



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 38 Issue 11

December 2025

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

As the days become shorter and the air colder, many of us begin the joyful work of dusting off the storage boxes and unpacking the decorations in preparation for Christmas. We also begin the process at our faith home in preparation for the Hanging of the Greens service and Christmas season and services.

The season of Advent is also a time of preparation—preparation not only for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, but for His coming again in glory. Advent invites us to slow down and lift our eyes to the promises of God as we prepare our hearts for the Lord who comes to save.

This year, our Advent sermon series and annual children's service will reflect on several familiar Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ more clearly. These simple objects, cherished in our homes and sanctuaries, can point us back to the deeper meaning of the season and the hope we have in Jesus.

Evergreens remind us of the everlasting life Christ brings, a life that does not fade.

Lights draw our attention to the true Light of the world who shines through the darkness of sin and daily life.

The Crèche (the Nativity scene) places before us the miracle of God made flesh.

Presents encourage us to remember the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ, given for the salvation of the world.

As we journey through Advent together, may these symbols enrich our worship, deepen our reflection, and fill us with renewed wonder at the love of God revealed in His Son. Let us prepare our hearts and homes with joy, for the Lord has come and is coming!

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. 16



DECEMBER

1/Romans 5-8
2/Romans 9-12
3/Romans 13-16
4/Acts 20-22
5/Acts 23-25
6/Acts 26-28
7/Psalms 140-143
8/Ephesians 1-3
9/Ephesians 4-6
10/Philippians 1-4
11/Colossians 1-4
12/Philemon
13/1 Timothy 4-6
14/Titus 1-3
15/1 Peter 1-4
16/1 Peter 5
 2 Peter 1-3
17/Psalms 144-147
18/2 Timothy 1-4
19/Hebrews 1-4
20/Hebrews 5-7
21/Hebrews 8-19
22/Hebrews 11-13

23/1 John 1-3
24/1 John 4-5
 2 & 3 John
25/Revelation 1-4
26/Revelation 5-8
27/Psalms 148-150
28/Revelation 9-12
29/Revelation 13-16
30/Revelation 17-19
31/Revelation 20-22

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



The Giving Tree

Did you notice the very special tree just outside the sanctuary in the fellowship area?

It is a tree of love and sharing, the “**Giving Tree**”. On each paper ornament will be an item needed to stock the MLM Christmas Store. The Christmas Store serves over 900 families in need in the KC Metro area.

Please take a gift tag and bring back your **unwrapped** gift to the church by **Sunday, December 7th** and place it beneath the tree. You do not have to return the tags.

Please remove the price tags from the item.

Please donate only items on the gift tags. All gifts will be taken down to the Christmas Store after the 10:30 service on December 7th
Thank you.



Sunday, Dec. 7th @ 2pm

LWML Christmas Party

**Bring your favorite
appetizer or dessert**



Make a Joyful Noise!

We are still looking for some more Ringers and Singers. If you would like to participate in either choir, we would welcome new musicians. Bells practice at 5:30pm and Choir at 6:30pm on Wednesdays but are not every week. See the calendar at the end of the newsletter for the next rehearsal dates. Come as you are, when you can. All musical levels are welcome! For more info please reach out to Kody@Willnauermusicworks.com or the church office. Thank you for sharing your talents!



Lutheran Early Response Team- LERT

It has been fairly quiet for LERT this past month. We have a basic training at Trinity Lutheran Church in Atchison, KS, Saturday, December 7th. If interested, go to www.lcms-lert.org then click on the Training & Deployments section. You should see the event and can register from there.

Dale Melancon



Don't forget the less fortunate; donate nonperishable food, paper products and cleaning supplies to The Hope Market. Items they are currently needing: Flour, Sugar, Chicken Broth, Canned Fruit, Stuffing, Graham Crackers, Canned Chili, Spaghetti sauce, Ramen noodles, Soups, SpaghettiOs, Baking mixes such as pancake, muffin, brownie, and cake. The donation box is in the hall across from the church office. Thank you to Kim Hayes for dropping our donations off to them.

In November we donated a total of 238 lbs!

The quilting group is looking for good condition used sheets, fitted or regular, to use for backing of the quilts. They can be any color or size. They can be dropped off at the church office, or you can reach out to Pat Hymer. Also, there was a lady who had called Pat regarding fabric and batting, and she is needing you to reach back out.



THANK YOU!

I am very grateful to have such a wonderful church family. All of your prayers and help throughout this time has been a blessing. Thank you to all the ladies of LWML; the luncheon was great.

Helen Klemp

I appreciate everyone that supported my project of putting small hygiene items together for the homeless. Most of the hotels are putting in permanent dispensers so the small sizes are no longer available, so I will not be putting the bags together anymore. Thank you again!

Judy Anderson

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$88.00 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:

Kimberly Hayes

Charlene Helmer

Richard Hughey

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



Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML)-

What a busy month we have had. We ladies did luncheons for two funerals and the Thanksgiving dinner. Of course, we must thank the youth group for setting up and everyone for putting the tables and chairs back in storage. Besides the luncheons, we were busy with the craft sale. Thank you so much for all the people that helped us out by bringing things in to sell, the baked items and supporting our quilt raffle and silent auction. Carol Borgstahl won the large quilt! Our very own Sandy Gould made the quilt. Also, the baseball quilt was won by Judy Anderson and the Ice cream machine was won by Kathleen Berry. This was the first year that we sold casseroles and they were truly supported by our congregation. We owe Rachel Wehmeier a big 'THANK YOU' for all the work that went into making all those casseroles! We deposited \$1988.40 from the casserole, craft and raffle sales this year. Of course, we have outstanding expenses that come out of that deposit, but we are just delighted and want the congregation to know how much we appreciated their support for the missions that we do every year.

We will be having our annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 7th at 2:00pm. Please bring your favorite appetizer for us all to share. We are setting up everything in the new addition. Please come and visit with all our friends here at King of Kings. It's a nice time to get together with ladies from both services.

Pat Hymer and I were talking about quilting, and we will let you know how much we are going to be working in December by emails.

Yours in Christ,
Judy Anderson-President



Lutheran Laymen's League- KINGS MEN

Reminder the next meeting is 7:30am, December 13th @ The Big Biscuit in Olathe.

The Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch audited our order and discovered 11 members had orders that had not been fulfilled. If you still have not received your order, please contact Brian Blank, and he will follow up.

The group met for breakfast on November 8th. Various local charities and needs discussed along with donations voted on and approved after a review of the budget.

The men donated to the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL).

A generous canned food donation was made locally to The Hope Market.

Follow up is still underway with an emergency response plan and action taken to work with the local police department and others to schedule training for various groups. More to come.

The December Men's night out dinner at Tumbleweed has been moved to Austin's due to Tumbleweed's fire. It has been moved up a week to the 3rd Thursday (18th) at 6:00pm.

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

God Bless,
Brian Blank

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Baptized	603	598
Confirmed	385	380
Family Units	266	263
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Oct. (Avg) *in-house & virtual	146	151
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$19,207	\$255,914
Budget	\$26,854	\$268,540
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$25,058	\$254,205
Budget	\$26,827	\$268,270
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$5,851)	\$1709
Budget	\$27	\$270

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$71,105	\$807,452
Budget	\$85,249	\$852,490
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$77,073	\$810,193
Budget	\$81,912	\$819,120
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$5,968)	(\$2,741)
Budget	\$3,337	\$33,370

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, Kevin Kufeldt, Dale
Melancon, Chadd Schrepel, and
Roger Zimmerman



**Sunday
December 7th
9:20 am**



In November, we didn't have a lot going on, but we are gearing up for lots of events in December. Thank you to those youth who helped set up for the Thanksgiving dinner and for those who decorated the church for Christmas. We will have our Christmas party on December 7th, where we'll tackle an escape room, then have dinner together and do our Secret Santa exchange. December 14th we'll have holiday music bingo with a pasta bar, so join us for a fun afternoon/evening with great food and prizes. The end of the month on the 21st we're having a lock-in here at Church from 5pm Sunday night til 9am Monday morning. Should be a fun night full of games, movies, and fun. Bring your favorite drink and snack to share. 6th grade and up are invited, so please let Kim Hayes know if you're interested.



This past November has been a quiet month here at Open Arms full of blessings and thanksgiving! We have been preparing, and still are, for our Christmas program. The program is Thursday, December 11th at 7pm, with cookies and treats to follow in the gym. We would love to have you join us to see all our hard work.

We currently are collecting nonperishable food donations until December 19th. Then we will be taking the food to The Hope Market.

There is lots to look forward to this month with Holiday breaks and New Years just around the corner. We are also hiring here at Open Arms. We are looking for teachers with early childhood backgrounds and a part time cook! If you know anyone who is interested, please reach out to our office staff for more information.



KING OF KINGS YOUTH GROUP'S CHRISTMAS MUSIC BINGO

Night

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

START AT 4PM

**At King of Kings Lutheran Church
306 E Madison St. Gardner, KS**

**\$10 per person, Pasta Bar
provided by the King of Kings
Youth Group**



December Calendar of Events

December 1 6:30 PM Parish Planning Meeting
December 7 2:00 PM LWML Christmas Party
5:00 PM Youth Group Christmas Party
December 8 5:30 PM Bible Study at Church
December 10 5:30 PM Kings Ringers
6:30 PM Kings Singers
6:30 PM Elder Meeting
December 11 7:00 PM Open Arms Christmas Program
December 13 7:30 AM LLL Men's Breakfast @
Big Biscuit
December 14 4:00 PM Music Bingo & Pasta Bar
December 16 6:00 PM Open Arms Team Meeting
December 18 6:00 PM Men's Night Out @ Austins
December 21 5:00 PM Youth Lock-in
December 23 5:30 PM Kings Ringers
6:30 PM Kings Singers
December 24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
December 25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service

Every Tuesday 1:30 PM Bridge—NO Bridge 12/23
Every Wednesday 9:30 AM Chapel for Open Arms
Every Thursday 9:00 AM Quilters



**CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 & 7:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
WORSHIP & COMMUNION
10:00 AM**



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

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Gardner KS 66030-0364
Daniel Wehmeier, Pastor
Paul Helmer, Pastor Emeritus
William Postel, Pastor Emeritus
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Open Arms Lutheran Child Dev. Ctr.
Email: openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org
Phone: 913-856-4250**