



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 38 Issue 2

February 2025

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Love Language

"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. (John. 15:11-12)

February is the month of "love" and Hallmark and Hershey will not let you forget it. 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 only ponder love (God's and ours), but put it into action beginning within our selves 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:



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

FEBRUARY

1/Genesis 46-48
2/Genesis 49-50
3/Exodus 1-4
4/Exodus 5-7
5/Exodus 8-10
6/Psalms 13-16
7/Exodus 11-13
8/Exodus 14-16
9/Exodus 17-19
10/Exodus 20-22
11/Exodus 23-25
12/Exodus 26-28
13/Exodus 29/31
14/Psalms 17-20
15/Exodus 32-34
16/Exodus 35-37
17/Exodus 38-40
18/Leviticus 1-3
19/Leviticus 4-6
20/Leviticus 7-9
21/Leviticus 10/12
22/Leviticus 13-15
23/Psalms 21-24
24/Leviticus 16-18
25/Leviticus 19-21
26/Leviticus 22-24
27/Leviticus 25-27
28/Numbers 1-3

MARCH

1/Numbers 4-6
2/Numbers 7-9
3/Psalms 25-28
4/Numbers 10-12
5/Numbers 13-15
6/Numbers 16-18
7/Numbers 19-21
8/Numbers 22-24
9/Numbers 25-27
10/Numbers 28-30
11/Numbers 31-33
12/Numbers 34-36
13/Psalms 29-32
14/Deuteronomy 1-3
15/Deuteronomy 4-6
16/Deuteronomy 7-9
17/Deuteronomy 10-12
18/Deuteronomy 13-15
19/Deuteronomy 16-18
20/Deuteronomy 19-21
21/Deuteronomy 22-24
22/Psalms 33-36
23/Deuteronomy 25-27
24/Deuteronomy 22-24
25/Deuteronomy 31-34
26/Joshua 1-3
27/Joshua 4-6
28/Joshua 7-9

29/Joshua 10-12
30/Joshua 13-15
31/Psalms 37-40

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



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

My eyes have been giving me troubles and they're causing migraine headaches. The eye doctor tells me it may be up to 5 years before insurance will cover the surgery. Not so nice, I say. About my eyes. I have a hereditary eye disease known as Fuch's dystrophy. This disease slowly breaks down a layer in the cornea of the eye. My left eye is worse than my right eye and the left is complicated with a cataract. Some mornings things are fine and some mornings I may see double or fogginess. Sometimes it can last the entire day.

So today I think about the obstacles God adds to our lives. We can say how terrible it is and how it has caused multiple interruptions in our way. And, knowing from experience from my younger years I can say it isn't really a bad thing. It may seem that way and may be never ending. My past has caused all kind of relationship issues with my family and it still goes on. However, I can look at it and how it made me the person I am today. I was not a good person for many years. I had too much hatred, self-loathing and I made bad decisions. But, where did it get me? I have found those problems have made me a stronger person and to have the ability to do things I wouldn't have considered so long ago. Dan tells me I can make friends and share chit chat with almost everyone. I can handle difficult situations so much better than before and I'm working on making them even better. I became a kinder Christian. God gave me pain so I can make it through everything else.

What about you? Analyze your life. How has adversity made you better. Don't cry to God for Him to take all the pain away. Embrace your challenges and ask God for guidance. He will bring you through everything just have faith and go on. Enjoy your life and don't waddle in it.

Pam Popp
President

LWML Important dates:

Next King of Kings LWML meeting will be March 16th after the 2nd service

LWML Zone Event is April 5th at Hope, Shawnee. Registration begins at 8:30 and the meeting and program starts at 9am. Lunch will be served after our speaker. More information to follow.

Be on the lookout for a 2 special events coming in the near future!



Music practice will resume in February on **Tuesday evenings:**

February 4th Handbells - 5:30 PM

Choir - 6:30 PM

February 18th Handbells - 5:30 PM

Choir - 6:30 PM

We would love to have you join us on a Tuesday evening.

Questions?

Contact Pam Gartner allape6@gmail.com or Kody Willnauer kody@willnauermusicworks.com



Lutheran Laymen's League - the King's Men

2025 Looks to be an exciting year for the Kingsmen!

To start with Brian Blank has graciously agreed to transition into the position of Men's Ministry Coordinator and will officially take over the reigns in June!

The men met this last month and earlier in January for the group breakfast to discuss business, place new flags and assist with removing the Christmas decorations. The monthly men's breakfast schedule has been posted with a few months missing a chef. The men also met for the monthly Men's Night Out dinner at Jumpin' Catfish in Olathe. Tom Steven's has agreed to coordinate the men's monthly dinners. Tom has posted the dinner schedule on the LLL bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at Frontera's this month on the fourth Thursday, February 27th at 6:30pm.

In December, the men met for dinner at El Lucador in town, and each man brought with him several cans of food that were placed in the outdoor food pantry outside of JOY CLOSET. The men were able to fill two shelves with food at the pantry.

We will once again be coordinating the Valentine's Day photo display. We ask all members of the congregation to bring their wedding photo on the first Sunday in February (2/2). We will display the photos in the Fellowship Hall for viewing and photos are to be picked up Sunday (2/16). How fun it is to see the clothing and hair styles over the years!

Looking ahead, once again during the season of LENT we will be collecting fun band aides with cartoons on them to donate to Children's Mercy Hospital for the kiddos who are under their care. This project is in partnership with the Noah Bandage Project. For LENT diners, the men have agreed to provide dinner on Wednesday April, 2nd.

The Kansas District LCMS will once again be sponsoring FAITH IN ACTION event this year. The LLL will be participating in various ways.

The men will next meet for their monthly Saturday morning meeting at 07:30am in the Fellowship Hall on February 8th. All men are welcome. For additional information on the Lutheran Laymen's League, feel free to reach out to Pastor Dan, Brian Blank or Mark Trivilino.



Bible Study table talks generally meets every month on the 2nd and 4th Monday, at 6 pm 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 10th at Fronteras 6 pm.

Connie emails the scripture that we discuss, the week prior to Bible Study.

Please notify Connie, secretary@kingofkingsks.org, 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



Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT).

This year is starting out with a BANG for our Northeast Kansas LERT squad. Member Mike Crane is currently in South Carolina working on recovery from their recent hurricanes. Member Nathan Hankins is now known as Pastor Nathan Hankins as he recently had his ordination service, Nathan and his lovely wife, Tiffany will be moving to Abilene Kansas where Nathan will be installed as the Pastor of Grace Lutheran in Abilene. King of Kings members: Bob Lowe, Dale Melancon, Brian Mead and Mark Trivilino recently participated in the Kansas District LERT leadership conference held at the District's Herrington retreat house.

On April 26th the King of King's Team will host a training on how to conduct damage assessments after a disaster. If you want to attend, please register on the LCMS website under the LERT page. For additional information on this training, please feel free to speak with Bob Lowe, Brian Mead, Dale Melancon or Mark Trivilino.

LERT will also be participating in the Faith In Action program sponsored by the Kansas District. We will be putting together Water Purification systems. All Thrivent members are able to request a water purification system at no cost. We are asking all members of King of Kings who are Thrivent members to order a kit from their web page. We ask that once received, you place the kit on the shelf of the coat rack in the fellowship hall and we will put them together and then return them as needed. If you have any questions on how to obtain these items from Thrivent, please see Jean Germer or Mark Trivilino.

For additional information on LERT or if you are interested in becoming a LERT member, please see Pastor Dan, Bob Lowe, or Dale Melancon.

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)

“Thank you very much for your gift \$204.656 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
Metro Lutheran Ministry

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptized	598	606
Confirmed	380	383
Family Units	263	263
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Dec. (Avg.) *in-house & virtual	170.2*	165.4*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$32,631	\$311,542
Budget	\$26,708	\$318,500
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$30,222	\$289,664
Budget	\$26,425	\$318,248
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$2,409	\$21,878
Budget	\$283	\$252

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$92,948	\$996,302
Budget	\$69,858	\$838,290
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$69,844	\$938,033
Budget	\$68,972	\$689,723
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$23,104	\$58,269
Budget	\$886	\$148,567



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

King of King's Elected 2025 Officers/Parish Planning Committee

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

2025 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.



Your attendance is needed:

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 2nd
9:20 AM



February Calendar of Events

- Feb. 2 9:00 am Youth Group
Feb. 2 9:20 am Congregation Meeting
Feb. 3 6:30 pm Parish Planning
Feb. 4 5:30 pm Bell Practice
Feb. 4 6:30 pm Choir Practice
Feb. 5 6:30 pm Elder Meeting
Feb. 6 6:30 pm Scouts
Feb. 8 7:30 am Kings Men Breakfast
Feb. 9 9:00 am Youth Bible Study
Feb. 9 9:30 am Natl. Gathering Parent Mtg.
Feb. 10 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Fronteras
Feb. 13 6:30 pm Open Arms Team Meeting
Feb. 14th Happy Valentine's Day
Feb. 18 5:30 pm Bell Practice
Feb. 18 6:30 pm Choir Practice
Feb. 24 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Perkins
Feb. 27 6:30 pm Men's Nite Out @ Fronteras

Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Bridge

Every Wednesday at 9:30 am OA Chapel

Every Thursday at 9:00 am, Quilters will meet.

We will continue our Valentine tradition by displaying your Wedding Photo from Sunday, Feb. 2nd to Sunday, Feb. 16th



The new **2025 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.

Altar Flowers Thank you to all who signed up to bring **Treats**. Spaces are still open. To sign-up, please go to info@signupgenius.com or sign-up on the Treat sheet on the bulletin board across from the restrooms

"God's VALENTINE"

"For God so lo **V**ed the world,
That He g **A**ve
His on **L**y
Begott **E**n
So **N**
That whosever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life"

John 3:16

HAPPY "VALENTINE'S DAY" FROM GOD!!



We have two 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
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