



# KLC 'Ohana News

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



JANUARY 2024

KIHEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Ron Rucker

## Congregational Meeting

### ATTENTION KLC COMMITTEE HEADS AND CONGREGATION

The annual congregational meeting will be scheduled for some time in February. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the congregation with annual reports from the various committees, task forces, and ministries. Please make plans to attend this meeting. Stay tuned to the Eblast and announcements for news on when the meeting will be scheduled. **January 19<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline for Committee heads to get their reports to Cate.** The annual report will be published a minimum of 2 weeks ahead of the meeting.

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### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

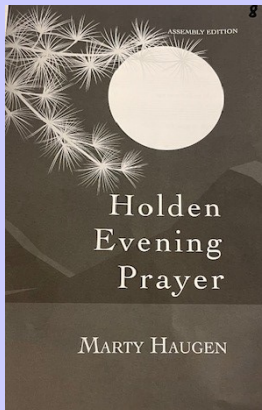
Your generosity is overwhelming!! Thank you to all who participated in the stewardship campaign, providing a pledge card, completing the Time and Talent Survey or in any way showing your support for KLC. We currently have 34 pledges for a total of \$199,432. Although that represents 15 fewer pledges than last year, the total commitment is \$25,486 higher. We are also happy to see new and different people volunteering through the time and talent survey. Your continuous commitment to your church 'ohana is heart-warming. Again, thank you all.

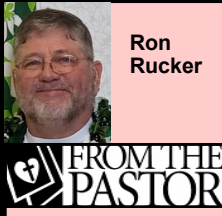
The Stewardship Task Force



### Advent Holden Evening Prayer

On Wednesday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, we started an Advent Holden Evening Prayer service. It continued each Wednesday, followed by a Soup and Bread supper where the congregation shared a meal together. Beth & Nanette did a wonderful job on the piano and everyone that attended enjoyed the service. Mahalo to Pastor Ron, Beth, and Nanette for providing an extra opportunity to share in the upcoming birth of Our Lord and Savior through music and fellowship.





Ron Rucker

# ALOHA FROM PASTOR RON RUCKER

Aloha from Pastor Ron,

At the start of December, we celebrated the beginning of a new church liturgical year and the beginning of Advent. I am writing this on December 22<sup>nd</sup> fully anticipating that we all will gracefully survive the rigors of the holidays.

My thanks to our Sunday School teachers for taking on something new during Advent. My thanks also for all of you who have helped and supported the Community Outreach and Assistance Team (COAT) and their many activities for our normal Christmas blessings **and** for our Maui fire related extended activities. Just this morning I had a call in the church office of a doubly effected family living in the Kula area. The Kula fire effected them directly and the Lahaina fire directly affected their parents who are now living with them in Kula. The needs are great.

I also want to thank the small group of members who actively support our common worship week after week. And, of course, their involvement and time expanded exponentially during Christmas. Thankfully, there have been a few new helpers as well. And of course, special thanks to all the musicians for what they do to enhance our worship. Beth's leadership is invaluable for coordinating and working with the various soloists and all those who participate in the chimes, choir, and quartet.

Now, December 22<sup>nd</sup> is the day after winter solstice. Today I received a Facebook post from a pastor friend in Deerwood, Minnesota, Amanda, talking about the importance of the solstices after having lived many years in Alaska. She closed her thoughts with the following: "Just because the darkest days have passed does not mean the light suddenly returns. Like all things, change comes slowly and sometimes with great pain in the meantime. Be patient ~ "the Lord is not slow about his promise as some consider slowness but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) \*definition note: repentance is about turning to God and away from hoping in other things."

I was also struck by the God Pause devotional for December 22<sup>nd</sup> by Mark D. Tranvik as we near the end of Advent which said: "Advent heralds the arrival of Jesus as the Prince of Peace. But what does it mean to identify Jesus with peace? The secular world suggests that peace brings some kind of blissful serenity or sense of contentment that delivers us from worldly trouble. But it might be better to say the peace connected with Jesus leads us deeper into the world and all its messiness. Pastor and writer Frederick Buechner has suggested that the peace of Christ brings not absence of strife but rather the presence of love. In other words, a life of faith is often full of doubt, trouble, and suffering. But it is never outside the pale of Christ's unconditional love."

Finally, what can I say about the services on Christmas Eve day and Eve. The music was outstanding. Special thanks to Father Chris for preaching the Sunday morning service. And then the two evening services were overwhelming. The 5:00 pm service was made special by the phenomenal Tongan choir music and, of course, the attendance was awesome. Although less attended, as expected, the 7:30 pm service was just as special in its own way. I heard and saw many comments on how meaningful the services. Our thanks to the Worship Team, our own great musicians, and, of course, Beth who coordinated it all. I would be remiss if I did not point out that Nanette accompanied the choir and that Cate built and printed, as well, all those bulletins. Well done all you good and faithful servants.

What blessings does God have for us in the new year? We shall see because God is good – all the time. All the time – God is good.

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.



## GAME NIGHT/POTLUCK

We are planning a game night and potluck for January 19th starting at 6:00 pm. If you would like to bring your favorite game we will see what everyone is in the mood for or even have more than one game going at a time. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice. If you have any questions, please contact the office via phone or email. Mahalo.

## Presidents Message

Happy New Year! As we enter the year 2024, I can't begin to imagine what God has planned for us this year. Each year usually begins with New Year's resolutions, goals, and dreams of personal accomplishments for the new year. I too like to have goals and plans as I am not particularly a spontaneous or impulsive person. But what would happen if we let God lead us by praying and listening to his will for us? It might not always be the same as what we envision for our future, but it is certain to be remarkable.

This year is the perfect example of how God has provided for us and led us in our ministry at KLC. In January he brought Pastor Ron to us who was joined by his wife, Nannette, in March. Who would have known, other than God, what a perfect fit they would be for our congregation, or how these Alaskans would find a love for Maui?

We have also been blessed with an increase in attendance and many familiar faces returning home to KLC. Our Sunday School has been reinstated, the music groups have resumed, pledges increased, and we had just shy of 300 people who worshiped with us on Christmas Eve!

God has led our ministry to extend beyond our walls with outreach to the community. In addition to our regular outreach, we have also become actively involved with the Lahaina fire relief efforts. There has been tremendous support with contributions to the fire relief fund, volunteers and helping hands to distribute, purchase and provide for fire victims. Margie Terluin was certainly one of God's angels this past month as she spent hours coordinating and working community outreach projects for us.

Plans for KLC this year? Of course, we want to continue to grow as a congregation, serve others and be "a place where we share the love of and word of God through worship and service to others". We will also continue to work on transition. Bishop Dave Naglar will be here for a brief visit at the end of January to meet with the church council. We know he will see a different congregation than who we were just one year ago. We have been healing and moving forward with new energy and renewed spirits creating a new atmosphere.

God's plans for KLC this year? I can't wait to hear and find out what HE has planned for us!!

Renee Romerdahl

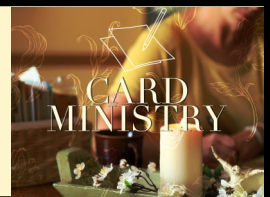


## No Report for the December Meeting.

**No Council Report for the month of December. With it being the end of the year there was a lot going on and there really wasn't much to discuss. We will be back for our next meeting on January 16th.**

## Birthday and Anniversary Cards.

If you enjoy the pleasure of penmanship and care to share the responsibility of writing the cards every other month, please reach out to Cate in the Church office. We have two volunteers but many hands make light work.



## PROPERTY NEWS

Property Team will be doing our first clean up of 2024 on January 13th, starting at 7am. We will work on the pond area. Every other month there will be a small project to do. If anyone has suggestions on a project, please contact Sue Moorcroft with your suggestions.

## UPDATES ON OUTREACH FROM THE MONTH

December was a very busy month for our congregation. We were blessed throughout the year with many generous donations that allowed us to have the opportunity to provide for many in need of extra care this Christmas season.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 17 volunteers came to church to assemble the 150 hygiene bags that were being delivered to Keolahou Food Pantry.

Since the onset of the August 8<sup>th</sup> Lahaina fire, the food pantry director, Aloha, has said they have extended their service to anyone in need no matter of their location.

That meant we wanted to provide more food and hygiene products to everyone. Mahalo to Vicki, Jessica, Sue, and Margie for the extra trips to Costco to buy cases of food. A very special mahalo to Margie's brother, Paul Morasch, who gave Margie \$250.00 which was also used to buy cases of food from Costco for Keolahou.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, we had a lot of fun working together, assembling the bags and got to have some awesome sticky buns (provided by Jerry Sieck) and some eggnog and juice.

Mahalo to everyone who provided donations or hygiene products (a special mention to Jerry Kistler, Sarah Dickmeyer and Nanette Rucker for their generous product donations throughout the year). If you can remember back to August 8<sup>th</sup>, we gave all of our inventory to the initial fire victims on August 10<sup>th</sup> and had to start over for our Christmas Outreach. It was a huge undertaking, but we did it.

Mahalo to Cate for your help procuring products from Amazon, and to Zel who made most of the craft projects and goodie bags that went inside the hygiene bags as well as the entire Outreach team who helped making the craft projects. It was definitely a group effort and well received by Keolahou.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, everything was delivered to Keolahou along with the 87 toys purchased by our head ELF Renee, with anything left over delivered by Eric Romerdahl later that same day. The volunteers at the FP were overwhelmed by the generosity of KLC and its congregation.



**More Pictures on the next page**



On Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 22 members and friends met at KLC to drive over to Kelawea Mauka in Lahaina to Christmas Carol. Kelawea is the area we partnered with to assist in helping after the fire. It is the last neighborhood left in Lahaina. The caroling was really spread out but very energetic and we had a lot of fun and many laughs caroling in the neighborhood. Mahalo to the Nelsons for getting a 15-passenger van to use from Kihei Charter HS. Also, mahalo to Keli for driving and to Pastor Ron for driving his van as well. Also, thanks to Beth for the music folders.

A couple special moments were when the Keiki saw Zel dressed as Santa and were so excited, as well as when Chris kneeled to share the song lyrics with the Keiki so they could sing along. Mahalo to everyone who came. It was truly a chicken skin moment just being right under the Lahaina Luna L on the west Maui Mountains. (By the way, the big van carolers ate most of the snacks, especially the macarons, everyone's favorite!!)



The Fire Fund Task Force (Pastor Ron, Cate, Vicki, Renee, and Margie) volunteered to provide Christmas dessert for the meal provided for Christmas. It was decided that cookies would be our choice and the call was put out to all bakers and shoppers to make or bake cookies.

Well, that we did...

Over 1800 cookies were counted this past Friday by Lindsay, Hilary, Nanette and Margie (who orchestrated the undertaking). We counted, bagged and were boxing the cookies when Julia, Phoebe and James came to the church and volunteered to help in the project.

We packaged up 150 boxes plus had enough to make about 40 extra baggies full. Mahalo to everyone who baked or provided the wonderful assortment of Christmas cookies. It was a beautiful sight to behold. Kiley Adolpho came and picked up the cookies on Saturday, and was overcome with emotion that we (KLC) would take time to actually bake cookies for the people of Kelaweia.

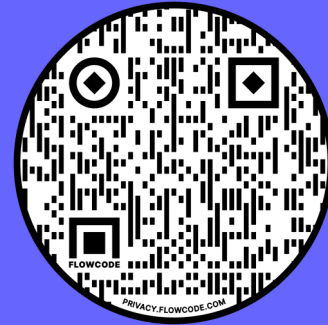
Toys that Renee purchased were given to the Keiki and teens at a Santa Parade on Friday night. We are blessed beyond measure and surrounded by the goodness and generosity of such a caring, loving congregation and friends. Everything we did truly was God's hand at work through each and every one of us here at KLC. Here's to a prosperous New Year and the opportunity to continue serving others in 2024.



## Important Statistics

November	2022	2023
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	60—In Person 242—Streaming Reach	79—In Person 281—Streaming Reach
Total Attendance In Person and Streaming Reach	240—In Person 969—Streaming	315—In Person 1,124—Streaming
Offerings For The Month (members & visitors)	\$21,879	\$26,608
Offerings – Year to Date (members & visitors)	\$238,840.72	\$220,717.08

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:  
January 16, 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](http://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!)



Jack Bendon	1/1
Loretta Dahlin	1/6
Doak Schoennemann	1/6
Valaida D'Alessio	1/7
Carol Swanson	1/9
Mark Beyersdorf	1/10
Taylor Steed (Rudow)	1/10
Karen Carlson	1/13

Kathy Krueger	1/14
Sue Olson	1/15
Jerry Kistler	1/17
Oliver Stafford	1/17
Steve Moksnes	1/29
Elaine Ziegler	1/29
Dave Ballaine	1/30

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



Anthony & Malysa Scibelli January 5, 2010  
Eric & Elisabet Jorgenson January 23  
Jerry & Susan Embree January 25, 1963





# Kihei Lutheran Church January 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 3pm Pre-Set for OKE	6 9am Ohana & Keiki Exchange
7—Keolahou Food Pantry 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	8 10am Faith Journey— Zoom 7pm Worship Committee	9 12pm Al-Anon 5pm Finance Committee	10 11:30am Rotary	11 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	12 12pm Al-Anon	13
14 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	15 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	16 12pm Al-Anon 7pm Church Council via Zoom	17 10am Healing Trauma Workshop 11:30am Rotary	18 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	<b>on them</b>	20
21 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	22 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	23 12pm Al-Anon	24	25—Newsletter Deadline 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	26 12pm Al-Anon	27 Kihei Kai Nani Meeting
28 9am Worship 5pm Tongan Church	29 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	30 12pm Al-Anon	31	1 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	<b>on them</b>	3 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**

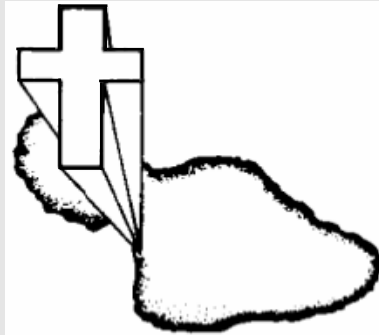
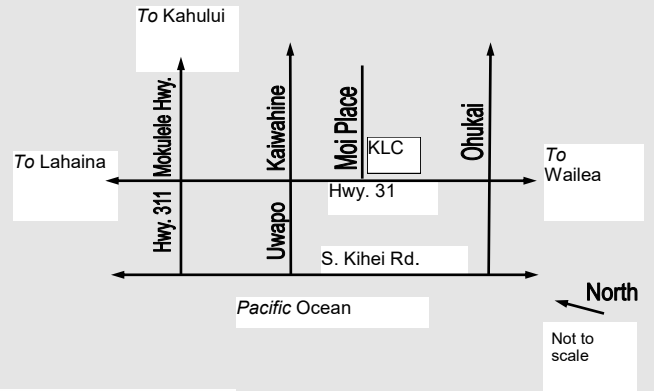
Chimes & Choir Director Beth Fobbe-Wills  
 Flowers Andrea Harris  
 Hosts Coordinator Marilyn Hopkins

**Other Contacts**

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**9:00 AM**



Kihei Lutheran Church  
 220 Moi Place, Kihei, HI 96753  
 Phone: 808/879-7979  
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[klc@kiheilutheran.org](mailto:klc@kiheilutheran.org)  
**Website Address:**  
[www.kiheilutheran.org](http://www.kiheilutheran.org)  
**Parsonage:**  
 2218 Auina Place, Kihei, HI 96753

*“Where all know they are beloved children of God”*

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