



King of Kings Lutheran Church

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor!

Volume 39 Issue 9

September 2026

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Looking Back to Look Forward

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

I bet every one of us have had the joy of “Are we there yet?” while traveling. It usually happens when hitting those needed, yet annoying, construction delays like the one currently on I-35. Somehow the joy of smooth roads and extra lanes does not out way the frustration of one entry bridge or extra stop lights for the present. Finally, out of the back seat, the question pops out, “Are we there yet?” Often, the only way to show our progress is to look back at where we had been a few moments before. The other reassuring measure is the countdown of those handy mile markers along the side of the road.

For me, the beginning of another school year is one of those “mile markers”. As we look back we can see the blessings God continues to pour into our worship, music, outreach, and educational ministries. Yes, there are still a few bumps and detours ahead (and there always will be this side of heaven). But, thanks be to God for the many faces and families that have and continue to make up our family. And, thanks be to God for the many faces and families that are joining us in the journey of “Bringing the Light of Christ to our Neighbor.”

So often our time is spent preparing for the present and planning for the future. Every once in a while we get the chance to step back and thank God and His people for the past. With the recent opportunities and discussions of new activities, new members, and new mission/servant opportunities, we sometimes forget the blessings already surrounding us. Still, remember, there is a reason the rear view mirror is small and the windshield large. We are always to keep focusing on the future with the past as a guide and Jesus by our side.

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.



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

OCTOBER

1/Nehemiah 1-4
2/Nehemiah 5-7
3/Nehemiah 8-10
4/Nehemiah 11-13
5/Malachi 1-4
6/Matthew 1-4
7/Matthew 5-7
8/Psalms 119
9/Matthew 8-10
10/Matthew 11-13
11/Matthew 14-16
12/Matthew 17-19
13/Matthew 20-22
14/Matthew 23-25

15/Matthew 26-28
16/Matthew 1-3
17/Matthew 4-6
18/Psalms 120-123
19/Matthew 7-9
20/Matthew 10-12
21/Matthew 13-16
22/Luke 1-3
23/Luke 4-6
24/Luke 7-9
25/Luke 10-12
26/Luke 13-15
27/Luke 16-18
28/Psalms 124-127
29/Luke 19-21
30/Luke 22-24
31/John 1-3

NOVEMBER

1/John 4-6
2/John 7-9
3/John 10-12
4/John 13-16
5/John 17-19

Willkommen!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

13th Annual



34868 Block Road, Paola, Kansas 66071

www.trinitylcms.org

Featuring Live Entertainment



And, if you're hungry.....

We have a full menu of homemade German food, including Bierocks, brats, German potato salad, German green beans, and desserts. Serving starts at noon.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE....

There's a Biergarten, local vendors, and tons of things for kids, like face painting, petting zoo, kiddie train, and our famous corn pit.

Admission and parking are free, with your generous donations going toward church grounds improvements

Cash sales encouraged – Venmo and Credit Card service available

**No outside food or drinks permitted on the festival grounds
Sorry, NO Pets Allowed**

Come celebrate with us as we focus on our Christian faith, our German heritage, and community spirit with fun, food, and fellowship.



Church Picnic & First Responder BBQ

Sunday, Sept. 20th

4-6pm at KOK

Please bring a fruit or dessert to share



THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS

THANK YOU!

Thrivent is excited to share that a deposit of \$281.00 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 Berry

Justin Gehrt

Mindy Gehrt

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



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 Early Response Team- LERT

I know there are a few interested in joining LERT, and we will be in contact with you soon. We do have a Basic Training class on 9/26 at Christ Lutheran Church in Overland Park. For those already in LERT, we have a Chainsaw class on 9/12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Atchison. To register for either class, click on this link to the KS LERT website, <https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/disaster-response/>, and then click the Register Here for the appropriate class. We just got back from deployment from last Thursday through Saturday up in Kansas City, KS. We did around 15 jobs with our team from KS and some from the Missouri team.

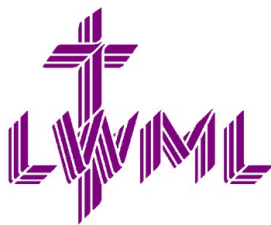
Brian Mead & Dale Melancon



Saturday, September 12th

9am - 2pm Paola Park Square

**Unique handmade items, gifts, home décor, and so much more—perfect for fall shopping
LERT will be grilling so stop by for a bite to eat**



Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML)

Needless to say we have experienced the hottest weather for way to long, come on FALL! Truly we have been blessed by not having the flooding, tornadoes, and damaging winds but my lawn and garden has suffered by the hot days and evenings.

LWML has been truly blessed by all of our congregation that sent donations in memory of our dear friend Pat Hymer. We want to thank all of you for your generous donations. At our next meeting we will decide what Grants or Missions we will send money to. Please join us and add your input to any of these that mean something to you. At our last Board of Director meeting Sunday, the Board decided to send a \$100 donation to God's Gracious gifts in memory of Pat.

Our annual picnic this year will be on Sunday, September 20th here at church between 4-6pm, and also we included an invitation to our 1st responders and their families in our area. We are asking the congregation to bring fruit or a dessert. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

We will be having our annual Fall Zone Event on Saturday, October 10 at Beautiful Savior. I will post on our LWML board in the fellowship room all the details about this event. Also, our ladies at the last meeting decided to have a night event for Advent. I will post these details later after our next meeting.

I hope you received the email that was sent out after our last meeting. If you decided not to receive this email please let me know.

Your sister in Christ,
Judy



Lutheran Laymen's League- KINGS MEN

The Kingsmen met in August and approved a generous donation to help with school supplies for Open Arms. A big shout out to all who helped with the Saturday clean-up and many repairs. Our Honey Sunday is being planned for next month on September 27th. Planning for the Pastor appreciation breakfast is under way for October 4th.

The group has elected to not meet in September due to the Saturday Paola craft fair and other area events. Reminder the next meeting is October 10th @ 7:30. Chef Richard Ahrens will be serving.

Men's night out dinner is September 24th (Fourth Thursday at 6:00pm) at Austin's.

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

God Bless,
Brian Blank



The King of King's Youth will be starting our next Bible Study series on October 4th. The topic will be "God's Answers". This series covers sections of the Augsburg Confession and contemplates how worldviews and media undercut the truth in God's Word. We look forward to gathering and learning more on how we can be disciples of God in today's world. The youth will be having a fun fall event of bowling. Stay tuned for more details to come. Thanks for your continued support of our KoK youth!

Grace and Peace,
Penni Blank

OUR SUPPORT OF THE LORD'S WORK

KING OF KINGS

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Baptized	603	601
Confirmed	385	386
Family Units	267	265
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		
July (Avg) *in-house & virtual	121	125
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Actual	\$17,417	\$190,371
Budget	\$28,500	\$199,500
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$27,577	\$172,505
Budget	\$28,097	\$196,679
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$10,160)	\$17,866
Budget	\$403	\$2,821

OPEN ARMS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$72,572	\$525,729
Budget	\$84,200	\$589,400
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Actual	\$105,847	\$620,853
Budget	\$83,961	\$587,727
<u>NET</u>		
Actual	(\$33,275)	(\$95,124)
Budget	\$239	\$1,673

Unfortunately, July was a three payroll month (which hits twice a year). We are still looking good for August enrollment and continue to work on cutting expenses and adding more kids.

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



Thursday, September 17th

6:30pm at Church

Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining in person or by Zoom and you haven't gotten the email information.



young hearts and minds.

As we have begun 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 partner together to share His love and nurture

We are forming a **Parent, Teacher, Church Organization**. That is a part of our NLSA accreditation requirements. Our first meeting will be **Wednesday, September 9th at 6:15pm**. We have two events that we need to plan, Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 30th at 6:30pm and Art Auction on Saturday, April 10th. If you would like to be a part of this group, please join us!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Grandparents Tea September 11th! 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 I-55 bookfair going on. The kids are excited to share their school with their grandparents!

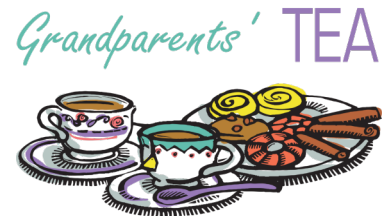


Sept. 8th to Sept. 14th
Monday to Friday
9am to 6pm

Sunday 9/13
9:15am-10:15am
11:30am-12pm

I:55 BOOK FAIRS
Inspiring Readers

Friday
September
11th
9am—11am



Open Arms is needing some volunteers to help serve and be stand-in grandparents at the Grandparents' tea. If interested, please contact Erin at the church at 856-2500 or secretary@kingofkingsks.org



Make a Joyful Noise!

King of Kings Singers and King of Kings Ringers will be starting rehearsals **September 16th** for the upcoming fall. If you would like to participate in either choir we would welcome new musicians. **Bells practice at 6:00pm and Choir at 7:00pm** on Wednesdays but are not every week. Come as you are, when you can. All musical levels are welcome!

For more information please reach out to Kody@Willnauermusicworks.com or leave a note in the music mailbox at King of Kings.



Thank you for sharing your talents with the congregation!



Wafer Baking Class

September 23rd 6:30 pm
King of Kings Kitchen

Our expert wafer baker, Penni Blank, will be teaching the art of making home-made communion wafers. Bring your rolling pins if you have them, and join us for a fun evening, as we learn the secrets of wafer baking!

Questions? Contact Penni Blank (520-396-0348) or Pam Gartner (913-486-4195)

September Calendar of Events

September 7 Labor Day—Church Office Closed
September 11 9:00 AM OA Grandparents' Tea
September 12 9 AM-2 PM Paola Craft Fair
September 14 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study @ Church
6:30 PM Parish Planning Meeting
September 16 6:00 PM Kings Ringers
6:30 PM Elders Meeting
7:00 PM Kings Singers
September 17 5:30 PM Open Arms Team Meeting
6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
September 20 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting
4:00 PM Church Picnic & First
Responder BBQ
September 23 6:30 PM Wafer Baking Class
September 24 6:00 PM Men's Night Out @ Austin's
September 27 Honey Sunday
September 28 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study @ Perkins

Every Tuesday 1:30 PM Bridge

Every Wednesday 9:30 AM Chapel for Open Arms

Every Thursday 9:00 AM Quilting



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.
Email: openarmscdc@kingofkingsks.org
Phone: 913-856-4250**