



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 37 Issue 5

May 2025

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

What Does Jesus Look Like?

Little Mary was working away in art class. Asked by the teacher what she was drawing, she replied that it was a picture of God. The teacher replied, "Mary, no one knows what God looks like." "You will when I get finished", Mary eagerly replied.

Easter calls us to look beyond what we see, beyond the "impossibility" of the empty tomb. How often have our earthly eyes only seen what we wanted to see, and as a result we made no difference in the lives of those around us. Like the women who went to the tomb, we are sometimes afraid of what is different, of what is new. Easter tells us: do not be afraid. The Risen Christ is not a memory. His presence is always with us.

As Jesus meets us, He also sends us to one another -- "go to my disciples". Easter calls us to recommit ourselves to putting a face on God's love as we live out the paschal mystery -the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in our daily life.

As your pastor and fellow member of the faith here at King of Kings I am constantly amazed and inspired by the way we are able to display our Lord's hands and heart. Thanks to each of you who do so many things to help our family and ministry run smoothly. I know I should not mention individual names, but I am tempted. You know who you are and what you do, even when I and others sometimes forget. "Thank you" for such a great family of faith to miss when we are not able to see each face to face.

The Easter mystery tells us that Jesus has been transformed but is still with us. And not only is He still with us, but through His Spirit working through us. To believe in the risen Christ is to be open, to be different. The Easter mystery transformed the disciples from men and women of despair to people of hope; from people of fear to men and women of courage; they went from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy. The angel told the women to go and share the "good news" - He is not here, He has risen. Our call too is to go and BE the good news, to be hope for one another and the world around us.

With this Easter joy we recommit ourselves to "Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!" through the use of God's resources entrusted to our care for His glory.

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:



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
15/Psalms 57-60
16/Proverbs 1-3
17/Proverbs 4-6
18/Proverbs 7-9
19/Proverbs 10-12
20/Proverbs 13-15
21/Proverbs 16-18
22/Proverbs 19-21
23/Proverbs 22-24

24/Psalms 61-64
25/Proverbs 25-27
26/Proverbs 28-31
27/Song of Solomon 1-4
28/Song of Solomon 5-8
29/Ecclesiastes 1-3
30/Ecclesiastes 4-6
31/Ecclesiastes 7-9

JUNE

1/Ecclesiastes 10-12
2/Psalms 65-68
3/1 Kings 5-7
4/1 Kings 8-10
5/1 Kings 11-13
6/1 Kings 14-16
7/1 Kings 17-19
8/1 Kings 20-22
9/2 Kings 1-3
10/2 Kings 4-6
11/Psalms 69-72
12/2 Kings 7-9
13/2 Kings 10-12

14/2 Chronicles 2-4
15/2 Chronicles 5-7
16/2 Chronicles 8-10
17/2 Chronicles 11-13
18/2 Chronicles 14-16
19/2 Chronicles 17-19
20/Psalms 73-76
21/2 Chronicles 20-22
22/Obadiah 1-21
2 Chronicles 23-24
23/Joel 1-3
24/2 Kings 13, 14
2 Chronicles 25
25/Jonah 1-4
26/2 Kings 15
2 Chronicles 26
27/Amos 1-5
28/Amos 6-9
29/2 Kings 16, 17
2 Chronicles 27
30/Psalms 77-80

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

Thank you very much for your gifts of \$195.45 & \$240.43 to support the mission of Metro Lutheran Ministry. We are blessed by your generosity & desire to help the people who turn to us when they have nowhere else to go.”

Scott Cooper, Executive Director
Metro Lutheran Ministry

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$25.00 is coming in the next few days to King of Kings. We hope this gift on behalf of Thrivent Choice[®] helps to further support your important work. Thrivent clients directing Thrivent Choice Dollars[®] are:

Kathleen L Berry, Michael Wallen, & Richard D Webber

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



“Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those we serve with your faithful gifts during the first quarter of 2025. Total received was \$761.26. With your help we were able to distribute 5,775 diapers/pull-ups, utility assistance, served a average of 209 individual per month at food pantry, hand out 13 birthday kits, and find car seats and a double stroller for a teen mom who delivered twins early.”

Thank you for your continued support to share God’s love,
Pastor Phil Cook, Executive Director, LUMA

“Thank you so much for your generous check! What a huge blessing for us. It came exactly at the right time! We were in the process of re-vamping our book program and it allowed us to setup two additional stations to check in books. Thank you so very much. We really appreciate your kindness.”

With Gratitude
Kari Wiegers, Hands to Hearts



Lutheran Laymen's League - The Kings Men

The men met this month on the 12th of April for the group's breakfast and bible study (Leviticus 16 "When One Goat is Just Not Enough").

Noah's Bandage Drive was another success this year and we would like to thank everyone for their kind donations for the Children's Mercy Hospital kids. Final tally this year, 160 boxes of bandages. I have contacted Julie and have confirmed delivery of the donated bandages.



NOAH'S BANDAGE PROJECT
It's so much more than a bandage...



Some of the men have continued to volunteer with the painting of the classrooms and continue to appreciate Bob's leadership on this effort to tackle this task. Only two classrooms remaining, almost done!

If others would like to volunteer and help paint, please let Connie know to help with planning and communication as Bob won't be able to make it this weekend but we would still like to paint a room in Bob's absence to continue progress.

The men will be holding a fundraiser (donations for the Mullen family), cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch on 4/27. Don't miss out, might be the last opportunity to volunteer and serve or cook with Mark.

Shout out to Paul Anderson for taking care of the holiday flags with the support of our Kiwanis Club friends. Updates to come on having a Honey Sunday later this year to support the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. The men will be discussing detailed plans next month to support both the June KOK craft show and the Paola craft show in August. The men met for their monthly Men's Night Out dinner at J's BBQ (aka Johnny's BBQ on Old 56 Hwy) on April 24th (Fourth Thursday at 6:00pm). In May we will meet on the 22nd at El Luchador in Gardner for fellowship and dinner.

Please reference the LLL bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for the latest events and information

Brian Blank



**King of Kings
Lutheran Church**

Summer

**Craft &
Vendor Show**

**June 7th,
9am-2pm**

**306 E Madison St,
Gardner, KS**

Over 50 crafters, inside and outside

Crafters Wanted!

This Sale is to benefit LERT.
Contact Cindy Mead 859-576-1891 or cindymead63@gmail.com
if you want more info or to sign up for a table or booth.



Lutheran Women Missionary League - LWML

It was truly a wonderful Lenten season with the guidance of our Pastor Dan, the drama team, our family dinners, and praises to our Savior Jesus Christ.

We are moving up our LWML meeting to Sunday, May 4th at 11:30 am. Our normal meeting is on the second Sunday but that is Mother's Day and many of our members are mothers! It will be a short meeting but we need to vote on some National LWML missions and we tabled that from our last meeting.

Pat Hymer took our 60 quilts to the zone meeting in April. Our friend at Our Savior will be taking them to all local places. We have a wonderful group of ladies that faithfully come and tie them. If you are free on Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM, please join us.

Christ has risen, Alleluia

Your friend in Christ,
Judy Anderson



Save the date!!!!
Mark your calendar!!!!
Volunteer to be part of the fun. Contact
Tana Melancon 913-522-2648

VBS - Vacation Bible School
July 7 - 11, 2025
6:15 - 8:00 PM



**Volunteers are needed in several areas of
the church.**

No experience necessary.

We will train you.

Have fun and enhance your worship experience by working in the **AV booth**. Volunteers especially needed at the **10:30 service**. Dale Melancon will show you what needs to be done during the service, contact him if interested.

Serve as an **usher or lector**. A lector reads the Bible readings each Sunday. An usher hands out bulletins and guides people to the communion rail, among other duties.

Is your son or daughter in 5th grade or above? We need **acolytes** for both services. We will train you.

Contact the church office at 913-856-2500 or e-mail us at secretary@kingofkingsks.org. if you are available to help.

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Baptized	597	593
Confirmed	379	375
Family Units	262	261
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
March (Avg.) *in-house & virtual	168.2*	179.75*
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$27,877	\$71,371
Budget	\$26,854	\$80,562
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$25,924	\$71,663
Budget	\$26,827	\$80,481
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$1,953	(\$292)
Budget	\$27	\$81

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$97,436	\$250,654
Budget	\$85,249	\$255,747
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$97,049	\$249,116
Budget	\$81,912	\$245,736
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$387	\$1,538
Budget	\$3,337	\$10,011

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, Penni Blank,
 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



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

Please continue to remember the Gardner/Edgerton Food Pantry with your donations.

Non-perishable food items are always needed: canned fruit, beans, either canned or dried, canned soups, vegetables, cereal, basics like flour, sugar, shortening, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix, packaged dinners, etc.

They can also use personal care items: toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels,, laundry soap, hand soap, dish soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, shampoo, etc.

Thank you for helping the needy in our community.



**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.**

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
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Paul Helmer, Pastor Emeritus
Paul Hoppe, Pastor Emeritus
William Postel, Pastor Emeritus
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