



KLC 'Ohana News

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



DECEMBER 2024

KIHEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Ron Rucker



Christmas Eve Service Info

We will have two 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.

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Midweek Advent Service

Every Wednesday during Advent, December 4th, 11th, & 18th, we will host a midweek Advent service starting at 5:00 pm. These will be led by KLC Member and Seabury Hall Chaplain Rev. Chris Golding. Everyone is welcome to join.



KEIKI CHRISTMAS

We will continue our tradition of purchasing gifts for children that are served at the Keolahou Food Pantry. This year there are 111 children. You can help make Christmas special for these children through a monetary donation to help with the purchasing of gifts. Gifts purchased average \$12-15 per child. You can place your donation in the offering bowl or send it to the church office. Please mark your donation with "Keiki Christmas". If you would like more information, please contact Renee Romerdahl. Mahalo!

Stewardship

Thank you, thank you, thank you! As of November 26, 39 of you have given pledge cards. That's more than last year. We know there are always people who give regularly even if we do not receive a pledge card. The total so far toward the general fund is \$185,740. There is also \$10,075 pledged to mortgage paydown. Eleven households have increased their giving over last year. Your generosity is so appreciated. You are so appreciated! KLC is blessed to have such a loving and caring 'ohana.



ALOHA FROM PASTOR RON RUCKER



Ron R
Rucker



Aloha from Pastor Ron,

First, what can Nanette and I say about your overwhelming generosity and kindness. The food train delivered a variety of delicious meals exceeding even God's abundance. While on the way to lunch with a friend, Nanette tripped and fell in a parking lot, incurring a compound fracture of her right humerus just above her right elbow. Surgery occurred that night and she spent basically 3 days in the hospital receiving antibiotics to avoid any infection. The bones were realigned but are being allowed to set on their own. She has a brace and is not allowed to travel for 3 months, so our trip planned to start on 12/4 has been cancelled. The surgeon opted not to use plates and screws in her arm due to the poor condition of her bones because of osteoporosis. It is possible another surgery may be required that would probably include the use of plates and screws. Again, thanks for all the prayers, cards, and food.

Father Chris Golding had agreed to do all 3 Wednesday night Advent services and Advent Sundays 2 and 3. He and I have agreed that he would still do those services. Pastor Roxanne WhiteLight co-led and preached at the Thanksgiving service. Pastor Roxanne is also going to participate in and preach during the Advent 4 service. That means I am essentially doing a staycation on island at the parsonage with Nanette. I will mostly be working what little I actually work from home. If you have needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to Cate in the office or directly to me.

Just in case any of you are wondering, you will not see any information from me concerning the Call Committee except for the following: the Call Committee has been appointed and was installed at the December 1 Annual meeting. They have met with JP, the Bishop's assistant for the Hukilau region (Hawaii). In other words, the call process is progressing. All other communications will come from the Call Committee itself.

Sunday, December first, was also the first Sunday of Advent. In some ways, Advent is the gap between what is and what will be. Advent is a place of anticipation and expectancy. The Israelites anticipated and expected their Messiah. They still don't believe their Messiah has come and maybe they are right for them. On the other hand, we Christians tend to think that they just missed their Messiah because they anticipated a different Messiah. In other words, we believe their expectations were in error. Yet today many Christians focus their entire faith experience on the Second Coming, the return of Jesus. What if their anticipation and expectation is in error. What do you anticipate and expect from God? From Jesus? From a pastor? From your KLC ohana? Are any of those expectations in error? Nanette and I are here until you call a permanent pastor. I think you, both collectively and individually, are ready for this next stage, next step in the life of Kihei Lutheran Church. I do encourage you, however, to keep your anticipation and expectation flexible and manageable. God is at work in you. God is at work in a prospective pastor. Let God do God's work. Trust God. Trust your Call Committee.

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

This year the first day of December was also the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of anticipation, expectation and imagination. We are filled with hope and God's love for us as we await the birth of HIS son.

Not only was December first the First Sunday of Advent, it was also the date for the installation of the Call Committee, a congregational meeting, and a staff appreciation brunch. Talk about an eventful day! It seems appropriate that all of these events fell on the same date.

The Call Committee was installed with Phil Proctor as the chair of the committee. As they begin their work, we feel anticipation and excitement of what the future may hold and in wondering who God will send to us to serve as our next pastor. Yet, we know it may take time, and that we must be patient. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as they serve our congregation in their very important roles.

At the congregational meeting we approved the budget for the 2025 church year. We do so with hope for the future, and imagination of all that the new year will bring to our congregation. Change is never easy, but it is what moves us forward. Knowing God's love for us, and opening our hearts, ears, and minds to God's call will give us confidence to move forward into the future.

We are blessed to have a wonderful staff; Pastor, Beth and Cate, who walk alongside our congregation. We are so grateful for all that they do for us. They often go above and beyond their job expectations, and truly shine! The congregation has given a monetary gift to both Beth and Cate this Christmas. Boxes have also been placed on the greeter's table for any cards or gifts you may personally wish to give to the staff. We are also blessed to have services provided by our bookkeeper Sue Whitney, and cleaner, Cindy. A box is also provided for gifts to them.

We are also blessed to have so many helping hands that give the gift of their time and talents. There are many events to assist with during this busy Advent season. The outreach team needs your help with the peanut butter ministry, the creation of hygiene bags, food donations for Keolahou, donations for keiki gifts, and caroling in Lahaina. The OKE Exchange also needs helping hands both on Friday, December 6, for set up and at their Christmas event on December 7.

As we wait by the empty manger, awaiting Christ's birth, let our Advent journey go to the stable and beyond filled with hope, anticipation, expectation, and imagination.

May the season of Advent bring you light, hope, and peace,

Renee Romerdahl

Community Outreach Lunch

Community Outreach held a business meeting/lunch at Fabiani's Friday the 22nd. Margie & Hilary reported on the success of the 2024 projects. A final tally of items and actions related to each ministry were listed. Team members and helpers attending were co-hosts: Jerry K, and Margie, Zel, Vicki, Sally, Pastor Ron, Hilary, Jerry S, and Sue. Renee and Nanette were sorely missed. A fun time was had by all; it was a blessing to be able to all get together to share fellowship and food and discuss this past year's events.



Council Secretary's Report from the December 2024 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 Marilyn Hopkins.

Pastor Ron Rucker reported that Chris Golding would be doing the Advent 2 and 3 services as well as the Mid-Week Advent services.

Treasurer Margie Terluin reported that the giving for the week of November 14 was \$16,668. Year-to-date income is \$269,757.40 and year-to-date expenses are \$252,755.75. The balance in the General Fund is \$81,695.55.

Ohana Strong Reports that they are getting ready for the Christmas event/exchange/bus blessing. They will be painting the storage container and installing a light and camera. They are also awaiting final approval for their 501c3 from the federal side of things.

Stewardship reports that over \$185,000 was pledged so far and more people are giving.

The community outreach bake sale raised \$1,000 for special outreach projects.

Irrigation has been fixed in the places that we could see. Things were more extensive than first thought. We are going to continue with the company we found to fix the issue and are figuring out a more permanent fix to what they suggested may be the issue. The solar panels at both the parsonage and church property need to be cleaned. Sue M. has found a company that is reasonably priced and they will be coming to do the work. All were in favor.

The congregational meeting to approve the 2024 budget will be December 1, 2024, immediately following worship service. The agenda was approved and accepted.

A staff appreciation potluck will be held after the budget meeting on December 1st. Two gifts will be given from the church to Beth and Cate. We also have other people who work for the church but aren't employee's. A box will be set out with their names and positions so that people can give if they would like to. These people include Sue Whitney (bookkeeper), Cindy (cleaner), and Tori (Media).

Christmas is coming soon so it was suggested that we ask members to park on the side of the building or in the back. We will be marking spots to make things easier and mark sprinkler head.

The next regular meeting will be December 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm, to be held virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Bode Stoltzfus, Co-Secretary

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

Bake Sale Mahalo's

Jerry Sieck and Margie Terluin (co-chairs of Community Outreach) would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2024 Fall Bake Sale. The funds collected were given by donation and in return you could gather one or many of the wonderful goodies donated by our amazing congregation. The group raised \$1,000 to be used for future Outreach Projects. Everyone had some hard choices to make, anything from the beautiful and delicious pastries from Fabiani's (donated by Jerry Kistler) to a bounty of cookies, muffins, cakes, many cookie bars, and other tasty treats. Everything that remained after the sale was donated to our ministry partners at Kelaweia Mauka. It was a whirlwind of fun and excitement for everyone who participated. Mahalo plenty.



Things happening on the Property

We have had a few things going on at the property in the last few months. The first is we received new sod in the back for the preschool play area. Even with watering the general use of that area has grown a lot and the grass was dying. One of the parents was in a position to help out and was able to get brand new sod put in, donated to the church. Mahalo to John and Yuki for the donation and Matthew Reidy for working on getting that in.



We also were able to find someone to work on the leaks that we knew were in some of the irrigation. One big leak was right on the way into the church. It was a lot of work because things had to be dug up in order to find where the leak was. We have some more work to do, but we are hoping to start seeing results in the irrigation bill soon.



CHRISMONS

















We decorate our Christmas tree every year with Chrismons. We will be asking people to add to those to our tree when they come for service starting the third Sunday of Advent. That way, 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	2023	2024
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	58—In Person 313—Streaming	66—In Person 80—Streaming Views
Total Attendance In Person and Streaming Reach	288—In Person 1564—Streaming	264—In Person 319—Streaming
Offerings For The Month (members & visitors)	\$19,618.69	\$17,963
Offerings – Year to Date (members & visitors)	\$194,109.08	\$188,132.40

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. If this is a ministry you care about, please consider a donation. We rely on donations to purchase more yarn and are in need of some more funds. Mahalo for your help.

The Prayer Shawl Ladies



Church Council

Next Meeting will be:
December 17, 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

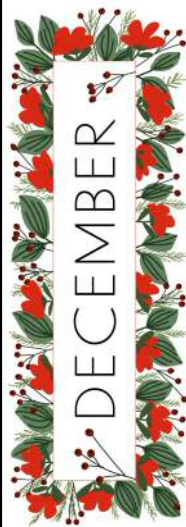
Heather Ballaine	12/15
Melanie Spencer	12/16
Gretchen Romerdahl	12/20
Hilary Glassel	12/22
Vicki Lee	12/23
Margie Terluin	12/24
Holly Pendergast	12/25
Emily Pluchos	12/25
Keek Hottendorf	12/27
Jack Wierzba	12/27
Lottie Ali	12/29
Jerry Embree	12/31



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

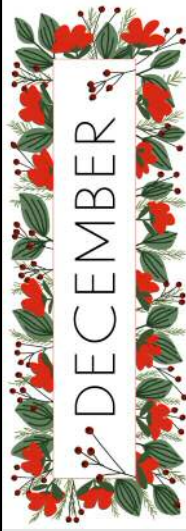
Doug & Lisa Paulson	December 2, 1995
Jeff & Charlotte Wright	December 2, 1972
David & Kathy Krueger	December 18, 1971
Tony & Carol Wakefield	December 19, 1964
Todd & Molly Lawson	December, 21 1991
Duke & Sharon McElroy	December 23, 1963
Neil & Sheila Turnbull	December 25, 1985
Eric & Joleen Pilotin	December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





DECEMBER

Kihei Lutheran Church December 2024



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1—Keolahou Food Pantry 9am Worship 10am Congregational Budget Meeting 10:30am Staff Appreciation Pot-luck 3pm Tongan Church	2 10am Faith Journey—Zoom	3 12pm AI-Anon	4 11:30am Rotary	5 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	6 12pm AI-Anon 2pm PB&J Making 3pm Pre-Set for OKE	7 8:45am Ohana Strong Bus Blessing 9am Ohana Strong
8 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	9 10am Faith Journey—Zoom 7pm Worship Committee Don't Forget	10 12pm AI-Anon 5pm Finance Committee to call	11 11:30am Rotary People to	12 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes check in	13 12pm AI-Anon on them	14 Tongan Use of Church
15 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	16 10am Faith Journey—Zoom	17 12pm AI-Anon 7pm Church Council	18	19 9am Prayer Shawl 1pm Hygiene Bags 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	20 12pm AI-Anon 2pm Pest Control—Parsonage 3pm Pest Control—Church	21
22 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	23 10am Faith Journey Don't Forget	24—Christmas Eve—Office Closed 12pm AI-Anon 5pm Christmas Eve Worship 7pm Christmas Eve Worship to call	25—Christmas Day—Office Closed Newsletter Deadline People to	26 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes check in	27 12pm AI-Anon on them	28
29 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	30 10am Faith Journey—Zoom	31—New Year's Eve 12pm AI-Anon	1—New Year's Day—Office Closed	2 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	3 12pm AI-Anon 3pm Pre-Set for OKE	4 9am Ohana Strong

Staff

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

Worship Area Coordinators

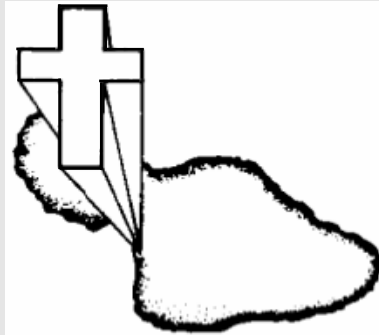
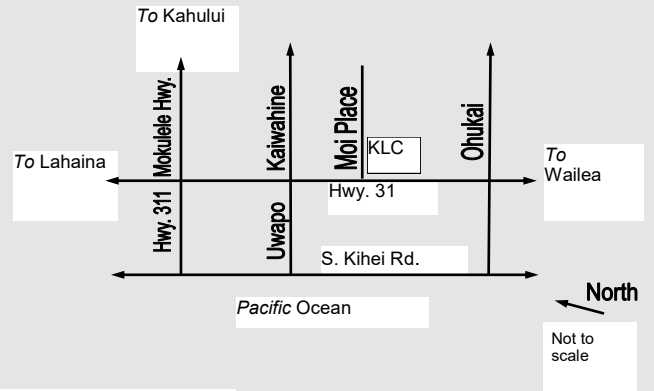
Chimes & Choir Director	Beth Fobbe-Wills
Flowers	Andrea Harris
Hosts Coordinator	Marilyn Hopkins
Worship Assistants/Readers	Zel Terluin

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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 220 Moi Place, Kihei, HI 96753
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E-mail Address:
klc@kiheilutheran.org
Website Address:
www.kiheilutheran.org
Parsonage:
 2218 Auina Place, Kihei, HI 96753

“Where all know they are beloved children of God”

Address Correction Requested

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