

# THE KING'S CROWN



August 2020

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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September  
Newsletter  
Deadline is  
August 15

## Mission Statement

*“Empowered by the grace and love of Jesus, we are committed to growing in faith with the community.”*



## From the Pastor's Desk

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### Who is My Neighbor?

By: Pastor Tara L. Eastman



*“In Episode 1065 of Mr. Rogers neighborhood, it opens with Rogers inviting viewers to be in his*

*neighborhood; but instead of putting on his iconic cardigan, Rogers talks about how hot the day is and how nice it would be to put his feet in a pool of cool water. He moves to his front yard where he fills a small plastic pool with water and begins to soak his feet. Soon Officer Clemmons, a black police officer in his neighborhood, drops by for a visit and is invited to share the pool with him. Clemmons accepts, rolls up his pant legs of his uniform, and places his brown feet in the same water as Roger’s very white feet. While today this may not seem to be a significant action of “neighboring” or “social justice” – in 1969 it was considerable.*

*At that time public fountains, public transportation, and public schools, the public pool had become a battleground of racial segregation.”*

*(christianpopculture.com)*

In this pivotal moment of sharing a pool of cool water – Fred Rogers and Officer Clem-

mons boldly proclaim, *“We are in this neighborhood together. We are each other’s neighbor.”*

The act of neighboring, starts when we ask and search for the answer to the question, *“Who is my neighbor?”*

It is in my own asking of this question, that I discovered a new neighbor, who lives in the country of Honduras. Jayson David Mena.

Through a friend, I learned Jayson’s incredible story of hope and faith. He grew up in an orphanage, has faced the



loss of his mother and through the “neighboring” work of a mission organization; Jayson received the support and care needed, not just to survive – but to grow with the love and support of global neighbors - to the place where I met him. A college graduate in the field of Social work and Director of a mission for children in poverty in the mountains of Honduras. **Ninos de Montana**

*For more information on this mission organization, visit their website at: <https://en.ninosdemontana.org/>*

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Richard Rohr says ... *“It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing alternate futures...”*

We have a great deal of thanks to give for prophets like Fred Rogers, Mr. Clemons, Jayson Mena and all who ask the needed question... **“Who is my neighbor?”**

There are many ways to love one another in Jesus name. In our baptisms, God makes us his children as we were sprinkled or possibly dunked with cool, refreshing water. God invites everyone into that live-giving water and engages us to use our imagination to see a way forward, for all people to be welcomed as beloved children of God.

God calls each of us to wrestle with and craft our answer and action in response to the question, **“Who is my neighbor?”**

We are called to love God, love others, and love ourselves in the life-long ministry of ever-expanding efforts, trials, failures, do overs and hope- motivated-by-compassion.

This is the “go and do the same” that Jesus calls us to.

I am your neighbor. You are my neighbor. We the “church” are the neighborhood where God invites everyone come to the cool water and finally be forever, safe, welcomed and home.

**Action to take:** How can my “neighborhood” become bigger – like when Jayson became my neighbor through a friend? Who is God calling me/you and King of Kings to neighbor?

## Scripture reference: Luke 10:25-37

*Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. “Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?”*

*He answered, “What’s written in God’s Law? How do you interpret it?” He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.” “Good answer!” said Jesus. “Do it and you’ll live.”*

*Looking for a loophole, he asked, “And just how would you define ‘neighbor’?” Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.*

*“A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.’*

*“What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?” “The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded.*

*Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”*

## King of Kings Quilt Group...

In this time of uncertainty, I am hoping all are well and feeling optimistic that our beloved church will again open the doors and welcome us all back. In the meantime I have been reminiscing.

Coming from a very small town in Minnesota, our school worked with our local Lutheran Church. Once a week during the school day, the students who belonged to that church (most of us) had "Release Time". Until a new building was built across the street from our school, the church had to find a building off school property for these religious lessons. In third grade, the lessons were given a block away in a construction office with a woodstove providing heat in the Winter. Mrs. Pitel was our teacher and while I do not remember any of her lessons, I credit her for teaching me my favorite hymn.

*This our Father's world  
And to my listening ears  
All nature rings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas  
His hands these wonders wrought.*

I sang this to my children and now my grandchildren at bedtime. I have this hymn running through my mind as I am walking. Look and listen. His hands these wonders wrought.

Donna Huberty





## Council Corner...

First, Council would like to thank all that participated in **the call of Deacon Nancy Wagner as a rostered Deacon to King of Kings**. We are all very happy to welcome her in this role and are looking forward to working with her as we continue to move forward as a congregation.

Also, we would like to thank **Howie Mansfield** for all of his work to help bring our worship services to us each Sunday morning. We were very excited that the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce also saw that his efforts are above and beyond the call of duty and awarded him with the Liverpool Chamber Champion award. Congratulations Howie on this award.

And on that note, for those who do not realize this, Howie has been broadcasting each and every Sunday since we closed our doors in March. We are looking **for a team to also learn how to broadcast from the Sanctuary from time to time** so that we can give Howie a break. If anyone is interested please contact Howie directly . He will be very happy to train you.

We have decided that we will **reopen the office starting Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> as long as the staff are comfortable in coming in**. Most all of the work up to now has been done from their homes. We would like to caution the congregation that this does not mean that drop in visits will be welcome. If you need to come in please call and make an appointment. Also be aware that masks must be worn at all times.

**Thanks to your generosity we are still financially stable**. Thank you to all who are able and continue to support us in this way.

Pastor brought to us a new opportunity for Global ministry. We are looking into this prospect as a way to continue our ministries near and far.

And last but not least, **Council and the Worship Evolution Team continue to look at when and how we can get back together for face to face worship services**. We are going to be sending out a questionnaire to the congregation so that we can better understand how all of you feel. I hope that you all take some time and let us know how we can serve you and our community better.

Yours in Christ, Barb Winkel



# Greetings from the Deacon's Digital Desk

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Joy is infectious. It has the capacity to fill us and even transform how we interpret the world around us. Along with love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, joy is listed among the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. It is a gift and it flows from our relationship with God and the Body of Christ.

Joy is what I felt when the people of King of Kings called me as your Minister of Word and Service. Our journey together has been a blessing to me. And I am honored that you have called me to continue this journey as your Deacon. I look forward to what God will call upon us to do together in the name of Christ.



As we move forward into the days ahead we will continue to face the challenges of doing ministry during a pandemic. I have no doubt the people of King of Kings will rise to the challenge of this opportunity to serve God. Remember that we do not do ministry alone but with each other and in the presence of Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

Peace, Deacon Nancy

## Deacon Nancy

As of August 1st, Deacon Nancy will begin her work as a Minister of Word and Service. What a gift she has been to the congregation for the past couple of years, and we are excited to for all the things we will do together in the future.

A celebration and installation date and time are TBD.

# CONFIRMATION CONNECTIONS



As we continue to navigate these uncertain times with COVID-19 and social distancing, we are making tentative plans for a fall Confirmation for our three confirmands through email and Zoom meetings. Our confirmands, **Jack Heatley, Elizabeth Ngumbi and Jacob Sousou**, continue to work on their Faith Projects and Faith Statements in anticipation of sharing them with the congregation.

During August, we will meet with confirmands and their families via Zoom to continue to support them and prepare for Confirmation.

Stay well and look for more information on KCY in the fall.

With JOY,  
Joanne Keim and Kurt Richardson  
KCY Education Guides

## ST PAUL'S ==WESTSIDE FOOD CENTER

On June 30<sup>th</sup> St. Paul's Food Pantry became Westside Food Center. It is now a program of the Methodist Church. For several weeks we worked with the new coordinator-Quincy Stockton. He intends to keep things operating as they have been. Several of our volunteers have elected to stay with the program. He has also recruited some new people from the Methodist churches in the area.

The pantry is still in need of our help and I hope we will continue to support the program in the future. Donations can be sent to Brown Memorial UMC, Westside Food Center, 228 Davis Street, Syracuse, NY 13204. Checks should be made out to Westside Food Center.

I thank everyone for the kind words that have been expressed about my years at St. Paul's. It has been a labor of love and I will miss the families we served and the volunteers who worked with me.

## Sunday School Update...

As the new school year approaches we are once again making plans to assemble **School Kits for Lutheran World Relief**. Lorraine Savidge has been busy sewing the bags for us but now we need your help with gathering the supplies to fill them! Since we are not physically at church this year and cannot sign up on the bulletin board we are asking you to follow the link to the online signup. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BA9AE2FA1FF2-school> Sign up for what you wish to donate and then drop it in the bin at church.



Lutheran World Relief is very specific about what is to be included in the kits. We are looking for 70 sheet notebooks, rulers with centimeter markings, pencil sharpeners, blunt school scissors, crayons (16 or 24 count) and 2 ½" erasers. Items should not contain messages, religious symbols, American flags or camouflage. We are making a plan for assembling the kits with social distancing rules in place. All donations are due by Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> so that we have time to organize the supplies. As always thank you for your support!

Sue Tierney

**Congratulations to Howie Mansfield for being chosen as “Quarantine Champion” by Greater Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for his work and gifts to help King of Kings Lutheran continue to worship together via online production since March 14th, 2020.**

**We are proud of Howie’s award and thankful for his gifts of patience and use of technology to share the good news with the world as an e-missionary.**







# People News...

A special shout out to our high school graduates: **Caroline Fockler** (Baker High School-Baldwinsville), **Sofie Gatling** (Henninger High School-Syracuse) and **Justina Hunt** (Liverpool High School).

Congratulations to **Alex** and **Bridgette Richardson** on the birth of their son, **Kaden James**, on June 24th. Joining in the happy welcome are the little one's big sister **Everly** and grandparents, **Eric** and **Stephany Richardson**.

Our prayers for God's blessings and all good wishes to **Tim Swan** and **Terrie Craver**, who were recently married.

Congratulations to **Katie Krafft** and **Rob Neufang** on their recent engagement. Katie's proud parents are **Ken** and **Jen Krafft**. Best wishes to the happy couple!

## Schedule for August

### Slide Show Creation Team

#### 9:30 am

8/2	Keith Gatling
8/9	Deanna Pavlacka
8/16	Lorraine Savidge
8/23	Howie Mansfield
8/30	Mary Moyer

### Counter

8/2	Cathy Miller / Alicia Francis
8/9	Sue Zuern / Stephany Richardson
8/16	Mary Moyer / Jenna Wysocki
8/23	Sue Tierney / Brian Genalo
8/30	Niel Zuern / Weta Hayden



Pandemics have ravaged the world for centuries. Although great numbers of people are affected by those, the reactions from believers and unbelievers are quite different. Christians have always had a greater sense of hope and peace when it came to sickness and death. Beginning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, when original numbers of Christians were quite small in Italy, various plaques swept through the country, and later through all of Europe, causing high death tolls. Nevertheless, the numbers of Christians rose tremendously for different reasons. First, Christians did not turn away from sick but continued caring for them despite personal danger. This fact alone earned popularity for the Christian religion. Second, fewer believers became sick compared to unbelievers. Third, facing death and hopelessness, unbelievers grew more likely to accept Jesus as their savior.

*(According to Glen Scrivener's article "Responding to Pandemics: 4 Lessons from Church History.")*

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-lessons-church-history/>

While I read through the article by Glen Scrivener, especially his comment that less Christians died from plagues comparing to non-Christians, I thought of my own experience. My partner contracted the virus about two months ago. We thought that surely, the entire family would catch it from him, considering that children climbed all over him just the night prior. I even drank from the same glass as him. Kids and I continued taking vitamin C as we've done for years, and prayed to God that this virus may pass us. None of us became ill.

Covid-19 is not the first nor last plaque that will ravage through the world. Christians should use this opportunity to attract more unbelievers by talking, preaching, providing opportunities for healing, counseling, and enriching such experiences by music that goes to the heart. Please come forward if you would like to contte by sharing your musical gifts through singing or playing. You can email me. I'd be very glad to hear from you. If you have other "touched by God" experiences or suggestions to share, please let Pastor Tara know.

God Bless, *Kristina V.*



*This is the time to be slow,  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes.  
Try, as best you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light.  
If you remain generous,  
Time will come good;  
And you will find your feet  
Again on fresh pastures of promise,  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning.”*

—John O’Donohue, *Benedictus Book Of Blessings*

# Church Council

Barb Winkel, Chair  
Pat Lebel, Vice Chair  
Scarlett Erdley, Recording Secretary  
Art Leitgeb, Financial Secretary  
Carl Bastedo, Treasurer  
Alicia Francis, Council Member  
Greg Yoder, Council Member  
Doug Keim, Council Member  
Niel Zuern, Council Member  
Rev. Tara Lamont Eastman



## Ministry Teams

Finance, Doug Keim  
Property, Niel Zuern  
Service Ministry Team, Deacon Nancy  
Stewardship, \_\_\_\_\_  
Worship & Music, Deanna Pavlacka  
Children's Ministry, Sue Tierney  
Young Families, Jen Hepburn  
Mutual Ministry Committee, Jerry Foor  
Parish Nurse, Health Ministry Team, Carol Genalo  
Fellowship, Shari Murray  
Transition Team, Anita Leitgeb  
Hospitality, Cathy Miller  
PALMS, Weta Hayden  
Stephen Leader: Marcy Grundner  
Stephen Leader: Lynn Myers  
Quilters: Donna Huberty  
Women's Group: Dawnelle Jager  
Women's Group: Jennifer Foor  
Women's Group: Lynn Weeks

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**King of Kings Lutheran Church**  
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