

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 37 Issue 2

February 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Love is in the Details

"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. (John15:11-12 The Message).

The month of February is the month for love and lovers. For the world it is a month of romantic love. For the Church it is a month of divine love. This year we find these two thoughts on love and loving intertwine as Valentine's Day collides with Ash Wednesday.

Pondering the joining of these thoughts my mind wondered back to the familiar folk song, "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love". The song shares the wonderful phrase: "We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand" before going to the refrain: "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

The world of marketing wants us to believe love, if genuine, has to be expressed in big ways: flowers, chocolates, cards, jewelry. Maybe they have a point. Jesus commands that love be expressed in the ultimate way: "love as I loved you." And to display His love, He spreads His arms out for us on the cross.

I hope you notice the difference in these expressions of love. One is giving of something. The other is giving of self. Ask any older parent and they will tell you a visit means more than a card. Ask any child and they will tell you a hug and a hand to play with means more than candy hearts. Ask any lover and they will tell you a romantic kiss beats any chocolate kisses. Ask any spouse and they will tell you a helping hand beats flowers. Ask any young parent and they will tell you a handmade card beats the best of Hallmark.

During this month of love let us not simply ponder love (God's and ours), but put it into action beginning within ourselves and stretching to the world around us.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan 2 Peter 3:18

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 two plus months readings:



29/Joshua 10-12 shua 13-15 alms 37-40

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ua 16-18 ua 19-21 ua 22-24 ges 1-3 ges 4-6 ges 7-9 lges 10-12 ges 13-15 ms 41-44 lges 16-18 lges 19-21 th 1-4 amuel 1-3 amuel 4-6 Samuel 7-9 lamuel 10-12 lamuel 13-15 alms 45-48 amuel 16-18 amuel 19-21

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

"Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those we serve with your faithful gifts during 2023, as we received your gifts in the total amount of \$3,283.35. Without your continue support, we could not do what we do, as we seek to respond to the new things that God is doing all around us."

Pastor Phil Cool, Chairman of the Board Lutheran Urban Mission Agency (LUMA)

"Thank you for your generous food donations. With increasing gas, food and housing, we have been receiving fewer donations. This will help with our community and helping out our neighbors."

Jeremy, Kara & Heather Johnson County, KS Aging & Human Services (Gardner Multi Service Center)



Bible Study table talks generally meets the 2nd and 4th Monday, at 6 pm; every month with dinner before the discussions begin. The 2nd Monday, is at Fronteras and the 4th Monday, is at Perkins.

Our first meeting in February is on the 12th at Fronteras 6 pm.

Connie emails the scripture that we discuss, the week prior to Bible Study. Please notify Connie, <u>secretary@kingofkingsks.org</u>, if you would like to be added to this email.

We praise and thank the Holy Spirit; for working through our generous, awesome leader, Chris Lehl. She always makes us think, with much added insight. We are blessed to have her as our teacher.

All are welcome. Please join us

Jean Germer jeangermer@gmail.com

Music practice is Wednesday evenings:

Handbells - 6:00 - 7:00 PM

No practice on Ash Wednesday, February 14thStarting again on February 21st and continuing through Lent, at 6:00 PM.Questions? Contact Deb Evanstimevans0527@comcast.net



Lutheran Laymen's League - the King's Men



LUTHERAN EARLY RESPONSE TEAM While our monthly breakfast was cancelled due to extreme weather, the men continue to be a busy crew. Leading the workforce, Bob Lowe and company continue to work diligently on preparing the remaining pew seats for the sanctuary.

Our monthly Men's Night Out continues to be a huge success. This month we met at Crazy Good Eats in Olathe. Over 15 men joined us for a wonderful meal and

even better fellowship. In 2024 we meet on the last Thursday of the month. In February we will dine at Toni's Italian Restaurant in Olathe on 135th Street just west of I-35. We meet at 6:30pm.

Continuing in our Valentines Day tradition, we are asking members of the congregation to bring in a photo from their wedding. We will display the photos in the Fellowship Hall in February. We ask that you drop off your photo on Sunday the 28th and pick up at the end of February. It is always fun seeing our friend's photos from yesteryear.

Commencing on Ash Wednesday and running until Easter Sunday, the men will once again be coordinating a Band Aide Drive for Noah's Bandage project. We will be collecting "fun band aides" (with logos of super hero's, brightly colored, etc.) to donate to Children's Mercy Hospital. The kiddos enjoy having fun bandages they can show off to family and friends after having their shots. There will be a collection bin in the Fellowship Hall. It is a wonderful way to bring joy to the children who are ill, and at the same time teach our kiddos volunteering by helping them pick out the band aides that we purchase.

In February we will have our monthly meeting on the 9th. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 0730hrs for breakfast, fellowship and Bible study. For additional information on Lutheran Laymen's League - The KING'S MEN, please contact either Pastor Dan or Mark Trivilino

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT).

If you are interested in becoming a LERT member, please contact Pastor Dan, Bob Lowe, Dale Melancon.





LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) Lutheran Women in Mission

of Our Church April 12-14th in Wichita. The District Committees have been hard at work

preparing for this event. If you are interested, you can check out the Kansas District LWML website. There will be an off-site servant event at the Orphan Grain Train warehouse. There will be Bible samplers, a choir, mission speakers, a banquet with entertainment and a business meeting with election of officers.

As the chairman of the Special Focus Ministries committee, I've been busy too. I was not told nor did I ask what the duties of the chairman would entail. My major job is to organize and implement the Young Women Representatives program. This program includes their activities throughout the convention. A big task considering I haven't experienced this program myself. I must add that I was a National Young Women representative in 2003 held in Oklahoma City. This was an experience I will never forget. Have you heard of a "mountain top experience"? Well, I know that feeling! The drive home seemed to take only a few hours as I reviewed the convention in my head. The logo of the convention was very unique as it had such meaning. Every part of the logo revolved around the convention's theme and it symbolized the mission statement for the convention. The cross in the center represented Christ who died for all. A heart went around the cross showing our love for Jesus and the earth was the background and it's meaning meant we should share our love and our duty to spread His word throughout the world. It has become my mission to follow this theme as I grow in my work through LWML and this includes my 5th and 6th grade Sunday School Class.

I would like you to join me at the convention. This will be an experience you will never forget. It is a great opportunity to learn about our mission and to "serve the Lord with gladness".

Upcoming Events:

Our next meeting: February 4th immediately after the 2nd service Zone quilt work day: February 24th at Our Saviour in KCK If needed, Zone quilt work day (Snow Date): March 2nd at Our Saviour in KCK Spring Zone Event: March 9th at Redeemer in Olathe, registration at 8:30am and the meeting starts at 9. More information to follow at a further date Our March Meeting: March 10th immediately following the 2nd service Our April Meeting: April 7th immediately following the 2nd service District Convention: April 12th – 14th at the Wichita Doubletree Airport Hotel. Registration forms can be found on the LWML Kansas District website.

Pam Popp, President King of Kings LWML

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

MEMBERGHID	2022	2022
MEMBERSHIP	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Baptized	606	603
Confirmed	383	381
Family Units	263	265
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Dec. (Avg.) *in- house & virtual	165.4*	162.6*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	DECEMBER	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$38,475	\$308,550
Budget	\$27,146	\$325,752
EXPENSES		
Actual	\$29,355	\$276,321
Budget	\$27,095	\$325,140
NET		
Actual	\$9,120	\$32,229
Budget	\$51	\$612

OPEN ARMS

RECEIPTS	DECEMBER	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$59,678	\$805,284
Budget	\$63,324	\$759,888
EXPENSES		
Actual	\$60,785	\$858,106
Budget	\$63,265	\$759,180
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$1,107)	(\$52,822)
Budget	\$59	\$708



The Youth Group meets the first Sunday in the month after the first service.

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:	Ted Marsh
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.





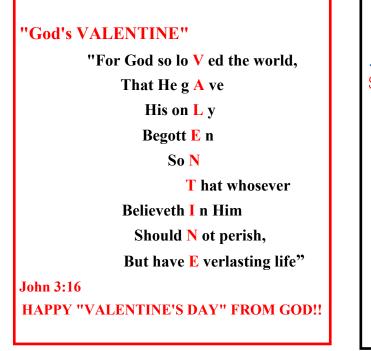
February Calendar of Events

Feb. 4 9:00 am	Youth Group			
Feb. 4 11:30 am	LWML Meeting			
Feb. 5 6:30 pm	Parish Planning			
Feb. 7 6:30 pm	Elder Meeting			
Feb. 8 6:30 pm	Scouts			
Feb. 10 7:30 am	Kings Men Breakfast			
Feb. 11 9:20 am	Congregation Meeting			
Feb. 12 6:00 pm	Bible Study @ Fronteras			
Feb. 14 5:30 pm	Lenten Supper			
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday			
Worship w/Holy Communion				
Feb. 15 6:30 pm	Open Arms Team Meeting			
Feb. 22 6:30 pm	Men's Nite Out @ Toni's			
Italian in Olathe on 135th St.				
Feb. 26 6:00 pm	Bible Study @ Perkins			
Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Bridge				
Every Wednesday starting on Feb. 14th a				
light supper will be served between 5:30 -				
6:30 pm. Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 pm.				
Every Wednesday except on February 14th and				
continuing thru out Lent, Bell practice will be				
starting at 6:00 pm.				
Every Thursday at 9:00 am, Quilters will meet.				



The new **2024 Flower Chart** is on the bulletin board across from the restrooms. Sign-up to bring flowers to decorate the sanctuary in remembrance of a loved one or to celebrate a special event.

wersThank you to all who signed up to bring Treats. A few spacesare still open. To sign-up, please go to info@signupgenius.com.





We have two services:

SERVICES 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Communion will be celebrated at both services.

9:20 a.m. Bible Class, Sunday School for all ages and Confirmation

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