

January - February 2026

**Newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran
Church, ELCA**

298 E. High St. PO Box 1396
Quincy, CA 95971

The
Lamplighter



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

Pastor's Letter

Dear Church Family,

As I write this, it is still the season of Christmas ... and it will continue to be until January 6th when Epiphany comes. Christmas is a time for awe in how much God loves us and how far God is willing to go to be with us. Jesus came as a tiny, vulnerable baby and would grow to experience human life in all of its ugliness and beauty. Jesus would be loved and would love others from the depths of his soul. He showed us the ideal way to live and that makes me wonder what an ideal world would be like.

As some of you know, I love science fiction. I grew up watching Star Trek and I've seen many sci-fi movies that have come out in the last four plus decades. The ones that I love the most are the ones that show humanity succeeding in the future. Even though the original Star Trek had issues like sexism, the directors included non-white crew members, attempting to get beyond racism. As spin-off series were created, racism and sexism generally were regarded as a thing of the distant past. Oh, how I wish our world were closer to this ideal today!

Another ideal of Star Trek was the Prime Directive which prohibits its members from interfering with the natural development of alien civilizations. Again, how I wish our world was closer to practicing this. The recent attack on Venezuela and removal of its leader by our sitting president is shocking

and terrifying. I googled how many countries the U.S. attacked in 2025, and the total is seven – in one year! I have a hard time believing all those attacks were justified (if any). It feels like we're interfering in places we have no right to be.

Sadly, we do not live in an ideal world ... but we do live in a world created by God. And God loved the world so much that God sent Jesus to save us ... from ourselves. Jesus showed us what an ideal world truly looks like in how he interacted with people. He loved and valued people that others looked down upon. He spoke truth to the powers that were in control in his day. If we can strive to do the same, we can move a little bit closer to an ideal world.

As we look ahead to a new year and have mixed feelings about where our country and our world are going, the only way to have hope for a better world is to emulate Jesus. As followers of Jesus, we have the ability and the calling to be the ones who bring light and hope to those around us. Even when bad things happen, we can keep things in perspective and remember how much God has blessed us.

Sometimes it is hard to hold onto our faith when times get difficult. I highly recommend Lyn Walters' article on pages 3-4 for encouragement in keeping the faith. God bless each one of you.

-In Christ's love, Pr. Kendrah

CALENDAR: January 2026

- Thu. 1/1** **Happy New Year!**
Sun. 1/4 2nd Sunday of Christmas / Undecorate church 9:30 am
Tue. 1/6 **Epiphany** – the wisemen arrive to visit Jesus
Sun. 1/11 **Baptism of the Lord** / Church Council meets
Mon. 1/12 Dress-a-Girl meets in fellowship hall 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Tue. 1/13 Women’s Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed. 1/14 Community Supper 6 pm
Mon. 1/19 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**
Sun. 1/25 **Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30 am**
Tue. 1/27 Women’s Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed. 1/28 Community Supper 6 pm



January Birthdays

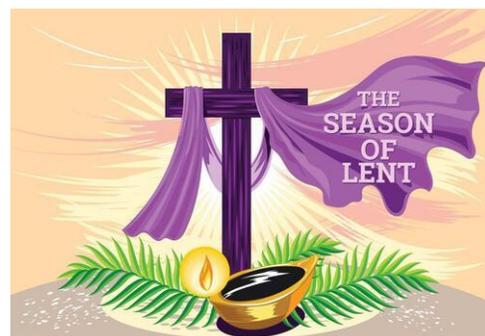
Marlene Labs	23
Dax Albrecht	27
Mark Howard	31

January Anniversaries – None this month

Chair Yoga meets Wednesdays at 11 am in our Fellowship Hall

CALENDAR: February 2026

- Sun. 2/8 Church Council meets
Tue. 2/10 Women’s Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed. 2/11 Community Supper 6 pm
Sat. 2/14 **Happy Valentine’s Day**
Tue. 2/17 Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day!
Wed. 2/18 **Ash Wednesday service 5:30 pm**
Sun. 2/22 First Sunday of Lent
Tue. 2/24 Women’s Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed. 2/25 **Midweek Lent Service 5:30 pm** / Community Supper 6 pm



No Birthdays or Anniversaries this month



Financial Secretary's Report through December 2025

by Karla Burnworth



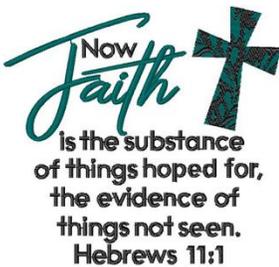
OSLC Deposit Report 2025

Month	Regular Plate Offering	Hall Rental	Building Fund	Recycling	ELCA World Hunger	Pie Auction	Refund	Global Refuge	Memorial Funds	Office Supplies	C.A.N. Food Pantry	Labor of Love	Pastor's Emergency Fund	Total
Jan.	\$27,203.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 350.00											\$ 27,573.00
Feb.	\$ 6,812.00	\$ 65.00		\$ 14.00										\$ 6,891.00
Mar.	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 9.00						\$ 100.00						\$ 3,109.00
Apr.	\$ 8,622.00	\$ 372.00	\$20,000.00					\$10,200.00						\$ 39,194.00
May	\$ 4,397.00	\$ 33.00		\$ 26.00										\$ 4,456.00
June	\$ 5,966.00								\$ 100.00					\$ 6,066.00
July	\$ 6,423.00	\$ 17.00		\$ 11.00				\$ 50.00						\$ 6,501.00
Aug.	\$ 6,592.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 25.00						\$125.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 8,179.00
Sep.	\$ 4,347.00	\$ 52.00		\$ 53.88							\$ 150.00	\$200.00		\$ 4,802.88
Oct.	\$ 5,370.00	\$ 24.00												\$ 5,394.00
Nov.	\$ 6,767.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 9.81	\$ 1,121.00	\$ 1,028.18				\$5,000.00			\$ 14,197.99
Dec.	\$ 7,786.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 14.28		\$ 50.00								\$ 7,875.28
Totals	\$93,285.00	\$ 685.00	\$21,375.00	\$160.16	\$ 9.81	\$ 1,171.00	\$1,028.18	\$10,350.00	\$ 100.00	\$125.00	\$5,250.00	\$200.00	\$ 500.00	\$134,239.15

A Test of Faith by Lyn Walters

I swore to myself that I wouldn't write about this, but God had other plans as I can think of little else. Many of you know that I lost both my husband and my son over a four-day period this past August. To say this was devastating is an understatement. There were periods when I didn't even think I could breathe. The existential nausea gave me panic attacks. Worst of all, my faith was shaken. It was a weird, bifurcated experience where I felt all I had was my faith while at the same time feeling that faith slipping away.

In Hebrews Chapter Eleven, verse 1, faith is defined: "And what is faith? Faith gives substance to our hopes and makes us certain of realities we do not see." This was the best translation I could find from the Oxford New English Bible. I realized I was reduced to only having hopes. I hoped there was an afterlife and that my two cherished ones were in a better place. But hopes are fragile things. I can hope to find a hundred dollars on the side of the road but it seems a silly thing in which to place much faith. (Although Jesus did say that with enough faith we could move mountains.)



My hopes were frequently dashed by people who said nihilistic sentiments like, "They are two single drops of water returning to the ocean." As if all their defining attributes that were developed over a lifetime of trials and joys would be obliterated upon leaving the planet.

But my hopes were kept alive by three dreams my one sister had concerning my lost ones and another had by a second sister. Each of these dreams were very vivid and in keeping with my loved one's characters.



But today I had a faith restoring sign. I had just returned from the Post Office and was sorting through the mail. Finally, I held a single letter from the Salvation Army of Plumas County. All of a sudden I felt a presence swoosh through me that resulted in the strongest feeling like I should donate money to this cause. It was highly uncanny. I sat down and wrote the check.

After talking it over with my sister, we both agreed the presence must have been that of my son, Steven. He always had such a soft spot for the homeless, poor and addicted. All his activist work targeted this demographic. Plus, only Steven would move with a swoosh. My husband would more likely move with heavy steps of the 11,000-mile backpacker he was.

For the first time in a long while I felt some peace of mind. There is life after life. I feel the substance of faith. Also it reminded me of what my husband, Richard, used to call the Salvation Army when he saw them playing in a little band on the streets of downtown Detroit when he was just a kid. He called them the Celebration Army. The return of faith is a huge reason to celebrate the coming of this New Year.



Women's Bible Study for January 2026

At the end of October, we started a Bible Study entitled, "**Pray Always**," by Rev. Gladys G. Moore. We finished two sessions and then switched to the Advent Bible Study in December. In January, we will finish **Session 3 of Pray Always: Power**.

The next study after that is called, "**Now Let Us Pray: Embodied Prayer**," by Rev. Liv Larson Andrews. The first session is "Praying with our Bodies." The second session is, "Praying with the Body of the Earth."

The upcoming dates of our Bible Studies will be Jan. 13th and 27th, and Feb. 10th and 24th, all at 9:30 am. Please join us!

Treasurer's Report through December 2025

(Budget vs. Actual) by Kathy Osher

GENERAL EXPENSES:	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	YTD	BALANCE
	Bank Check Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
	Household Expenses	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$368.19	\$ (318.19)
	Insurance - church building	\$4,032.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$226.18	\$0.00	\$3,805.82	\$ 226.18
	Office Expenses (includes web domain)	\$1,500.00	\$341.43	\$95.99	\$153.36	\$26.06	\$2,132.52	\$ (632.52)
	Sierra Conference	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00
2.5% of regular offerings	Sierra Pacific Synod (Tithe)	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$ -
Registration for 2 people + hotel	Synod Assembly	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$ 380.00
	Taxes	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.38	\$0.00	\$100.38	\$ (0.38)
	Worship Musician (\$65/service)	\$4,225.00	\$260.00	\$260.00	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$3,835.00	\$ 390.00
	Worship Supplies	\$750.00	\$165.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$101.84	\$848.46	\$ (98.46)
	Education Supplies (VBS)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES		\$13,457.00	\$766.62	\$355.99	\$552.56	\$2,652.90	\$13,410.37	\$ 46.63
PASTOR COMPENSATION								
	Housing	\$15,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$15,000.00	\$ -
	Salary (+\$7,593.50 Pastor's pre-tax) *	\$30,246.50	\$2,516.82	\$2,516.82	\$2,516.82	\$2,516.82	\$30,246.56	\$ (0.06)
TOTAL PASTOR COMPENSATION		\$45,246.50	\$3,766.82	\$3,766.82	\$3,766.82	\$3,766.82	\$45,246.56	\$ (0.06)
		\$52,840.00						\$ 6,967.00
PASTOR EXPENSES								
	Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
	Mileage	\$1,200.00	\$159.25	\$165.55	\$11.90	\$21.70	\$907.80	\$ 292.20
(Health, Dental, Retirement)	above) *	\$25,000.00	\$2,099.20	\$2,099.20	\$2,099.20	\$2,099.20	\$25,190.40	\$ (190.40)
	Substitute Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
TOTAL PASTOR EXPENSES		\$26,200.00	\$2,258.45	\$2,264.75	\$2,111.10	\$2,120.90	\$26,098.20	\$ 101.80
UTILITIES								
	Electricity	\$1,200.00	\$121.94	\$68.80	\$142.58	\$143.80	\$1,590.10	\$ (390.10)
	Garbage	\$300.00	\$21.67	\$21.67	\$21.67	\$21.67	\$260.04	\$ 39.96
	Heating	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$232.96	\$2,090.43	\$ 909.57
	Telephone & Internet	\$1,600.00	\$109.00	\$109.00	\$391.10	\$109.00	\$1,590.10	\$ 9.90
	Water & Sewer	\$820.00	\$79.42	\$76.28	\$70.68	\$67.55	\$890.54	\$ (70.54)
TOTAL UTILITIES		\$6,920.00	\$332.03	\$275.75	\$626.03	\$574.98	\$6,421.21	\$ 498.79
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$91,823.50	\$7,123.92	\$6,663.31	\$7,056.51	\$9,115.60	\$91,176.34	\$ 647.16



The report above shows what we budgeted for 2025 compared to what we spent. Thankfully, we were able to stay within budget for expenses and ended the year in the black.

On top of that, we had a super year of monetary contributions, both directly to the church and to important charities such as C.A.N., Vineyard Ministries, and Global Refuge.

Equally important, are the contributions many of you gave of your time and talents.

Thank you so much for everyone's generous giving!



The Ten W's

*One reason I didn't get this newsletter out sooner is that I was hoping to find something inspirational to include. Finally, I found an article by **Diana Butler Bass, PhD**, called **The Ten W's**. As we approach the season of Lent, try using these ideas as a guideline. I've summarized the article here, but if you want to read it in detail, please see the link at the bottom. – Pr. Kendrah*

Wake up (every day) – Get on a schedule for sleeping and waking.

Welcome the day (every day) – with gratitude. Say “thank you” first thing when you wake. Life is the first and most fleeting gift.

Walk (every day) – get fresh air and exercise. Walk to feel the ground under your feet and notice all the little things on your street. Feel your body in the world.

(Be) With Others (every day) – Don't isolate yourself. Reach out or connect with someone every single day. Do good for and with others.

Work (most days, but take Sabbaths too!) – Do what you love. Practice your vocation. Don't try to do everything all the time. Focus on your own gifts and calling. This isn't just working a job. Clean your house, rearrange your closets, take up a hobby.

Write (every day, weekly, or often) – Keep a journal. Express yourself as fully as you can. Or draw or weave or throw pots. Have a creative way to work through your fears, losses, or doubts.

Watch the news (as able) – You must stay informed. If you can't watch it, read or listen to it. Use the mute button on your remote. Be cautious with sources. You don't need to know everything, but being aware of at least some things is important.

Wide-sight (a practice to develop) – Broaden your perspective by looking to the periphery. Don't get fixated on the direct threats. Instead, remind yourself to look toward the edges of your field of vision. Is there something on the periphery that is helpful, healing, or hopeful?

Weep (whenever) – Embrace whatever emotions come up. Don't judge how you feel on any given day (or at any given hour). Don't regret the tears and don't feel guilty about joy – and all the feelings in between the two.

Wonder (as much as possible) – Go out into nature, spend time at an art museum, listen to your favorite music, read books and poetry, get obsessed with space photos from the Webb telescope – anything that connects you to beauty and deepens your awareness of awe. Embrace mystery.

For the full article, go to this website:

<https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/i/155756422/here-are-my-ten-ws>