

THE KING'S CROWN



January 2021

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Phone: 315-622-2077 | Email: koknewsletter@hotmail.com

Web: www.kingofkings-ny.org

Facebook: King of Kings Lutheran Church - Liverpool, NY



February
Newsletter
Deadline is
January 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

We all have a gift

By: Pastor Tara L. Eastman

When I was 12 years old, my college age brother bought me an amazing gift – a stereo system complete with turntable, cassette deck, radio, speakers and a vinyl album of “Synchronicity” by the Police. The giving of this gift required lots of working overtime and thoughtfulness on my brother’s part but the receiving of this gift was one that still makes me smile years later. The memory of that Christmas is one that makes me feel a sense of home, even though the tangible gift is long gone. We all long for things in life to become whole or complete, but we live with the reality of a tension that things are not quite right.

What is your gift?

In reading of “Undone” by Laura Truax, I have been learning about the tension of living in-between the spaces of Saint and Sinner. Laura writes,



“(The creation story) framed and ethic and a worldview.

These were stories that helped explain why brothers had a hard time getting along, why men and women were different from the animals around them. They explored the unseen connectedness of everything that lives. Most importantly, these stories expressed meaning and purpose for humanity.” (Undone, pg. 23)

While creation was made for “good”, if you have read the creation account – you will not have to go far before all of the good begins to fray. Eden was intended to be, “a wholeness...in the beginning...a home” (Truax, 24). However, this ideal of home, perfection, and total wholeness is something that always seems to be just beyond humanity’s grasp.

We all have God-given gifts that we are called to use in service to God and others. Adam had a knack for names, Eve had an ear to listen carefully, Sampson had great strength. While our gifts can have a shadow side; (Adam blaming Eve, Eve following the serpent’s advice, and Sampson giving his strength in exchange for the approval of people.)

God desires’ we use our gifts to show his light and love in the world. We are both sinner and saint. Like all of the people that we have read about in scripture, “we create our lives with little choices.” (Truax, pg. 31)

The album I received for Christmas all those years ago was titled Synchronicity. **Synchronicity is: the synchronism of events that appear to be connected but have no demonstrable causal relationship.** (thefreedictionary.com)

God-given gifts help to connect us in ways that we never imagine. When partnered together in the body of Christ, using our God-given gifts becomes a joyous experience of synchronicity that can travel well beyond the doors of our building.

The first step toward using our God-given gifts,

is knowing what our gifts are. We unwrap Christmas gifts in order to enjoy, use and apply them and enhance our daily lives. Our built-in gifts need to be unwrapped too! While we are always aware of our shadow sides, it is important to take some time to consider what our gifts are and how we can use them to serve God and humanity.

We all have gifts, and we have people in our lives that need us to use them. Our gifts, when used with God's purpose in mind can be a means of light, hope and mending that is needed in the frayed edges of the world.

What is your gift?

As we prepare to cross the threshold of 2020 into 2021, imagine how our God-given gifts can be used to foster light, hope, joy, peace and love?

These are the kind of gifts that last – beyond our individual lives and times. These God-given gifts are eternal and call us all to leave the light on for every heart that is searching for home.

Works Cited: "Undone: When coming apart puts you back together" by: Laura Sumner Truax

A prayer for stepping into a new year...from Celtic Daily Prayer

*This day is a new day that I've never seen before.
This year is a new year, the opening door...*

Enter, Lord Christ –

We have joy in Your coming. You have given us life; and we welcome Your coming.

I turn now to face You; I lift up my eyes. Be blessing my face, Lord; be blessing my eyes. May all my eye looks on, be blessed and be bright, my neighbours, my loved ones be blessed in Your sight.

*You have given us life and we welcome Your coming. Be with us, Lord, we have joy, we have joy. This year is a new year, the opening door. Be with us, Lord, we have joy, we have joy. **AMEN***

People News...



We pray for God's continued blessings on **Deacon Nancy**, who has been installed as the Coordinator of Faith Formation and Lay Ministry at King of Kings. Officiating at the special ceremony were **Pastor Tara** and Church Council Chair, **Barb Winkel**.

We are **grateful to all** who supported the Winter Socks Drive for the Westside Food Center and the Holiday Gifts Collection for New American Families, as well as for the tremendous generosity of so many, enabling the Church to sponsor the drive-up Christmas Dinner Distribution.



Council Corner...

We had another busy Council Meeting this month as we pull together all the business of the past year. Before we began our work, we took the time to repeat our church mission statement: **“Empowered by the grace and love of Jesus, we are committed to growing in faith with the community.”**

The large task was working on the budget for next year. Details must be gathered from our ministry teams, the Financial Secretary and our Treasurer; then we begin the process. This year has been like no other. Besides the growth of our staff, it has been very exciting to see our progress unfold. And at the same time, we must take into account the present state of our church family: both in peoples’ ability to give and their own actual needs. We continue to work the numbers to responsibly address these various challenges and opportunities.

Besides individual monthly updates, we take time to collect a list of “other” giving activities that our members perform through the month. These may include lawn cutting, food to the Food Pantry, hours of volunteering to produce our virtual services, etc. These are all generous acts and material offerings that are beyond our regular giving. A few years ago, during a discussion at council, we realized that these activities could be gathered up to share at our Annual Meeting. So, monthly we make our list and at the Annual Meeting you will be presented with a scrolling list of all the “extra” works of love that have been presented to our community and to each other.

We give thanks for all the generosity of our church family. And as reminders, on January 17 at noon, there will be a review of the budget with a question and answer session, and the Annual Meeting will be January 24 at noon. It will be a virtual meeting, and more details will be posted soon. Please look for a memo in the coming days and remember, please plan on participating!

May this New Year bring Health, Peace and God’s Blessings to each of you and your families.

Pat Lebel (Council Member)

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Our **Christmas Pageant** this year was a narrated slide show. The children and parents, and even some of our four-legged family members worked together either at home or physically distanced at the church to create the photos, music and narration for the slides. A very special **THANK YOU to Steve Kemp** for putting this all together for us as a video.



Our Cast and Crew:

Narrators: Madison Lapp, Brayden Lapp Kaylee Hepburn and Conner Smith

Mary: Madison Lapp

Joseph: Brayden Lapp

Gabriel: Jennifer Lapp

Inn Keeper: Deacon Nancy Wagner

Shepherds: Connor and Rowan Smith

Angels: Quinn Froelick, Kaylee and Kenzie Hepburn, Kerry and Jocelyn Donaldson

Magi: Abby, Emma and Lauren Seiter

Animals in the Manger: Beloved four-legged family members, Gavin Evans's stuffed animals

Away in the Manger Song: Abby and Emma Seiter

Away in the Manger Video: Kerry and Ginger Donaldson

Photographs: Deacon Nancy, Gavin Evans and Ginger Donaldson

Costumes: Lynn Weeks

Coordination: Sue Tierney

Video Creation: Steve Kemp



From the Deacon's Desk

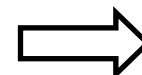
When I first started work in ministry almost two decades ago we used the phrase, Christian Education to describe the ministry through which we taught and learned about our faith. Ministries like Sunday School, Confirmation preparation or Catechism classes, and Bible Studies typically fell under that title. More recently, well actually not so recently, the phrase Faith Formation has been used instead of Christian Education for these and other ministries. I know, a rose by any other name is still a rose, but I would argue that language is important. The words we use to name something should describe what it is we are naming. Faith formation better describes the work we do as God's people as we gather to grow within the gift of faith.

The Holy Spirit is at work within us to form and transform us. We grow physically, cognitively, emotionally and spiritually. As we walk through life, none of us is ever the same person we were in the days, months and years of our past. We are influenced and formed by the experiences, people and places we encounter. The gift of faith permeates all of this and the Holy Spirit is speaking to us through all of this. There are times when we listen to the world around us and there are times when we listen to the voice of God. Faith formation ministry intentionally seeks to turn our attention toward the voice of God. In Romans 12:2 we hear, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." The invitation is to grow into the life God has given us to live.

Adult Faith Formation is one avenue by which we can continue this journey of transformation. One of the blessings of being part of the larger faith community is that we have access to Adult Faith Formation opportunities within our synod. I encourage you to explore some of the classes being offered in the coming months. You will find a listing at the end of this article. May God bless you in your journey of faith formation in this new year and beyond.

Peace, Deacon Nancy

continued



Upstate NY Synod Faithful Learning and Teaching Together (FLATT) Opportunities

Go to www.upstatenysynod.org for details

Art and Spirituality: *Poetry*

January 8, 15, 22, 29 February 5

Fridays at 9:30-10:30 AM

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski

Lenten Quiet Day: *The Cup of Our Life*

Saturday, February 13

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski

Walking Together Through Lent : *Praying Our Way Through the Psalms*

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:15PM

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Art and Spirituality: *Earth Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature*

February 19, 26 March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2

9:30-10:15 AM

UNYS Zoom Book Group

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 1PM ON A WEDNESDAY (specific dates listed below)

January 13, 2021 Karen Gonzalez *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong* AND Sharon Salzberg *Real Change: Mindfulness to Heal Ourselves and the World*

February 17, 2021 Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections Joseph Bocko (editor)

March 17, 2021 Kelly Brown Douglas *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of Jesus*

April 21, 2021 Amy Jill Levine *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*

May 19, 2021 Layton Williams *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us*

Drive-Up Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinners



Our regular guests at our previous "normal" Thanksgiving Dinners have been most appreciative about the two drive-up distributions King of Kings has already completed.

We thank you for your monetary donations which made these events possible. We still have money left over so are planning another drive-up distribution this winter and/or at Easter. We will keep you in the loop.

Tops Friendly Markets has been essential in the success of these events. After checking with two other stores, Tops was the most reasonably priced and also included slices of pie. They have also been most gracious about any requests and even sent us a thank you card! (For your information, they supply the Yoders with the chickens for our famous Mother's Day "Yoder" chicken.)

King of Kings is asking you to support Tops on Rt. 57 at Kimbrook Plaza. It is hard to be sandwiched between two mega Wegmans and, even though they try harder, it can be difficult (think of David and Goliath). Look at it this way: Their store isn't as crowded, and they have a lot more two-fers and get three free offers. Thank you.



CONFIRMATION CONNECTIONS

Since the last newsletter we have continued to meet online using zoom. We've done some fun icebreakers and we've shared our highs and lows. The focus of our lessons right now is the Old Testament. With our curriculum we dive into some challenging questions. One of the common themes we have explored is the importance of our relationship with God and with each other. From Creation to the experience of God's people in the Exodus to the giving of the law, God speaks a word of love and community.

We are working on an idea for a group service project that we hope the congregation will participate in with us this winter. We will let you know the details once we have the plans in place.

Thank you to all the KCY youth, their parents and the guides for their commitment to growing in faith together.

Peace, Deacon Nancy

KING OF KINGS' QUILT GROUP



It is a new year. Let's make it a good one. And since it is still a mystery as to how 2021 is going to turn out, we are going to work on that very theme. As the virus is still disrupting the schedules and group meetings, this will be a work at home project. What is it?

A mystery quilt!

Clues will be emailed each month to cut and sew "units" (parts of a quilt block). The first month's clue will tell you about the fabrics that you will need. Then each month, a new clue will be sent for the next part of the mystery. At the end, all will be revealed when the quilt blocks are assembled from the completed units.

Sounds like fun? Jump on board. Email Donna Huberty to get in her email list. I can't wait to see how different every mystery quilt will be!

Donna Huberty



Sunday School Update...

We continue to meet for Sunday School on Sunday mornings via Zoom. Meeting from home during December gave us a chance to share our Christmas decorations, Nativity sets and baby pictures as we prepared for the birth of Jesus. We were also able to light the Advent wreath together and watch the **Christmas pageant** together. Speaking of the Christmas pageant, we hope that you all enjoyed it. It was certainly different but we had fun with it. A huge thank you is owed to Steve Kemp, Deacon Nancy and Lynn Weeks for making it happen!

In January we will celebrate Epiphany and would like to repeat the Epiphany project that we did last year. We will be applying for a Thriven card to purchase diapers to donate to the Food Pantry. We are asking for **donations of children's board books** to go in the diaper packs. Books can be new or gently used. We appreciate any and all contributions of books for this project. We will leave a box in the Narthex if you have books to donate. More details will follow regarding how we will actually assemble the diaper packs in a safe and socially distanced manner in January.

Sue Tierney



A **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who made the Christmas worship services happen! That includes Pastor Tara, Deacon Nancy, Sunday School, our CILT (Creativity in Liturgy Team), our musicians, our technology team, the Greening team, and a “throwback” to 2018 brass ensemble. It truly “takes a village”!

Schedules for January

Slideshow Creation Team

9:30 am

1/3	Matt Colbert
1/10	Jacob Sousou
1/17	Keith Gatling
1/24	Kurt Richardson
1/31	Teresa Mansfield

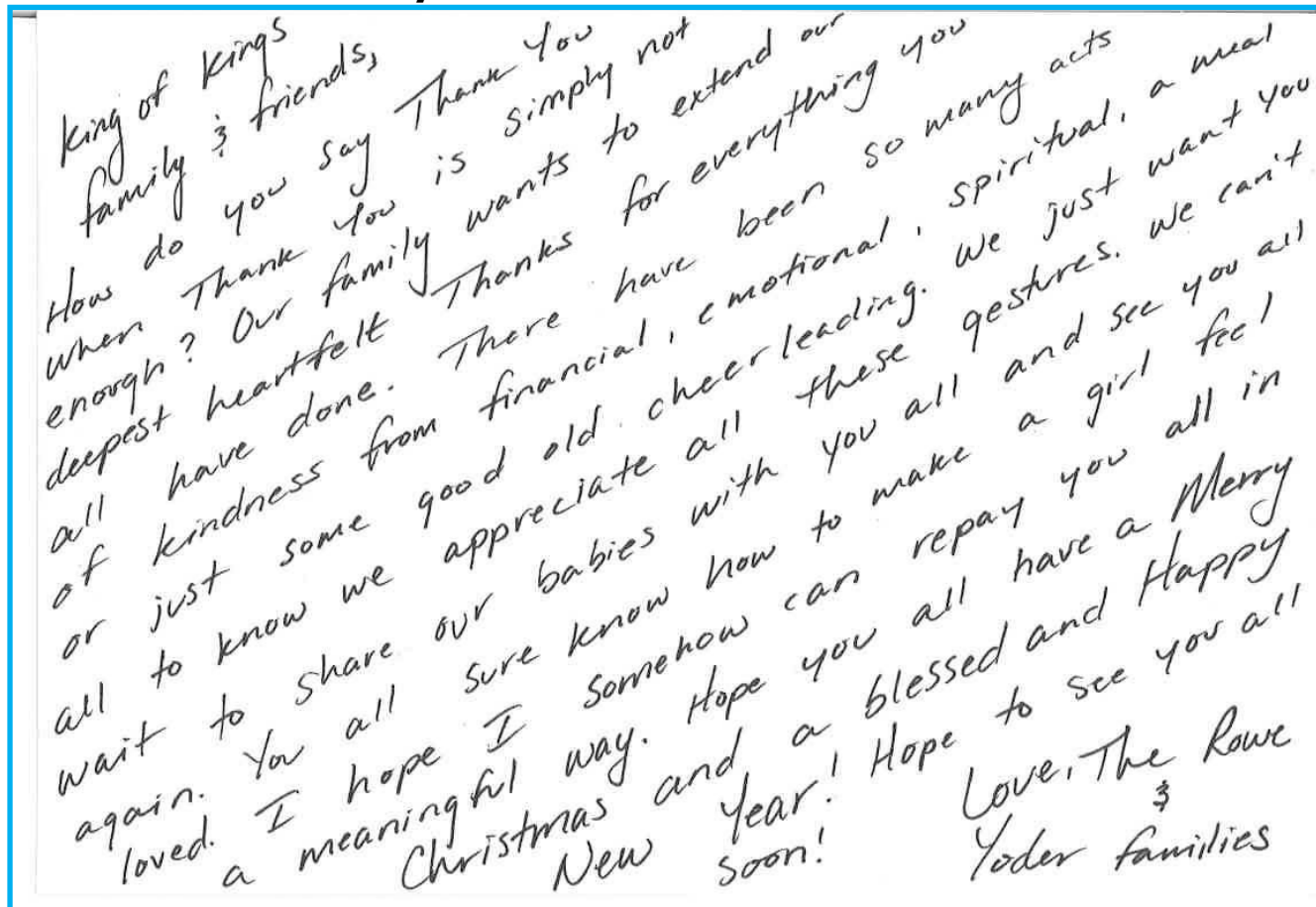
Worship Assistants

1/3	Stephany Richardson
1/10	Lauren Seiter
1/17	Barb Winkel
1/24	Cheryl Gatling
1/31	Jeff Swanson

Counters

1/3	Eric Richardson/Peter Pavlacka
1/10	Jenna Wysokowski/Greg Yoder
1/17	Cathy Miller/Alicia Francis
1/24	Brian Genalo/Stephany Richardson
1/31	Mary Moyer/Jenna Wysokowski

This is a thank you note from the Rowe and Yoder families



Annual Meeting: January 24th 12:00; Via Zoom

Our annual meeting this year will be held via zoom due to the pandemic and our constant wish to keep everyone safe. Please contact the office if you plan on attending so that we can be sure that we have enough opening in our zoom session and to be sure we have a quorum.

Among the items that require a majority vote are, revisions to the constitution, new Council members, and Mission Endowment Fund disbursements, and of course the budget.

On **Sunday January 17th at 12:00 we will be having a zoom meeting to go over the budget line by line.** This will be the only time we will go over the entire budget line by line. If you are interested in attending this meeting, again please call the office and we will send the link out to you.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the ministries at King of Kings.

Yours in Christ;

Barb Winkel, King of Kings Congregational Council Chairperson

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

King of Kings Lutheran Church
8278 Oswego Road
Liverpool, NY 13090

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Liverpool, NY 13088
Permit No. 3