

# KLC 'Ohana News

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

DECEMBER 2025

KIHEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Ron Rucker

A dark, atmospheric illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a baby Jesus lies in a manger made of straw. To the left, Mary is kneeling in prayer. To the right, Joseph is kneeling. In the background, a camel is led by a man, and another man stands near the manger. The scene is set in a dark, mountainous landscape with a bright light source in the sky.

A SAVIOR IS BORN

A graphic for the Christmas Eve Service. It features a lit white candle on a wooden surface, surrounded by red berries and pine needles. The text 'CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE' is written in a white, serif font on the left side of the image.

CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
SERVICE

## Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The services will include readings, communion, performances from our Hula group, Tongan and the Greek Orthodox Congregations. As we enter this sacred season, we warmly invite you to join us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. This is a time for reflection, devotion, and togetherness, and we would be honored to have you with us as we celebrate and honor the blessings of this season.

## ALOHA FROM PASTOR RON RUCKER



Ron R  
Rucker



Aloha from Pastor Ron,

I am grateful for the body of Christ, the churches of all denominations and faiths that respond when disasters strike. I am grateful for this congregation that reaches out to help others especially those effected by the Maui fires. I am grateful that when disaster struck in Western Alaska because of Typhoon Halong, that KLC responded to the needs there. We sent \$10,000 to the Alaska Communities Foundation Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund. What follows is an article I have from the Living Lutheran magazine. You can see the entire article including pictures using the link that follows the article. The two ladies mentioned in the article, Anne and Elizabeth, are very good friends of mine and the primary Leaders of Table of Grace Lutheran Church in Bethel, Alaska, which I served for four years. Elizabeth and her family have visited here several times in the last three years and will be here again this month.

In her 17 years of flying to the coastal village of Kipnuk, Alaska, to serve as its primary care provider, Anne Komulainen had never seen it like this. “The debris started to appear miles from the village,” Komulainen remembered. “I was in complete shock and worried for the residents.” On Oct. 12, the remnants of Typhoon Halong had decimated Kipnuk, accessible only by air and water, and caused damage in several other villages along the western coast of Alaska. Komulainen and two nurses arrived by U.S. Coast Guard helicopter 12 hours after the storm hit.

Komulainen—a physician’s assistant and a member of Table of Grace Lutheran Church in Bethel, Alaska—travels to Kipnuk twice a year. She has become part of the community, both during her visits there and when residents travel to Bethel for medical care. “I’ve been going there for so long that I have a close relationship with the elders from doing home visits,” she said. When Komulainen landed in October, ready to provide medical and logistical assistance, she saw these people’s houses crushed or floating away. More than 700 residents sheltered at the school—30 people per classroom, sleeping on the floor. Kipnuk occupies a spongelike tundra; the school was built on pilings, and pedestrians navigate the town on boardwalks. With the boardwalks washed away, Komulainen had to crawl under one tipped-over house, then walk through another lying on its side, to reach the school from the airport.

Once there, Komulainen and the nurses treated minor injuries such as cuts and scrapes and provided triage for those who needed to be evacuated for further medical treatment. There were no deaths or serious injuries, but the property damage was severe. Houses were ripped from their foundations; others had collapsed in rows like fallen dominos; still others floated away, one traveling more than 7 miles. Occupants had to be airlifted out in rescue buckets by Coast Guard helicopters. Almost every home in Kipnuk is now unfit for habitation due to flood damage, debris or spillage from the fuel oil tanks residents use to heat their homes.

According to Komulainen, the damage runs deeper than property and possessions. Kipnuk is the homeland for many [Yupik](#) people who trace their ancestry back generations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, yet the floods washed away all the graves in the local cemetery. People who live a subsistence lifestyle lost freezers full of painstakingly harvested and preserved fish, berries, walrus and seal. Residents lost precious traditional items such as woven baskets and kuspuks, or hooded parkas.

“It’s so heartbreaking because I’ve been in so many people’s homes,” Komulainen said. “People have things on their walls: photos, plaques, their grandpa’s Army photo. There are so many memories and historical things. They’re just gone.” The experience, she said, has increased her gratitude and given her new perspective. “The Yupik people know what’s important, and that’s family. They know their family is safe. It really made me think: Why am I so attached to stuff?” Amid such brokenness, Komulainen found moments of God’s grace in the faith of the people of Kipnuk and the way they helped each other.

Shortly after Komulainen left Kipnuk, the entire village was evacuated to Bethel; many residents later flew to Anchorage. In Bethel, Table of Grace’s church building housed volunteers who had arrived to help relief efforts. Church member Elizabeth Roll volunteered at the local armory, handing out food, water and supplies to people arriving by plane from Kipnuk and other villages impacted by the flooding. Many of them arrived with little more than the clothes they were wearing. Roll also volunteered with the nonprofit Bethel Friends of Canines, helping to haul and document dogs rescued from the villages so that they could be reunited with their owners.

Though Kipnuk residents are served primarily by a local Moravian church, Table of Grace members continue to collect supplies to distribute to those impacted by flooding. The congregation recently distributed jackets, snow pants, boots, sheets and towels purchased by the ELCA Alaska Synod with funds from synods in Texas and North Carolina. Table of Grace also operates a feeding ministry that distributes grocery bags full of shelf-stable food to local schools. Roll said this operation will be even more crucial as time goes on, and Table of Grace plans to expand it if possible. Relief efforts are being supported by [Lutheran Disaster Response \(LDR\)](#) and Lutheran Social Services of Alaska (LSSA). “The response has been overwhelming from the Lutheran congregations in Alaska and other Lutheran congregations across the country,” said Alan Budahl, executive director of LSSA. Budahl used funds to purchase extra food and supplies, such as diapers, for the LSSA food pantry in Anchorage, to serve residents from western Alaska who are now temporarily living in the state’s largest city. Budahl, who works with LDR and other partners to support recovery and rebuilding efforts in villages, said that homes are still being assessed and that rebuilding will not be possible until spring 2026. Families who lost everything will need help reestablishing their households, Budahl said, and Lutherans are in it for the long haul. “There’s going to be a long-term need,” Budahl said. “Lutheran Disaster Response is for [long-term recovery.](#)”

Donations can be [made to the Alaska Community Foundation’s Click here](#) [Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund Click here](#), [LSSA Click here](#), and [Bethel Friends of Canines Click here](#)

Thank you for being generous and welcoming to Nanette and I, others on Maui, and to others in need wherever they may be.

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

## Presidents Message

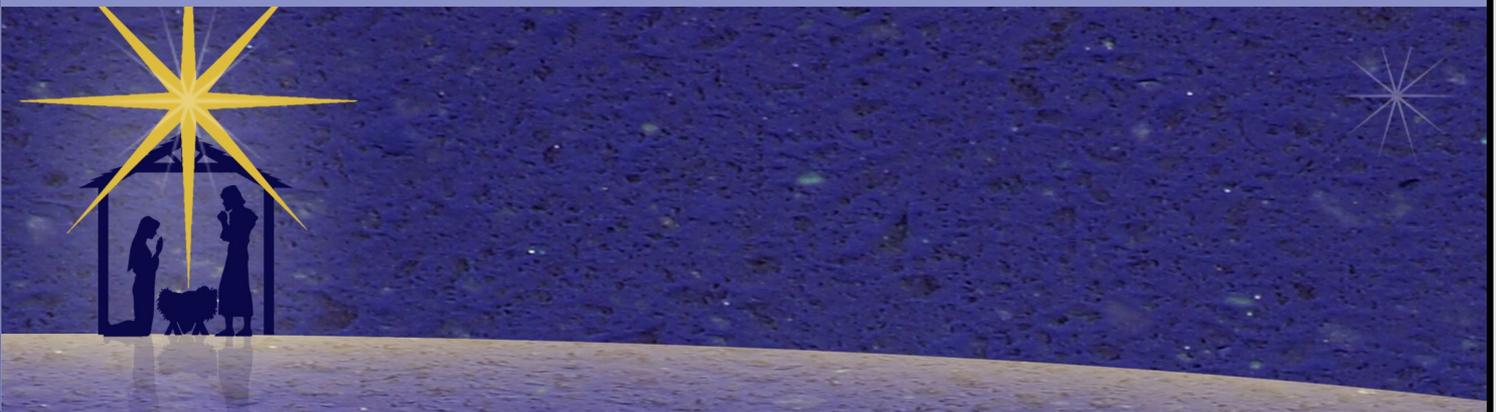
# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Holidays,

I have exciting news. A member of the congregation has made a donation of \$100,000 in stock. It is incredible! In light of this we want to call on all our Kihei Lutheran Church Ohana to work together to pay off our Church mortgage. As of now we have \$40,000 in pledges and money plus the \$100,000 totaling \$140,000. The present mortgage is \$239,000 meaning we need \$99,000 more. I have faith that we can do this in 2026. Wouldn't it be incredible to pay off the entire mortgage in January of 2027! So let's pray and thank God for his limitless blessings.

With joy and love in my heart!

Vicki



## Council Secretary's Report from the November 2025 Council Meeting



The November 18 council meeting was called to order by Vicki Nelson and Heather Ballaine gave a devotional and prayer. Vicki has been gone and is getting caught up! Pastor reported on some work being done to Daniel's tree, and expressed thanks for Marilyn's work on the stewardship campaign. Margie sent over the treasurer's report, letting us know that \$14,511 has come in between 11/12 and 11/18. YTD general giving is \$296,601.23 and YTD expenses are \$270,891.79.

Shannon updated us on the A/C replacement schedule, the rights to the song Unto Us This Night that were graciously granted by Na Leo Pilimehana, and the lau lau project we will be helping with via Pukalani Nazarene Church.

The annual meeting is coming soon and everything is on track for the budget! The finance team and Ron are currently working on setting up a system for stock donations to the church. We're excited about this new way to give to our community. Stay tuned for developments!

The church is continuing to be involved in donations to Alaska, Lahaina, and Oahu. It's a blessing that KLC can be involved in these efforts. An LA choir may be visiting in April and is interested in being involved in our worship over the Sundays they are on island. Finally, we are still working on relocating the bus and van. Progress is being made!

Next meeting will be December 16. Merry Christmas everyone!

Respectfully Submitted, Rhonda Stoltzfus - Council Secretary

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





## ADVENT

KLC Advent Worship will begin in December 12/3, 12/10, & 12/17 at 5:00 pm. The half-hour service is a contemplative service, a thoughtful pause, with moments of peace and wonder to consider God's Love and God's Gifts to us. Following worship is a Soup Supper. Please sign up if you are able to help with our Advent Soup Suppers. The sign up sheet is on the whiteboard in the sanctuary.

## Save the date! Christmas Caroling

**Tuesday, Dec. 23rd.** We will be caroling at Kalama Heights for their noon lunch time. We would love to have you join in this important ministry. Sign up sheet is on the whiteboard in the sanctuary in front of the prayer shawl closet. Any questions? Please contact Laura McClellan [la.mcclellan@icloud.com](mailto:la.mcclellan@icloud.com)



## Flower Chart Available for 2026

The 2026 flower Calendar is here! Signups for the new year will begin in October. Mahalo to the wonderful members who provided flowers to add beauty to our services in 2025



## Christmas Lights tours

Pr. Ron has graciously agreed to be our van driver/tour guide once again and take anyone interested in seeing some beautiful yard decorations on a tour of the Maui Lani neighborhood in a 15 passenger van. It's a fun time to get together with others from our church. This year we will be touring on Sun. Dec. 21 and Mon. Dec. 22, leaving the church parking lot at 6p. If we have enough people, Pr. Ron will also do a 3rd tour on Tues. Dec. 23. • If you would like to join us, choose the

date that works best for you, the sign up sheet is on the whiteboard in the sanctuary.

• If you would like a ride to and from church, please let Pastor Ron or the office know so we can arrange for you to be picked up at your home.

Contact: [klc@kiheilutheran.org](mailto:klc@kiheilutheran.org)

• If you would like a ride to and from church, please let Pastor Ron or the office know so we can arrange for you to be picked up at your home. Contact:

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## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

The Stewardship Campaign has officially ended, but there are still pledge cards coming. Thank you to all for your financial donations and for the time you give to helping at KLC and the organizations we support.

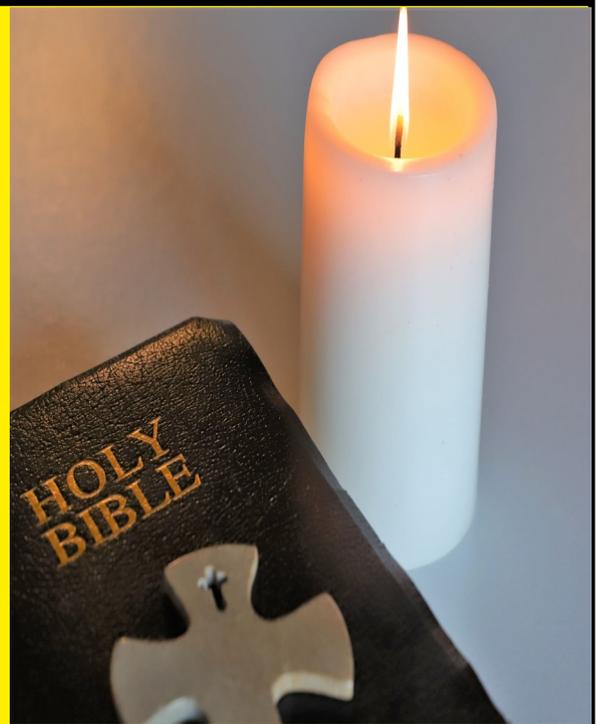
As of November 23 we have 33 pledge cards totaling \$215,270.71 to the general fund and \$28,950 pledged or donated toward paying down the mortgage. Your generosity is so appreciated.

The Stewardship Task Force

Pastor Ron and Nanette Rucker, Sue Moorcroft,  
Laura McClellan, Sally Handley and Marilyn Hopkins

Living Lutheran is your free source for news, reflections and stories from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its local and global companions. This online magazine covers religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more. As the magazine of the ELCA, the mission of the Living Lutheran is to: Nurture awareness of Christ's presence in our lives and the world. Share stories of God's people living their faith. Connect readers with the global Christian community. Provide an open forum for discussion. Challenge readers to bring God's grace and care to all.

Click [here](#) for the link to visit the Daily Devotional and save it so you can visit everyday.



## Keiki Christmas

This year we will continue our tradition of purchasing gifts for children that are served at the Keolahou Food Pantry. Last year we purchased gifts for 111 children. You can help make a special Christmas 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*". We are also collecting new and partial rolls of wrapping paper for wrapping these gifts. If you would like more information, please contact Renee Romerdahl. Mahalo!

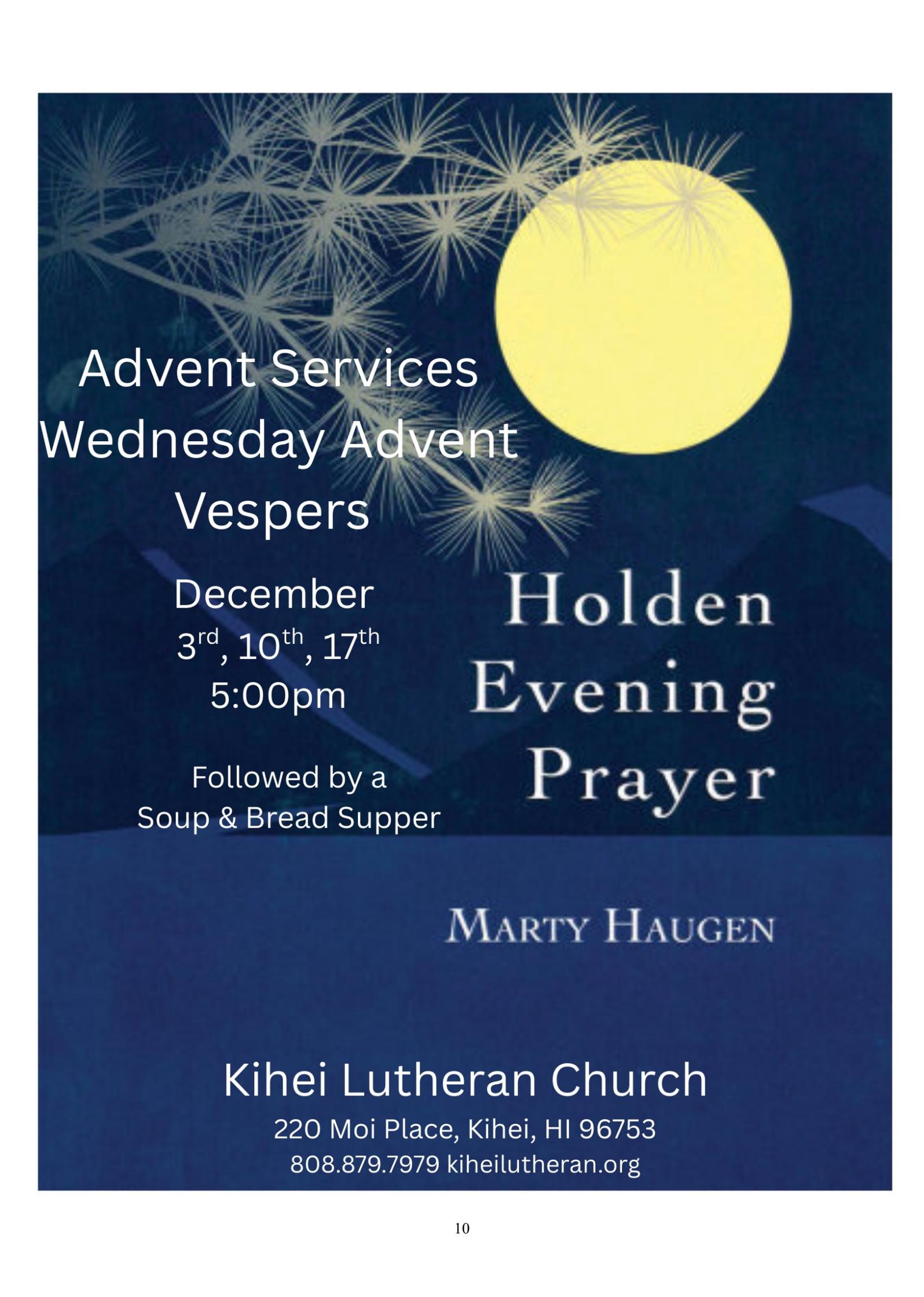




**BAKE SALE**  
November 23 was the Annual Bakesale. The proceeds of the donations will be used for Community Outreach. We were blessed with 1120.00. Many, many amazing cookies, truffles, breads, muffins and pies were placed on the tables for the Congregation and visitors and guests to enjoy. Mahalo to everyone who donated items and to those who generously donated money to benefit Community Outreach.







Advent Services  
Wednesday Advent  
Vespers

December  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm

Followed by a  
Soup & Bread Supper

Holden  
Evening  
Prayer

MARTY HAUGEN

Kihei Lutheran Church

220 Moi Place, Kihei, HI 96753

808.879.7979 [kiheilutheran.org](http://kiheilutheran.org)

## 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!)



### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

# Kihei Lutheran Church December 2025

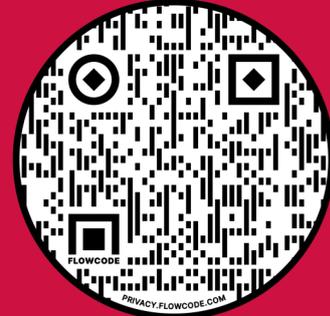


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 8:15 Choir 9am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	1 10am Faith Journey-Zoom	2 12pm Al-Anon 5pm Maui Greek Orthodox	3 11:30 Rotary 5:00pm Advent Service	4 9am Prayer Shawl	5 12pm Al-Anon	6 10am Community Outreach Holiday Hygiene bags 1:30 Maui Greek Orthodox Mission
7 <b>Keolahou Food Pantry</b> 8:15 Choir 9am Worship 1:30pm Maui Mission 3pm Tongan Church	8 10am Faith Journey-Zoom 7pm Worship Team-Zoom	9 12pm Al-Anon 12:30 Fellowship Committee 5pm Maui Greek Orthodox	10 11:30am Rotary 5:00pm Advent Service	11 9am Prayer Shawl	12 11am PB&J Making 12pm Al-Anon 3pm Pre-Set for OKE	13 9am Ohana Strong
14 8:15 Choir 9:30 am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	15 10am Faith Journey-Zoom	16 12pm Al-Anon 6pm Church Council-Hybrid	17 11:30am Rotary 5pm Maui Greek Orthodox 5:00pm Advent Service	18 9am Prayer Shawl 11am Snack & Hygiene Bags	19 12pm Al-Anon	20 1:30 Maui Greek Orthodox Mission
21 8:15 Choir 9am Worship 1:30pm Maui Mission 3pm Tongan Church	22 10am Faith Journey	23 11:30 Christmas Caroling 12pm Al-Anon 5pm Maui Greek Orthodox	24 <b>Office Closed</b> 5pm Christmas Eve Service 7:30 Christmas Eve Service	25— <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	26— <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 12pm Al-Anon	27
28 8:15 Choir 9:30am Worship 3pm Tongan Church	29 10am Faith Journey-Zoom	30 12pm Al-Anon 5pm Maui Greek Orthodox	31 New Year's Eve 5pm Maui Greek Orthodox	1— <b>Office Closed</b> 9am Prayer Shawl	2 12pm Al-Anon	3

## Important Statistics

October	2024	2025
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	66—In Person 80—Streaming Views	61—In Person 74—Streaming Views
Total Attendance In Person and Streaming Reach (Facebook had gotten better at counting views)	264—In Person 319—Streaming	243—In Person 295—Streaming
Offerings For The Month (members & visitors)	\$17,963	\$17,972.00
Offerings – Year to Date (members & visitors)	\$188,132.40	\$225,490.23

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

The prayer shawl hui is starting their fall schedule of meeting on Thursdays 9:00-11:00 am. If you need a prayer shawl or have any questions please contact the office and Shannon 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**



Next Meeting will be:  
December 16th at  
6:00pm via Zoom

### Administrative Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM—5:00 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!

**Staff**

✪ Pastor Interim Pastor Ron Rucker  
 ✪ Music Coordinator Julia Golding  
 ✪ Church Administrative Asst. Shannon Kama  
 ✪ Bookkeeper Sue Whitney  
 ✪ Sexton Kyle Wolfgang

**Worship Area Coordinators**

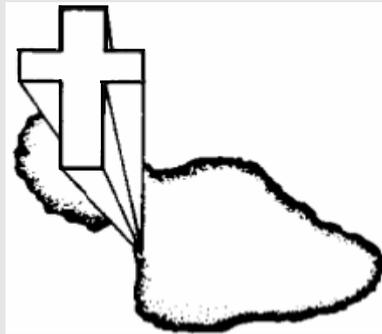
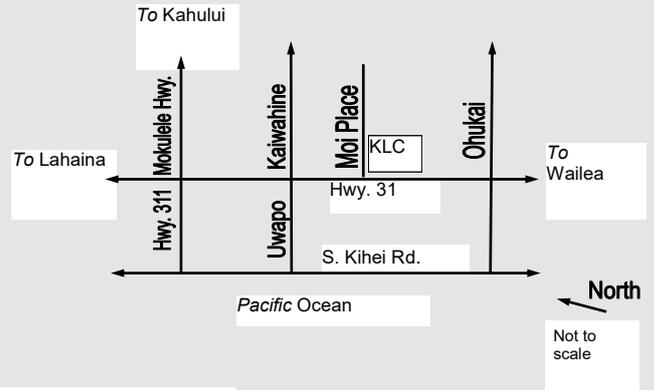
✪ Chimes & Choir Director Julia Golding  
 ✪ Flowers Andrea Harris  
 ✪ Hosts Coordinator Marilyn Hopkins  
 ✪ Worship Assistants/Readers Zel Terluin

**Other Contacts**

✪ Treasurer Margie Terluin  
 ✪ Financial Secretary Marilyn Hopkins  
 ✪ Hula Group Sally Handley  
 ✪ E-mail Prayer Chain Shannon Kama

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**9:30 AM**



Kihei Lutheran Church  
 220 Moi Place, Kihei, HI 96753  
 Phone: 808/879-7979  
**E-mail Address:**  
[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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