



Together We Are The Church

December, 2023

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

December, 2023

Aloha Kakou,

While this is a fun time of year, with lots of holy days/holidays, it can also be stressful and anxiety-producing. With the longer nights and rainy days, depression can also tug at our hearts. If you need to talk, feel sad, or grieve with someone, I am around.

One of the things I try to do in these Seasons of Advent and Christmas is set the bar low for my expectations. Family gatherings, with meals and gift-giving, are exciting and bring great pleasure. But it can also be a trying time, what with family dynamics, religion and politics all coming into play.

Someone once jokingly said it was okay to talk about religion and politics at family gatherings because it helps you to shorten the list of gifts you have to buy and saves you money. I, however, have done my best to avoid those topics.

If cornered, the most I ever try to say to is something like, "Well, that's not my faith-perspective, but I honor yours." Rarely have I been pushed to elaborate. The few times I have been, I simply excuse myself and wander off. Feel free to dodge and/or wander away from stressful situations.

Which reminds me that our annual Blue Christmas will be December 21st, the shortest day and longest night of the year. This is a service of quiet prayer, scripture reading, and candle-lighting. It is for those of us who are feeling blue – anxious, depressed, fearful, or grieving the loss of a loved one. This short service will not be broadcast or livestreamed, to provide confidentiality to those attending.

Finally, remember that joy is life, love, and creativity, even in the midst of sorrow and sadness. It is not the same as happiness or cheerfulness. In the Christian faith we rejoice at the Incarnation, even as we pray for the full realization of the Reign of God in Christ at the End of Time.

Joy to the World!

Pr Keith



**See pg. 4 for more information on Blue Christmas Service and time.*



*You are welcome at the table
found at Christ Lutheran Church.*

*Welcome to those of you who come bearing diverse gifts
including wisdom regarding sexual orientations,
gender identities and gender expressions.*

*Welcome to all of you
for your diverse colors, shapes, cultures, backgrounds, and traditions.*

*Welcome to those of you born here
and to those of you flown here.*

*We seek to rejoice, grieve, heal and
reconcile together as we gather
around Jesus' table,
which has been laid out for all.*



December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3rd, 8:00am & 10:00am

Sunday, December 10th, 8:00am & 10:00am

Sunday, December 17th, 8:00am & 10:00am
with **Potluck Brunch** at **9:15 am**

Thursday, December 21st, Blue Christmas

Evening Service - 7:00pm In-Person Only

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

Morning Service with Communion - 10:00am

Evening Carols & Candle-light Service - 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day

Morning Service with Communion - 10:00am

Sunday, December 31st, 8:00am & 10:00am



Celebrations - Blessings to All of You

Happy Birthday

December 3 Bill Kriese
December 6 June Imperial
December 9 Jiao Chen
Russ Kino
Mae Norton
Keith Wolter
December 20 Christy Sondall
December 24 Keegan Rosetter
December 28 David Sikkink
December 30 Kaimana Higa

Baptismal Anniversaries

December 1 Andrew Zaffke
December 3 Anna Sikkink
December 7 Mary Lou Kimoto
December 9 Jiao Chen
December 11 Jim Sondall
December 27 Ritter Zaffke
December 28 Mattie Sikkink
December 30 Keith Wolter

Wedding Anniversaries

December 1 Rick & Anne Myers
December 13 Joel & Anna Hamaguchi
December 27 Bill & Gayle Kriese
December 30 John & Ele Clere
December 30 John & Jane Yanagida



If we missed your special day, please let the office know (office@clcmililani.org)



Mahalo nui loa for your gifts and your dedication to Christ Lutheran Church during 2023!

As we approach the end of the calendar year, please note that **all donations must be postmarked or received in the office by December 31st to be included in your 2023 contribution statement (for tax purposes).**

Thank you and God bless you for your generous support of CLC so that we may continue to be good stewards of what God has given us.

Please contact Shelby in the church office (office@clcmililani.org or 808-623-9229) if you have any questions.

Congratulations to the new 2024 CLC Council!

At the semi-annual congregation meeting on November 19th, the following officers were elected unanimously by acclamation.

- **Anna Hamaguchi**, President
- **Steve Peterson**, Secretary
- **Andrew Zaffke**, Treasurer
- **Elaine Schwilk**, At -Large Member
- **Fia Rosetter**, At -Large Member
- **Jean McMann**, At-Large Member



David Rosetter Continues as Vice President along with **Nelson Acosta**, **Bekki Zaffke** & **Eileen Ward** as At-Large Members.



With grateful hearts, we thank our outgoing council members **Amanda Spangler (Secretary)** and **Jefery Spangler (At-Large Member)** for their dedication and service!

*The 2024 budget was also presented at the meeting and will be voted on at the upcoming **Annual Congregation Meeting on January 28th**. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office.

Holiday Sunday Brunch



The next **Sunday Brunch** will take place on **Sunday, December 17th**

between services (approximately 9:15-9:45am). Bring whatever you'd like to share or just bring your appetite. All are welcome to this monthly time of fellowship and fun.



Not everyone is joyful this time of year.

So on **Thursday, December 21st (the winter solstice)**, at **7 pm** we will have a service of comfort and encouragement for those who are feeling blue - of hope in the midst of despair. It will be an in-person service with Pr. Keith and Assisting Minister only to protect confidentiality.


All are welcome!





DECEMBER, 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Not a CLC Event: Please contact AI Anon or AA for further information.					1 Morning Prayer *AI-Anon 7:30 pm *AA 7:30pm	2 Morning Prayer IHS Ministry
3 4th Sun of Advent 8 am In-person Worship 9 am Keiki Church 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	4 Morning Prayer	5 Morning Prayer	6 Morning Prayer	7 Morning Prayer	8 Morning Prayer *AI-Anon 7:30 pm *AA 7:30pm	9 Morning Prayer
10 5th Sunday of Advent **Healing Sunday 8 am In-person Worship 9 am Keiki Church 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation	11 Morning Prayer	12 Morning Prayer	13 Morning Prayer	14 Morning Prayer	15 Morning Prayer *AI-Anon 7:30 pm *AA 7:30pm	16 Morning Prayer
17 6th Sunday of Advent 8 am In-person Worship 9 am Keiki Church 9:15am Sunday Brunch 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation 11:30am Chrch.Cncl.Mtg	18 Morning Prayer	19 Morning Prayer	20 Morning Prayer	21 Morning Prayer Blue Christmas Service 7 pm In-person only	22 Morning Prayer *AI-Anon 7:30 pm * AA 7:30pm	23 Morning Prayer
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation 6 pm Carols & Candle-light In-Person Worship 8 pm Carols & Candle-light In-person Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship Service 10 am	26 Morning Prayer	27 Morning Prayer	28 Morning Prayer	29 Morning Prayer *AI-Anon 7:30 pm * AA 7:30pm	30 Morning Prayer
31 1st Sun after Christmas 8 am In-person Worship 10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation						



Angel Tree Update

Thank you for signing up to purchase Christmas gifts for children from the PACT (Parents and Children Together) organization. **We have met our goal of buying for 75 youth! In fact, we have exceeded it and will be giving to 80 children. Thank you for your generosity!**

Gifts should be \$15 and age-appropriate. (See Gift suggestions in the Nov. newsletter). If you are purchasing Gift Cards for older children at (Walmart, Target, or Movie Theaters) Please place the gift cards in an envelope, seal and label them: Angel Tree, Your name, and Attention DeAnn; then place them in offering plates.

Don't forget to attach a set of batteries to toys, if required. You can return the un-wrapped gifts during the Sunday services on Dec. 3rd, and Dec. 10th. Look for the large drop box at the entrance of the church.

Questions? Contact DeAnn Acosta at 808 371-7708 or alohad50@hotmail.com

A Christmas Blessing

Heavenly Father, we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus, remembering the words of the angels on the night of His birth, "Peace on earth to all of good will." Today, as never before, Almighty God, we pray for Your loving peace. May peace be the guiding force in the hearts of our world leaders. May peace reign in every corner of the globe and in the hearts of every man, woman and child upon this earth. This Christmas and always, may we embrace Your wonderful gifts with courage and conviction. In so doing, we will also be embracing Your greatest gift to us, Your Son, the Prince of Peace!

Amen.



**Sign up for 2024
Offering Envelopes!**

**Offering
Envelopes**



New Subscribers

If you wish to receive offering envelopes for 2024, please contact the church office at 808-623-9229 or email office@clcmililani.org.

Current Subscribers

Members currently receiving offering envelopes for 2023 will automatically be sent envelopes for 2024.



**Mahalo for all your
blessings to CLC!**

Christmas Poinsettias

We would love to have the sanctuary full of flowers to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. If you would like to purchase (or lend us) a poinsettia to help fulfill this wish, please **bring them to the church the week of December 17th.**



Thank You for participating in the CLC Thanksgiving Food Drive!

Once again CLC members and Rainbow Preschoolers have shown their generosity and filled the Sanctuary with food that will be shared with needy families of central and north shore Oahu through *The Private Sector*, an all-volunteer organization that provides food, shelter, and other goods to the needy.

The food will be blessed by Pastor Keith and taken by representatives of *The Private Sector* on Sunday, December 3rd.



Mahalo for the Memories

In November of 2007, we joined Christ Lutheran Church and Joe was quickly elected Treasurer of the CLC Church Council. Sixteen years have passed since then and many fond memories of our friendships developed over the years fill our hearts and minds. We never thought we would be leaving Oahu after retiring here in 2006 from PA. Life has taken an unexpected turn, which has altered our future rather dramatically. Since our 41 year old son Bryan suddenly passed away in April, the congregation has supported and comforted us in countless ways. You have strengthened us and sustained us through our grief. Now, it is time to move on and on December 12th, we are moving to North Carolina where we will be living less than three miles from our son Kevin and his wife Shannon. Although it is difficult to leave our friends, we know that we must follow our hearts. Sunday, December 10th will be our final Sunday to worship at CLC and we hope to bid farewell to many of you in person at the 10:00 service.



With much aloha always,
Bev and Joe Murphy





Christ Lutheran Church
95-1361 Meheula Parkway
Mililani, HI 96789

December Worship



Sunday, Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st

8 am In-person Worship

10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation

*The 8 am service is offered on Facebook and the
10 am service is offered on Zoom. Both feature
on-line Communion.*

Thursday, Dec. 21st -Blue Christmas

7 pm In-person Worship

Christmas Eve

10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation

6 pm Carols & Candle-light In-Person Worship

8 pm Carols & Candle-light In-person Worship

Christmas Day

10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Church Office:

Phone: (808) 623-9229

Fax: (808) 623-3955

E-Mail address:

Office@clcmililani.org

Web address:

www.clcmililani.org

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