm. They will be followed by a pot-luck. There will be two services on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm.

Renee Romerdahl reported on the activities of the transition team. There will be a pot luck after church on November 19 during which time attendees will have the opportunity to discuss several questions regarding the direction of the church going forward. Also, during the first week in December there will be several small group meetings to provide additional opportunities for church members to express their views.

Sarah Dickmeyer reported on the Ohana Klothing Exchange's (OKE) response to the guidelines for use of church property. The council hopes to meet with them for further discussion in the new year.

The congregational meeting to approve the 2024 budget will be December 17, 2023, immediately following worship service. Council approved a amended proposed budget for 2024 with the addition of \$2,000.00 for a worship media position, if needed, projected increases in insurance costs and a revised amount for the copier lease.

The next regular meeting will be December 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm to be held virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Dickmeyer, Secretary

To see a copy of the approved October Minutes [Click Here.](#)

Birthday and Anniversary Cards.

If you enjoy the pleasure of penmanship and might care to share the responsibility of writing the cards every other month, please reach out to Cate in the Church office.



Poinsettia for Christmas.

Many families buy poinsettias for their homes for the holidays. If you are among that group, please consider bringing your poinsettia to KLC for Christmas Eve to decorate the sanctuary. You would be able to take it back home after the service. Thanks!





STEWARDSHIP

A big thank you to everyone for your commitment to Kihei Lutheran during the stewardship campaign for 2024. Whatever you pledged, whether money or time, you are appreciated. If you have not yet made your commitment, it is never too late. Pledges and Time and Talent surveys are accepted throughout

the year. Watch future eblasts for the results of the campaign with number of pledges given and the amount they represent. Your time and talent areas to volunteer will be sent to the chairs of each team.

A special thank you to those who were part of the stewardship task force – Pastor Ron, Nanette Rucker, Sue Moorcroft, Dave Reader and Steve Olson. Your input was insightful and most helpful. Thank you also for writing or speaking to share your heartfelt thoughts about KLC and stewardship.

Marilyn Hopkins

Stewardship Chair

These Keiki received backpacks from us with the following sentiment,

Aloha,

We lost family, friends, homes, businesses and our beloved school on August 8th, but we are Lahaina Strong. We are heartbroken, but grateful for your caring and kindness. On behalf of second graders from King Kamehameha III Elementary School, thank you for the colorful backpacks. We needed them and love them!

Mahalo!

Eileen Videtti and friends



Spreading Holiday Cheer

Everyone at KLC has been asking how we can help since the fire happened in Lahaina. Here are 2 ways you can do that, by SINGING and BAKING!! We all know that KLC has many great singers and great bakers so what better way to lift the spirits of many affected by the fire than to join in and be part of these two things. The fire/disaster relief team (Pastor Ron, Cate, Vicki, Renee, and Margie) was asked if we could provide over 400 cookies to be delivered along with the Christmas meals to the folks at Kelaweia Mauka. Also, they were asked if we would come over and sing carols to the over 100 families still residing there. We are working out the details, such as carpooling when we go caroling, but the date will either be Dec 15 or 17. More finalized details will be available next

week, but dust off your cookie cutters and practice your scales so we can let these folks feel how much we care and how much we want to help!! Mahalo.

Hygiene Bags

Saturday, December 9th, the Community Outreach Team will be putting together the hygiene bags to be delivered to Keolahou so they can be distributed to the recipients before Christmas. If you would like to help with this please come by 10:00. We will work assembly line style so the more helpers the faster it will be done. This year we are making 150 hygiene bags. Mahalo to all the congregation for the monetary support once again. This project is funded totally by the generous donations received throughout the year. Your kindness is much appreciated.



CHRISMONS
















We decorate our Christmas tree every year with Chrismons. We have been asking people to add to those to our tree when they come for service so that everyone has a chance to help decorate. Here is a little background on Chrismons.

Chrismons are Christmas decorations using Christian symbols. The word is a combination of Christ and monogram (symbol). They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on Christmas trees in churches and Christian homes.

Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, made the first Chrismons intending that visitors that came to her church would hear the story of Jesus explained through her original Chrismons.

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold – White is the liturgical color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His majesty and glory. They can be made from many different materials such as syrafoam, plastic canvas, beads, pearls, ribbon, etc.

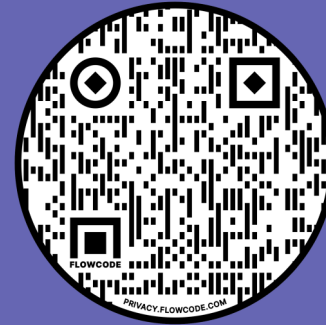
Here are some symbols that are common Chrismons and what they represent to Christians.

	The Cross symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a cross		The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul
	The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus) stand for Jesus		The Anchor Cross reminds Christian's that Jesus is the anchor of their faith
	A Five Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross		The Shepherd's Crook or Staff remembers that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd. It can also represent the shepherds who were the first people told about the birth of Jesus
	The Crown is the symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and earth		The Shell is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptized on. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land (Israel) would use a shell as a drinking vessel
	The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit		The Lamp and The Candle both represent that Christians believe Jesus is the Light of the world
	The Triquetra is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit		The Cup or Chalice is a symbol of Communion. It also represents God's forgiveness
	The Angel reminds Christians of the angels who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will start with an Angel blowing a trumpet		The Lamb is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called "The Lamb of God"
	The Heart is a symbol of love and reminds Christians that God is Love		The White Rose is a symbol for purity and can represent Mary

Important Statistics

October	2022	2023
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	42—In Person 155—Streaming Reach	58—In Person 313—Streaming
Total Attendance In Person and Streaming Reach	208—In Person 774—Streaming	288—In Person 1564—Streaming
Offerings For The Month (members & visitors)	\$15,321.00	\$19,618.69
Offerings – Year to Date (members & visitors)	\$216,961.72	\$194,109.08

KLC is a qualified section 501(c)(3) organization. All offerings or donations are tax deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the IRS regulations. Making an offering/donation constitutes your agreement to relinquish control in accordance with those regulations and KLC policies.



Scan this QR Code to get to our Givelify page.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Hui meets on Thursday mornings at 9 am. If you need a prayer shawl or have any questions please contact the office and Cate will be able to assist you.

The Prayer Shawl Ladies



Church Council

Next Meeting will be:
December 19, at 7:00 PM Via Zoom



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Hui

Next Meeting:
When Scheduled

All are Welcome

Administrative Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday:
9:00 AM—5:00 PM
Friday:
9:00 AM—4:00 PM



LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

If you haven't already "liked" our page:
www.facebook.com/KiheiLutheran
go ahead and do so to be the most up-to-date on upcoming church events. A link is already on the church website!



HAU'OLI LA HANAU! (Happy Birthday!)

Bob Schumacher 12/1
 Keli Nelson 12/3
 Barbara Rudow 12/4
 John Bendon 12/5
 Denise Ankrum 12/9
 Luke Bendon 12/11
 Diana Hill 12/11
 Erik Jorgenson 12/11
 Lisa Paulson 12/12
 Eric Romerdahl 12/13
 Marilyn Fornwall 12/14
 John Thorngren 12/14

Heather Ballaine 12/15
 Melanie Spencer 12/16
 Gretchen Romerdahl 12/20
 Hilary Glassel 12/22
 Vicki Lee 12/23
 Margie Terluin 12/24
 Holly Pendergast 12/25
 Emily Pluchos 12/25
 Keek Hottendorf 12/27
 Jack Wierzba 12/27
 Lottie Ali 12/29
 Jerry Embree 12/31



HAU'OLI LA HO'OMANA'O! (Happy Anniversary!)

Doug & Lisa Paulson December 2, 1995
 Jeff & Charlotte Wright December 2, 1972
 David & Kathy Krueger December 18, 1971
 Tony & Carol Wakefield December 19, 1964
 Todd & Molly Lawson December, 21 1991
 Duke & Sharon McElroy December 23, 1963
 Neil & Sheila Turnbull December 25, 1985
 Eric & Joleen Pilotin December 27
 Jerry & Berta Sieck December 27, 1975
 Bob & Jane Schumacher December 29, 1991
 David & Rhonda Stoltzfus December 30, 1995



Kihei Lutheran Church December 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	27 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	28 12pm Al-Anon	29	30 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir	1 12pm Al-Anon 3pm OKE Pre-Set	2 9am Ohana & Keiki Exchange 1pm Tongan Tithing Service
3—Keolahou Food Pantry 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	4 Don't Forget	5 12pm Al-Anon to call	6 11:30am Rotary 5pm Holden Evening Prayer People to	7 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes check in	8 12pm Al-Anon 3pm Pest Control Church on them	9
10 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	11 7pm Worship Committee	12 12pm Al-Anon 5pm Finance Committee to call	13 10am Healing Trauma Workshop 11:30am Rotary 5pm Holden Evening Prayer People to	14 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	15 12pm Al-Anon	16
17 9am Worship 10am Congregational Meeting 5pm Tongan Church	18 Don't Forget	19 12pm Al-Anon 3pm OKE Toy Event 7pm Church Council via Zoom to call	20 11:30am Rotary 5pm Holden Evening Prayer People to	21 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes check in	22—Office Closed for Christmas Eve 12pm Al-Anon on them	23
24 9am Worship 5pm Christmas Eve Worship 7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	25—Newsletter Dead- line—Office Closed	26 12pm Al-Anon	27	28 9am Prayer Shawl	29 12pm Al-Anon	30
31 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	1—Office Closed 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	2 12pm Al-Anon	3 11:30am Rotary	4 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	5 12pm Al-Anon	6 9am Ohana & Keiki Exchange

Staff

Pastor Interim Pastor Ron Rucker
 Music Coordinator Beth Fobbe-Wills
 Church Administrative Asst. Cate Evert
 Bookkeeper Sue Whitney

Worship Area Coordinators

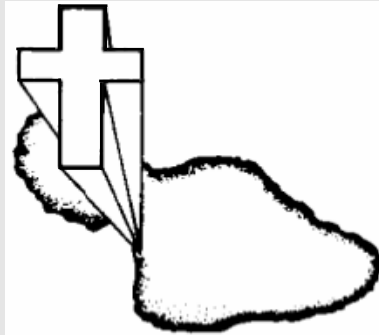
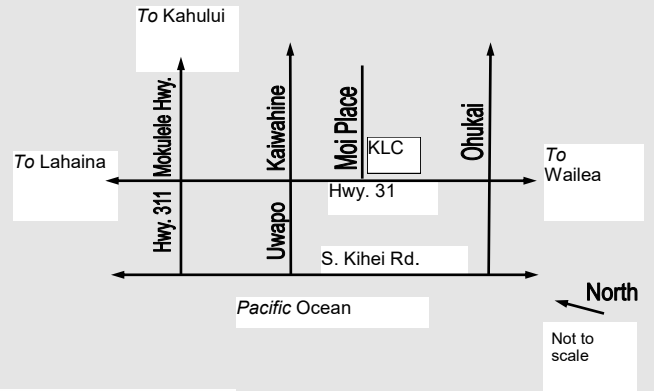
Chimes & Choir Director Beth Fobbe-Wills
 Flowers Andrea Harris
 Hosts Coordinator Marilyn Hopkins

Other Contacts

Treasurer Margie Terluin
 Financial Secretary Marilyn Hopkins
 Hula Group Sally Handley
 E-mail Prayer Chain Cate Evert

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM



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klc@kiheilutheran.org
Website Address:
www.kiheilutheran.org
Parsonage:
 2218 Auina Place, Kihei, HI 96753

“Where all know they are beloved children of God”

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