

THE KING'S CROWN



November 2020

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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December
Newsletter
Deadline is
November 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



Prayers of "Thanksgiving"

During the month of November, I have an annual tradition of prayfully taking notice of a person, place, thing, or experience, that I'm grateful for. Each day, I write a post on my Facebook or Instagram page (and sometimes in my journal), with the descriptive hashtag **#gratitudechallenge2020**

The practice of noticing what there is to be grateful for is not something that originated with me. There are many people and organizations that take time each day to express gratitude as a spiritual practice.

Years ago, a friend sent me a photo of the **"Thankfulness Tree"** that she made from sticks in her yard, construction paper leaves and a glass jug. Each day she would add a "leaf" to her tree and write a prayer of thanks.

From the looks of her **"Thankfulness Tree"** you would have never guessed she was living in a very difficult time. She and her family had moved a long distance away from home, she cared for two young children, and she supported her spouse in new time intensive work. At every turn the maker of this **"Thankfulness Tree"** was facing challenge, change and uncharted territory.

But each day, she also faced her **"Thankfulness Tree"** and with God's help, it grew a new leaf of gratitude each day. In the midst of conflict and challenge, this creative and hopeful woman kept her eyes open to notice at least one person, place, thing, or experience to be thankful for.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son... And now let the weak say, "I am strong", Let the poor say, "I am rich... because of what the Lord has done for us, give thanks"

In the midst of the needs and challenges and for all that the year 2020 has brought us; it's important to remember this practice of gratitude. While the challenges we face are real, so is God's presence.

This act of noticing gratitude's, helps bear the fruit of hope as we are... ***rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.***" (Colossians 2:7 (NRSV))

As a spiritual practice, what if we committed the month of November to noticing what we are grateful for?

In this newsletter, you will receive what looks like a coloring page with several "pumpkins". These pumpkins are provided as a place to note this month of gratitude at KOK.

A large plywood pumpkin board has been prepared (See photo at beginning of article.) to be a home for your statements of gratitude and needs. Write down your prayers on the small pumpkins, drop them off at the church office in the "pumpkin" box and they will be added to the large pumpkin at the church.

On Wednesday November 25th at 2pm we will be hosting a "Service of Gratitude" (Please bundle up as this will be outdoors.) in the church parking lot where your gratitude's that have been added to the big pumpkin, will be read. These prayers of gratitude, will also be read at the Thanksgiving Eve Service to be broadcast at 7 pm on November 25th.

God's blessing to you in this season of gratitude. If you have any questions about the 2 or 7 pm services, please contact me at: reveastman@outlook.com

Walking in grace – Pastor Tara Lamont Eastman



Council Openings!!

King of Kings is still in a time of transition, and we need your help.

For those of you who would like to help guide King of Kings in this new and exciting time, we have just the place for you! There are going to be up to 3 seats opening up in the Congregational Council January 2021.

There is a place for every type of person on this team, as Council has the general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation. We not only keep a close eye on the financials, but we also lead the congregation in achieving its mission, do long-range planning, set goals and priorities, and evaluate our activities in light of our mission and goals. All of this is accomplished through fellowship and laughter.

For those who have never been on Council, or those who have been on Council in the past, now is an exhilarating time to get on board as there is a great opportunity to share new ideas and help guide King of Kings into a new future.

Remember, we must have 6 members on council. We ask that you all prayerfully consider joining us at this very stimulating time where everything is new!!

If you have any questions or would like to throw your hat into the ring, please feel to contact Pastor Tara, Barb Winkel, or any of your council members.

**DON'T Forget to Set your
CLOCKS back ONE HOUR ON SUN-
day,
November 1st.
Yeah, an extra HOURS Sleep!**

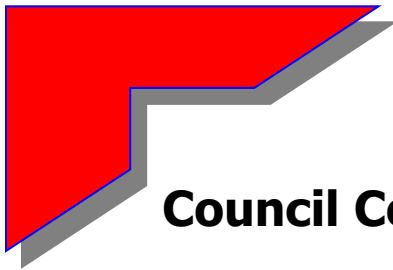


THRIVENT \$500

The Women's Group sponsored a Feed500 initiative. The goal was to secure 500 food items and apply for a competitive \$500 Thrivent grant for the pantry at Brown Memorial. Despite limited building access and the pandemic, you donated over 500 items in a short 4-day period. In addition to the food and a successful \$500 Thrivent grant application, we received an extra \$150 to purchase hygiene supplies for the community served by Brown Memorial.

KOK members, you are an amazing and phenomenal testimony to our mission!

Jennifer, Lynn and Dawnelle



Council Corner...

Here is what we are working on this month:

- ⇒ We will be proposing a Continuing Resolution that will place a limit on the Council Chairperson's term of three consecutive years.
- ⇒ We are looking into alternatives to having a face-to-face Thanksgiving Dinner.
- ⇒ Pastor Tara is switching her day off to Saturday.
- ⇒ The Faith Family Fund is in action helping one of our members in need.
- ⇒ We are looking for people to participate on the Nominating Committee, responsible for finding candidates for the Congregational Council.

That's all for now. Stay safe and PRESS ON,

Niel Zuern (Council Member)

**The Annual Meeting will be held on
January 24th at 12:00 noon.**



Yes, we will be having an annual meeting even though we are still unsure how this will look. At this time, we are thinking it might be a Zoom meeting as we might not be able to have all of us together in one room. No matter what it looks like, we will need a quorum to be able to vote on some important issues. We will let you know more details as we get them.

At this time, we simply ask that you put this date on your calendar, Sunday January 24th at noon.

Thank you.

Yours in Christ; Barb Winkel

King of Kings Congregational Chairperson

Annual Reports

A simple reminder to everyone responsible to write an annual report that they are due in the church office **no later than January 1st**. Please email your reports to kingofkingsny@gmail.com. **The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2020.** Thanks!



King of Kings "**Mission Endowment Fund**" is a separate entity from the congregation and has a board of five persons who are appointed by the Congregational Council. This year one member is reaching the statutory end of his term (Carl Bastedo). This is a blessed service: meeting once a year for an hour to discuss how to advise the Council on distribution of the disposable income of the endowment to worthy causes in the community and reaching out to the world. Volunteer for this light and joyful work by contacting Pastor Tara or the board chair (Bob Lebel). If you have questions, you should feel free to ask Carl who has long served on the board. Thanks!

Greetings from the Deacon's Kitchen



For my article this month I am sharing with you the parable I shared on October 18 for our Stewardship emphasis plus some reflection questions to consider:

The kin(g)dom of God is like a Baker who made a batch of cookies. She took a small bowl and began to add her ingredients – some eggs...some vanilla...some oil but soon she needed a bigger bowl. In the bigger bowl she added more ingredients – some baking soda...some flour but soon she needed an even bigger bowl, so she pulled out the biggest bowl she could find and added even more ingredients – some oats...some nuts... some chocolate. She mixed it all together but just before she formed the cookies she realized something was missing – the sugar! She knew the recipe would not be complete without the sugar, so she added as many different kinds of sugar she could find. Then she formed and baked the cookies. When the cookies were done she shared them with everyone she met.

God is like the baker and we are like the ingredients. With each person God calls, the kin(g)dom of God grows and grows. And just like each ingredient is important to the recipe - the eggs to bind it together and the sugar for sweetness - each person is an important part of the kin(g)dom. Without you and your gifts – something is missing! God doesn't leave out a single person. We each have something to offer that God can add to the recipe. Then we get to go out to share the goodness of God with everyone we meet.

I've included a recipe for a batch of "Kin(g)dom Cookies." I invite you to make some cookies with this recipe or one you like to use and as you assemble the ingredients, consider these questions:

How might this parable speak to you?

If you were an ingredient in a batch of cookies, what would you be?

How is being a part of the church and the kin(g)dom of God meaningful for you?

What are the variety of gifts you see God bringing together at King of Kings?

How do you fit in to what God is calling us to do?

"Kin(g)dom Cookies"

(Gluten free flour and oats can be used as long as the flour contains xanthan gum)

2 ½ cups of flour	½ cup light brown sugar
2 teaspoons of baking soda	½ cup granulated sugar
½ teaspoon of salt	1 teaspoons vanilla or almond extract
½ cup quick oats	2 whole eggs (3 for Gluten free)
½ cup of granola	1 ½ cups dried fruit of your choice
¾ cup butter (oil for Gluten free)	½ cup chopped nuts of your choice
½ cup dark brown sugar	½ cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips

Cream together the butter and sugars.

Add the vanilla and eggs.

Add the flour, baking soda and salt.

Add the oats and granola.

Fold in the dried fruit, nuts and chocolate chips.

Scoop onto cookie sheet covered in parchment paper. Bake at 375 degrees until golden brown (about 10-12 minutes)

Peace, Deacon Nancy

Schedule for November

Slide Show Creation Team

Counter

9:30 am

11/1	Teresa Mansfield	Sue Zuern/Stephany Richardson
11/8	Jacob Sousou	Mary Moyer/Jenna Wysokowski
11/15	Keith Gatling	Sue Tierney/Brian Genalo
11/22	Matt Colbert	Niel Zuern/Weta Hayden
11/29		Ken Krafft/Barb Nies

Worship Assistants

11/1	Bob Lebel	11/22	Peter Pavlacka
11/8	Elena Margrey	11/29	Cheryl Gatling
11/15	Barb Winkel		

People News...



We wish God's blessings on **Jack Heatley, Elizabeth Ngumbi** and **Jacob Sousou**, who were confirmed in a special outdoor ceremony at the Church.

We also extend a warm welcome to King of Kings' newest members, **Lee Ann Hann, Stephanie Ries, Amelia Hann** and **Deanna Hann**.

And...hats off to all of our participants in this year's virtual-style CROP Walk!



CONFIRMATION CONNECTIONS

Welcome to another great year of KCY! We will start the year with a study of the Old Testament, and finish with a beginning look at the New Testament and life of Jesus. Because of the current social distancing requirements, we will be holding online ZOOM classes until we are told it is safe to meet in person. However, even with this adjustment, we will still have many of the favorite program elements including: music, lifeline guests, and of course...quizzes! Look for information in the coming weeks about this year's schedule. Thanks, and look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Tara/ Deacon Nancy / Mrs. Sousou / Mr. Richardson

WANTED! TWO PEOPLE!

The **Mutual Ministry Committee** is in need of two people to fill vacancies. While a crucial ministry, the time commitment is not huge. There is a short meeting in February/March, a brief meeting in September is followed by staff reviews (two or three evenings in October). If this piques your interest, contact **Jerry Foor** for more information (see church directory for phone/email).



KING OF KINGS' QUILT GROUP



Quotes found on Facebook:

"As I get older, I am always walking into two things: QUILT SHOPS and FABRIC STORES mostly!"

"Buying fabric and sewing are TWO different hobbies."

"I meant to be good at the fabric store. I really did. But then I got out of the car and went in."

*"Me: 'Wow, this house is amazing! I want to buy it. Where do I send an offer?'
Ma'am: This is a fabric store."*

"I told my husband: 'See? I can fit all my craft supplies into one box.' He said, 'Quit calling our house a box.'"

"Quilts, like friends, are different, colorful, fun, warm and comforting, and you can never acquire enough of either."



Sunday School Update...

We continue to meet Sunday mornings on ZOOM for Sunday School. In the month of November we will be **collecting Thanksgiving food items** to be sent to the food pantry. Food items can be dropped off in the food collection area of the church narthex. Suggested items include boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, dessert mix and muffin/bread mix.

As Advent and the Christmas season approaches, we are beginning our preparations. We will be sending out an Advent craft and devotionals that you can work on at home as a family. We are also discussing possible options for the Christmas pageant. Please be on the lookout for more information as plans are finalized.

Sue Tierney



While talking with my mother recently, we came upon a topic on the use of instruments at church. Being a generational Russian Orthodox, she does not know any other way of worship but standing for hours while listening to acapella choirs singing somberly and quietly. This is what she knows and can accept. Worshipping with bands, loud music and overly zealous exclamations seem impure and simply wrong to her. She and I began to debate, but we each had very strong convictions and we just couldn't see the other side as being right. I went online to see what other denominations do not accept instrument usage. The Church of Christ came up as one of those examples, along with Orthodox. When reading through their reasoning for not using instruments, I was surprised to see that it was because those denominations generally cut off the teachings from the Old Testament and base their church on the New Testament. Their idea is that if the first Christians did not use instruments in praising God (debatable), then this is the way we should be doing now. Instruments are widely mentioned in the Old Testament and therefore should be abandoned. The thing is that both sides can equally bring a number of reasons to support their convictions. As hard as it may be, I must make peace that both sides have their own truths and living in a democratic nation allows a person to choose what feels right to them. It is finding that balance between open-mindedness and preserving personal convictions that is the key to being a true Christian and a decent human being.

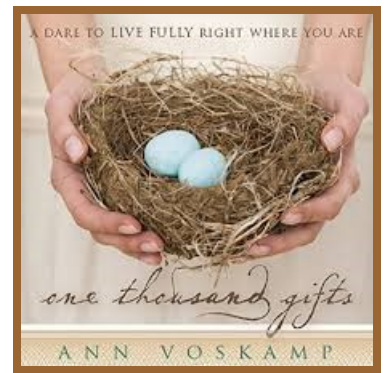
God Bless, *Kristina V.*



Thanks to all who continue to bring their empty returnable cans and bottles to King of Kings. Peter Pavlacka recently made a trip to the recycling center and got **\$49.80** which is being deposited into the Senior Youth Account. **Thank you for keeping our youth in your hearts and minds.**

One Thousand Gifts

Pastor and I were recently talking about things we are grateful for during this time of COVID and I was reminded of the Bible Study the M&Ms ladies discussed (Mary & Martha daytime Bible study). It was a book written by Ann Voskamp entitled, "One Thousand Gifts". In this book, Ann shares a deeply tragic incident when, as a very young girl, she witnessed her sister accidentally killed on the family farm. Now, as an adult with children of her own, she shared the story of healing and God's mercy in this book. She was encouraged by a friend to list 1,000 things she was thankful for, gifts from God. During her darkest times, and especially when she remembered her sister, she turned her thoughts to God's gifts, like the dirty dishes left at the table, because she knew her family was fed. Bubbles floating up from the dish water when she cleaned dinner dishes reminded her of the colors in a rainbow and God's promise to never leave here. With great surprise, her list quickly grew to 1,000 things and continues to grow. Being thankful to God for even the smallest of gifts helped her realize that God was with her, even during her darkest days, even in the small things.



During this unprecedented time in our world's history, when COVID lingers on...and on and physical distancing continues, we can feel very alone and isolated. Our thoughts may turn inward and dark, which I must admit has happened to me on occasion over the past several months. I knew I wasn't alone in my thoughts because The Psalms are full of David's laments and concern that God has left him during his time of suffering, and thanks be to God, I remembered this book study and began adding to my list of one thousand gifts I am thankful for. Many things on my list center on family, friends, and God's beautiful creation. Many of you on Facebook have shared postings of things that bring you joy and happiness during this time of uncertainty: your travels to parks, or flowers and birds in your backyard, photos of your family and friends smiling (smiles which are hard to see through masks now), driveway chalk drawings, and pets or animals, music that touches your heart or sentiments written to bring hope, even photos of plates of delicious looking meals, recipes or books you're reading and paintings you are creating.

God promised that He'd never leave us or forsake us in our times of trouble. Despite the fact that the virus is still "around", that there is civil unrest, and an upcoming election that has our country divided, God IS with us. He IS faithful.

If you need someone to just listen to what you may be feeling as a result of COVID, or for any reason, please let me know. I can arrange to have a Stephen Minister contact you for a phone visit or video chat. You may also contact Pastor Eastman or someone in your Care POD.

Why not make your own list of One Thousand Gifts. Your list can grow over time, as you experience something new each day. Take your time. It's a list you keep for yourself and there's no time limit by when it should be completed. Keep your list by your chair or at your bedside or even in your purse or pocket. You'll be grateful for how uplifted your heart, mind and spirit will feel while practicing this time of thankfulness. God bless you all.

In Christ's love, Marcy Grundner

Church Council

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

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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