



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 39 Issue 7

July 2026

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Independence Through Dependence

This month our nation celebrates 250 years of independence from political tyranny. We pride ourselves as a nation full of self-reliance. We take time out of our work week to enjoy the blessings of a country founded on individual freedom and individual choice.

But as Christians we celebrate more than national independence. We know that independence can only come from dependence. We are dependent upon our heavenly Father who created us and continues to grant us the gifts of home and health, food and family. We are dependent upon our Savior, Jesus Christ, who saves us from the consequences of our sins through His death on a cross and resurrection. We are dependent upon our Guide, the Holy Spirit, who enables us to accept dependence through faith and equips us for living in response to God's love.

It is through dependence upon God and each other that we find individual and community freedom. At King of Kings we are independent from government and church hierarchy. We choose how to use the resources we share in service and thankfulness to God's blessings. We are, however, totally dependent on God's direction and guidance as we allocate our resources according to His will and Word.

In celebration of independence each of us are free to choose how and where we want to use the time, talents, and treasures God places in our care. In celebration of dependence upon God's care we work together to share the Gospel news. We are dependent upon each other to use our resources in harmony in order to "Bring the Light of Christ to our Neighbor." We are dependent upon each other to strengthen and support the many ministry opportunities we have at King of Kings. Let's continue to celebrate our independence of sin and Satan through dependence upon Christ and working together in His Church.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan
2 Peter 3:18

P.S. Before leaving for vacation be sure to call the church office for church locations where you are traveling. We can give you the names, addresses, and service times of sister congregations. Or, you can find them on the internet at LCMS.org Pick up an extra bulletin for me as well.

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.



JULY

1/2 Chronicles 28
Hosea 1-3
2/Hosea 4-7
3/Hosea 8-10
4/Hosea 11-14
5/2 Kings 18-20
6/2 Chronicles 29-30
7/2 Chronicles 31-32
8/Isaiah 1-3
9/Isaiah 4-7
10/Psalms 81-84
11/Isaiah 8-10
12/Isaiah 11-14
13/Isaiah 15-17
14/Isaiah 18-21
15/Isaiah 22-24
16/Isaiah 25-28
17/Isaiah 29-31
18/Isaiah 32-35
19/Isaiah 36-38
20/Psalms 85-88

21/Isaiah 39-42
22/Isaiah 43-45
23/Isaiah 46-49
24/Isaiah 50-52
25/Isaiah 53-56
26/Isaiah 57-59
27/Isaiah 60-63
28/Isaiah 64-66
29/Psalms 89-92
30/Micah 1-4
31/Micah 5-7

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



VBS 2026 was held June 8-11. The sanctuary and rooms of church were transformed into an amazing Rainforest, thanks in LARGE part to the creative talents of Pam Enserro. Thank you so much Pam for your talent and time in bringing the rainforest to life. Thank you, Greg Enserro, for putting up and taking down the lawn sign, making a JEEP and the many things you did to help Pam make amazing things for everyone to enjoy at VBS. We had 49 children registered and while they did not all attend every day, we were thankful for the joy and laughter they brought to each of us on the days they were there. Thank you to our congregation members for supporting our craft projects and snacks for the week. Some awesome crafts were made and yummy snack filled tummies! Our offering for VBS week was directed to SAFEHOME. We collected pillows, twin sheet sets, hygiene items and \$312.50. Such a beautiful blessing to give them! Thank you Allen Snyder for delivering or offering items to SAFEHOME. VBS also happens because members show up to help. Thank you to the following who came to a meeting the week before so we all knew the ropes, showed up each night with smiles on and hearts open to share the love of Jesus with the children entrusted to our care. Connie Walling, Pat Hymer, Shayla Mullin, Heather Petit, Debbie Evans, Abby McGarr, Pastor Dan, Shanna Cannaley, Katie Doroh, Chris Lehl, Drake Kufeldt, Darian Beard, Nina Wahl, Makenzie Blank, Rick & Peggy Hughey, Sophia Doroh, Gabby Doroh, Penni Blank, Brecken Blank, Callie Schrepel, Melissa & Lorelei Berens, Christen Sola, Maria Kipper, Judy Anderson, Erin Schrepel, Shar Petit and Dana Snyder. Thank you for a great week, your prayers and support to bring VBS to life!!

Rachel Wehmeier

**Come Have Fun out of
the Sun!**



**King of Kings Youth Group's
Summer Bingo Night
July 19 from 4-6pm @
King of Kings Church
306 E Madison St.
Gardner, KS
\$10 per person, meal
included.**



THANK YOU!

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$324.00 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:

Jean Germer

Charlene Helmer

Paul Helmer

Richard Hughey

Mark Trivilino

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



Olathe Pointe Chick-fil-A

Thursday, July 16, 2026

5 - 8 p.m.

Come Support Kansas LLL and
20% of sales will be donated.

Kansas Lutheran Laymen's League Community Care Event

Please come out to support the Kansas LLL
District Project which provides financial
assistance for future church workers.

Mention Kansas LLL when you order
in-person or by the app.



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 Women Missionary League (LWML)

Our Lutheran women in mission group is on summer break from meetings and will meet back up on August 8 at 7:30 am with breakfast and a meeting. We had planned on hosting a First Responders BBQ in June, but postponed this until the fall, September. The quilting ladies have made beautiful quilts over the first 6 months of this year; the quilt batting continues to be purchased for this wonderful mission. The craft/bake sale in May was a success despite the torrential rain that ensued that week and day of. We were thankful to deposit \$395 from this. Mites continue to be deposited from mite boxes, bridge club, envelopes and bags that appear in the BIG mite box in the narthex. We have sent \$283.94 to the Kansas district this year. Those pennies to dollars add up to big money for mission grants. Thank you for your help in collecting and donating your mites. We look forward to a fall casserole sale, so be on the lookout for FOUR different casseroles to be coming your way. We are tentatively planning a taste the casserole before you place your order for it. This will be coming to the narthex area of church early fall. Please join us on Saturday, August 8 for breakfast and our meeting. Help us plan our projects and events for the last 6 months of the year! Lord, help me to look for opportunities to serve others. Help me to remember that my service is actually a gift to YOU and a response to the love You have given to me. In Jesus' name. Amen



Rachel Wehmeier



Lutheran Laymen's League- KINGS MEN

The group is discussing helping out with a new timber frame for the front lawn to secure banners for various occasions.

There is no meeting in July. Next meeting is 7:30am, August 8th, and we always appreciate and welcome new faces.

There is no Men's Night Out in July. The next one will be August 27th at 6pm, location TBD.

Please reference the LLL bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for the latest events and information. We wish everyone a safe and Happy 4th of July!

God Bless,
Brian Blank



The KOK Youth are excited to be hosting the next Music Bingo on July 19th from 4-6pm. It will be summer themed with a "grill out" meal. We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks to the members who have provided Thrivent cards to help make this event happen.

If your youth in grades 7th-12th grade are interested in participating in our youth events, we meet the 1st Tuesday of the month for Youth Bible Study, the 3rd Sunday of the month for our Youth Meeting and other fun events on scheduled dates. Please reach out to Penni Blank if you'd like to be added to the Band App to receive alerts and details on upcoming events. As always, thanks to our KoK Church family for supporting our Youth.

God's Blessings,

Penni Blank

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>		
May (Avg) *in-house & virtual	161	159
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$25,381	\$151,200
Budget	\$28,500	\$0
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$27,347	\$125,229
Budget	\$28,097	\$0
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$1,966)	\$25,971
Budget	\$403	\$0

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$72,730	\$366,953
Budget	\$84,200	\$0
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$78,355	\$421,654
Budget	\$83,961	\$0
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$5,625)	(\$54,701)
Budget	\$239	\$0

We are working on enrolling more children and lowering expenses. August enrollment is looking great. We are also starting a new Mother's Day Out program 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!



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!



OPEN ARMS LUTHERAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER MOTHER'S DAY OUT

Growing, Learning, and Playing
While You Enjoy Time for Yourself

Need a few hours for yourself?

Let us provide a fun, safe, and nurturing environment for your child while you enjoy a morning to run errands, attend appointments, meet a friend for coffee, or simply recharge!

Currently it is offered once a week.



**STARTING
WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 12, 2026**



**TIME:
8:30 AM – 11:30 PM**



**AGES:
2½ – 5 YEARS OLD**



**COST:
\$140 a month per child
with a \$50 annual
registration fee.**



YOUR CHILD WILL ENJOY:



Arts & Crafts



Music & Movement



Story Time



Indoor & Outdoor Play



Socialization
with Friends



Loving Christian
Environment



WHY PARENTS LOVE MOTHER'S DAY OUT

- ♥ Time for errands and appointments
- ♥ A chance to relax and recharge
- ♥ Children build friendships and independence
- ♥ Safe, caring supervision by experienced staff

Space is Limited!

Register early to
reserve your child's spot.



(913) 856-4250

openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org

July Calendar of Events

July 2 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
July 3 Church Office Closed
July 7 5:30 PM Open Arms Team Meeting
6:30 PM Youth Group Bible Study
July 8 6:30 PM Elders Meeting
July 13 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study @ Church
July 19 10:30 AM Youth Group Meeting
4-6 PM Summer Music Bingo
July 27 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study @ Perkins

Every Tuesday 1:30 PM Bridge

Every Wednesday 9:30 AM Chapel for Open Arms

Every Thursday NO Quilting in July

Summer Worship Schedule

June 7th—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'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.

Email: openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org

Phone: 913-856-4250