



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 37 Issue 1

January 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

The party's over and the bills have come due. "But there is hope for your future," says the Lord.

With the possible exception of April 15, January 2 is probably one of the more dreaded days of the oh-so-new year. From the fourth Friday in November through the first day of January, most of us watch our wallet shrink and waist-line swell as we frantically go from present-buying panic mode to party mode to post-holiday mode. And what do we end up with? January 2.

The month of January takes its name from the Roman god Janus -- a two-faced being, with each visage facing the opposite direction. Janus/January is a hinge time -- a vantage point from which we can still see back into the past year and yet can also face forward and look eagerly at the year ahead.

January 2 isn't just a day to sigh over "how far" we've got to go to lose that weight or pay those bills or see the spring flowers again. January 2 is also a vantage point from which we can plot the course of the New Year. Janus does look backward to the past, but he also looks forward to the future. January 2 must become the start of the hope month, not just the end of the party.

Part of the problem with this year's January 2 is that we still carry last year's baggage into the new year without any definite plan of where to and how to leave it behind. If this January 2 finds you still searching, relax, Our Lord has great news for the New Year! The Savior is born and His Spirit provides the answer! St. Paul helps us look both, backwards at the joys and sorrows of 2023, and forward to God's plan in 2024. "*We who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory*" (Ephesians 1:12, RSV).

It is January 2. But the coming year promises more than just dieting and dues-paying. Use this January 2 to reflectively and repentantly leave our sins and failures behind and begin creating a future built on our hope in Christ. It is the first day of living a faith that looks backward to the evidences of God's great gift to us in Jesus Christ and forward to the day when God's plan "to gather up all things in Him" will become a reality. Each of us have been given another New Year. May each of us use it wisely, to the glory of God.

This is why I urge everyone to pick up the Portals of Prayer devotions handed out at church with extra copies located on the usher's table. Start reading or rereading God's Word outlined in our Bible reading guide printed each month in the Herald. 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 and Bible study groups! 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 8-10
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



Calling all Ringers!

Kings Ringers will begin rehearsals for the spring/Easter season on Wednesday January 17th at 6:00 pm. If you would like further information Debbie Evans or Rachel Wehmeier can fill you in. Our ringers received so many wonderful compliments after our Christmas Eve musical offerings. Thank you so much for acknowledging the time and talent required to share our music with you! By the way, we're always ready to welcome new ringers.

If your gig is solo/ensemble singing or you play an instrument, King of Kings would love to add your talents to Sunday morning worship. Our worship leader, Ted Marsh (913-787-4652 or tedvr4@yahoo.com) or Pastor Dan would be happy to talk to you about opportunities for musical offerings.

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

“Thank you very much for your gift of \$220.62 and \$251.33 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



Lutheran Laymen's League - the Kings Men

2024 will once again be a BIG year of activities, Bible studies and charitable work for the Men of King of Kings!

One of our first BIG projects will be once again collecting bandages for the Noah Bandage Project. Noah Wilson was diagnosed with cancer in April of 2014 when he was only 6 years old, yet he never let it change his passion to help others. Noah learned that when it comes to funding cancer research for kids, there is very little support. In fact, only 4% of the US national cancer research budget goes to kids...**only 4%! Noah's** passion was to brighten the days of his friends in treatment by giving them donated colorful, fun bandages, and to help with research projects with funds raised by Noah's Bandage Project. So, NBP carries on this legacy through the collection and distribution of colorful bandages to kids in need, and by funding specific, translational research projects at Children's Mercy Research Institute in Kansas City. To date the Noah Bandage Project have granted \$1.8 million to researchers and their unique research projects. The LLL looks forward to spearheading this project once again at King of Kings. In the past we have been overwhelmed by the caring and kindness of our fellow parishioners', and look forward to seeing if we can collect even more bandages than in the past.

On a social note, last month ten men met for our monthly night out at Celebrities Cafe in Gardner. The men brought with them canned soups, veggies and other food products. So many canned goods were donated that we were able to fully stock the top two shelves at the JOY CLOSET food pantry. In 2024 the men have decided to change their night out to the 4th Thursday of the month. In January we will meet at "Crazy Good Eats BBQ" on 151st street in Olathe. We will continue to meet at 6:30pm. Last month the men voted to donate \$300 towards the Metro Lutheran Ministry Angel Tree Program.

The men will continue to meet the second Saturday of the month at 730am at the church. All men from King of Kings are welcome to join us for good food, great fellowship and Wonderful Bible Study. For additional information on The Kings' Men, please contact Pastor Dan.

Lutheran Day at Kansas Christian College

On Saturday January 6th all Lutherans and their friends are cordially invited to attend the Basketball Games at Kansas Christian College, located at 74th and Metcalf in Overland Park. The KCC Lady Falcons play at 1pm and the Men at 3pm. Admission fees to the games have been waived for all Lutheran's and their friends. Of note, during halftime of the men's game, students from Bethany Lutheran school will play a halftime exhibition game.

Hope to see you at the game!!

All members of the congregation are welcome to join us.



We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and that you all have a wonderful New Year! There has been lots of fun Christmas activities happening this past month from building Gingerbread houses, book and candy cane exchanges, and PJ days. Let's not forget all the fun treats like watching Christmas movies with hot chocolate and popcorn.

We will be closed Monday, January 1st in honor of New Years! Be safe and have fun celebrating the ending to 2023 and start of 2024. In January we celebrate Lutheran schools week, the 22nd-26th. We will have a spirit week that week to celebrate. So be on the lookout for that information and get ready to have some spirit and dress up! We will be open for Martin Luther King day. Save the date for February 9th at 7-8am we will have "Donuts with Men who Matter" to your student. This can be dad, grandpa, brother, etc. A breakfast treat before starting the school/work day!

Shonda Williams, Director

Puzzle Exchange



It's simple.

Bring a puzzle in.

Take a puzzle home.

Repeat.



Check out the new "Puzzle Place".

Did you receive a puzzle for Christmas? What to do with old ones? Did you know we have puzzle exchange for that old unwanted puzzle leftover from previous years? See the Puzzle Exchange cabinet 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.

LWML January Newsletter Article



My birthday is this weekend and I will be spending it with my cousin, Victoria, her husband David and their son Luke. Luke will be graduating from the Seminary School in Ft. Wayne this spring. He will deliver the messages for New Year's Eve day and evening services at Victoria's home church in Pittsburg, KS. I'm excited to hear his words and I have never met him. This actually makes me sad. Victoria has become one of my dearest friends. She helped Dan with decisions he had to make while I was in the hospital. She was a great source for him as she is a doctor. Although the same age as me she graduated from high school a year earlier than I. She started college at Bethany in Lindsborg, KS. Busy in my own life I didn't really follow what she was doing. All I knew was she wanted to be a doctor. Than all of sudden she was getting married. She was pregnant and my thoughts went straight to "how is she to become a doctor now?". I must admit I grew up not liking her too well. We were told she was arrogant, selfish and spoiled. That was not the truth. She actually had two children while in pursuit to become a doctor. When I found out she was graduating with her Dr.'s degree I was impressed. She made it and with two little babies and the 3rd on the way.

Now I finally get to meet the young man I've never known and I can't wait to ask him what his mission goals are and how he plans to meet them. What kind of church is he looking for and what mission needs might this church have? And, how can I help? This is my excitement. I have an opportunity to teach and be taught with someone I call family. I want him to know how much I want to help spread God's word "everywhere!". I must also mention his grandfather has implemented successful evangelism programs in every church he has been a member of. Will Luke try to do the same? I don't know. But, he has a great mentor if he needs one.

I think a lot about what I can do for God and I know I fail miserably. I'm trying. But, are you trying? The opportunities are endless. Just saying "Merry Christmas" to someone can do miracles in this current world of denying the Word of Christ. Search your heart. You may never see the results and you may never reap the rewards and good feelings from your efforts but God knows. Start your mission field. Plant good seeds.

The King of Kings Craft Sale was a success and the beautiful chief's quilt was won by Drake, Tamiaka Melancon's fiancé. We had a great time at our Christmas party in December. Chris Lehl was the highlight of the party as she led us in Christmas songs and added stories and histories of each song. Our next meeting is January 14th after the second service. Can you spare an extra hour at church this day?

Pam Popp
LWML President



Altar Flowers

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.

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.

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Baptized	606	602
Confirmed	383	380
Family Units	263	264
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Nov. (Avg.) *in-house & virtual	145.25*	159.75*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$18,750	\$270,075
Budget	\$27,146	\$298,606
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$24,172	\$246,967
Budget	\$27,095	\$298,045
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$5,422)	\$23,108
Budget	\$51	\$561

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$61,279	\$745,606
Budget	\$63,324	\$696,564
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$68,586	\$797,321
Budget	\$63,265	\$695,915
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$7,307)	(\$51,715)
Budget	\$59	\$649

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.

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

Michael Wallen,

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





January Calendar of Events

- Jan. 3 6:30 pm Elder Meeting
- Jan. 6 1:00 pm Take-down Décor
- Jan. 7 9:00 am Youth Group
- Jan. 8 6:30 pm Parish Planning
- Jan. 13 7:30 am Kings Men Breakfast
- Jan. 14 11:30 am LWML Meeting
- Jan. 25 6:30 PM Men's Nite Out

Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Bridge
 Every Wednesday starting January 17th
 6:00 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

**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