



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 37 Issue 4

March 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Physically Letting Go and Spiritually Getting On

During the Epiphany Season we watched the crowds steadily increase as Jesus proclaimed His message of healing and wholeness. As we continued in the Season of Lent we start to see those crowds begin to wane. One by one, the circles around Jesus start to disintegrate as they begin to comprehend that this Jesus will not conform to their understanding of a political or material messiah.

The Season of Lent is a time when we see our Savior physically letting go of His earthly ministry in order to spiritually get on with His Father's plan to restore the relationship between Himself and His rebellious creation. Step by solemn step Jesus begins His march to Jerusalem. With each step He consoles His followers about the events which will soon unfold. With each step He comforts His followers that only through the cross and grave will come perfect healing and eternal life.

I want to encourage each of you to walk with our Savior and fellow brothers and sisters as we join Him on the journey to Jerusalem. Enjoy some good food and thoughtful conversations during our mid-week fellowship and worship. Join in the cheering our Savior as He enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Confess our jeering with the crowds on Good Friday. Celebrate running from the empty tomb to share the victory on Easter Sunday. And don't forget to invite a friend or a neighbor to come celebrate with 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 2+ months readings:



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

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

21/1 Samuel 22-24

22/1 Samuel 25-27

23/1 Samuel 28-31

24/2 Samuel 1-3

25/2 Samuel 4-6

26/2 Samuel 7-9

27 /Psalms 49-52

28/2 Samuel 10-12

29/2 Samuel 13-15

30/2 Samuel 16-18

MAY

1/2 Samuel 19-21

2/2 Samuel 22-24

3/1 Chronicles 1-3

4/1 Chronicles 4-6

5/1 Chronicles 7-9

6/Psalms 53-56

7/1 Chronicles 10-12

8/1 Chronicles 13-15

9/1 Chronicles 16-18

10/1 Chronicles 19-21

11/1 Chronicles 22-24

12/1 Chronicles 25-27

13/1 Chronicles 28-29

14/ 1 Kings 1-4



Worship Services Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Lent is a time of special devotion to the most sacred of all stories---the story of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. We come face to face with why we need a Savior and what Jesus, the Son of God, accomplished for us and for the whole world.

“Dateline - Jerusalem”

March 6: “Mary Magdalene”

March 13: “John”

March 20: “The Centurion”

March 24: Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 29: Good Friday

Sunday, March 31: Easter

Easter Breakfast at 9:15 am - Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 am

During our Lenten journey we viewed the Passion of our Lord through live interview investigations of some of the key individuals involved in the death of Jesus and His now missing body. The series is based on a sermon series originally written by Pastor Scott A. Bryte. Special thanks to our faithful and fun drama team for sharing their drama skills and strengthening our faith journey.

Thank you to LWML ladies, Sunday School teachers, LLL/King’s Men, Elders, Musicians, and the Bible Study Group who provided and served our Lenten meals.



Lutheran Laymen's League - the Kings Men

Saturday, March 9th 7:30 am Men’s Group
Breakfast fellowship hall

Saturday, March 16th 8:00 am - 1:00pm LERT
Chainsaw Training King’s Korner

Thursday, March 21st LERT Training
"How to Run a Shelter after a Disaster"

Location: JoCo Fire House
33364 W 191st, Edgerton

Tuesday March 26th 6:30 pm Men’s Night Out
Dinner at Casa Amigos
159th and Murlen in Olathe

Attention Thrivent Members:

If you haven’t used your 2023 Thrivent Action cards yet or have any plans for your 2023 Action Cards and would like to donate it to help out several upcoming events, please let the church office know. Several opportunities this time of year present themselves. Such as the Easter Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, Youth Garage Sale, LERT, etc. Please note that the 2023 Action Cards will expire on March 31st.

Contact Pastor Dan at 913-856-2500
for more information.





SPRING ZONE EVENT

I Peter 2:15-17
“For Such a Time as This”

When: Saturday, March 9th

Registration 8:30 AM

Meeting starts at 9:00 AM

Where: Redeemer Lutheran Church
920 S Alta Lane
Olathe, KS

Host: Redeemer Lutheran Church

Guest Speaker: Pastor Mark Frith

Cost: \$5.00 – Please bring a salad for every 6 members attending per society.

In-gathering for Mission Southside & Rolling Ridge and their weekly backsnacks program to over 300 Olathe school children.

Gifts From the Heart: Items for Backpacks: Protein items, Beef Ravioli/Spaghetti O's & meatballs/Hearty Soups with easy open tops., Fruit Cups (peaches/applesauce/mixed fruit) Mini Cereal Boxes, Oatmeal Packets, Granola Bars, Ramen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Garden and Orchard Volunteers (March)

Eileen's Place Volunteers (March)

Minor Home Repair for Veteran's Homes



CONTACT REBECKA FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP

Rebecka

816.285.3154

rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org

METRO
LUTHERAN
MINISTRY



March 22nd, 2024

5:30pm-9:30pm

Muehlebach Suite
Boulevard Brewing Company
2501 Southwest Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64108

For more information contact: Susan Whitmer 913-488-3304 joel.whitmer@gmail.com

To purchase tickets contact: Rebecka at rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org

\$50 - individual ticket

\$700 - reserved table of 10



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

I received the following in an email recently. We should all be aware of our continuing mission with the collection of eyeglasses for MOST ministries. I believe it gives a great history of the program as it began. As you read this contemplate to yourself, does reaching out to others or the plan of doing so affect you? Prayer in these circumstances is a must and listening to the answers is required. I think of when I started my adventure with the Lutheran Women in Mission. I think I listened for the answers as I prayed for God to lead me in the direction of mission work. From 7th grade I knew I wanted to continue a legacy in honor of my friend's mom, Enola. At her funeral there were so many women dressed in purple. I didn't understand. Why purple? My mom briefly explained they were members of LWML and Enola was very involved in the group. I knew I wanted to be a part of this sisterhood but didn't know much more about it until I came to King of Kings. I applied to be a Young Women's Representative for the 2003 national convention. It was with this experience that started the development of my passion. Have I been 100% perfect? No. But prayer and taking the hints given to me from God I know I am steadily making a difference. So, with this understanding I give you this amazing story. Let it feed your passion for the mission field and find a way to help those still needing to hear God's message.

Pam Popp
LWML President

Important Dates to Remember:

March 9th, Zone Event at Redeemer. Registration at 8:30 and meeting at 9:00. Speaker Mark Frith

March 10th, King of Kings Group meeting. Immediately following the 2nd Service. You know you should be there!

April 7th, King of Kings Group meeting. Immediately following the second service. It's not really being involved if you skip the 2nd meeting.

April 12th – 14th The LWML District Convention in Wichita.



NOAH'S BANDAGE PROJECT

During the season of LENT we will be collecting fun, cartoon bandages for the Noah's Bandage Project. These band aides will go to the young children who are hospitalized at Children's Mercy. The fun bandages provide the

kiddos with a little joy, a conversation piece with family and friends, as well as taking a little of the sting away from getting a shot. We will have large collection container in the fellowship hall to collect the band aides. For additional information on the Noah's Bandage Project, please visit

[Noah's Bandage Project \(noahsbandageproject.com\)](http://Noah's Bandage Project (noahsbandageproject.com))



Coping with the Early Years of Eyeglass Ministry

Gayle Sommerfeld has written in her memoir, *Beyond Sight: God's Vision for Using Ordinary People to Impact the World*, about her experience dispensing eyeglasses in MOST Ministries' second country of outreach, Panama. In the area where the clinic was held, there was a nearby village of Kuna natives who had never used eyeglasses (someone commented, "They must have perfect vision!")

Nevertheless, the team reached out to the Kuna village, after which four village leaders scouted the clinic. Their verdict obviously passed muster, because the next day, 80 Kuna appeared in line to be tested for eyeglasses! Gayle was overjoyed; her husband Don was not. What to Gayle was a gift from God, an opportunity to share the Gospel with this group, was stress and anxiety for Don. How could the team possibly test and fit glasses on this entire group? What would the team do when evening came?

In those first years of the eyeglass ministry, the testing and dispensing was tedious, to say the least, so no wonder Don's management style was upset when the size of the crowd created stress. God had an answer for that problem. A few days later, while still in Panama, Don "resigned" his role as a team leader, because he felt a new call from God. During his private devotion time, God told him "I'm giving you the eyeglass ministry. Let me lead you, don't run ahead of me and don't lag behind." When Don arrived home from Panama, he put his time and talents to work managing the preparation of eyeglasses for teams and finding the best way to measure vision in the field.

From the first, fledgling, eyeglass mission in 1990 with two paper bags, one for weak and the other for strong prescriptions, the ministry has grown to sending about 3,000 pairs of prescription eyeglasses with each team. They are carefully sorted, measured, labeled, and packed for safe travel, so a team can serve 200 or more individuals a day on the field. We are thankful that upwards of 100,000 eyeglasses are donated to MOST Ministries each year. An army of volunteers puts in an average of 1,700 hours per year to be sure that the best 45,000 of these donated eyeglasses are ready each year for distribution by our mission teams.

Don reflects, "As God has led us, this eyeglass ministry has continued to flourish."

From a January 2024 interview with Don & Gayle Sommerfeld
Gayle's book is available for purchase at <https://www.authorhouse.com/>

Please deposit your old eyeglasses in the blue bin above the coat rack as you enter the church.



Altar Flowers

We will soon be purchasing blooming spring flowers to decorate the church on **Easter Sunday, March 31st.**

The donation is \$10.00 and all flowers after the Easter services can be taken home to plant in your garden. Please see the sign up sheet on the table as you enter the fellowship area.

The Flower Chart on the bulletin board across from the restrooms is available for you to sign up to bring flowers to decorate the altar to celebrate a special occasion or just to the glory of God for all your blessings. If you need help with the flowers, contact Jan Smith, a florist in our church at 913-961-2077 or JanSmith9255@gmail.com and she will be happy to help you.



Mark your calendars for March...

March 1– LADIES WHO LOVE US BREAKFAST 7-8AM

March 8– HALF DAY AT OPEN ARMS. Dismissal at 12pm

for Parent Teacher Conferences for Preschool & Pre K side

March 11-15—SPRING BREAK for Public Schools

March 17– HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY

March 29– CLOSED for Good Friday

March 31– HAPPY EASTER

February had been a busy month at Open Arms! During the month we celebrated Groundhog Day and according to Punxsutawney Phil’s official handlers in the Groundhog Club, Phil did not see his shadow. That means, according to tradition, we are in for an early spring! We started February off with Donuts with Men who Matter. Thank you to all who were able to come! The Pre K classes celebrated Fat Tuesday by making their own Dirty Rice for lunch followed by King’s Cake for dessert. The Chiefs won the Super Bowl which is a cause for celebration! We celebrated the Chief’s winning, Valentine’s Day, and Ash Wednesday all on the same day! The children had chapel with Pastor Dan where they received an ash cross on their foreheads. All the classrooms hosted their own Valentine’s party, and we had some fun football themed activities set up for the kiddos throughout the school.

We are excited to share that a deposit of \$124.00 is coming in the next few days to your account. We hope this gift on behalf of Thrivent Choice® helps to further support your important work. Those who supported King of Kings in January were:

Neal V Brockschmidt, Betty J Kuhlmann, and Mark E Trivilino

In 2023 King of Kings received \$535 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. Thrivent is proud to help support the important work you do and hope, together, we can do even more in 2024! Don't forget: 2023 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31.

Depending on your policy with Thrivent, Thrivent Action Teams may apply for up to two cards a year - \$250 per card to go toward organizations such as King of Kings to support events or fundraisers. These cards can be used as seed money for the various events at the church such as the Easter Breakfast, Lenten suppers, Confirmation, Youth fundraisers like the Annual Garage Sale, LERT, to name a few coming up in the near future. Remember Thrivent supporters be sure to direct remaining 2023 Choice Dollars® by March 31. Any questions or concerns regarding Thrivent contact:

Pastor Dan 913-856-2500 or pastor@kingofkingsks.org

Thanks for your continued partnership in 2024!



OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptized	603	603
Confirmed	383	381
Family Units	263	265
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Jan. (Avg.) *in-house & virtual	150.25*	165.5*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$29,585	\$29,585
Budget	\$26,542	\$26,542
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$19,940	\$19,940
Budget	\$26,521	\$26,521
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$9,645	\$9,645
Budget	\$21	\$21

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$84,732	\$84,732
Budget	\$69,858	\$69,858
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$66,438	\$66,438
Budget	\$68,972	\$68,972
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$18,294	\$18,294
Budget	\$886	\$886

January was a 5 - week revenue month for Open Arms.

On Saturday night, **March 9th** before going to bed remember to turn your clocks ahead (spring ahead!) one hour.



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:	Deb Evans
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

2024 Youth Group Officers:

President: Nina Wahl
 Vice-President: Danny Wahl
 Secretary: Natalie Church
 Treasurer: Megan Church & Mackenzie Sandman



March Calendar of Events

Mar. 3 9:00 am Youth Group
 Mar. 4 6:30 pm Parish Planning
 Mar. 6 7:45 PM Elders
 Mar. 9 7:30 am Kings Men Breakfast
 Mar. 10 11:30 am LWML Meeting
 Mar. 26 6:30 pm Men's Night Out
 Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Bridge
 Every Wed. until March 20th.
 5-5:30 pm Handbells
 5:30-6:30 pm Lenten Supper
 7:00 pm Lenten Services



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.**

Wednesday 7:00 PM Lenten Services

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