

THE KING'S CROWN



January 2023

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2

Office Closed

January 8

Pastor Tara's last Sunday/Reception

January 29

Annual Meeting/Luncheon



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

Pastor Tara's Post-its: January 2023:

Godspeed for a New Year

From my childhood, I have a distinct memory of a habit of prayer before going on a road trip. My parents would ask all the necessary questions:

Is there anything else you need from the house? Are there any last minute bathroom breaks needed? Is everyone bucked up?

The final question before hitting the road was this: *Who wants to pray a blessing on our trip?*

This blessing was a way of saying out loud, *"God watch over us on our travels - guide our steps (or miles driven) - may the road be smooth and may we arrive safe."* This practice gave us the opportunity to consider how God cared for us, for the places we were going and all the people who traveled along the highway.

I loved this ritual as a child because it included little ones in the invitation to give a blessing. When the question of "Who wants to pray?" was asked, we all had a chance to offer a blessing or a word of Godspeed.

Sharing a travel blessing or Godspeed gave me, as a child, a welcome to join in the practice of prayer that has traveled with me all my life. To this day, I ask blessings on the travel of family, friends and myself. Including all the travel up and down Route 57, and beyond over the last three years.

This new year has brought us to a new season in our relationship as church and pastor. Instead of giving a blessing of Godspeed to a member who is moving; it's my turn to ask you for a blessing of Godspeed as I depart

from King of Kings on January 8th, 2023 and begin a new call at Jamestown First Presbyterian.

I thank you for our season together and request that you continue in your mission to be, *"Empowered by the grace and love of Jesus, we are committed to growing in faith with the community."*

May God the Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit sustain you, as you live into the daily spiritual practice of giving blessings to the people and places I have come to love in Liverpool, Syracuse and CNY.

In form of the sung blessings I've shared at the end of worship service at King of Kings, I give you *one more blessing, from the song, "People of Joy"*:

"All the places we come from, all the places we've been. We need a place to belong. We need a place to fit in. No matter where the road takes in, in God we all are kin. We are a people of joy. Warm, welcoming and one. Held together by the Spirit, Creator and Son."

So, like my parents invited me to take up a practice of blessing as a child, I now invite you to do the same.

And so I ask" *Who wants to pray a blessing on our trip? You can. You will. You are a people of joy.*

In grace and good trouble,

Rev. Tara L. Eastman

How to “Chalk the Door” and bless your Home at Epiphany for the New Year! (from Sundays and Seasons)

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother” (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + C + M + B + 22. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

Reading

As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word

was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*)

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 ☒ C + M + B ☒ 22

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

22 and twenty two years ago.

☒ Christ, bless this house,

☒ and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God is With Us!

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." - Rainer Maria Rilke

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." - Vern McLellan

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Every moment is a fresh beginning." - T.S. Elliot

"He was in the beginning with God." - John 1:2

For me a new year offers an opening to new beginnings and setting new goals. Goals are something specific and measurable, allowing to focus on something attainable. What goals do you have in mind for 2023?

Often times, I hear of people and their great expectations regarding things to do, places to see, changes made for improved health, among other things. Sometimes, goals may look like having a regular sleep routine, a regularly scheduled time for spiritual practice and/or a self care schedule.

I think it is important to keep in mind that a goal is a work in progress that can be modified, as needed. As we enter the new year at King of Kings, we share the mission - "Empowered by the grace and love of Jesus, we are committed to growing in faith with the community." Each one of us is part of the group and your presence and spiritual gifts makes a difference.

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, together is defined as "*in a body; as a group*" and "*considered as a whole: counted or summed up.*" Together we will navigate the days ahead, with hope, peace, joy and love in embracing every moment as a opportunity to give thanks to God. Every moment of everyday, God is with us and has a plan for our days. How will you participate in the coming year? What gift of your presence will you bring forth to share with others in the community?

Here's something to think about. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25.

I look forward to being with King of Kings in 2023 worshipping, growing our faith and impacting the community together.

God is with us,

Maria Jackson, Faith Formation Director

Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th, 2023. We will have a Potluck Luncheon starting at 11:00 am , right after worship, with the meeting starting at 11:45 am in the sanctuary. It is important that we have a quorum of members so that important agenda items can be voted on. Please make it a point to attend this very important meeting.

Doug Keim and members of the church council will also be going over the budget for 2023 line by line on Sunday, January 22nd immediately after worship. This is the only time the budget will be gone over line by line, so if you have questions or concerns, please plan to attend the budget meeting.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask myself, or any other council members.

Lisa Clark

Schedule for January

Slide Show Creation Team

1/1 K Richardson
 1/8 J Sousou
 1/15 K Gatling
 1/22 K Richardson
 1/29 J Sousou

Usher

E Richardson/K Wild
 D/P Weingarten
 R/K Sampson
 E Richardson/S Richardson
 H Zimmerman/K Wild

Lector

Dave Allen
 Donna Huberty
 Susie Bastedo
 Dawnelle Jager
 Niel Zuern

Worship Assistants

1/1 B Lebel / B Hickman
 1/8 K Catling / C Gatling
 1/15 L Seiter / M Hayes
 1/22 J Swanson / S Richardson
 1/29 S Richardson / K Sampson

Counters

No Counters
 M Moyer / J Wysokowski
 S Salem / C Miller
 N Zuern / A Leitgeb
 W Hayden / L Savidge

Altar Guild for January:

December 8, 2022

Dear Children of the Mountain Sponsors and USA Committee Members,

It has been a very fruitful year for the Ninos de Montana Association (Children of the Mountain), and we are very excited to tell you about our accomplishments for the year 2022. We are very happy to give God all the Glory when we tell you that He has ALWAYS been faithful in providing everything we need to fulfill our missions.

We have been fortunate to serve several communities in Honduras by holding two Evangelistic Medical Brigades in 2022, and five in 2021 (during the Covid pandemic). These brigades provided food, clothes, shoes, and other services. Each of these communities is home to approximately three hundred families, who were recipients of the support services we offered. In addition, Bible classes and evangelism services were provided to both children and adults.

Our Association strives to work jointly with the leaders and families in each community to improve the living and economic conditions in their community. Using this approach, we believe that we are helping the people be able to restore their dignity.

In the community of Los Portillos, where our Primary Focus program has been operating, we have been able to plan and complete several important projects this year. These accomplishments include:

- Construction of an entire water and sanitation system for the 80 families in the village
- Construction of a new Kindergarten for the education of the children
- Construction of a new Health Center to provide comprehensive health services for the children and their families. This includes staffing this Medical Center with a physician and a nurse.

During my tour of area churches in the USA, I was able to share with each of you about the work that is being done with the Children of the Mountain Association in Honduras. Our work in Honduras has been strengthened by the bonds that were created with you and your churches, and by your financial donations. I thank each of you most humbly.

One important new facet of the Association that was launched during this tour was the very first child sponsorship program. This program provides you with the opportunity to sponsor a child in Honduras. We trust that each of our child sponsors have been called by God to connect with the child you have chosen. Our objective is for our children to have a person who inspires them to move forward by providing emotional and financial support. We are hopeful that your sponsorship will reduce some of the loneliness that many of the children experience.

We encourage you to reach out to your child with emails addressed to:

montanadeninos@gmail.com (directly to Honduras), or

dollydal2002@yahoo.com (to Dale Ann Krahn in the USA)

We trust God that the coming year will continue to be fruitful and full of love and compassion for the children in Honduras. May God bless you for your faithfulness.

Sincerely,

Jayson David Mena Guity



Farewell Reception for Pastor Tara

Pastor Tara's last Sunday with us will be January 8, 2023. We want to thank her for her ministry here with us, so plans are in the works for a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service that day. It will be a time for everyone to spend some time with Pastor and wish her well. We are looking for volunteers to make soup (some gluten free), salads (some gluten free), and desserts (some gluten free). Call the office or sign up in the Narthex.

People News...

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to **Sheirel Mordaunt** on the passing of her father, **Earl Woods, Jr.** and to the **Garrett family** on the passing of **Thomas Garrett**. May God's promise of eternal life bring you comfort and peace.



Lee Savidge was spotted on television, when News Channel 9 presented a special program entitled "Veterans Voices." Lee is a member of the S.U. Veterans Writing Group, sharing their experiences in and out of the military service through handwritten accounts.

Matt Yoder was one of the military servicemen, who participated in the unfurling of the flag on the field during the singing of the national anthem at a Giants football game.

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

Just as a reminder of what becoming a RIC congregation is about. ***“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”.***

Our Core team has been talking with many of you one to one. We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to participate and for your honesty on the subject of becoming a RIC congregation.

Of those that we spoke with, there was an overwhelming positive response. In fact, many of you said “Don’t we do this already”, or “I thought we already were RIC”.

I took our findings to the congregational council and they agreed that we should continue and move forward.

What does this mean and look like? The RIC Core team plans to begin by having more conversations, but in small group settings. There might be a possibility of bringing in some speakers from other congregations who have already gone through the process. We are also hoping to have some educational time, maybe talking about some of the language and vocabulary, why pronouns matter, etc.

In short, we would still like to hear from you! This is your congregation, and your opinion matters. It is not our intent to “stuff this down your throats”. We are simply trying to open up the conversation.

So please, look for opportunities in the upcoming months and throughout 2023.

If you have any questions or comments about becoming an RIC congregation, please contact Barb Winkel or Sarah Richardson.

Faith Formation / Sunday School



Sunday School continues to meet at 10:45 weekly. We have been studying the Old Testament stories of Mary, Elizabeth, Jesus' Birth, and Christmas Carol Trivia. We presented a Christmas Story song with the puppets on December 18. Check out the Facebook page church service to see our performance. Sunday School will be on hold for Christmas break for December 25, January 1 and 8. On January 8, please join the congregation for the party to wish Reverend Tara farewell. Activities will be provided for the kids during the luncheon.

Maria and I have been busy preparing for the rest of the year. There's a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex with curriculum studies for the rest of the year. We will continue to need 1 teacher and 1 helper each week, to provide safety for our youth. We ask that volunteer(s) sign up for the week(s) you are interested in teaching &/or assisting. Sue has provided the themes to teach and asks that you let us know which theme you'd like to teach to plan accordingly. You will be provided a lesson 2 weeks ahead. We appreciate your help, insights and willingness to share the love of God with our youth.

Special thanks for all who contributed and attended our Advent Craft Sunday on November 28. There was a great turn-out. Special thanks to Stephanie and Shari for sharing a craft. Reverend Tara spent some well deserved craft time at our bead table and was able to enjoy some special conversations while crafting. Thanks, Sue Evans, Faith Formation Director





Happy New Year! Through the early part of January we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ, the visitation of the Magi, and Christ's baptism. By month's end we will hear about the beginning of Jesus' early public ministry. We will also be reminded of the prophet Micah's words that God requires us to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."

With the news of Pastor Tara's leaving, we need to trust God's love and guidance through the Holy Spirit as we also lean on each other and work together to make it through this time of change. We must have faith, and pray for patience, wisdom and discernment as we continue to "walk humbly with our God."

However, there are many things that will not change: the music and music ministry will continue to be an integral part of the worship life at King of Kings no matter what may lie ahead. We will continue to hear the Son-Light Choir, instrumental and vocal soloists, the brass ensemble, and the handbell choir. I hope to teach the Sunday School children a few more joyful songs that they will share in church. We will continue to "raise our praise" with music and song through whatever changes may come.

I leave you with words of assurance from some beloved hymns:

"Be Still My Soul" by Katharine Schlegel
*Be still my soul: our God is on our side!
Guiding the future as He has the past:
Leave to our God to order and provide
in every change He faithful will remain.*

"Trust in the Lord" R. Tabell paraphrasing Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on
Your own understanding.*

*In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct
Your path, and He will direct your path.*

From: **"God! When Human Bonds are Broken"**

words by Fred Kaan.

*Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into
life;*

*Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger,
give us faith.*

So, here is to a time of new beginnings! God is with us on this journey. May the music of the church bring you joy, peace, and comfort; may it help illuminate God's word, may it help "bind us together" in the coming days ahead.

In God's service~

Beth Colbert, Director of Music Ministry



2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 offering envelopes are here and in the narthex. If you have not yet picked them up, please contact the church office and make arrangements to get them. The numbers have changed again this year, so please make sure you are using the correct envelope for the correct year.

If you have the ability to help by taking someone's envelope to them, please do so. I would greatly appreciate the help.

Barb Winkel, King of Kings Financial Secretary

King of Kings Quilt Group

Is your sewing machine being uncooperative? Are these problems leading to a frustrating sewing experience? We need to troubleshoot some common dilemmas before taking the machine in for an expensive repair. Before tearing out our hair and screaming...let Lorraine Savidge come to the rescue. Our guest speaker, Lorraine, will be leading a discussion about common mishaps with sewing machines and what to do to correct these nuisances.

We meet **Tuesday, January 10th** at 1 pm in the Sunday School wing. Are you having an issue with your sewing experience and suspect it is the sewing machine's fault (could never be user error, could it?) Bring your questions for Lorraine. She has probably already dealt with a similar issue. Any questions about the quilt group or to join Donna's email group, contact Donna Huberty .

Men's Breakfast Group News...



Our monthly Men's Group Breakfast will be on **Saturday, January 7th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall**. Please If you have any questions regarding breakfast, please contact me .

Thanks, Dave Krause ("Contact Person" replacement committee)

Council Corner...

Council received word at our December meeting that Pastor Tara felt the Holy Spirit calling her back to her family in Jamestown, NY. She has accepted a transitional position with a potential of full-time pastoral duties at The First Presbyterian Church in Jamestown, NY. While we were sad and shocked, we also understood how important family is and the need to be closer. As a congregation we want to thank Pastor Tara for her guidance and leadership for the past three (almost) years at King of Kings. She started in February 2020 and one month later the pandemic hit! Church as we knew it was forever changed. Pastor Tara and other members rallied together and developed the ability to worship virtually. She kept us connected as a church family through her postings, podcasts and virtual meetings/services. We can't thank her enough for her ability to keep King of Kings together to receive the gospel, sacraments and numerous lessons from the Holy Bible.

Pastor Tara also introduced us to ashes to go, reading under the tree, soup and sacrament, pie church, meals to go, support and decorate the free library, racial justice events and enriched us with her artistic and musical talents.

Pastor Tara was a breath of fresh air in a time when the world was struggling with sickness and loneliness. We are so thankful that she was our pastor during this troubling time to lean on for support and guides us through to move forward.

Pastor Tara's last day with King of Kings will be Sunday, January 8th. We will have a luncheon to thank her and wish her god speed in her new calling.

Thank you, Pastor Tara, for EVERYTHING!

With love, grace and good trouble,
Lisa Clark, Council Chairperson
King of Kings Lutheran Church



Church Council

Lisa Clark, Chair
Greg Yoder, Vice Chair
Barb Winkel, Financial Secretary
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Carl Bastedo, Treasurer
Steve Miller, Council Member
Sue Tierney, Council Member
Kurt Richardson, Council Member
Jennifer Foor, Council Member
Rev. Tara Lamont Eastman



Ministry Teams

Finance, Doug Keim
Property, Niel Zuern
Service Ministry Team, _____
Worship & Music, Beth Colbert
Children's Ministry, Sue Evans
Mutual Ministry Committee, Anita Leitgeb
Parish Nurse, Health Ministry Team, _____
Fellowship, Shari Murray
Hospitality, Cathy Miller
PALMS, Weta Hayden
Stephen Leader: Marcy Grundner
Stephen Leader: Lynn Myers
Stephen Leader: Jerry Foor
Quilters: Donna Huberty
Women's Group: Dawnelle Jager
Women's Group: Jennifer Foor
Women's Group: Lynn Weeks

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