



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 37 Issue 4

April 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Which one are you?

“Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.” (Luke 24:45-53 NRSV)

Somehow I always find myself asking this question during the Lenten journey to the cross and in those miraculous first hours and days of Easter. If I had been there, which disciple, which follower would I likely have been? Peter, trying to lead? Mark, running away naked? John, consoling mother Mary? Mary Magdalene, leading the burial and mourning? Joseph or Nicodemus, making a public statement? Perhaps, one of the other followers blending in with the group.

As we transition from Lenten followers to Easter people each of us are challenged to ask the question again, “who are you”? Are you one still searching for someone to remove the stone or one racing from the tomb to tell the world, “Christ is risen!”? It is a question of focus and direction. Do I focus on the past or the future? Do I look inward toward my personal tombs or outward to the world around me? Better still, do I see this, not as a problem, but a paradox, a “both and” and not an “either or”. Only as I see where I have been can I clearly see the path ahead.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan
2 Peter 3:18

P.S. A special “thank you” for all who shared their talents and gifts during the Lenten fellowship suppers and worship events especially Samantha Boring for leading our mid-week drama and Deb Evans and Ringers for rearranging their practices and the extra time put in to enhance our Holy Week and Easter worship.

Open the storehouse of your praise today. Let your heart rejoice and be glad!

Read Through the Bible in a Year Calendar

Scripture reading suggestions:

- 1) It's important to find yourself a regular time and quiet place to read the Bible; reading Scripture regularly and habitually gradually deepens your relationship with God. Remember, keep it simple. This is only a guide, not a rule. Use this to help hear and study God's Word.
- 2) Begin by praying. One very simple and good prayer to use is Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your Word."
- 3) Take some time to be quiet with God, to think about what you read yesterday, and to think again about what you learned from that reading.
- 4) Read the passage for the day. Think what the passage tells you. Some questions worth asking yourself are: 1. Does this passage tell a story? Or is it a prayer or a poem, or perhaps part of a letter? 2. What is it mainly about? 3. Does it tell me something about what God is like? Does it tell me something about how to live in response to God's love and plan for me?
- 5) Try to summarize what you have learned from the passage.
- 6) Is there something here that I don't understand, that I need to think about a lot more, or talk to someone else about, or perhaps even look for more information?
- 7) Take some more time to be quiet with God-don't just ask these questions once over, but think about them for a while. Think again about yesterday's reading-how do the things you learned yesterday fit with what you learned today?
- 8) Keeping a notebook of what you learn can be very helpful.
- 9) Did you know that.....When you carry the Bible, Satan has a headache. When he sees you reading it, he faints. Let's read the Bible every day so he keeps on fainting. Maybe one day he'll have a stroke and never wake up.

The following is the next 2+ months readings:



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

APRIL

1/Joshua 16-18
2/Joshua 19-21
3/Joshua 22-24
4/Judges 1-3
5/Judges 4-6
6/Judges 7-9
7/Judges 10-12
8/Judges 13-15
9/Psalms 41-44
10/Judges 16-18
11/Judges 19-21
12/Ruth 1-4
13/1 Samuel 1-3
14/1 Samuel 4-6
15/1 Samuel 7-9
16/1 Samuel 10-12
17/1 Samuel 13-15
18/Psalms 45-48
19/1 Samuel 16-18
20/1 Samuel 19-21
21/1 Samuel 22-24
22/1 Samuel 25-27
23/1 Samuel 28-31
24/2 Samuel 1-3

25/2 Samuel 4-6
26/2 Samuel 7-9
27/Psalms 49-52
28/2 Samuel 10-12
29/2 Samuel 13-15
30/2 Samuel 16-18

MAY

1/2 Samuel 19-21
2/2 Samuel 22-24
3/1 Chronicles 1-3
4/1 Chronicles 4-6
5/1 Chronicles 7-9
6/Psalms 53-56
7/1 Chronicles 10-12
8/1 Chronicles 13-15
9/1 Chronicles 16-18
10/1 Chronicles 19-21
11/1 Chronicles 22-24
12/1 Chronicles 25-27
13/1 Chronicles 28-29
14/1 Kings 1-4
15/Psalms 57-60
16/Proverbs 1-3
17/Proverbs 4-6

18/Proverbs 7-9
19/Proverbs 10-12
20/Proverbs 13-15
21/Proverbs 16-18
22/Proverbs 19-21
23/Proverbs 22-24
24/Psalms 61-64
25/Proverbs 25-27
26/Proverbs 28-31
27/Song of Solomon 1-4
28/Song of Solomon 5-8
29/Ecclesiastes 1-3
30/Ecclesiastes 4-6
31/Ecclesiastes 7-9

JUNE

1/Ecclesiastes 10-12
2/Psalms 65-68
3/1 Kings 5-7
4/1 Kings 8-10
5/1 Kings 11-13
6/1 Kings 14-16
7/1 Kings 17-19

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANKS SO MUCH!**

Thank you very much for your gifts of \$384.75 and \$295.85 to support the mission of Metro Lutheran Ministry. We are blessed by your generosity and desire to help the people who turn to us when they have nowhere else to go.”

Scott Cooper, Executive Director
Metro Lutheran Ministry

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$190.00 is coming in the next few days to King of Kings. We hope this gift on behalf of Thrivent Choice® helps to further support your important work. Thrivent clients directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® are:

**Charlene R Helmer, Jean M Germer, Sandra L Harrison,
Paul G Helmer, Richard L Hughey, and Daniel L Wehmeier,**

If you have any questions about Thrivent Financial or Choice Dollars, please contact
mail@thrivent.com or Jean Germer 913-484-7502.



Pastor Craig Boehlke is retiring from ministry at the end of April. He served our congregation at King of Kings in the past.

His final worship service at St. Andrews Lutheran, 2555 N Hyacinth Lane, Wichita, KS 67204, will be on Sunday, April 28. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon.

We have been invited to attend the worship service and luncheon. If you plan to attend the luncheon, RSVP to St. Andrews no later than Monday, April 15 so they will know how much food to order.

Call St. Andrews at 316-838-0944 or email office@standrewswichita.org.

You are also welcome to send cards to the church address above.



Take time out to learn a skill.

Anyone who wishes to learn how to sew, needlepoint, crochet, knit, etc.
Come to the class:

**Saturday, April 20th
2:00 - 4:00 PM**

Class is open to anyone 5th grade or older. Any questions or if you want to volunteer to help or teach a group, contact:

Tana Melancon 913-397-0265 or themelancons@gmail.com.



National Lutheran Association on Scouting

The date has been set for the NLAS, King of Kings annual United States Flag Retirement Ceremony. April 13th is the date!

The evening will commence on the front lawn of the church with corn hole and other yard games at 6pm. Hot dogs and pop will be served. At approximately 7pm the flag ceremony will commence. The flag ceremony will be held in front of the Flag pole.

Boy Scout Troop 88 will conduct the Flag Retirement Ceremony. Friends and Family of King of Kings and the entire community are invited. All are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

If you have a Flag you would like to have retired, please drop it off in the church office prior to April 7th.



Lutheran Laymen's League - The Kings Men

The Men's group remain a "busy bunch of guys. This past month the "Pew Crew" completed the task of updating all the church pews. Thank you to this month's crew of Bob Lowe, Paul Anderson, Phil Gertz and "Honorary Kings Men" Judy Anderson and Linda Lowe!

In February over 15 guys joined in for our Monthly Men's Night out. We dined at Toni's Italiano in Olathe. In addition to the men from King of Kings, we also had gentlemen from Bethany Lutheran and Christ Lutheran in Overland Park join in the fun. In March the men dined at Casa Amigo's in Olathe.

Our annual Bandage Drive for Noah's Bandage project will come to a close on Easter Sunday. We appreciate all the members of the congregation who have donated band aids for the children who are hospitalized.

The men once again participated in the Lenten Dinners by providing a "DeeeeeeeLicious" meal of Biscuits and Gravy.

We continue to meet in the fellowship hall on the second Saturday of each month. We share a meal and fellowship at 7:30am, followed by a business meeting and a video Bible study. ALL men of the congregation are welcome to join us!



What is LERT? – Lutheran Early Response Team

While the weather is being kind, and with no local disasters to respond to, our LERT group has remained busy.

At the end of January, Bob Lowe and Mark Trivilino provided training for a new class of over 30 individuals for "Basic LERT" certification- The Class was held at St. Matthews in Lee's Summit. In March, King of Kings hosted a training class for new Chain Saw users. The class had several individuals from numerous congregations in Kansas including Bethany and Christ Lutheran in Overland Park, St. Matthews in Manhattan, KS and even some individuals from Missouri LERT. Brian Mead from First Lutheran in Paola was the main trainer and Bob Lowe and Mark Trivilino assisted in the facilitation of the class as well. Bethany Lutheran graciously provided the funding for the luncheon that was catered by Blazer Burger.

The LERT group recently partnered with the Southwest Johnson County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) from JoCo Fire District #1 and attended a training on Severe Weather Awareness at the Fire House near the Intermodel. LERT invited community scout groups to join us in learning about severe weather. We enjoyed having Kim Hays and her Girl Scout Troop 3193 participate in the presentation as well as Boy Scout Troop 88. The guest speaker for the evening was Warren Sears from KCTV5. Warren presented a very informative and interesting program. We would be remiss if we did not thank Samantha Boring for assisting in the coordination of our guest speaker.

In April we are participating in the KS District faith and works program. On April 7th, after the second service we will have a hot dog and burger stand to help raise money to offset recent medical expenses that the Capes family have incurred. Later in the month we will paint lines on the gymnasium floor for a new PICKLEBALL court.

On April 13th there will be a LERT Academy for individuals who are interested in becoming a LERT member. The class will be held at Lord of Life in Leawood. All are welcome to participate. If you would like additional information on how to participate and become a LERT member, please feel free to contact Pastor Dan, Dale Melancon, Bob Lowe or Mark Trivilino.

Upcoming Activities to place on your calendar:

April 7th @ King of Kings 1130-2pm Hot dog and Burger - free will offering Capes Fundraiser

April 13th LERT training at Lord of Life Leawood 9-3pm

April 13th @ King of Kings 6pm to 8pm Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Flag pole (Courtesy Light snacks of Hot dogs and pop available while supplies last, bring a Bag/Lawn Chair)

May 23rd (Thursday Night) 6-8pm Texas BBQ truck on the Campus of King of Kings. Order a meal to go or dine in the fellowship hall with us. Kick off Memorial Day weekend with a great meal!

ALL are invited. The community is welcome to purchase a meal as well.

June 8th (Saturday) the 4th Annual King of Kings Craft Fair from 9am to 3pm on the front lawn of King of Kings. We anticipate over 50 vendors. The LWML will have a booth as well as LERT will have a food booth. The fair is sponsored by the Lutheran Laymen's League.



Come see the youth for **lunch at Price Chopper** in Gardner on **Saturday April 13 from 11am until 1pm**. They will be out front selling hot dogs, chips, and drinks!

The **Annual City-wide Garage Sale** will be on **May 3 & 4 at Danny & Nina Wahl's home, 605 E Juniper Street (new location this year)**. Thank you to Dan & Jinhala Wahl for opening their home for this event.

Please save all those treasures you are spring cleaning from your homes to donate to the youth.

Drop off of items will be on April 28 and we will set up on May 1 & 2.

The Youth will meet on Sunday, April 7th at 9am for their regular scheduled monthly meeting.



BLUE JEAN SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024 9:00 AM

Volunteers Needed!

Time for the annual spring maintenance and clean-up of the grounds surrounding the church and pre-school area.
Come to church in your jeans and volunteer to help for an hour or two.

Lunch will be provided.

This is a Thrivent Financial sponsored event.

Spring Cleaning? We would love to have those treasures to sell!

Save those unused items for our Huge **GARAGE SALE!!!**

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd & SATURDAY, MAY 4th

The Youth Group will have their annual garage sale at 605 E Juniper Street, Gardner to raise money for their many activities. **New location this year.** There will also be a food stand on that day, so stop by and pick up a delicious lunch or snack! Drop off dates for donated items will be announced later!

If you would like more information, please contact:

Kim Hayes 605-929-7017 or kimlutjens@hotmail.com.



OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptized	602	602
Confirmed	379	377
Family Units	262	263
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Feb.. (Avg.) *in-house & virtual x2	162.25	165
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$19,545	\$49,130
Budget	\$26,542	\$53,084
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$19,940	\$41,300
Budget	\$26,521	\$53,042
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$395)	\$7,830
Budget	\$21	\$42

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$74,770	\$159,502
Budget	\$69,858	\$139,716
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$68,837	\$135,275
Budget	\$68,972	\$137,944
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$5,933	\$24,227
Budget	\$886	\$1,772



King of King's Elected 2024 Officers/Parish Planning Committee

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Phil Gehrt
President – Elect:	Neal Brockschmidt
Treasurer:	Dale Melancon
Support/Admin. Leader:	Dan Popp
Worship Ministry Leader:	Deb Evans
Youth Ministry Leader:	Kim Hayes
Family Ministry Leader:	Tana Melancon
Head Elder:	Allen Snyder
Open Arms Director:	Shonda Williams

Open Arms Team

Team Leader: Erin Schrepel
 Team Members: Sharlot Ahrens, Jody Church,
 Heather Petit and Lyle Miller

Board of Mission Directors

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Phil Gehrt
President– Elect:	Neal Brockschmidt
Support/Admin. Leader:	Dan Popp
Head Elder:	Allen Snyder
Open Arms Administrator:	Shonda Williams
Open Arms Team Leader:	Erin Schrepel

2024 Elders:

Allen Snyder (Head Elder), Richard Ahrens, Ryan Berens, Ryan Church, Greg Enserro, Greg Gartner, John Klein, Herb Klemp, Kevin Kufeldt, Dale Melancon, Chadd Schrepel, and Roger Zimmerman

2024 Youth Group Officers:

President: Nina Wahl
 Vice-President: Danny Wahl
 Secretary: Natalie Church
 Treasurer: Megan Church & Mackenzie Sandman



LWML

I started scrapbooking in 1996 when I was three months pregnant with Coltyn. I remember it well. Dan wanted me to get out of the house and go to this “meeting” about taking care of your photos. I was told to bring 8-10 photos and a pair of scissors. I remember picking out the worst pictures I had and promised myself I would not cut any photos. No, not a one! I went to the class with my stubborn mule attitude. I listened and learned my little sister had not poured iced tea all over my high school pictures as I thought. The photos were brown because I had them in an acid environment and the acid was eating my photos and turning them brown. My thoughts shifted to, I’m not going to let this happen to my soon to be precious baby pictures of Coltyn. But it was expensive. I spent a little money that night on a package of blank photo pages. In order to get an album I held a party. I only had to get 8 people to show up. They didn’t have to buy a thing. Just show up. I was short one. I was so disappointed. I eventually bought an album and put all my pictures of Coltyn inside but it was a sacrifice. As time has passed I have spent plenty on supplies and necessities to continue with my hobby and it has extended into card making too. I go to crops in Lebanon, MO, Branson, MO, Lenexa, Clay County, Mo, Platte City, Wichita and any other place where I have dedicated time to work on my projects. There is a lot of socializing too and I never know where a scrapbooking friend may show up. It really is part of the fun. We talk about everything and we encourage our friends to step out of their comfort zone and try something they would never consider doing. Ask me about the last thing I did! I never, never would have done it without my friends. And, I love it!

It’s the socializing that becomes so important. I have found most scrapbookers have a strong belief in God. We tend to always give God some kind of thought in our conversations. When I go to southern Missouri I find many do not share my Lutheran faith. I hear the craziest of stories they have been told by their pastors. If you haven’t heard about the Wal-Mart access tunnels, well let me tell you all about it. It’s wild! And, then there is my opportunity to teach them about the truth about our God. Most times my friends are so afraid of “the beast”. They live on the edge. Waiting. The beast will attack and he will kill so many, we must be prepared! We must be strong to fight (physically) back! There is never the add-on about how God will protect us, how our faith is all we need. I tell them I’m not afraid. I will be tempted but I will stay strong in my faith and I will not deny Him. Famous last words they tell me. But, no, I read my Bible. There are so many verses that speak of God’s Strength and Wisdom and those verses that give us our strength. Praying works too. My friends almost go strictly along the lines of their pastor’s words. Some will speak over me trying to shush me down. Yet, I continue to tell them about God’s Love and Grace and Forgiveness. This is my mission field now. I appreciate their faith but they need to understand it. I never back down with my message and they will bring it up at our next meeting. It is an interesting field and I continue to be tested by Satan. My friends need help not destruction and I believe it is my job for them to see it. Our God is a loving God.

Now it’s your turn. What activities in your daily life can be your mission field. Don’t say there aren’t any. You know they are. Pick that activity and let the Holy Spirit fill you with the words to teach God’s message and the truth. Pam Popp - LWML Group President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, April 10th 6:30 PM– Girl’s Night Out (Enjoy fellowship, laughs & a yummy dessert)

The LWML District Convention April 12th – 14th: Wichita, KS

(Our LERT Program is up for a vote to receive a mission grant)

Family BINGO Night - May 10th 6:30 PM



Ring for Joy!

The handbell ensembles of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church invite you to our second annual Spring Concert on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 4:00pm. The concert will be held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 13145 S. Blackbob Road in Olathe, Kansas and will feature music by all 5 of the church's handbell ensembles.

A freewill offering will be taken.



Girls' Night Out

When: Wednesday, April 10th

Time: 6:30 PM

Where: King of Kings

Leave the kids with Dad at home and come for a relaxing hour or two of conversation, laughs and a yummy dessert!

We will have a short meeting to plan some activities for the next several months. So far we have only one thing planned:

Family Bingo Night
Friday, May 10th 6:30 PM



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

Please continue to remember the Gardner/Edgerton Food Pantry with your donations.

Non-perishable food items are always needed: canned fruit, beans, either canned or dried, canned soups, vegetables, cereal, basics like flour, sugar, shortening, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix, packaged dinners, etc.

They can also use personal care items: toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels,, laundry soap, hand soap, dish soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, shampoo, etc.

Thank you for helping the needy in our community.



**We have two services:
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
9:20 a.m. Bible Class,
Sunday School and
Confirmation**

**Communion will be celebrated at both services.
No nursery available at this time.**

Be sure and tell your friends and neighbors about these services.

They need the light of Christ too!



We're on the Web: www.kingofkingsks.org

**King of Kings Lutheran Church
306 East Madison
P.O. Box 364
Gardner KS 66030-0364
Daniel Wehmeier, Pastor
Paul Helmer, Pastor Emeritus
Paul Hoppe, Pastor Emeritus
William Postel, Pastor Emeritus
Phone: 913-856-2500
Email: info@kingofkingsks.org
Open Arms Lutheran Child Dev. Ctr.
Email: openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org
Phone: 913-856-4250**