



# **King of Kings Lutheran Church**

**Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center**

***Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!***

**Volume 35 Issue 1**

**January 2022**

## ***PASTOR'S THOUGHTS***

### **Enlightened to Enlighten**

*“May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Colossians 1:11-13 NRSV).*

Now that our holiday plans have past, a new year somehow entices us with the dream of personal and global transformation. For one day at least, all our good intentions can be jump-started, and all our bad habits can be unplugged. At least for a few hours the new year is a perfect opportunity to let go of past sins and failures with hope for new found strength and forgiveness.

But January 1 is followed inevitably by January 2 and January 3. All too soon we opt for staying in a cozy bed a few more minutes rather than plunging out into the cold for a jog. Pretty soon candy wrappers start appearing in our desk drawers again. By the 4th or 5th, our socks are back on the bathroom floor and the dental floss is gathering dust. By the 10th we fall asleep before even getting the Bible open. For all but a few of us, most New Year's resolutions get packed away with the last of the Christmas decorations. By Epiphany our behavior and the whole New Year are just as tarnished as they were before January 1. The problem with most of our resolutions is that they are too safe, too sensible and too self-centered. We resolve to make tiny cosmetic changes in our lifestyles -- but refuse to consider restructuring our lives and changing the priorities in which we live.

The ultimate New Year's resolution does not challenge us to cut fat grams, or quit smoking or get to aerobics class twice a week. The ultimate resolution a Christian can make is to live in the light of divine intentions, not human inventions. The New Year's resolution to end all resolutions is to live under the umbrella of God's expectations and to make it my business and your business to be a part of God's business. What is God's business? God's business is transformation. An electrical transformer takes high voltage and transforms it into energy that we can use in our everyday lives. Without a transformer, there could be no light in the darkness. At Bethlehem, God came to us and gave us Jesus the Christ, who transforms in his life the love and power of God into the grace and guidance our world desperately needs. It is this same light and love that enlightens our hearts and homes to reflect His light in our worship and in reaching out to our neighbor.

Reflecting on the past year Rachel and I thank God and you for all the gifts, words, and kind actions shared among us. Looking to the future we pray for God's protection and providence as we continue “Bringing the light of Christ to our neighbor!”

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 months readings:



## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

### JANUARY

1/Genesis 1-3  
2/Genesis 4-6  
3/Genesis 7-9  
4/Genesis 10-12  
5/Job 1-4  
6/Job 5-7  
7/Job 8-13  
8/Job 11-14  
9/Job 15-17  
10/Psalms 1-4  
11/Job 18-20  
12/Job 21-24  
13/Job 25-27  
14/Job 28-30  
15/Job 31-33  
16/Job 34-36  
17/Job 37-39  
18/Job 40-42  
19/Psalms 5-8  
20/Genesis 13-15  
21/Genesis 16-18  
22/Genesis 19-21  
23/Genesis 22-24  
24/Genesis 25-27  
25/Genesis 28-30  
26/Genesis 31-33  
27/Genesis 34-36  
28/Genesis 37-39

29/Psalms 9-12  
30/Genesis 40-42  
31/Genesis 43-45

### 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

## A Prayer for the New Year

A whole new year is mine today; May I be wiser, Lord, I pray.  
To strengthen friendships old and true, and learn to cherish new ones, too.  
To keep on learning and to grow a little stronger as I go.  
To cast aside each grudge and grief, and hold fast to a firm belief.  
That life is joyous, gracious and good, when lived in terms of brotherhood.  
Amen



Your talents and voices are needed. No experience necessary. There are many ways that a youth or an adult can contribute to the worship service at King of Kings:

1. **Singing** - participate in a choir that can be an important part of the worship service on Sunday morning.
2. **Handbells** - Contact Tamiaka for more information. Practice is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.
3. **Playing an instrument** - You have heard several of our members play their instruments in church and have heard how it has added to your worship. Play individually or in a small group.

Please e-mail a response to this invitation to join our music ministry at [tdmelancon11@gmail.com](mailto:tdmelancon11@gmail.com) or call me for more information 913-397-0265.

Blessings,  
Tamiaka Melancon, Music Director



Please continue to remember the Gardner Food Pantry with your donations. Non-perishable food items are always needed:

Canned soups, vegetables, cereal, packaged dinners, basics like flour, sugar, shortening, dried beans, coffee, etc. They can also use personal care items: toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, laundry soap, hand soap, toothpaste, shaving cream, shampoo, etc.

Thank you to Paul & Judy Anderson who take the donations to the Multi-Service Center each week and to you for helping the needy in our community.



## Lutheran Early Response Team- LERT

In December our team was on call to respond to the Tornados in Missouri. Fortunately, the damage was not as bad as initially thought, so it enabled us to send our resources to Kentucky. We had a Chainsaw Crew in Kentucky. We anticipate in 2022 we will be back in Kentucky providing chain saw assistance, "routine" disaster assistance, food and beverage assistance and of course, most importantly a ministry presence where we will be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ -even in a disaster area.

In Early December a training was held at the Kansas District Office for "Train the Trainer." We are happy to announce that our very own Randy Petit attended and passed the course and is now a certified LERT Trainer for the state of Kansas.

There is a spot for EVERYONE in LERT. We not only need volunteers for our chainsaw teams and our debris removal squads, we also need assistance in preparing meals and snacks, prepping our teams for deployment, logistics, inventory control, quartermaster, securing Thrivent Action Team cards and many more roles. Youth ages 14-17 are also encouraged to participate! If you are interested in becoming a member of our LERT squad, we will have basic training here at King of Kings on Jan 22, on March 12th there will be a basic training at St. John's in Topeka and on April 23 there will be another basic training at St Andrews in Wichita. Basic training classes are from 9-3pm and cost \$25. You can register online for the class (only need to attend one, not all 3) at [www.LCMS.org](http://www.LCMS.org). There will also be a training on March 5th to become a recognized Chainsaw Operator. This class will be held at Saint Paul in Concordia, Missouri.

If you are interested in becoming a member of LERT, Please contact Pastor Dan, Ed Bruns, Bob Lowe, Dale Melancon, Randy Petit or Mark Trivilino.



## National Lutheran Association on Scouting

The NLAS works with all scouting organizations (Girl Scouts, Scouts BSA, Boy Scouts, Heritage Girls, Trails Life). NLAS provides assistance in developing scouts in their spiritual life. We are currently raising funds to provide over 25,000 New Testaments to all Scouts at National Campsites and Jamborees. The NLAS appreciates the partnership they have enjoyed with King of Kings Lutheran Laymen's Group and thanks them for their recent donation towards the purchase of the New Testaments.

The local NLAS is currently working with an Eagle Scout candidate from Gardner Troop 88, assisting him with his project that will benefit King of Kings. If you would like additional information on the NLAS, please feel free to visit their website at [www.NLAS.org](http://www.NLAS.org).



## Lutheran Laymen's League - the Kings Men

The Kansas Lutheran Laymen's League would like to take this opportunity to thank the King of Kings LWML for providing dessert at their recent State Convention in November. Also a special Shout Out to **Pat Hymer** for transporting the treats to the conference as well as transporting the catered meal. We could not have had as much success as we did without



Pat and the rest of the King of Kings LWML.

### Pew Crew

Additional fabric has been ordered. Once it is in we will commence meeting again each week in order to complete the rehabilitation of our pews. Currently the entire sanctuary has rehabbed pews except for the last row. We have approximately 53 more pews to complete and look forward to having it all completed in early 2022.



## The King of Kings Chapter of the Lutheran Laymen's League

The Kings Men recently had their end of year breakfast get together at Perkins. Plans were made for the upcoming year. In 2022 we will again meet on the second Saturday of each month, but our start time will be moved to 7:30am. We will also start a new video Bible study in 2022. During Lent we will once again spearhead the Noah Bandage Project. We will collect "fun" logoed band aids for the kids at Children's Mercy Hospital. On Jan 15th our Chef will be Dale Melancon- we look forward to seeing all the men of Kings of Kings at 7:30. For additional information on our Local LLL group, please contact Pastor Dan or Mark Trivilino.

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

“Thank you for your recent gift of \$193.74 given on November 30, 2021. Gifts like yours help Bethesda carry out our mission to enhance the individual lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for your faithful partnership!”

Nisha Gandhi, Vice President of Strategic Support and Business Development  
Bethesda Lutheran Communities

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“We are very thankful for your food donations and hygiene care packs. Your donations will help serve those in need as well as keep our pantry stocked. Thank you for all that you do.”

SW Multi Service Center  
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## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

LWML-Our Heavenly father has blessed us to live in our country that we can attend our church services and we can gather with our family and friends, Praise the Lord.

So, now we need to put away all the decorations. The house always seems to look so empty and dark inside afterwards.

We finished up our hat project with all the goodies. Rachel Wehmeier will deliver 30 of them to the homeless on the Plaza and the last 30 went to our local Multi-Service center.

LWML had a wonderful evening at our Christmas party. Susan Whitmer organized our evening. Susan thank you very much for all your hard work. Also, thank you to Joel and Nicholas for assisting.

We had a request from Orphan Grain Train for money to purchase disposable gloves and masks for the Navajo reservation in Arizona. We voted to send \$100.00 to them. They were sending out their loaded truck within a week so I just called some of our ladies to vote on this project and they agreed.

Our next meeting is on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> after the second service. Please join us! We can always use more input of ways to help the unfortunate.

Yours in Christ,

Judy Anderson



Altar Flowers

The new **2022 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.

Do you enjoy the **treats** during the fellowship time between the services? Please sign-up to bring treats on Sunday morning by going to [info@signupgenius.com](mailto:info@signupgenius.com).

Thank you to Thrivent Financial member who directed his Choice Dollars to King of Kings.

Paul G. Helmer

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



## OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

### KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Baptized	602	602
Confirmed	377	384
Family Units	263	265
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Nov. (Avg.) *in-house & virtual x2	1124.75+29.25* 154	125.2*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$19,229.00	\$288,265.00
Budget	\$24,592.00	\$270,508.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$21,462.00	\$231,675.00
Budget	\$24,394.00	\$268,334.00
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$2,233.00)	\$56,590.00
Budget	\$198.00	\$2,175.00

\*\*Numbers are lower as services were web based as of March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$56,735.00	\$561,593.00
Budget	\$65,894.00	\$724,834.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$49,976.00	\$575,283.00
Budget	\$65,869.00	\$724,559.00
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$6,759.00	(\$13,690.00)
Budget	\$25.00	\$275.00



The Youth Group meets the first Sunday in the month after the second service. For more information: Chase 913-748-7840

### King of King's Elected 2022 Officers/Parish Planning Committee

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Ed Bruns
President – Elect:	Richard Ahrens
Treasurer:	Dale Melancon
Support/Admin. Leader:	Dan Popp
Worship Ministry Leader:	Ted Marsh
Youth Ministry Leader:	Ali Van Dellen
Family Ministry Leader:	Tana Melancon
Elder Chairman:	Joel Whitmer
Open Arms Director:	Angela Thrasher

#### Open Arms Team

Team Leader: Erin Schrepel  
 Team Members: Sharlot Ahrens, Jody Church,  
 Katie Doroh and Lyle Miller

#### Board of Mission Directors

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Ed Bruns
President– Elect:	Richard Ahrens
Support/Admin. Leader:	Dan Popp
Elder Chairman:	Joel Whitmer
Open Arms Administrator:	Angela Thrasher
Open Arms Team Leader:	Erin Schrepel

#### 2022 Elders:

Joel Whitmer (Head Elder), Richard Ahrens, Ryan Church, Greg Gartner, John Klein, Herb Klemp, Kevin Kufeldt, Dale Melancon, Chadd Schrepel, Allen Snyder and Tim Van Dellen

#### 2022 Youth Group Officers:

President	Chase Van Dellen
Vice President	Austin Sandman
Secretary	Nina Wahl
Treasurer	Alex Marsh



## January Calendar of Events

- Jan. 2 11:30 am Youth Group
- Jan. 3 6:30 pm Parish Planning
- Jan. 7 6:30 pm Elder Meeting
- Jan. 15 7:30 am Kings Men Breakfast
- 9:00 am Take-down Décor
- Jan. 9 11:30 am LWML Meeting
- Jan. 22 8:00 am LERT Basic Training

Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Bridge  
 Every Wednesday 6:30 pm Handbells  
 7:00 pm Ukulele Practice



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.  
 10:30 a.m.-noon.**

**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](http://www.kingofkingsks.org)**

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