



# The Lamplighter

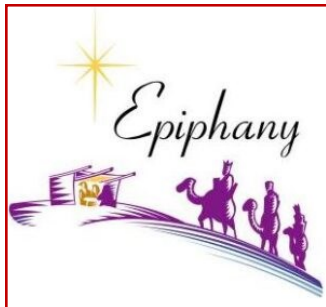


**Our Savior Lutheran Church - ELCA, Quincy, CA**

## PASTOR'S LETTER

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Epiphany—Light!**
- **New Women's Bible Study**
- **MLK Jr. Day of Service**



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Dear Church Family,

It is a bittersweet thing to come to the end of the Christmas season. While some people like to take down their decorations before the end of December, many of us like to leave our trees and lights up until sometime in mid-January or even longer. Epiphany (when the wisemen arrived to visit Jesus after following the star) occurs on January 6<sup>th</sup> and between now and Lent, we will continue to focus on Jesus being the light of the world.

As followers of Jesus, we long for spiritual and ethical light for our world today. How can we best cope with the uncertainty and darkness around us? One way is to look to leaders who have sought light, hope, and righteousness in our more recent past. In this newsletter, I was inspired to include many quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. One is on the church sign, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that." The quote continues, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Light and love are themes for us as Christians, and Dr. King drew on his Christian faith for his inspirational speeches as well as in how he tried to live his life. All too often, those who try to bring light and love to the world are killed by the powers of darkness. Our savior, Jesus, was killed by the same darkness, yet his light lives on through those of us who follow him.

We see images of light and love in John 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." To be clear, the "Word" is Jesus, and John claims that Jesus was with God at the beginning of creation. In verses 4-5 it says, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."

This is a truth that we as Christians must hold onto regardless of how many bad things happen in our world. To be a follower of Jesus means holding onto hope that the light will shine stronger than the darkness. Furthermore, each one of us is called to be a beacon of light in our broken world. As we begin this new year, let's try to focus on what we can do to bring light and love to the world around us. The light and life of Christ will not be overtaken!

-Pr. Kendrah

**CALENDAR: JANUARY 2025**

- Wed. 1/1 Happy New Year!**
- Sun. 1/5 Christmas 2—**Undecorate church after worship
- Mon. 1/6 Epiphany—**Wisemen visit the child, Jesus
- Wed. 1/8 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon
- Wed. 1/8 Community Supper @ CUMC 6 pm
- Thur. 1/9 Women’s Bible Study 10 am**
- Thur. 1/9 Women’s Cancer Support Group 6:30 pm
- Sun. 1/12 Church Council meets after worship
- Wed. 1/15 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon
- Thur. 1/16 Women’s Bible Study 10 am**
- Wed. 1/22 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon
- Wed. 1/22 Community Supper @ CUMC 6 pm
- Sun. 1/26 Annual Congregational Meeting after worship**
- Mon. 1/27 MLK Jr. Day—National Day of Service—volunteer!**
- Mon. 1/27 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 1/29 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon



**January Birthdays**

- Marlene Labs 23**
- Dax Albrecht 27**
- Mark Howard 31**

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

**January Anniversaries**

None

**“2024 Christmas Letter” By Lyn Walters**

Dear Beloved Friends and Family,



We are again in the season where we say, peace, peace, when there is no peace. Wars rage abroad, most notably in the Holy Land and Lebanon, but also in Ukraine and Sudan with tensions high in numerous other places, most recently Syria and Georgia. And there are tensions at home between the right and the left, the Trumpers and the Anti-Trumpers.

Richard and I have a couple of family pets. A gol’darn dog, from the animal shelter. She’s a border collie mix and strong as a horse even though she’s 13 years old. And a yellow cat, from the cat shelter, who is a curious little fellow going on 2. When Chloe the dog met Alex the cat it was not monumental. They assumed a mutual indifference.

*(Continued on back cover ...)*

**CALENDER: FEBRUARY 2025**

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

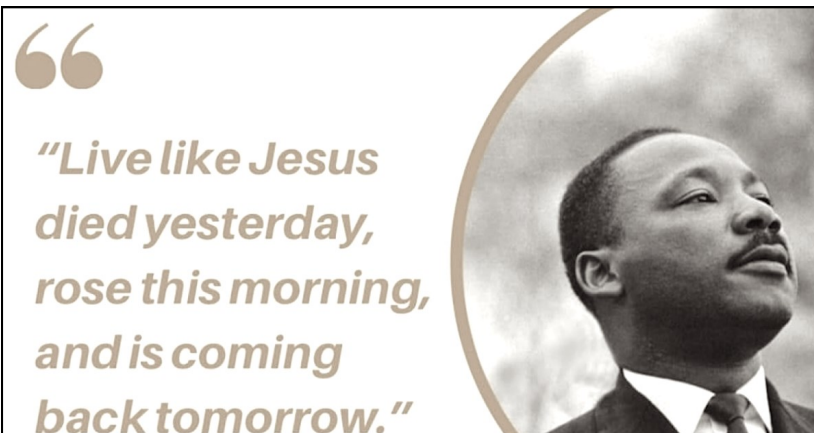
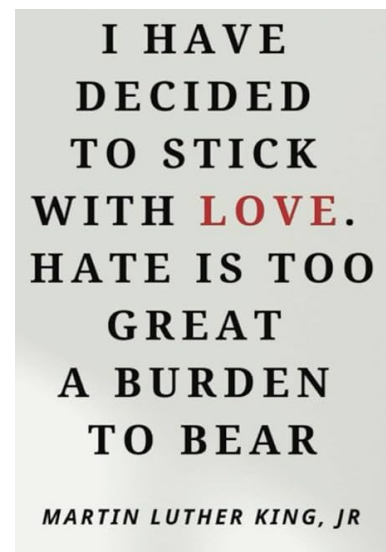
- Mon. 2/3 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/5 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon
- Thur. 2/6 Women’s Bible Study 10 am**
- Sun. 2/9 Church Council after worship
- Mon. 2/10 Dress-a-Girl at OSLC 10 am
- Mon. 2/10 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/12 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon
- Wed. 2/12 Community Supper @ CUMC 6 pm
- Thur. 2/13 **Women’s Bible Study 10 am**
- Thur. 2/13 Women’s Cancer Support Group 6:30 pm
- Mon. 2/17 P.E.O. Women met at OSLC Noon to 3 pm
- Mon. 2/17 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/19 Chair yoga 11 am—Noon
- Mon. 2/24 Song/Drum Circle 6 pm
- Wed. 2/26 Chair Yoga 11 am—Noon
- Wed. 2/26 Community Supper @ CUMC 6 pm
- Thur. 2/27 **Women’s Bible Study 10 am**

**February Birthdays**

**Roxanne Behrens 23**

**February Anniversaries**

None



**Financial Secretary's Report through  
December 31, 2024 by Karla Burnworth**

OSLC Deposit Report 2024

Month	Regular Plate Offering	Hall Rental	Recycling & Refund	ELCA World Hunger	LWR Baby Kit Fund	GWOH LOL Lunch	Vineyard Ministries	Pie Auction	Building Fund	Pay Pal	Total
Jan.	\$ 1,940.00	\$ 24.00									\$ 1,964.00
Feb.	\$ 5,690.00	\$ 212.00	\$ 8.96								\$ 5,910.96
Mar.	\$24,500.00	\$ 64.00	\$ 37.68	\$ 15.40							\$24,617.08
Apr.	\$ 3,234.00	\$ 330.00			\$ 100.00						\$ 3,664.00
May	\$ 8,368.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 61.08								\$ 8,561.08
June	\$ 4,450.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 46.03		\$ 200.00						\$ 4,728.03
July	\$ 8,806.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 6.40								\$ 8,880.40
Aug.	\$ 8,220.00	\$ 117.15			\$ 79.88						\$ 8,417.03
Sep.	\$ 5,875.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 27.00			\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00				\$ 6,530.00
Oct.	\$ 5,317.00	\$ 119.00						\$1,300.00	\$209.99		\$ 5,645.99
Nov.	\$ 2,915.00	\$ 83.00									\$ 4,298.00
Dec.	\$ 7,298.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 20.00			\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00		\$64.62	\$ 7,647.62
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$86,613.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,274.15</b>	<b>\$ 262.15</b>	<b>\$ 35.40</b>	<b>\$ 379.88</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 550.00</b>	<b>\$1,375.00</b>	<b>\$209.99</b>	<b>\$64.62</b>	<b>\$90,864.19</b>

Thank you!

**Women's Bible Study**



For our Bible Study beginning January 9th, we will begin a study from the Women of the ELCA's *Gather* magazine entitled,

**“Receiving Grace: A study of Ephesians”** by Heidi Haverkamp, an Episcopal priest.

The sessions are as follows:

**One: Is grace real?**

We often focus on how we fall short and deserve God's judgment. What if, instead, we remember God's continual gift of grace? God invites us to lead lives of love and wholeness. What is grace, exactly? Grace does not take away the sin and suffering of this life. Yet grace offers us a way to live from love despite hardship.

**Two: Grace-filled living—ancient and new**

What did the writer of Ephesians imagine grace would look like in Christian life and relationships? How can we live from grace in our own time, reading this letter through our cultural lenses and experiences?

**Three: Living as children of the light**

What concrete advice can Ephesians give us on how to live a fuller, happier life? What poetic inspiration can it offer us for living as Christians?



**BUDGET vs. ACTUAL by Kathy Osher**

<b>GENERAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>Nov 2024</b>	<b>Dec 2024</b>	<b>YTD Spent</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
	Bank Check Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Household Expenses	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.59	\$18.41
	Insurance - State Farm	\$3,870.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,870.00	\$0.00
	Office Expenses (e.g. web domain)	\$1,500.00	\$13.95	\$79.25	\$1,249.16	\$250.84
	Sierra Conference	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
2.5% of regular offerings	Sierra Pacific Synod (Tithe)	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00
Registration for 2 people + Fresno hotel	Synod Assembly	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,297.44	-\$297.44
	Taxes	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.42	\$100.42	-\$0.42
	Worship Musician (\$65/service)	\$4,225.00	\$260.00	\$585.00	\$3,965.00	\$260.00
	Worship Supplies	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$99.34	\$538.98	\$211.02
	Education Supplies (VBS)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$13,795.00</b>	<b>\$273.95</b>	<b>\$3,064.01</b>	<b>\$13,252.59</b>	<b>\$542.41</b>
<b>PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>						
	Housing	\$15,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
	Salary (+\$6,967 Pastor's pre-tax ) *	\$30,873.00	\$2,561.54	\$2,561.54	\$30,873.02	-\$0.02
<b>TOTAL PASTOR COMPENSATION</b>		<b>\$45,873.00</b>	<b>\$3,811.54</b>	<b>\$3,811.54</b>	<b>\$45,873.02</b>	<b>-\$0.02</b>
		<b>\$52,840.00</b>				<b>\$6,967.00</b>
<b>PASTOR EXPENSES</b>						
	Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Mileage	\$1,200.00	\$10.05	\$50.92	\$1,092.84	\$107.16
(Health, Dental, Retirement)	ELCA Portico (includes \$6,967 above) *	\$24,000.00	\$2,037.21	\$2,037.20	\$24,446.36	-\$446.36
	Substitute Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PASTOR EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$25,200.00</b>	<b>\$2,047.26</b>	<b>\$2,088.12</b>	<b>\$25,539.20</b>	<b>-\$339.20</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>						
	Electricity	\$900.00	\$93.18	\$164.02	\$1,116.24	-\$216.24
	Garbage	\$250.00	\$31.99	\$22.00	\$302.73	-\$52.73
	Heating	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$420.12	\$2,546.06	\$453.94
	Telephone & Internet	\$1,700.00	\$229.93	\$109.00	\$1,743.53	-\$43.53
	Water & Sewer	\$750.00	\$73.50	\$67.54	\$820.56	-\$70.56
<b>TOTAL UTILITIES</b>		<b>\$6,600.00</b>	<b>\$428.60</b>	<b>\$782.68</b>	<b>\$6,529.12</b>	<b>\$70.88</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$91,468.00</b>	<b>\$6,561.35</b>	<b>\$9,746.35</b>	<b>\$91,193.93</b>	<b>\$274.07</b>

*Looks Good!*



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

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Phone: 530-283-2546  
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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.***

#### **(Continued from page 2) "2024 Christmas Letter" By Lyn Walters**

But soon enough Alex started teasing Chloe, swiping at her tail and nuzzling her muzzle. Chloe was dumbfounded. She had always been a dog with a work ethic; this fooling around wasn't in her DNA. But over time she learned. Alex actually taught her to play. And soon they played all the time.

There is one recliner in our small living room. It has always been Chloe's domain. But soon Alex started sleeping there too. They traded off being there all evening long until one of them, (who knows who) just got up while the other was already there and they began what has turned out to be a struggle to share the space. There really isn't room enough for both of them so one's head is always hanging off the front of the chair or another's tail is bunched up into a corner. The key to these ever shifting accommodations is a lesson I am humbled by. Sharing the chair works because they want to be together.

Of course we humans are a little more complicated than our furry friends but I have found this year that wanting to be with people has really enriched my life and brought me a good deal of inner peace. This year I've gotten to know a neighbor I've had for about twenty years. We get together for walks or to eat lunch and talk poetry since she is a fellow poet. Through her I've gotten to know her son and daughter-in-law and another neighbor who I like to think of as the Queen of Meadow Valley. She came to my birthday lunch and gave me a red rhinestone ring (which I collect) so now I really feel like I belong in Meadow Valley after almost 30 years!

Another idea I had was that our family should have a reunion. My brother and his gang were visiting from Hawaii and the sisters came from Sacramento, Reno, and Portland to make it happen. It was the first time all eight of us plus our mom had been together in 40 years! Needless to say we had a wonderful time.

I've also been active in my church, Our Savior Lutheran, where I am on the church council and am chairperson of Missions and Ministries.

I hope to see Ash and Steven, my kids, this Christmas. As busy as Ash is with her job at Apple, she has found the time to help me publish my second book, *Love's Territory*, available on Amazon books (or just message me and I'll send you one).

Steven says point to any place on the globe and he'll tell you who's fighting whom; I say point to any place on the globe and you will find people who want to be together, even if they are historical enemies.

May your desire to be with others bless you during this season when the sweet baby Jesus comes again as the Prince of Peace.

