



# **King of Kings Lutheran Church**

**Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center**

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

**Volume 36 Issue 1**

**January 2023**

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

### **A New Year – New Opportunities**

Each new year brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new year is the time to begin that diet, to get serious about exercising, to spend more time with the family, to read the Bible on a daily basis, to grow each Sunday with the family at Bible Class and worship. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

How do I begin in this New Year of new opportunities? Enclosed in this newsletter is the 2023 Bible Reading Guide. Dedicating a small amount of time, fifteen minutes, a day can not only start off your day with God's guidance, but can walk you through the entire Bible in one year! Also, join your brothers and sisters for discussion and dialog of God's plan for King of Kings and each of us each during weekend worship, Bible study, and Tender Loving Care groups! Ask your brothers and sisters what gifts they see in you and the many opportunities to put the gifts into practice. The only way to connect others to Jesus is first being connected ourselves!

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 three 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



I have just a few updates for the start of a new year, but first I would like to thank those who have participated in choir, bells, and ukulele rehearsals. Without you, we wouldn't be able to make music together, so thank you for being flexible and for staying positive as we navigate our small groups together.

We had a great turn out for our Christmas caroling and chili dinner. I think we were able to spread some joy through our music so thank you to everyone who joined us! Music rehearsals will start back up on Wednesday, January 18th and anyone is welcome to join, so consider trying something new this new year!

Last but not least, I want to let you all know that I have enjoyed being music director at King of Kings and am so grateful for this opportunity, but it is time for me to move out of my comfort zone and into a new career and place. My time here will come to an end at the end of May. I hope you all welcome whoever is selected to take my place with the same warmth you all accepted me. Thank you again for everything and I hope you all have a wonderful new year.

Thank you, Tamiaka Melancon

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:

**Ukulele's** - Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM

**Singing** - participate in a choir that can be an important part of the worship service on Sunday morning. Practice is on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM.

**Handbells** - Contact Tamiaka for more information. No experience needed, we will teach you how to play. Practice is on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 PM.

**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.



## Lutheran Laymen's League - the Kings Men

We are looking forward to 2023 with enthusiasm!

ENTHUSIASTIC to learn more about Our Lord and Savior through Bible Study.  
ENTHUSIASTIC to work together to help others and partner with other organizations/agencies in their mission.

ENTHUSIASTIC to continue to grow in fellowship with fellow members and new members of the Lutheran Laymen's League.

ENTHUSIASTIC to provide services to our own congregation here at King of Kings, in however we are called upon.

Our theme for this year will come from the Bible verse found in the book of Colossians:

*“Whatever you do, do your work heartily with enthusiasm, as for the Lord rather than for men”*  
Colossians 3:23

In 2023 we will once again meet on the second Saturday of the month at church for breakfast, Bible Study, and fellowship. Our Chef on January 14th will be Lyle Miller. All men from the congregation are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you!

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

“We are very grateful for your generous donations of food. With increases in having food and gasoline, we are receiving fewer & fewer food donations. Our shelves are in great need of stocking. We as well as are residents, are so appreciative for food.”

Jeremy, Kara & Lisa  
Gardner Multi Service Center

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“God has done great things through you. You and your congregation’s gift of \$100.00 gives more people access to an Audio Bibles in a language and format they can understand and use.”

Morgan Jackson, Senior Vice President  
Faith comes by Hearing

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“Thank you very much for your gift of \$195.49 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.”

Scot Cooper, Executive Director  
Metro Lutheran Ministry



Open Arms had a wonderful Christmas Program! We had a full house with all seats taken way into the area behind the sanctuary. Dale and Tana helped out and we so appreciated their help. Our staff enjoyed some much needed time off and are very ready to ring in 2023. If anyone would ever want to stop in and be a guest reader, we would love to have you. Contact Angela or Shonda to get that set up. You could use a favorite book of yours or we could provide one!!

Angela Thrasher, Director

## Puzzle Exchange



It's simple.



Bring a puzzle in.

Take a puzzle home.

Repeat.

Check out the new “**Puzzle Place**”.

We are starting a puzzle exchange. See the cupboard in the conference room in the new addition. Bring a puzzle, take one home, bring one back, enjoy. Please mark on the box if any pieces are missing.



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 WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

If you made it through the last few weeks with this terrible cold, pat yourself on the back. I got out some of the warmest gear that hasn't been out for years just to run to the mailbox!

I hope that you were able to celebrate our Savior's birth with your family or extended family safely. Paul and I had our family over for Christmas dinner. Unfortunately, we had a few that couldn't come because they had covid but they had dinners delivered at their door.

Jean Germer headed up the LWML Christmas party and all that attended had a wonderful fellowship working on cookies, cards and decorated gift bags. I hope I don't miss any one but her helpers were, Kathy Stevens-cookie maker, Sharon Appel-decorative bags, Pam Popp-Christmas cards, Sharlot Ahrens and Tana Melancon-set up and clean up, Jin Wahl-for icing and decorating ideas and to all that brought goodies. We all had a wonderful afternoon visiting with each other, laughing and just praising the fact that we could all do this.

I pray that everyone will have a happy and safe New Year with wellness and blessings.

Our next LWML meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 15th right after second service.

God's blessings to all,  
Judy Anderson



### Altar Flowers

The new **2023 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.

Jean M. Germer

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>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Baptized	602	602
Confirmed	380	377
Family Units	264	263
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Nov. (Avg.) *in-house & virtual	122.75+37* 159.75	154*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$19,985	\$275,859
Budget	\$24,270	\$266,970
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$20,828	\$241,061
Budget	\$24,352	\$267,875
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$843)	\$34,798
Budget	(\$82)	(\$905)

### OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$56,974	\$561,304
Budget	\$56,284	\$619,124
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$58,761	\$651,132
Budget	\$56,256	\$618,816
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$1,787)	(\$89,828)
Budget	\$28	\$308



The Youth Group meets the first Sunday in the month after the second service. For more information: Austin 913-530-5641.

### King of King's Elected 2023 Officers/Parish Planning Committee

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Richard Ahrens
President – Elect:	Phil Gehrt
Treasurer:	Dale Melancon
Support/Admin. Leader:	Dan Popp
Worship Ministry Leader:	Ted Marsh
Youth Ministry Leader:	Ali Van Dellen
Family Ministry Leader:	Tana Melancon
Head Elder:	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:	Richard Ahrens
President– Elect:	Phil Gehrt
Support/Admin. Leader:	Dan Popp
Head Elder:	Joel Whitmer
Open Arms Administrator:	Angela Thrasher
Open Arms Team Leader:	Erin Schrepel

#### 2023 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

#### 2023 Youth Group Officers:

President	Austin Sandman
Vice President	Nina Wahl
Secretary	Abby McGarr
Treasurer	Danny Wahl



## January Calendar of Events

Jan. 4 6:30 pm Elder Meeting  
 Jan. 7 9:00 am Take-down Décor  
 Jan. 8 11:30 am Youth Group  
 Jan. 9 6:30 pm Parish Planning  
 Jan. 14 7:30 am Kings Men Breakfast  
 Jan. 15 11:30 am LWML Meeting  
 Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Bridge  
 Every Wednesday starting January 18th  
     6:15 pm Ukulele's  
     6:45 pm Choir  
     7:15 pm Handbells



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](http://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](mailto:info@kingofkingsks.org)  
 Open Arms Lutheran Child Dev. Ctr.  
 Email: [openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org](mailto:openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org)  
 Phone: 913-856-4250