



# 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



## Many Mahalo's and News

Dear KLC Ohana,

Thank you for the beautiful brunch and gift that was given to me at the beginning of December. I am truly grateful to this congregation for giving me the opportunity to minister to you with the gifts that have been given to me. I started in church music ministry playing the organ at the age of nine and have never stopped praising the Lord with all that he has done for me.

I have been blessed since 2008 with serving your congregation. KLC has certainly sheltered me in a couple rough storms and praised with me during times of calm and rest. I have worked with Pastor Krueger, Pastor Barber, Pastor Martyn and Pastor Rucker. They have all been wonderful leaders for your congregation.

I have also had the joy of working side-by-side with my daughter, Cate, for over 10 years. She has brought a calm and systematic way of keeping us all on track with not only the liturgies but the care of church, all members, the Montessori school and the many groups and committees utilizing the facilities.

In the beginning of this new year, I will continue to do my best to plan, play and pray with all of you as we enter a new phase of our worship together. I will be retiring from my work with the Department of Education at the end of this school year. I will also be retiring from my position at Kihei Lutheran Church. I have been extremely fortunate in the lifetime experiences on Maui, but it is time to return to Minnesota.

I will always be thankful for the calls from Pastor Dave in asking me to serve this congregation. I look forward seeing what God has in store for me as Bob, Cate and I move and start our new chapter in Minnesota.

With the love of Christ,

Beth

To my KLC Ohana,

Mahalo to everyone who helped with the brunch and the gift on December 1st. When I started here, I never imagined how grateful I would be for all of you. You've become an important part of my life, and I will forever appreciate everything you've done for me.



It's been an honor to work here for the past 11 years, and saying goodbye is one of the hardest things I've had to do. I'll be moving back to Minnesota with my mom and Bob, and I'll miss you all dearly. I'm truly thankful for the trust you've placed in me, and it's been a rewarding experience serving this congregation.

Over the next six months, I'll work to make the transition as smooth as possible. Transitions can be tough, but your resilience gives me confidence that you'll continue to thrive. I'll always cherish my time at KLC and will keep you all in my prayers.

Cate



Ron R Rucker

## ALOHA FROM PASTOR RON RUCKER

Aloha from Pastor Ron,



It's January 2025. Can you believe it? In one way, it seems like only yesterday when I arrived on island on January 16, 2023; and began our journey together on my first official day, Sunday, January 22, 2023. In another way, Nanette and I feel like we have been here for a long, long time. We have many new friends and many, many new experiences. There have certainly been some down times these two years, especially in the passing of friends and family. The following list is the best I could do: Harold Ka'ahnui, 2/2023; Cheri Beyersdorf, 5/2023; Pastor Joel, 8/2023; Jim Pike, 9/2023; Jan Patrick, 11/2023; Ed Glassel, 11/2023; Vicki Lee, 2/2024; Leib Alexander, 3/2024; and Grandma Jeane Raine, 12/2024. And, of course, the day after Pastor Joel's passing was the day of the Maui Wildfires that did significant damage on island, mostly to Lahaina.

On the other hand, there have certainly been many more up times. We were prepared to respond to the fires because our Community Outreach and Assistance Team (COAT) was thinking and planning and acting far in advance of upcoming events. They and the whole congregation leapt into action to aid suffering islanders by distributing aid from other Lutheran churches and members nationwide and in Canada, and Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). I know it has been a long, tiring adventure of work by many, yet it has also been a joyful experience. I am so thankful for being on this journey of caring and giving with you.

There have been many personal experiences for Nanette and I with all of you, like birthdays and an important anniversary. At the start of last month, I commented on your response to Nanette's injury with an abundance of cards and food that lasted all month long. And then yesterday, Christmas Day, Nanette and I sat at the dining room table in the parsonage and opened gifts and cards. The kindness and generosity was overwhelming. I am not sure why one particular gift was left to last but I do know when I saw the glass plaque my eyes overflowed. It took me several minutes before I could even show and tell Nanette what was happening to me. Those same tears welled up just moments ago as I thought once again of that moment and typed about it just now. The words that come to my mind is that "God is good, all the time." God has certainly blessed the lives of Nanette and I these last 2-years. Mahalo for your love. We love you all as well.

We all know change is in the air for Kihei Lutheran Church. Soon, the Call Committee will begin evaluating pastor candidates and eventually conducting interviews. On the one hand, that means Nanette's and my time here is on the downhill slide. We remain firmly committed to being here until a new pastor is called. There is no way to predict, however, how long the process will take. Available pastors are few and far between. It could be a few months or it could be a few years. On the other hand, when the new pastor is called, each of you individually and KLC as a whole will have the opportunity to begin a new faith journey with a new faith leader. What a wonderful opportunity remains ahead for you. Remember, God is here and at work in you.

Now you know my penchant for movie quotes. this one comes from Matt Damon as astronaut Mark Watney in the movie "The Martian": "You just begin. You do the math. You solve one problem... and you solve the next one... and then the next. And If you solve enough problems, you get to come home. All right, questions?" Now, you might think this is not on point but I assure you it is. When change comes, you can either roll over and play dead or you can buckle down and work though whatever issues arise - one at a time. There are two other things for you to remember and count on. First, wherever Nanette and I are, probably Wasilla, Alaska, you will be in our hearts and prayers. And second, God is here, loving you, and working with you. Trust God and let go.

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we enter the new year, I reflect on this past year with amazement of all that the past year has brought us. I don't think we could have ever imagined the extensive outreach projects of this year and grants to purchase a van, bus, food, and essentials for our community. The congregation helped complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), we established a Call Committee, and began the work of finding a permanent pastor for KLC.

What will the new year bring to KLC this year? Only the Lord knows what he has planned for us. I know that there will be a lot of changes and that changes are difficult for many of us, especially Lutherans! Change is something we tend to fear and become anxious about because we don't feel in control of life. Yet, we don't need to be in control of life because God has that control. He has a plan for our lives that includes hope, future and prosperity. He has never forsaken our congregation but has held our hands and walked with us through difficult and challenging times, always leading us into the light and a brighter future.

I trust that the Lord has great things planned for our congregation; that He has a pastor for us to lead us into the future, that we will continue to grow and change, and that He will always be with us. We just need to open our hearts, trust, and be open to change.

As you prepare to open yourself to accept changes, take a moment to read and reflect on these quotes and how they apply to each of us.

- "The only thing constant is change." – Heraclitus
- "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." - Winston Churchill
- "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."- Socrates
- "Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."- John F. Kennedy

In the year 2025, we will continue to change, improve, and build upon the new. It is through change that we will grow. We will pray for God's guidance, acceptance of changes, and for us to open our hearts and minds to the plans He has for us.

May the New Year bless us with unwavering faith that guides our steps, illuminates our path, and fills our hearts with hope and strength throughout the year ahead.

Blessings,

Renee Romerdahl

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*  
Jeremiah 29:11

## Congregational Meeting

## ATTENTION KLC COMMITTEE HEADS AND CONGREGATION

The annual congregational meeting has been scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 any updates and a digital copy of the reports when it becomes available. **January 24<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.

## 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 Rhonda Stoltzfus.

Pastor Ron Rucker reported that he was able to attend the bus blessing. He is very thankful for all the love shown through food and other assistance.

Treasurer Margie Terluin reported that the giving for the week of December 12 was \$4,806. Year-to-date income is \$289,441.40 and year-to-date expenses are \$271,819.61. The balance in the General Fund is \$80,783.25.

Stewardship reports that over \$213,390 was pledged so far to the general and \$14,325 to the Mortgage. 44 pledge cards have come in.

The community outreach reports that the noisy offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Church irrigation system doesn't seem to have any leaks. We will check with the next statement to confirm.

OKE Storage Shed: A concrete step was poured but because it is a permanent structure that needed to be approved by council. Procedures just need to be followed. There was a lack of communication and it was thought that it was brought up but it wasn't. The bus will be on site for a bit but we would like it in a different location. Mel will have a key available for the church to keep it running and pastor can move the bus as needed once the air brake is fixed.

Dwelling insurance for the parsonage was discussed. It was decided to raise the deductible to lower the yearly cost to the church saving \$426.

It is time to look over the preschool contract. It was decided to keep the rent the same but take a look at the averages of the electric and water since prices have been increased by the companies. We also want to make sure the square footage of the play area in the back is in the contract because the fence keeps moving. Adding boundaries so space usage is clear for both parties.

End of the year Reports are due to the office by January 24<sup>th</sup>.

The next regular meeting will be January 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm, to be held virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda M. Bode Stoltzfus, Co-Secretary

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



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Your generosity just keeps on coming. The most recent numbers for the stewardship campaign are 44 pledge cards given totaling \$220,390 to the general fund and \$14,925 toward mortgage paydown. Watch for the annual report for the final amount given. You are amazing!

# Keolahou Food Pantry

It was a 4-vehicle sleigh that delivered all the 100 hygiene bags, 622 canned and boxed food items, as well as Eric and Nels Romerdahl delivering the 111 toys for Keiki and Youth of all ages. Thursday, December 12th, Zel, Jerry K, Vicki, Cate and Margie made their way to the food pantry in order for the recipients to receive the extra goodies before Christmas. The amazing volunteers at Keolahou were overwhelmed with our huge "sack of goodies", mostly nutritious but also some fun snacks as well. Since they are not able to get enough from the Maui Food Bank through supply and demand, we at KLC are purchasing the wish list products that go along with your generous monthly donations. They set up extra tables again, but with happy hearts helped us unload everything. Their gratitude is beyond measure.

Mahalo to Renee, our head elf as she was instrumental in purchasing quality toys, games, balls, and dolls at bargain prices. Also, a special thank you to everyone who came on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, to assemble the hygiene bags since I was home ill. I truly appreciate those who were there with Hilary making that happen. You are truly angels in my eyes.

As our 2024 Outreach comes to a close for the year, Cate has printed the 2025 schedule for everyone to receive in case you would like to volunteer to help. We have been so very blessed to have been given the opportunity to reach out even further than ever here on Maui and beyond. The last Noisy Offering on Sunday the 29th, will give back to the generous folks at the Lutheran Disaster Response. We want to donate the coins and silent money to them as their generosity that helped us help so many through the grants we received. Mahalo to Pastor Ron, who stepped above and beyond to procure the monies needed for the different nonprofits. Please read the annual report of the breakdown of how Kihei Lutheran was able to help.

Sincerely and fondest Aloha,

Margie Terluin - Co-Chair for COAT



## Kelaweia Mauka

Community Outreach provided 100 snack bags for Kelaweia's Christmas Celebration. These goodie bags had treats and sweets inside. Thanks to Sue Moorcroft for helping to decorate the beautiful and fun stamped and stickered bags. Also, a huge thanks to Zel for helping me fill the bags while watching the Price is Right and Soap Operas. Oh! The joy of being retired. Kiley and Pahnelope from Kelaweia were happy to pick them up for distribution on Christmas.



## Call Committee

The Call Committee was installed at the congregational budget meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee members are: Phil Procter, Margie Terluin, Laura McClellan, Andrea Harris, Marty Atrops and Sue Moorcroft. The congregation will receive timely updates on the progress of the call. Mahalo to these gracious volunteers. We will be praying for you during this time.

## Pastor Roxanne

Pastor Roxanne WhiteLight has graciously blessed us with her teachings, wisdom, and sermons occasionally for the past few years. She has been there for members of Kihei Lutheran through some very challenging and difficult times. With that, she is wished well as she is retiring from her pastoral duties. The Lord brought Roxanne to us, and as we welcomed her then we now are happy for her new chapter to begin, and we wish her our fondest ALOHA. Mahalo for everything, Pastor Roxanne.



## Important Statistics

November	2023	2024
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	79—In Person 281—Streaming Reach	84—In Person 120—Streaming Views
Total Attendance In Person and Streaming Reach (Facebook had gotten better at counting views)	315—In Person 1,124—Streaming	336—In Person 479—Streaming
Offerings For The Month (members & visitors)	\$26,608	\$39,820
Offerings – Year to Date (members & visitors)	\$220,717.08	\$227,952.40



Scan this QR Code to get to our Givelify page.

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.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.

### Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ladies



Next Meeting will be:  
January 21st, at 7:00 PM  
Via Zoom



### 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](https://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

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



*January*

# Kihei Lutheran Church January 2025

*January*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	30 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	31—New Year's Eve 12pm Al-Anon	1—New Year's Day—Office Closed	2 9am Prayer Shawl	3 12pm Al-Anon	4
5—Keolahou Food Pantry 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	6 10am Faith Journey— Zoom <b>Don't Forget</b>	7 12pm Al-Anon <b>to call</b>	8 11:30am Rotary <b>People to</b>	9 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes <b>check in</b>	10 11am PB&J Making 12pm Al-Anon 3pm Pre-Set for OKE <b>on them</b>	11 9am Ohana Strong
12 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	13 10am Faith Journey— Zoom 7pm Worship Committee	14 12pm Al-Anon 5pm Finance Committee	15 11:30am Rotary	16 9am Prayer Shawl 11pm Hygiene Bags 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	17 12pm Al-Anon	18 10:30am Rehearsal for Maui Strong
19 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	20 10am Faith Journey <b>Don't Forget</b>	21 12pm Al-Anon 7pm Church Council <b>to call</b>	22 11:30am Rotary <b>People to</b>	23 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes <b>check in</b>	24 12pm Al-Anon <b>on them</b>	25—Newsletter Deadline Kihei Canoe Club
26 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	27 10am Faith Journey— Zoom	28 12pm Al-Anon	29	30 9am Prayer Shawl 5pm Choir 6pm Chimes	31 12pm Al-Anon	1 930am Little Hoku Open House

**Staff**

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

**Worship Area Coordinators**

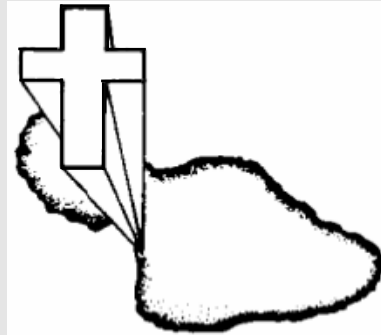
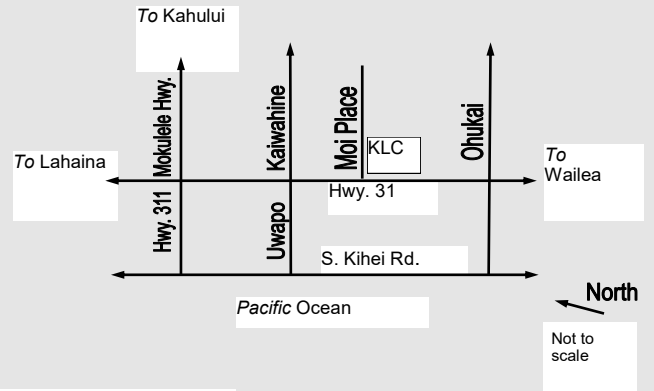
Chimes & Choir Director	Beth Fobbe-Wills
Flowers	Andrea Harris
Hosts Coordinator	Marilyn Hopkins
Worship Assistants/Readers	Zel Terluin

**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  
 Phone: 808/879-7979  
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**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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