

THE KING'S CROWN



November 2021

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

A grateful heart is one that is..."
rooted and built up in him

and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:7 (NRSV))

Every November, I engage in a gratitude practice of taking notice of one person, place, thing or experience that I'm grateful for. Each day I write a post on my Facebook/Instagram page (and sometimes in my journal), with the descriptive hashtag

#gratitudechallenge21

30 days of gratitude		
#1 What smell are you grateful for today?	#2 What technology are you grateful for?	#3 What color are you grateful for?
#4 What food are you most grateful for?	#5 What sound are you grateful for today?	#6 What in nature are you grateful for?
#7 What memory are you grateful for?	#8 What book are you most grateful for?	#9 What place are you most grateful for?
#10 What taste are you grateful for today?	#11 What holiday are you grateful for?	#12 What texture are you grateful for?
#13 What abilities are you grateful for?	#14 What sight are you grateful for today?	#15 What season are you grateful for?
#16 What about your body are you grateful for?	#17 What knowledge are you grateful for?	#18 What piece of art are you grateful for?
#19 What touch are you grateful for today?	#20 Who in your life are you grateful for?	#21 What song are you most grateful for?
#22 What story are you grateful for?	#23 What tradition are you grateful for?	#24 What challenge are you grateful for?
#25 What moment this week are you most grateful for?	#26 What form of expression are you most grateful for?	#27 What small thing that you use daily are you grateful for?
#28 What small thing that happened today are you grateful for?	#29 What friend/family member are you grateful for today?	#30 What talent or skill do you have that you are grateful for?

This practice of noticing what there is to be grateful for isn't something that originated with me. If you were to do an online search, you would discover many resources to promote the practice of observing daily gratitudes. (See graphic) 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 one person, place, thing or experience she was thankful for.

From the looks of her "Thankfulness Tree" you would have never guessed she was living through a very difficult time. She and her family had moved a long distance away from home, she cared for two young children, she supported her spouse in a new time intensive job. At every turn of facing challenge, change and uncharted territory the maker of the "Thankfulness Tree", took notice of the world around them, wrote that gratitude on a construction paper leaf and added it to her blossoming tree of gratitude. In the midst of conflict and challenge, this creative and hopeful woman kept her eyes open for one person, place, thing, or experience in a note of gratitude for 30 days straight.

- WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF CREATING YOUR OWN GRATITUDE TREE?
- WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY CREATING OUR OWN GRATITUDE TREE?

This month, I invite you to join me in practicing the daily practice of expressing gratitude - by creating your own gratitude practice at home, adding to the gratitude tree that is set up in the Narthex of the church, and/or posting daily gratitudes on your social media or in a journal.

May God help us to notice our gratitudes, to talk about them, to tie them to makeshift twigs in jars and better see the blessings of each day. May our trees of gratitude, be a witness of the beauty and blessing that surround us.

Grace and good trouble – Rev. Tara Lamont Eastman
For more on the power of gratitude, visit: gratefulness.org



Council Corner...

This month the Council began work on developing next year's budget and developing understanding of the stewardship of our resources. We are hopeful that we can make the upcoming year one of imagination and inspiration to lead into 2023. Why ? With your continued support we just might pay off the mortgage next year! What a nice Christmas present that would be for December 2022. What should we be trying to accomplish once that hurdle is cleared? Where does God guide you and the rest of the church? If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please do so or contact Barb Winkel.

Speaking of stewardship, the council and opportunities, if you are interested in serving on the Church Council there will be 3 vacancies open next year due to mandatory end of service (no member is allowed to serve more than 2 consecutive terms and this affects 3 of our church council). Your help is needed and appreciated to help guide our church into the next phase of our service to the Lord and our community. If interested, please contact Pat Lebel with any questions or to express your interest.

We also need your help on another matter. As we move back inside for our Church services, we will need someone at each service to advance the slides for the projections at the front of the church. This would be just like "pre-COVID" where it was just advancing the slides. Easy peasy - right? The ask is not to make the slides or to do the internet/virtual service, just to advance the slides at each service. On the occasions when we don't have someone do this, we will use the church bulletins, "old school". If you are able to help, please contact Deacon Nancy.

"Justice is what love looks like in public. "Interested? Well there is in Syracuse a group called ACTS Community Organization which involves many of the Crossroads Lutheran Churches (KOK, Atonement, Luther Memorial and possibly others). They want to give people of faith the tools to fight for Justice. The group consists of churches and community groups which works for the betterment of the community. They meet monthly and the next meeting will be on November 18. Are you interested? If yes, then please contact Pastor Tara.

Doug Keim and your KOK Council



THANKSGIVING DRIVE-UP MEAL

Working with Tops Friendly Markets, on Monday, November 22nd, King of Kings will again distribute frozen individual dinners containing turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, green beans, a roll, and a piece of pie in our parking lot. This will be a reservation only drive-up distribution, and no one will be allowed to get out of their car. Masks must be worn.

To help defray this expense, you may wish to sponsor a person's dinner. The cost is \$8 each. Please make your check out to King of Kings, make a note that it is for the Thanksgiving dinner, and mail it to the office. You also may contribute online through the website.

King of Kings is requesting a few volunteers.

- ♦ Two people on Thursday, November 18th, beginning at 11:15 a.m. to place 100 dinners in our freezers at church. (one half hour total)
- ♦ Four people on November 22nd beginning at 2:00 p.m. to pack the dinner ingredients into individual bags. (45 minutes)
- ♦ Eight people (for one hour each) on November 22nd between the hours of 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to distribute the dinners and tee shirts.

If you are willing to help, please call me.

Thank you for your on-going generosity of \$\$\$ and time.

Weta Hayden
Chairperson

Faith Formation: Sunday School



In October, we learned about the Garden of Eden, the First Sin, and some stories about Joseph. On October 10, we had a special Faith Stepping Stones day with Prayer Tents. The children made prayer placements. On October 31st, we will gather for a fun game day and costumes to review our lessons from September and October. Our next stories will be about Moses and then we will look forward to Advent with a craft workshop after Thanksgiving. We have been learning some favorite songs with Beth Colbert, including "Abraham Had Many Kids" with all the movements.

Our new format will be large group, intergenerational lesson and activities, where adults are asked to accompany their young people. At 10:45, we plan to gather for music with Beth Colbert. Then we will gather in the Fellowship Hall. There will be the lesson and activities, followed by a closing. Then a to-go or eat-in snack will be provided. If you are interested in helping to lead a lesson or offer assistance with our activities, please contact Deacon Nancy or myself.

Sue Evans, Children's Ministry

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

Mary & Martha Bible Study (M&Ms)



Ladies: Feel free to join our ZOOM Bible study this fall - every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, beginning at 12:30 pm. We are looking at the DVD study entitled, "Matchless" by Angie Smith. She shares with us how Jesus is throughout the Bible from "The Beginning", in prophesy in the Old Testament and on through the Gospels till the Book of Revelation.

Please send Deacon Nancy your email address so she can include you on this ZOOM gathering. Her email is: koklayministries@gmail.com.

You can purchase the workbook online at Lifeway. The cost is approximately \$15 or you can perhaps locate it through other Christian book retailers. Give me a call if you have any questions.

In Christ, Marcy Grundner.



CROP Walk Thank You



We say a heartfelt "Thank you!" to our walkers and to all those who donated to our efforts to combat hunger. It was a cold, rainy day but we braved the weather to walk. As of the date of the walk the King of Kings team raised \$1425 online. Additional money was collected the day of the walk. The total for the entire walk had surpassed \$8,000 online the day of the walk. We will have a final total for you in next month's newsletter



From the Deacon's Desk

Every once in a while someone shares something with me that really speaks to what has been on my mind. I see that as a nudge from the Holy Spirit to pay attention. This happened to me this past Friday during a conversation with some colleagues on zoom. One of them shared a short video created by comedian Michael Jr. entitled "Know Your Why." Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/LZe5y2D60YU>

I encourage you to watch the video but in short, the point of the video is that knowing our "why" opens up the possibilities for "what" we do. We can relate this to the concept of knowing our shared mission - our purpose - but I believe it goes deeper than that. We often ask if a ministry we propose is consistent with our mission, and that is an essential question to ask. But WHY do we do the ministry? The answer to that can be, "In response to God's love" or "We've been inspired by the Holy Spirit." Okay, but let's go deeper. What is it about how God's love has impacted your life that inspires you to action?

I put this out there for our consideration in light of the challenges of doing ministry in this time. There are so many variables in our lives that are unique to life during a pandemic. The "what" of our lives has shifted so many times it's hard to know what to expect. In many ways what we have done in the past does not speak to the reality we are living today.

I wonder if taking our focus off the "what" and putting it squarely on the "why" may help. As an example, think of all the ways people found to stay connected over the past year and a half. Why, because we missed each other. We value our relationships on a deep level so we got creative. The "why" became more important than the "what" or the "how."

As we look toward doing ministry in the 21st century I invite us to ponder the deeper question of why we do what we do. The church has consistently gathered to worship, to learn, to serve, to share in fellowship and to share the Good News of Christ since the beginning (Acts 2). What that looks like now is considerably different from what it looked like in first century Palestine. I venture to say even Martin Luther would be astonished at what ministry looks like 500 years after he nailed his 95 Theses to the church door.

I am certain that each of us has stories to share about how particular ministries were deeply meaningful. Sharing these stories can be a powerful way of inspiring others. Offering an invitation to someone to accompany you in doing ministry along with sharing why you do it can open the door for them to respond to a calling in their life. It's called sharing the good news of God's active presence in our lives. And as we explore why we do ministry perhaps we may open the way to new ways of doing ministry that are life-giving and effective.

As we move toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, I invite us to shift our attention to why we do what we do. If it isn't clear, and even if it is, bring it to God in prayer. Let's see what that Holy Spirit does with a shift in focus from what we do to why we do it.

Peace, Deacon Nancy

CONFIRMATION CONNECTIONS



We are off to a good start for the year as we explore the New Testament. One of our activities will be to create a time capsule of 2020-21. We plan to include items to represent our experiences and some written notes to those who will open the time capsule in the future. We continue to meet in person on Sunday mornings during the faith formation hour. We have a zoom link set up in the event someone needs to attend virtually. Thank you for your prayerful support!



Schedules for November

Slideshow Creation Team

Usher

Lector

9:30 am

11/7	Jacob Sousou	Ken Margrey	Kurt Richardson
11/14	Keith Gatling	Steve Erdley	Doug Keim
11/21	Kurt Richardson	Greg/Julie Yoder	Beth Head
11/28	Matt Colbert	Carl Bastedo	Betsy Herpich

Worship Assistants

Counter

11/7	Lauren Seiter	Ken Krafft / Barb Nies
11/14	Anna Salem	Kurt Richardson / Pat Lebel
11/21	Cheryl Gatling	Doug Keim / Bob Kolch
11/28	Stephany Richardson	Cathy Miller / Art Leitgeb

What does it mean to be a "Reconciling In Christ" (RIC) congregation?



The purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program.

Wow, that's a mouthful!!

In other words, we have an opportunity to work with Reconciling Works, and possibly a few other congregations in our area, to begin a journey to become an RIC congregation, but we need to know your feelings before we can truly begin.

So, our first step is to engage a few people who would be on our "core team" to have one to one visits with the vast majority of the congregation about what this would mean to King of Kings, and how you, the congregation, feels about being a congregation that would explicitly state a welcome to people of "*all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions*" or "*LGBTQIA+*" and names its commitment to *racial equity or antiracism* in its welcome statement. We hope that you all will be open to join us in this conversation.

With that being said, if you would like to learn more about becoming an RIC congregation, or if you would like to help us on this journey, please contact Barb Winkel or Sarah Richardson.





What a busy month November is here at King of Kings. We start the month with All Saints Day on November 7th with music and prayers of remembrance for loved ones. On November 21st we will celebrate "Christ the Kings" Sunday with joyful songs of praise. November 28th is the first Sunday of Advent; through scripture and music we prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts and homes. (Perhaps the shofar will call us to worship?)

Tucked in there is also Thanksgiving - although not specifically a church holiday. It is a time to lift up our thanks to God for all he has given us.

We will once again be worshipping in the sanctuary; due to CDC guidelines for safety, singers will be masked, and brass and woodwind instruments will not be able to do "live" performances. I continue to have faith that some day in the future we will be able to have our praise band, choir, brass ensemble and instrumentalists as part of our music ministry and "live" worship. It continues to be challenging to worship in this atypical way, but with all of the beautiful and meaningful "special" days in November, how can we help but to be anything but thankful? As a favorite hymn states, "How can I keep from singing?"

I am currently working on scheduling special music for the Advent and Christmas season. If you have a musical talent you would like to share - please feel free to contact me.

As we go through this busy month of November, I encourage you to keep a song of thanks and praise in your heart. I'll leave you with lyrics from two songs I love:

"In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song!

This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand!

"All Good Gifts" by John Tebelak and Stephen Schwartz, from the musical "Godspell"

We thank thee then O Father, for all things bright and good,

The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.

No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,

But that which Thou desirest our humble thankful hearts!

May the blessings of November surround you.

See you in church,

Beth Colbert, Director of Music

Church Council

Pat Lebel, Chair
Greg Yoder, Vice Chair
Barb Winkel, Financial Secretary
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Carl Bastedo, Treasurer
Caitlin Genalo, Council Member
Ken Krafft, 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 Evans
Young Families, _____
Mutual Ministry Committee, Jerry Foor
Parish Nurse, Health Ministry Team, Carol Genalo
Fellowship, Shari Murray
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
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