



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 39 Issue 8

August 2026

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Galatians 6:14NRSV)

St. Paul has a way of keeping things in perspective. Throughout his life he experienced times of peace and pleasure and those times of pressure and pain. And yet, through his transformation and incredible ministry one phrase kept him balanced. “It’s not about me, it’s about our Lord Jesus, and Him crucified!”

What a balance this phrase gives us. Each of us stands on level ground under the cross. Called and cleansed, we are challenged to “pick up our cross, and follow Him.” This reminds me of the story of the lady complaining to Jesus about the cross she bears. In a dream Jesus takes her to heaven and allows her to put down her cross and choose a new one. In the vast storehouse of crosses she sees thousands of crosses in every shape, size and material. Finally after searching for what seemed days she picks one out. Smiling, Jesus says, “My child, that is the cross you came here with.”

In our lives we may not always be able to pick our crosses, but we have our Savior’s promise to be with us every step of the way as we follow His Word on our journey of faith. Through life we have mountaintop celebrations and the more somber valley trails. Still, with each step, each new turn our Savior is joyfully and patiently walking with us (and at times carrying us in His arms.)

I encourage you to take time out of the daily routine and look around your house or office. Do you see any crosses. Where did they come from? Who gave them to you? What experiences come to mind? Next time you come to church, pause at the cross wall. Talk to Jesus about your memories in thanks and praise for those crosses and the victory they represent. With God’s grace and guidance may they be a constant reminder to you as the cross was to St. Paul. Each of our journeys begin and end at the cross, the empty cross of our Risen Lord!

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 two months readings.



AUGUST

1/Nahum 1-3
2/2 Kings 21
2 Chronicles 33
3/2 Kings 22 & 23
4/2 Chronicles 34 & 35
5/Zephaniah 1-3
6/Habakkuk 1-3
7/Jeremiah 1-3
8/Jeremiah 4-6
9/Psalms 93-96
10/Jeremiah 7-9
11/Jeremiah 10-12
12/Jeremiah 13-15
13/Jeremiah 16-18
14/Jeremiah 19-21
15/Jeremiah 22-24
16/Jeremiah 25-27
17/Jeremiah 28-30
18/Jeremiah 31-33
19/Psalms 97-100
20/Jeremiah 34-36
21/Jeremiah 37-39
22/Jeremiah 40-42

23/Jeremiah 43-46
24/Jeremiah 47-49
25/Jeremiah 50-52
26/2 Kings 24 & 25
2 Chronicles 36
27/Lamentations 1-5
28/Psalms 101-104
29/Ezekiel 1-3
30/Ezekiel 4-6
31/Ezekiel 7-9

SEPTEMBER

1/Ezekiel 10-12
2/Ezekiel 13-15
3/Ezekiel 16-18
4/Ezekiel 19-21
5/Ezekiel 22-24
6/Ezekiel 25-27
7/Ezekiel 28-30
8/Psalms 105-108
9/Ezekiel 31-33
10/Ezekiel 34-36
11/Ezekiel 37-39
12/Ezekiel 40-42

13/Ezekiel 43-45
14/Ezekiel 46-48
15/Daniel 1-3
16/Daniel 4-6
17/Daniel 7-9
18/Daniel 10-12
19/Psalms 109-113
20/Ezra 1-3
21/Ezra 4-6
22/Haggai 1-2
Zechariah 1-2
23/Zechariah 3-6
24/Zechariah 7-10
25/Zechariah 11-14
26/Esther 1-3
27/Esther 4-6
28/Esther 7-10
29/Psalms 114-118
30/Ezra 7-10



**Saturday
August 8th
9:00 AM**

There will be tasks inside and out, so please join us. Many hands make light work!



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Sunday, August 9th Immediately following service

Agenda items include quarterly reports from the Ministry Teams, and potentially two items of new business: (1) review and approval of amended Bylaws and Constitution, and (2) update on the status of the call process.

These are important matters, so please plan to stay and attend this meeting.



Confirmation Classes will begin again on Sunday, August 16th at 9:20 AM for all 7th & 8th grade boys and girls. If you have a child or know of a child entering 7th or 8th grade who was not in last year's class, please let Pastor Dan know at 856-2500.

This year the confirmation class will study
"Enduring Faith - Apologetics"

This course will enrich student's biblical knowledge and assist in defending their faith.

An orientation meeting for the parents will be
Wednesday, August 12th at 6:30 PM.

I would like to give a special thank you to Greg Gartner, Richard Ahrens, Brian Blank, Bob Lowe and John Kirgan for their willing help on Saturday, July 25. My backyard neighbors are struggling with life right now and have not been able to maintain their backyard. It had grown to a "jungle" as Bob called it. In an hour and a half these guys had made the yard look so much better again. They did it in the heat and so willingly and joyfully! I saw the hands of God at work that morning! Thank you so much!

Carolyn Hoppe



THANK YOU!

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$211.00 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:

Neal Brockschmidt

Philip Gehrt

Kimberly Hayes

Michael Wallen

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

On behalf of Kansans for Life, our hearts are full! Your total generous \$805.00 donation was received on 07/15/2026. Thank you to each and every one of you who helped with this year's Kansans for Life (KFL) Baby Bottle Project. By sharing your time, talents, and treasure with us, you have directly benefitted KFL's educational initiatives and pregnancy resource center recipients across the state!
Kansans For Life

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those we serve with your faithful gifts. We have received donations of \$1,034.46 from April—June 2026. Thank you for your continued support to share God's love.

Pastor Phil Cook

Executive Director, LUMA



Our Saviour Lutheran Church Centennial Celebration

September 25-27, 2026

4153 Rainbow Blvd Kansas City, KS 66103 Ph: 913-236-6228

Visit www.oskc.org and look for the Upcoming Event banner that links you to info about Fri.-Sat events (open house, service of hymns and prayer, banquet) and Sunday's 10am worship service. You can enter your contact info via an RSVP button. The church will do a summer mailing that includes a banquet reservation form and several commemorative items available for sale.

Former members, former Preschool and K-8 school students, as well as congregation friends are encouraged to attend.

Giving God the glory for 100+ years of worship, ministry and service in our neighborhood.



Lutheran Laymen's League- KINGS MEN

The men's group would like to remind everyone we'll be resuming our monthly (2nd Saturday) breakfast and bible study this month on Saturday the 8th of August, at 7:30am.

Also Men's Night Out will be on Thursday, August 27th at Fronteras at 6:00pm.

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

God Bless,
Brian Blank



Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML)

It seems like it's been so long since our last meeting and looking at the calendar it has been a long time. What a very busy life we all have. The entire congregation helped out with Pat's luncheon after the service. Rachel planned the menu, Pastor picked up the items for our ladies to serve, the youth setup tables, many of our ladies cooked and made desserts. We served 120 people and sent the leftovers to two family homes.

We are meeting on Saturday, August 9 at 8:00am in the new addition. Ladies we need your help to continue to have a LWML group. Missions are our goal. We need a new secretary for our meetings. Our dear Pat has left a very big hole for us to fill. She truly will be missed, praise the Lord she is at rest. Also, besides the fellowship we share we get to know each another better and still do God's work. If some of you can put a breakfast together that would be surely appreciated.

We will talk about our annual picnic and start putting dates and ideas together. We used the lawn at church for the gathering and that worked out very well, that is usually done in September.

Our quilting group will resume on Thursday, August 6 at 9-12noon. Hopefully, we will get a nice show of our ladies that have been so loyal in helping this mission.

Also, we will need to decide what missions we are going to do in memory of our dear friend Pat Hymer.

Your sister in Christ,
Judy



As the summer is winding down and the kids are getting ready to head back to school, the KoK Youth is looking ahead to fall activities. We are planning to host a back to school celebration, a movie night in the church lawn, a community raffle fundraiser and more. Please stay tuned for details to come.

Thanks to those who helped make our Music Bingo night a success in July! We look forward to enjoying God's blessings with you all!

Grace and Peace,

Penni Blank



The following individuals have been appointed to serve on the Call Committee on behalf of King of Kings, as specified in the bylaws:

Richard Ahrens - Elders

Greg Enserro - Elders

Penni Blank - Planning Council

Paul Anderson - at large

Kevin Kufeldt - at large

Lisa Poppe - at large

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Baptized	603	597
Confirmed	385	382
Family Units	267	262
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
June (Avg) *in-house & virtual	140	147
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Actual	\$21,754	\$172,954
Budget	\$28,500	\$0
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$19,698	\$144,927
Budget	\$28,097	\$0
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$2,056	\$28,027
Budget	\$403	\$0

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$85,810	\$453,158
Budget	\$84,200	\$0
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$96,408	\$518,062
Budget	\$83,961	\$0
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$10,598)	(\$64,904)
Budget	\$239	\$0

Our revenue went up \$13,000, but expenses were up which included the waxing of the floors and July's mortgage payment which went out the end of June. Those two totaled a little over \$9,000. 9 new kids starting in August!

King of King's Elected 2026 Officers/Parish Planning Committee

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Phil Gehrt
President – Elect:	Rick Hughey
Treasurer:	Dale Melancon
Support/Admin. Leader:	Sharlot Ahrens
Worship Ministry Leader:	Pam Gartner
Youth Ministry Leader:	Penni Blank
Family Ministry Leader:	Tana Melancon
Head Elder:	Allen Snyder
Open Arms Director:	Shonda Williams

Open Arms Team

Team Leader: Erin Schrepel
Team Members: Melissa Berens, Pam Enserro,
Heather Petit, and Cary Prothe

Board of Mission Directors

Pastor:	Dan Wehmeier
President:	Phil Gehrt
President– Elect:	Rick Hughey
Support/Admin. Leader:	Sharlot Ahrens
Head Elder:	Allen Snyder
Open Arms Administrator:	Shonda Williams
Open Arms Team Leader:	Erin Schrepel

2026 Elders:

Allen Snyder (Head Elder), Richard Ahrens,
Ryan Berens, Ryan Church, Greg Enserro,
Greg Gartner, John Klein, Kevin Kufeldt, Dale
Melancon, Chadd Schrepel, and Dan Wahl



Touch a Truck

August 30th 12-3 pm

Sign up sheets will be coming
out soon!





young hearts and minds.

As we begin this new school year, our hearts are filled with gratitude and anticipation for all that God has in store for Open Arms. We pray that His blessings will be evident in every classroom, every child, every family and every staff member as we parter together to share His love and nurture

We want to remind everyone that we have three "specials" that our kiddos participate in. Tuesday's will be Stretch N Grow, Wednesday's will be Chapel and on Thursday's will be music class.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Grandparents Tea September 11th! If there is anyone from church who would like to be a substitute Grandparent for a child, please let the church office know.

This year we have a special visitor coming. Jo Ho the Storyteller is a favorite of staff and children alike! She is going to have a special grandparent's story time during our tea. We will also have our 1-55 bookfair going on. The kids are excited to share their school with their grandparents!

OPEN ARMS WISHLIST

Drop your donations off in the teal bucket outside the
church office

- Baby wipes
- Clorox wipes
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper
- Bingo daubers
- Crayons
- Markers
- Printer Paper
- Pens and Sharpies
- Kleenex
- Tape

Check out our Amazon Wish List for more items!



Openings
Enroll Today, Spots are Limited

Infants
Preschool
Pre-K

We're Hiring!

Two-Year Old Co-Teacher
Part-Time Teacher 3:00pm—6:00pm
Full-Time Closer 10:00am—6:00pm

August Calendar of Events

August 4 6:30 PM Parish Planning Meeting
August 5 6:40 PM Elders Meeting
August 8 7:30 AM LLL Men's Breakfast
8:00 AM LWML Meeting
9:00 AM Church Cleanup
August 9 10:30 AM Congregational Meeting
August 10 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study @ Church
August 12 6:30 PM Parent's Meeting for
Confirmation
August 13 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study
@ Fronteras
August 16 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting
August 20 6:00 PM Open Arms Team Meeting
August 24 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study @ Perkins
August 27 6:00 PM Men's Night Out @ Fronteras
August 30 12:00 PM Touch a Truck

Every Tuesday 1:30 PM Bridge
Every Wednesday 9:30 AM Chapel for Open Arms
Every Thursday 9:00 AM Quilting

Summer Worship Schedule

Last Sunday is August 9th

****Extended to help out with a guest Pastor
& Sunday School****

8:30am Adult Bible
Class
9:00am Fellowship
Time
9:30am Worship
Service
with
Communion



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

King of Kings Lutheran Church
306 East Madison
P.O. Box 364
Gardner KS 66030-0364
Daniel Wehmeier, Pastor
Paul Helmer, Pastor Emeritus
William Postel, Pastor Emeritus
Phone: 913-856-2500
Email: info@kingofkingsks.org
Open Arms Lutheran Child Dev. Ctr.
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Phone: 913-856-4250