



# The Lamplighter



*Our Savior Lutheran Church - ELCA, Quincy, CA*

## PASTOR'S LETTER

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Game Night 1/19**
- **Annual Meeting Sun. 1/28**
- **Shrove Tues. 2/13**
- **Ash Wed. 2/14—Lent begins**



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Dear Church Family,

The new calendar year comes with hope, opportunity, and challenges for our congregation, as well as for us personally. If you look at the calendars for January and February on the next two pages, you will see many opportunities for ways we can come together to worship, and be in fellowship as a congregation and with other Christians. We start with Epiphany, the season of light, when Jesus is revealed as the Messiah. Along the way, we have Bible Studies, Community Suppers, and even a game night with the Methodists. Our Annual Congregational meeting will occur on Jan. 28th and we will do the hard work of administrative and financial planning for the year.

One of the more challenging things for small congregations such as ours is trying to make ends meet and cover all the tasks which need to be done. We have a solid group of individuals who have served on our Church Council year after year, but we are currently operating without a Vice President. We have someone willing to step up to be our Buildings and Grounds chair, but they cannot do this job alone. We could use more people willing to do cleaning tasks (both inside and out). I'd also like to have other contributors to our newsletter—with short inspirational stories, humor, recipes, etc. We generally get a good number of people to volunteer for special projects, so I know we can improve on covering some of these other jobs. Most importantly for January, please plan to come to our Annual meeting and participate in those discussions!

In mid-February we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake dinner on the 13th, and then switch to the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 14th. We will again offer Wednesday evening prayer services during Lent in addition to our other regular activities. (Easter will be on March 31st this year.) We encourage you to participate in as many activities together as possible, since we grow in faith when we are connected to others in the faith. Together, we are the church! We are a family in God's kingdom (kin-dom). Let's practice loving each other so that we can go out into the world, sharing God's love with all those we encounter. May God's light, love and hope be with you all!

-Pr. Kendrah

**CALENDAR: JANUARY 2024**

**Mon. 1/1** Happy New Year!  
**Wed. 1/3** Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon  
**Thur. 1/4** Women’s Bible Study 10 am  
**Sat. 1/6** Epiphany—Wise men visit Jesus  
**Sun. 1/7** Baptism of Jesus—Undecorate church after worship  
**Mon. 1/8** Song/Drum Circle 6 pm  
**Wed. 1/10** Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon  
**Wed. 1/10** Community Supper at CUMC 6 pm  
**Thur. 1/11** Women’s Cancer Support Group 6:30 pm  
**Mon. 1/15** MLK Jr. Day—service projects encouraged  
**Mon. 1/15** P.E.O. Women meet at OSLC Noon to 4 pm  
**Mon. 1/15** Dress-a-Girl 10 am to Noon  
**Mon. 1/15** Song/Drum Circle 6 pm  
**Wed. 1/17** Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon  
**Thur. 1/18** Women’s Bible Study 10 am  
**Fri. 1/19** Soup and game night 6 pm @ OSLC  
**Sun. 1/21** Church Council meets after worship  
**Mon. 1/22** Song/Drum Circle 6 pm  
**Wed. 1/24** Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon  
**Wed. 1/24** Community Supper at CUMC 6 pm  
**Sun. 1/28** Annual Congregational meeting after worship  
**Mon. 1/29** Song/Drum Circle 6 pm  
**Wed. 1/31** Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon



**January Birthdays**

<b>Marlene Labs</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Dax Albrecht</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Mark Howard</b>	<b>31</b>

**January Anniversaries**

**None**

**Men’s Coffee** meets at Midtown Coffee, Mondays at 8 am.

**Women’s Bible Study**

In November 2023, we started a new Bible Study from the Women of the ELCA’s *Gather* magazine. The three-session study is called, “**Salvation Now**” by theologian, Anna Madsen, with subtitles as follows:

- Promised Salvation Now: Jesus Brings Wellness
- Tangible Salvation Now: Christians as Bringers of Wellness
- A World Wanting Wellness

We will pick-up from where we left off on Thursdays, January 4th and 18th, 2024 at 10 am.

**CALENDER: FEBRUARY 2024**

- Thur. 2/1 Women’s Bible Study 10 am**
- Sat. 2/3 Groundhog Festival downtown Quincy 1 to 4 pm
- Mon. 2/5 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/7 Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon
- Thur. 2/8 Women’s Cancer Support Group 6:30 pm
- Sun. 2/11 Church Council meets after worship
- Mon. 2/12 Dress-a-Girl 10 am to Noon
- Tues. 2/13 Pancake Dinner 5 pm**
- Wed. 2/14 Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon
- Wed. 2/14 Ash Wednesday service 5 pm**
- Wed. 2/14 Community Supper at CUMC 6 pm**
- Thur. 2/15 Women’s Bible Study 10 am**
- Sun. 2/18 Lent Week 1
- Mon. 2/19 P.E.O. Women meet at OSLC Noon to 4 pm
- Mon. 2/19 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/21 Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon
- Wed. 2/21 Midweek Lent Service 5 pm**
- Sun. 2/25 Lent Week 2
- Mon. 2/26 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/28 Chair Yoga 11 am to Noon
- Wed. 2/28 Midweek Lent Service 5 pm**
- Wed. 2/28 Community Supper at CUMC 6 pm**
- Thur. 2/29 Women’s Bible Study 10 am**



**February Birthdays**

- Becky Mills 11**
- Roxanne Behrens 23**

**February Anniversaries**

- Terri & Buzzy West 18**

**God’s Work, Our Hands Donations in 2023**

**CHANGE FOR CHURCH and ICE CREAM SOCIAL**—For the year, we received \$125.73 in donations for Change for Church, which goes to **ELCA World Hunger**. Our Ice Cream Social in August raised \$1,093.59 for **ELCA Good Gifts**. **Thank you!**

**QUINCY FIRE VICTIMS**—We received \$600 for the fire victims of the apartment building which burned in East Quincy in early 2023. **Thank you!**

**PIE AUCTION**—We received \$725 for our Pie Auction in November 2023, with the proceeds going to World Central Kitchen. **Thank you!**

**C.A.N. FOOD BANK**—We received a generous donation of \$250 for the C.A.N. food pantry in November, 2023. **Thank you!**



## Financial Secretary's Report for 2023 by Karla Burnworth

### A few notes about the Financial Secretary and Treasurers' reports:

#### A closer look at income:

Our yearly income is divided into two main categories: **Regular Offerings** (which go into our checking account and cover all budgeted operating expenses) and **Designated Funds**. Designated Funds are pass-through donations which we forward on to the causes or recipients indicated (e.g. ELCA World Hunger, World Central Kitchen, etc.).

The total deposits recorded by our Financial Secretary for 2023 = \$92,909.23. Of that, \$88,001.91 was for Regular Offerings, leaving \$4,907.32 as Designated Funds. This amount cannot be applied to our operating expenses.

In addition to the Regular Offerings shown in the Financial Secretary's report, there is **additional money** deposited into our checking account automatically from other sources. For instance, there was income from the **Interest** deposited from our **CDs**, totaling \$892.14. There was also a deposit of \$43.16 from the Amazon Smile donations (discontinued in early 2023). Along with this was **carryover income from 2022** in the amount of \$2,800. This brings our **total income for operating expenses in 2023 to \$91,740.21**.

#### A closer look at expenses:

A year ago, in January 2023, we approved a balanced budget of \$92,480 (with anticipated income meeting expenses). **When we compare the budgeted amount to actual Regular Offerings received, we came up only \$739.79 short.** However, we had some unanticipated increases in some of our expenses in 2023.

The most notable item which was over-budget in 2023 was Telephone & Internet services. We had been with AT&T for these services, but with fees continuing to increase, we decided in the Fall of 2023 to switch our internet services over to Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications. >>

Month	Regular Plate Offering	Hall Rental	Recycling & Refund	Building Fund	ELCA World Hunger	2022 & 2023 Pie Auction	Pastor's ER Fund	Office Computer	Memorial - Fred Surber	Disaster Q Fire Victims	Ice Cream Social ELCA Gifts	C.A.N. Food Pantry	Total
Jan.	\$ 3,926.00	\$ 88.00											\$ 4,014.00
Feb.	\$ 6,623.00	\$ 64.00	\$ 47.55				\$250.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00				\$ 6,984.55
Mar.	\$23,608.00	\$ 208.00				\$ 13.00			\$ 400.00	\$600.00			\$24,629.00
Apr.	\$ 6,812.00	\$ 76.00		\$ 200.00					\$ 800.00				\$ 7,488.00
May	\$ 4,640.00	\$ 46.00											\$ 5,514.00
June	\$ 4,667.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 89.00		\$ 28.00								\$ 4,837.00
July	\$ 4,878.00	\$ 56.00											\$ 4,934.00
Aug.	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 94.00									\$1,093.59		\$ 4,387.59
Sep.	\$ 7,492.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 45.00		\$ 12.23								\$ 7,700.23
Oct.	\$ 6,198.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 60.50								\$ 6,659.50
Nov.	\$ 6,195.00	\$ 75.50			\$ 25.00	\$ 650.00						\$ 250.00	\$ 7,195.50
Dec.	\$ 8,331.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 14.86			\$ 75.00							\$ 8,565.86
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$86,570.00</b>	<b>\$1,156.50</b>	<b>\$ 275.41</b>	<b>\$ 450.00</b>	<b>\$125.73</b>	<b>\$738.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$1,093.59</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$92,909.23</b>



## Treasurer’s Report through November 2023 by Kathy Osher

GENERAL EXPENSES	Budgeted	January—October										Nov.	YTD Spent	Balance
Bank Check Charges	\$50.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Household Expenses	\$50.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$66.45	-\$16.45
Switching to State Farm Ins.	\$3,727.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$3,754.00	-\$27.00
Office Expenses (includes web domain)	\$1,300.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$66.00	\$1,938.33	-\$638.33
Sierra Conference	\$100.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
2.5% of regular offerings	\$2,200.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Registration for 2 people + Burlingame hotel	\$1,000.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$1,142.36	-\$142.36
Taxes	\$100.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$128.34	-\$28.34
Increase to \$65 per service	\$4,225.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$260.00	\$3,445.00	\$780.00
Worship Supplies	\$725.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$877.22	-\$152.22
Education Supplies	\$100.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$13,577.00</b>	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	<b>\$326.00</b>	<b>\$11,451.70</b>	<b>\$2,125.30</b>
<b>PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>														
Housing	\$15,000.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$1,250.00	\$14,738.24	\$261.76
Salary (+\$5,315 Pastor's pre-tax) *	\$32,353.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$2,696.08	\$29,680.40	\$2,672.60
<b>TOTAL PASTOR COMPENSATION (4.5% raise = \$2,268 total)</b>	<b>\$52,668.00</b>	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	<b>\$3,946.08</b>	<b>\$44,418.64</b>	<b>\$8,249.36</b>
	<b>\$52,668</b>													<b>\$5,315.00</b>
<b>PASTOR EXPENSES</b>														
Continuing Education	\$250.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Mileage	\$1,300.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$141.70	\$1,091.59	\$208.41
(Health, Dental, Retirement) ELCA Portico (includes \$5,315 above) *	\$22,000.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$63.08	\$19,256.05	\$2,743.95
Supply Pastor	\$0.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PASTOR EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$23,550.00</b>	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	<b>\$204.78</b>	<b>\$20,347.64</b>	<b>\$3,202.36</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>														
Electricity	\$900.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$85.60	\$849.17	\$50.83
Garbage	\$250.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$21.34	\$234.74	\$15.26
Heating	\$3,000.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$302.05	\$2,663.97	\$336.03
Telephone & Internet	\$3,100.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$246.52	\$4,541.64	-\$1,441.64
Water & Sewer	\$750.00	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	\$69.73	\$728.67	\$21.33
<b>TOTAL UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	<b>\$725.24</b>	<b>\$9,018.19</b>	<b>-\$1,018.19</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$97,795.00</b>	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	<b>\$5,202.10</b>	<b>\$85,236.17</b>	<b>\$12,558.83</b>

There was an initial connection fee of \$500 but the monthly expenses were reduced by almost \$200 a month. We will see the savings for this in 2024. We are also in the process of switching away from AT&T for phone services.

Another over-budget category was Office Expenses. Part of this was due to the need to replace our printer/copier and having bought toner and drums for the old machine which could not be returned. The printer itself was paid for with designated funds leftover from the previous year for a new computer. Another Office Expense was our internet web domain which is now paid every three years. We will not have that expense in 2024 or 2025. We were slightly over-budget for “Worship Supplies.” This covers things like candles, communion cups, and wafers. It also was used for subscriptions to “The Lutheran” magazine which all active members had been receiving. This publication will no longer be printed, so we will not have that expense going forward.

Ultimately, we ended up around \$4,000 over-budget in 2023. Thankfully, we had enough money in our savings account to cover the difference. The Church Council will meet before the **Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 28th** to prepare the most accurate budget possible, taking into consideration all of the above and more. If you have any input to give in regards to the Budget, our Income, or our Expenses, please talk to a Council member before Jan. 21st. **Thank you for your continued donations to God’s work done through OSLC. We truly appreciate you!**



## *Our Savior Lutheran Church - ELCA, Quincy, CA*

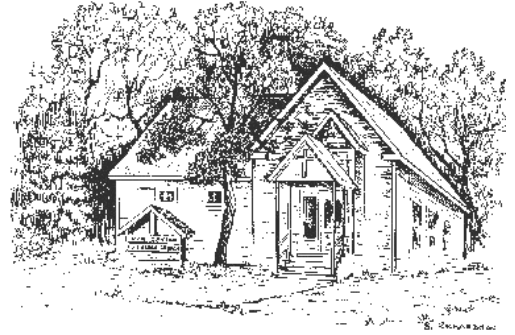
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Mission Statement: *We are a church family who worships together, serves our neighbors, and shares the love and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Theme Verse: **Isaiah 54:10:** *“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”*



### **“Praise God!” by Lyn Walters**

As the New Year rolls around once again, it is the season for making resolutions and setting goals. “I’ll lose weight; I’ll walk every day for exercise; I’ll keep a journal; I’ll keep the house clean.” Do any of these sound familiar? This year I asked myself what does God want of me for the next 12 months? Not what do I want for myself. I know that God wants me to stay in good health, to attend church, to adopt an attitude of gratitude, to pray without ceasing. But all these activities ultimately end up benefiting me. What can I do to benefit God?

Well, it’s the first commandment actually: to “love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Deuteronomy 6:5). But how does loving God translate into action in the real world?

Jesus often called upon God as Abba or Father. As a parent, one of the most gratifying things my son can do for me is to tell me I am a good mother. Therefore, praising God gratifies Him. To gratify someone is to give them pleasure and satisfaction. Imagine being able to do that for God!

I know that I am most used to the idea of asking God to help me in my messed-up life. Then I say thank you, thank you, thank you, so grateful to be spared the consequences of my stupid decisions.

My prayers are bereft of such words as, “My mouth has filled with laughter and my tongue with shouts of joy ... for God is good” (Psalm 126:2), “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). I usually say about once a week, “Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed (greatly revered and honored) be thy name ... For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever” (Matthew 6:9-13). But hadn’t noticed until now that Jesus bookends his prayer by praising God.

The priest and great poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, wrote a poem call *Pied Beauty* in which he gives “Glory be to God for dappled things – for skies of couple-color as a brinded cow ...” He continues by describing other dappled things, stippled trout, and finches’ wings, for example. He ends the poem simply by stating “Praise him,” referring to God who made all the beautiful things Hopkins describes in the poem.

I wonder what our world would look like if we were to give glory to God for plastic things? Glory to God for useful plastic things, the way they take so many forms, from a child’s favorite toy to the replacement of a bone. Praise God!

Thanking God for the things of this world is a mindset deeply to be desired. But it’s a different thing altogether to just sit and admire deeply the wonders in which we are encompassed in our every waking moment. Church newsletters and paper clips, “Praise God!” Podcasts and dragonflies, “Praise God!” Coffee cups in little blue churches, “Praise God!” For the big crazy mess of the human world which, if we stay close to God, we can help change, most mightily “Praise God!”