



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 39 Issue 3

March 2026

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Walking the Lenten Path

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise” (Psalm 51:1-15).

We begin each Lenten Season meditating on these words of Scripture. On Ash Wednesday, we started our journey with this confessional Psalm. Then, week by week, we walk the path of disciples of every age slowly treading in the footsteps of our Savior. It is a somber journey as we reflect upon our sin and need for a Savior. It is a necessary journey as we renew our faith and fellowship with our Savior and faith family. It is a joy-filled journey as we prayerfully celebrate God’s power and purpose for my life personally and our life together in our worship and witness of our Risen Savior. Within this time of reflection and renewal let the following four “M’s” be our guide.

Lent **melts** our pride and plans as we reflect on our sin and the judgement our sin deserves.

Lent **mends** our hearts as we experience Jesus’ washing us and cleansing us through His life, death, and resurrection.

Lent **molds** our lives around God’s plan and purpose as we hear Jesus’ loving call to let go of the past, pick up our cross, and follow Him.

Lent **moves** our hearts and hands in joyful praise and service in response to God’s love displayed in Jesus willing sacrifice for His people including you and me!

The Season of Lent melts, mends, molds, moves us as we walk, with the disciples of every generation, through the garden of Gethsemane. Then, we quickly follow into the courtyards of the Temple and down the winding streets of Jerusalem. Slowly we follow up the dusty road to Golgotha. Anxiously we await the sorrow-filled turned celebration moment at the tomb. But that’s next month and next Season.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan
2 Peter 3:18

P.S. Don’t miss the “less formal” Mid-Week fellowship and family worship during Lent. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends or family to Jesus in a more “casual” setting.

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.



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



Lent is a season that calls us to repentance—to look honestly at our lives and to turn again toward the mercy of God. Marked with ashes, we are reminded that we are dust, and that apart from God we cannot give ourselves life. In this midweek series, we will reflect on the Seven Deadly Sins: pride, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust. These name not only our actions, but the deeper patterns of the heart that distort our love for God and for one another. Yet Lent is not only about naming sin; it is about turning toward grace. Each week, as we confront these sins, we will also

hear God’s call to repentance, healing, and new life in Christ. As we walk this Lenten path together, may the Spirit lead us in humility, honesty, and hope, trusting in the mercy of the God who calls us from dust and promises resurrection. Special thanks to our faithful and fun drama team Samantha Boring, Jackson Dwyer, Kevin Kufeldt, Lyle Miller, and Allison Weaver for sharing their drama skills and strengthening our faith journey.

+ 2026 Mid-Week Lenten Journey “*Salvation from the Seven*” +
(Fellowship meal served buffet style 5:30-6:30pm. Family worship 7pm)

- February 18: “*Pride*”
- February 25: “*Greed*”
- March 4: “*Wrath*”
- March 11: “*Envy*”
- March 18: “*Lust*”
- March 25: “*Gluttony*”
- April 2: “*Sloth*”
- April 3: “*‘D’ - All the Above*”

We will be doing soup, salad, and dessert for Lenten meals on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm**. There is a signup in the back of church. Please prayerfully consider helping provide for one of these meals. Our Youth Group will be helping set up, serve, and clean each of these weeks.



Don’t forget the less fortunate; donate nonperishable food, paper products and cleaning supplies to The Hope Market. Items they are currently needing: Canned black beans, kidney beans, and mixed vegetables, flour, sugar, chicken broth, canned fruit, stuffing, graham crackers, canned chili, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodles, SpaghettiOs, muffin, brownie, and cake mixes. Regular size cans work best. The donation box is in the hall across from the church office. Thank you to Kim Hayes for dropping our donations off to them.



EARLY COMMUNION WORKSHOP
Saturday, March 21st 9:00am til 12pm

This class is for youth, 5th grade or older, who are spiritually mature and interested in partaking of communion instruction before confirmation. Children must be accompanied by at least one parent. Those participating in the workshop and completing their parent-child projects will be recognized and receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd.

If you feel your child(ren) are spiritually mature, and they would like to participate, please contact Pastor Dan at 856-2500 ASAP, so we will know how many workbooks to order.

THANK YOU!

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$259.00 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:

Sharon Appel

Kathleen Berry

Jean Germer

Charlene Helmer

Paul 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.



LWML Kansas City CrossRoads Zone Spring Event

March 7, 2026

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

14700 Leavenworth Road, Basehor, KS

Registration 8:30 a.m. Registration Fee: \$5.00

A light breakfast will be served. Lunch will be sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Risen Savior will furnish the sandwiches and dessert.

Groups will bring salads. Mission Speaker to be Announced.

Gifts from the Heart: Baby supplies for Sparrow Women's Clinic in Lansing, KS. Suggested items: LUVS Diapers, Size 6, 144 Count; Pampers Swaddlers Diapers, Size 6, 108 Count; Huggies, Size 6, 108 Count; Aquaphor Baby diaper rash cream; Boudreaux's Butt Paste, maximum strength; Eucerin baby body lotion; Eucerin unscented baby body wash and shampoo; Aveeno baby moisture; Aveeno baby Gentle body wash and shampoo; Fischer-Price baby-toddler bath toys; Any Little Golden Books,, biblical themed, Lansinoh washable nursing pads.



We are looking for ideas to get training back or refresher training for some. We are looking for anyone that still wants to be the hands and feet of God during times of need or disaster. Remember, it does not take a certain age or strength or knowledge to be an asset with the LERT team. If you have ideas about training that you would like to engage in, let us know, so we can plan to get it on the calendar.

We also have some opportunities that are coming up and are looking for folks that may be able to help in these areas. Some include a new training area that we are working with to be able to do new training, advance training, or just come out and help as you can. If you have an interest or want to reestablish yourself in some great training, reach out to one of those below.

If there are any questions, please contact Bob Lowe, Brian Mead, or Dale Melancon.



Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML)

We had a delicious breakfast and meeting this month. Thank you Kathy and Debbie!! We put together 75 In The Quiet boxes for KOK and OA families, that were distributed mid February. We also discussed several other projects and activities that we all were interested in, so we will try to do one of those each month.

We served a wonderful soup and salad dinner for Ash Wednesday, and it was well attended. Thank you to those who brought food for that.

Last year, our Quilters made 226 quilts, and they are still working weekly and making more.

Our next meeting will be March 14th, at 7:30am. We are planning on marking Bibles for those who are incarcerated. We put up a sign at church for donations of Bibles. They do not need to be new, but in good, used condition. We look forward to seeing you all plus some new faces in March.



Lutheran Laymen's League- KINGS MEN

The group held breakfast and bible study on Valentine's Day

The men voted to donate to LHM

Discussion was held on the tree types and how to get members to help sponsor them.

Both old and new business items were discussed

Final reminder to pick up your wedding photos if you haven't already done so (from our Valentine's table display)

Next meeting is 7:30am, March 14th, and we always appreciate seeing some new faces.

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

God Bless,
Brian Blank



March 27th, 2026

5:30-9:30pm

Boulevard Brewery, Muehlebach Suite

2501 Southwest Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64108

Basketball, Barbeque & Beer **3B**



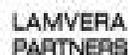
In Support of Metro Lutheran Ministry's
Food Programs

Tickets On Sale Now

www.mlmmc.org/event/3b



William G. McGowan Charitable Fund



2026

Citizens **POLICE** Academy

The **2026** Session of the Citizen's Police Academy will be held each **Tuesday** night, **March 31, 2026**, through **June 2, 2026** from **6:00-8:00pm**.

OFFICER KYLE SISSOM



communityofficer@gardnerkansas.gov



(913) 884-8541

SIGN UP TODAY!



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KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Baptized	599	597
Confirmed	381	379
Family Units	264	262
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
Jan. (Avg) *in-house & virtual	144	150
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$24,724	\$24,724
Budget	\$28,500	\$28,500
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$24,421	\$24,421
Budget	\$28,097	\$28,097
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	\$303	\$303
Budget	\$403	\$403

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$68,399	\$68,399
Budget	\$84,200	\$84,200
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$91,653	\$91,653
Budget	\$83,961	\$83,961
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$23,254)	(\$23,254)
Budget	\$239	\$239

*Expenses are higher for the month as it was a three payroll period month. Will even out as the year goes along.

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



**Remember to change your clocks on
 Saturday night, March 7th, ahead 1 hour so
 that you'll be on time for worship.**



2026 is off to a great start for our King of Kings Youth! Special thanks to those who have helped support our Youth Group by providing food items for Lenten meals and monetary donations. The Youth Group will continue to host the rest of the Lenten meals. There is a sign up in the back of the church for donations of soup, bread and desserts if you would like to participate.

The KoK Youth were able to go tubing at Snow Creek in 60 degree weather. It was a lot of fun!



As Spring approaches and you do your spring cleaning, please remember the Youth Group's annual garage sale will be taking place in May. Stay tuned for more details soon.

The Youth Group will be starting their bible study on Tuesday, March 3rd. We look forward to more time of fellowship, bible study and fun!



February may be a short month, but it sure was full of activities and lots of love. Thank you, Dads, for making donuts with dad a success; it's so fun sharing our school with our families! The kids loved Jo Ho the Story Teller, and we can't wait to have her back this summer. The kids did a great job singing at King of Kings Sunday the 22nd! We celebrated Valentines Day, Fat Tuesday, and Ash Wednesday and have a full month in March as well.

There are quite a few days to make sure you have marked on your calendars for this month. Muffins with Mom or Ladies who Love Us is coming up first, with picture day, and conferences to follow.

How are you celebrating Lent this season? Join us at King of Kings Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Dinner is provided from 5:30-6:30pm buffet style.



March Calendar of Events

March 2 5:30 PM Parish Planning Meeting
March 3 6:30 PM Youth Group Bible Study
March 4 7:45 PM Elders Meeting
March 5 5:30 PM Kings Ringers
6:30 PM Kings Singers
March 9 5:30 PM Bible Study @ Church
March 12 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
March 14 7:30 AM LLL Men's Breakfast
LWML Breakfast/Meeting
March 15 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting
March 19 6:00 PM Open Arms Team Meeting
6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
March 21 9 AM Early Communion Class
March 23 5:30 PM Bible Study @ Perkins
March 26 6:00 PM Men's Night Out @ BB's
Grill in Spring Hill
6:30 PM Women's Bible Study

Every Tuesday 1:30 PM Bridge
Every Wednesday 9:30 AM Chapel for Open Arms
5:30 PM Lenten Meal
7:00 PM Lenten Service
Every Thursday 9:00 AM Quilters



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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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