

# THE KING'S CROWN



January 2022

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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

Web: [www.kingofkings-ny.org](http://www.kingofkings-ny.org)

Facebook: King of Kings Lutheran Church - Liverpool, NY

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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

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### You've Got to Move

It's a brand new year. It's a totally new day. The number for this new year is 2022, reminds me of many science fiction movies filled with exciting plots and never-ending opportunities. I'm not suggesting that this year will be one filled with flying cars and robots (although that might be cool), but I have this gut feeling that 2022 is a year for forward looking and brave step-taking. While I write this note on the Eve of the new year, I find myself in the gear of looking back to what 2021 was. I keep thinking those thoughts like: What if I did this, that or the other thing? Would this last year have turned out different if I'd one: this, that and the other?

If permitted to, I suppose I could spend all this upcoming year fussing over what could have been in 2021, but spending my time in this way would not be wise in light of the hope and newness of the year to come. Isaiah 43: 16, 18, 19 says,

***"This is what the Lord says, 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.'"***

God understands the human tendency to look to the past, to romanticize the past, and to strive to regain it. No doubt, the lessons we learn from life experiences in the past are valuable. However, those past experiences are ones we can't return to. We may wish for a time machine to address all of our would-haves, should-haves and could-haves, but the fact remains - the past is past.

There are multiple Bible stories about journey making and stepping forward into the

unknown, but the account of Jesus the sending of the disciples in Luke 10:3-11 resonates in the ace of this new year to come:

***Go!...Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road..."When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.'***

Jesus does not tell the disciple to carry lots of luggage and supplies. He does not advise the disciples to control the reactions or waste time guessing what the response of the call to "Go!" on the journey. The disciples are to extend peace to each household and community, and if that peace is not returned - they are to move on and shake the dust of the past off - and move on.

If Jesus' advice to the disciples to ravel light, give and receive peace, to not fret over little things, and shake off the dust of anxiety was good enough for the disciples - it is good enough advice for us in 2022 too.

So, as the new year begins, may God help us to stop looking to the past and trying to reclaim it. God help us, to think and live optimistically, creatively and even (gasp!) outside the box that we may know. May we travel and

“God!” like the disciples - into the journey that is 2022 - a new, challenging and unfamiliar territory and meet it with a smile of hope and prayerful possibility.

May we greet 2022 like the way W.H. Auden so beautifully expresses: “**I want to approach the future as a friend, without a wardrobe of excuses.**”

Happy New Year 2022 to you and yours. May your days be filled with opportunity, possibility and the courage to go and keep moving forward.

Come 'on all, we've got to move!

**“You gotta move. You gotta move, You gotta move, child, You gotta move. And when the Lord, get ready...You gotta move. You may be high. You may be low. You may be rich, child., You may be poor. But when the Lord gets ready. You gotta move.”**

Lyrics to “You've Gotta Move” by Lost Dogs.

Grace and good trouble,

Rev. Tara L. Eastman

## A New Year of Hope



Last year Pastor Tara asked us to choose a word for the year that we would be intentional about in our lives. She chose “And/&”. It’s a word that describes inclusivity, positivity, etc. So, as this new year approaches, I too have been thinking of a word (words) that I might embrace in 2022, and God place the word “HOPE” on my heart. It’s been a difficult (nearly two) years with the Covid virus nipping at our heels and negative thoughts about “when it will be over” so we can “get back to normal” have often come to mind. HOPE. If you have a concordance in the back of your Bible, take a little time to look up the word “Hope” and see how many references there are in the Bible to this beautiful word. Let me help you get started. Beginning with Romans 5:2-5: *“And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God...and Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

These past couple of years have been difficult AND if we look back we can see God’s omnipotent hand in our rescue...a vaccine, masks to protect ourselves...and others, tenacity for learning new ways to teach and learn with technology, greater appreciation for our healthcare providers on the front line of this virus, etc. We have celebrated the birth of our Savior who came to Earth to bring HOPE to our world. That through Him, we will have everlasting life.

Hebrews 11:1: *“Now faith is being sure of what we HOPE for and certain of what we do not see.”*

I pray you have a hopeful and healthy New Year.

If you are struggling in any way, please know that your **Stephen Ministers** are available to listen to your concerns. Feel free to contact Steve or Scarlett Erdley, Beth Head, Pat Lebel, Lynn Myers or myself, Marcy Grundner. Whatever you share is confidential. We care.

## Ladies Group Update...

Thanks to a most giving and loving congregation, 718 items were collected for the Food Drive. West Side Food Pantry received nearly 200 rolls of the most recent requested non-food item, toilet paper, and a \$500 award from the Thrivent Food 500 Grant. Your generosity and food donations are acts of kindness and social ministry in these unsteady times.



Amazon gift cards were sent to Trevor Morrow, Alex Richardson and Matt Yoder, recognizing their service to our Country.

We wish you blessings, kindness, joy, love, and comfort in the New Year.  
Lynn, Jennifer and Dawnelle

## 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 3rd**. Please email your reports to [kingofkingsny@gmail.com](mailto:kingofkingsny@gmail.com). **The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30, 2022.** Thanks!

### 2022 Offering Envelopes Are Here

Your 2022 offering envelopes are in the narthex. As not all of us are yet attending in-person worship, please feel free to grab and deliver them to anyone you might be seeing in the near future. This would be a great help to me.



***To all who give online, if you have changed your pledge for 2022, please go to your online account and change your giving amount. Thank you!***

Barb Winkel, King of Kings Financial Secretary



## Council Corner...

Greetings KOK family and Happy New Year to everyone. In our most recent council meeting we have continued to strategize and plan weekly and Sunday services through the ever-changing COVID requirements and community spread. Onondaga and surrounding counties maintain to be at a high infection rate and we do our best to implement/follow the CDC, state and local guidance.

The 2022 budget was solidified and is ready to be presented to the congregation in preparation for the annual meeting. We cannot thank our congregation enough for meeting your pledges in this difficult year. The budget review will be held on Jan 23, 2022 at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary. With our annual congregation meeting to be held in person on Jan 30 at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary.

We are reaching out to the Boy Scouts of America troop who utilize our church for their meetings. It has been brought to our attention that the BSA bankruptcy could create some liabilities on KOK as a sponsor of this troop(s). They Synod office notified KOK's that the Synod insurance does not cover our liabilities that could occur; therefore, we are discussing how to maintain this partnership legally without risk to the congregation.

A note about communications from National ELCA and Synod Offices: In an effort to pass communications from the national office of the ELCA and Upstate New York Synod, it is KOK leaderships responsibility to share correspondence and communications as we work as Church together. While our opinions may differ on how we live into being church together, we are committed to sharing communications broadly so that members are aware of local, regional, national and global correspondence. If you have questions about correspondence that require further communications, please follow up with the representative office for more information. Thank you for your continued partnership as we serving God and neighbor as as church together.

In addition to sharing ELCA communications on a regular basis with KOK members by way of the weekly What's Up and social media, the KOK Council, after a discussion on how to share Synod and National Office communications; are in the process of inviting Bishop Miller for a visit to King of Kings in 2022 for an opportunity for more dialog and relationship building. The date of this visit will be sent out to KOK members when scheduled.

Greg Yoder and your KOK Council

## King of Kings Quilt Group



Twinkle, twinkle little star...don't you just love stars? Look around you and you will see them everywhere. There they are in the sky, in paintings, on decorated collectables, in the stars and stripes and in fabrics. In our next block for the sampler quilt that we all have started, we will look to the stars for inspiration.

Join us Tuesday, January 11 at 1:00 pm for the examples in making the beloved star block. Contact Donna Huberty for more information.

## People News...



Congratulations to **Melinda** and **Bob O'Connor** on the birth of their son **Kellen**! The new little one was welcomed by big sister **Maggie** and proud grandparents **Carl** and **Susie Bastedo**.

**Elizabeth Ngumbi** was recently inducted into the National Honor Society at Central Square High School. Way to go, Elizabeth!

Congratulations to **Matt Yoder**, who has been promoted to Chief Petty Officer with the U.S Navy! His proud parents are **Greg** and **Julie Yoder**.

**Thank you to all** who helped with the Christmas Meal Distribution as well as to all who contributed gifts for the refugee families and to the Warming Tree Project.



## Faith Formation: Sunday School

Thanks to all the families that have been participating in our Sunday Faith Formation. December brought us time to think about Jesus' birth with a new and different pageant with song. (Check out the December 19th service for the song and costumes.) Just a reminder that we will not have class on our Annual Meeting date (Sunday, January 30). In January, we will be learning about the stories of Jesus from the Book of Luke.

Our new format is a large group, intergenerational lesson and activities, where adults are asked to accompany their young people. At 10:45 we gather in the Fellowship Hall with music by Beth Colbert. There will be the lesson and activities, followed by a to-go or eat-in snack. 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



## From the Deacon's Desk

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We have once again entered a new calendar year. With the turning of each year comes both celebration and anticipation. It also comes with both relief and hope. At the end of 2020 I wrote a prayer-poem asking God to guide us into the new year. I re-read it at the end of 2021 and found that it still resonated with me. For those of you who have seen my Facebook page, you saw it as a post a few weeks ago. At the encouragement of a dear friend I share it with you here as a prayer for 2022.

Dear God, let 2022 be kind.

The ground we've been left to stand on is shaky.

Our souls have been drained to cope in these days that have brought us to its doorstep.

The sting of this past year leaves us wary of what might be.

Within the entryway of this new year, may we find hindsight to see where our best selves have emerged;

Battered yet resilient, hurting yet loved.

We cast our lines into your promised future, in hope that we might be anchored in what is good and noble.

Dear God, let 2022 be kind.

Offer some respite, from worry and suffering, from pandemic and injustice, from cruelty and hardened hearts.

May we find in you new opportunities to live into what we have learned, to shine in new ways.

And as you take us by the hand into this new day, remind us of where we have already traveled; the right turns and the wrong.

Remind us of the love we have shared and the courage we have felt so we might journey more wisely.

As we look ahead, casting our shadows into what may be, may we claim possibility over dismay.

May we seek answers to the deep questions that have risen within our hearts in these difficult times, and be who we have been created to be.

We dare ask this knowing that you, the One who has created time itself, is already within its walls awaiting our arrival, with needed love and promise.

Dear God, let 2022 be kind. Amen

This is my prayer for all of us as we venture into the new year as God's people together.

Peace, Deacon Nancy

# CONFIRMATION CONNECTIONS



We welcomed Pam Bowes to our class on the first Sunday in Advent to lead us in a painting activity to prepare for the season of Advent. Pam leads a painting class during the week at King of Kings. She graciously offered to share her gifts and talents with us. As we head into the Christmas season, we are coming to the end of our study of the New Testament. We will be taking a holiday break and will not be meeting on December 26 or January 2, before we start our work on the Lutheran Living unit. We hope that everyone has a wonderful beginning to the new year.

## Schedules for January

### Slide Show Creation Team

### Usher

### Lector

#### 9:30 am

1/2	Carl Bastedo	Dawnelle Jager
1/9	G or J Yoder	Sherry Miller
1/16	Bob Hickman	Susie Bastedo
1/23	Steve Erdley	Pat Lebel
1/30	Brian Genalo	Bob Hickman

### Worship Assistants

### Counters

1/2	Bob Lebel	
1/9	Jeff Swanson	Mary Moyer / Jenna Wysokowski
1/16	Stephany Richardson	Ken Krafft / Barb Nies
1/23	Cheryl Gatling	Dave Allen / Greg Yoder
1/30	Peter Pavlacka	Niel Zuern / Weta Hayden



# Reconciling In Christ (RIC)



*Ephesians 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility*

## **Reflection on becoming RIC (Reconciling in Christ)**

As we are pulling together a team to begin discussion on whether King of Kings should become a RIC congregation here are a few questions we should all be asking ourselves in preparation.

- Should KoK have a welcome statement that is reflected in how we live out our values as a community? How it is shared, taught, and upheld by members and guests of all ages?
- Does our worship life reflect the diversity of God's creation in hymnody, leadership, imagery, and language?
- Does our faith community partner with community organizations who share similar values?
- How does our faith community share the good news of our welcome? Can people easily see our welcome from the outside of our building, in our online presence, and when they enter? What images have we displayed to indicate our values? Do we offer safe and accessible spaces inside our building for people to experience our community fully?
- Does our faith community welcome openly LGBTQIA+ or BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) peoples into our community?

Please consider what kind of community you want King of Kings to be. And when one of our team approaches you to have a discussion about this, take the time to be honest about how you feel.

If you have any questions about becoming a RIC congregation or would like to help us, please contact Barb Winkel or Sarah Richardson.



Happy New Year! 2022 - Wow! What will the New Year bring? I choose to be hopeful and prayerful that the answer to the Covid virus and its' variants will be found this year so that we can be together without worry or fear. I choose to be hopeful that all people will come to a better understanding of one another and treat each other with respect and kindness. I choose to be hopeful that I can be an "instrument" of God's love and peace in helping to spread the good news!

January is the month of "Epiphany" - in the church, we celebrate the Epiphany as the time that the three "Wisemen" or three "Kings" came to see the Christ child. Think of the time, effort, and sustained hope and belief it took for these three men to make that loooooong journey. Balthasar is believed to be the "king" from Arabia. Melchior is thought to be from Persia; and last but not least, Caspar came in from India. We should remember that not only did they come that long way to see Jesus, but that they most assuredly took news of the Christ-child back to their homelands! Even as an infant, the "good news" of Jesus was starting to spread.

May we use this time of the church year to also boldly tell of, and live out, the Good News! The music of the season reflects our joy, and also encourages us as followers of Christ, to share his gospel of love and peace. Here are words to some favorite songs of Epiphany:

**"God's Love Made Visible"** by Iola and Dave Brubeck

*God's love made visible! Incomprehensible!*

*He is invincible! His love shall reign!*

*Joyfully pray for peace and good will -*

*All of our yearning He will fulfill.*

*Live in a loving way - Praise Him for every day.*

*Open your hearts and pray - His love shall reign!*

**"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"** by Reginald Heber

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,*

*Dawn on our darkness and come to our aid.*

*Star of the east, the horizon adorning,*

*Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

**"Light of the World"** by Matt Redman

*You shone upon the earth, but who will understand?*

*You came unto Your own, but who will recognize?*

*You were the Messiah who came and walked upon the earth;*

*Your glory we have seen, the one and only King -*

*And now You're living in our hearts!*

*Light of the world, Light of the world,*

*Light of the world, You shine upon us!*

*Light of the world, Light of the world,*

*Light of the world, You shin upon us!*

May God bless all of you with peace, hope and love throughout 2022.

See you in church! Beth Colbert, Director of Music

# MEMO

**To: *Parents***  
**From: *A Child***



1. Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for - I'm only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it, it makes me feel secure.
3. Don't let me form bad habits. I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
4. Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly "big".
5. Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.
6. Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.
7. Don't protect me from consequences. I need to learn the painful way sometimes.
8. Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you." Sometimes it isn't you I hate but your power to thwart me.
9. Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. Sometimes they get me the attention I need.
10. Don't nag. If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.
11. Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as well as I should like. That is why I am not always accurate.
12. Don't put me off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek information elsewhere.
13. Don't be inconsistent. That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.
14. Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
15. Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
16. Don't ever think that it is beneath your dignity to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm towards you.
17. Don't forget I love experimenting. I couldn't get along without it, so please put up with it.
18. Don't forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please do try.
19. Don't forget that I don't thrive without lots of love and understanding, but I don't need to tell you, do I?
20. Please keep yourself fit and healthy. I need you.

# 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

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

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