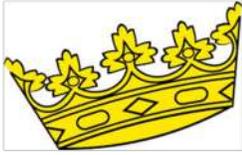


THE KING'S CROWN



February 2023

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Phone: 315-622-2077 | Email: kokchurchsecretary@gmail.com

Web: www.kingofkings-ny.org

Facebook: King of Kings Lutheran Church - Liverpool, NY

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4 **Men's Breakfast 7:30am**

February 20 **Office Closed: President's Day**



February 22 **Ash Wednesday**
Worship at 11:00am & 7:00pm



March
Newsletter
Deadline is
February 15

Mission Statement

"Empowered by the grace and love of Jesus, we are committed to growing in faith with the community."

What Now??

Dear King of Kings Members,

Thank you everyone for the wonderful send off for Pastor Tara. I'm sure she felt the love and appreciation for all that she has given to us.

The next question is what now? Council has met with Synod and Pastor Gail Wolling has been assigned as our transitional pastor. Pastor Wolling is also assisting two other churches so her availability to King of Kings will be limited. She plans to preach 1 Sunday a month and work 15-20 hrs. per month in the office. She will also be in charge of scheduling pulpit supply pastors for us.

As a church we need everyone's help! If you are aware of anyone in need of pastoral care please call Rachel Webb in the office and she will communicate these needs to Pastor Wolling. We want to make sure everyone is cared for.

Council will be meeting to ask members to serve on some needed committees. One committee will be responsible for updating our MSP (Ministry Site Profile). This profile will be sent into the Synod and will assist with finding a call minister. We will also be putting together a call committee. This committee will work closely with Synod and potential candidates. They will be interviewing call pastors and making recommendations to the council for approval. We ask that if you are called to assist with one of these committees please prayerfully consider helping the congregation with these needs.

King of Kings has a lot to offer a potential pastor. For one, our mortgage is paid! We have wonderful staff in place and financially we are sound. Our members are wonderful to our community and assisting members and others in need.

Please keep King of Kings in your daily prayers as we seek a pastor to guide us to grow in faith and love.

Lisa Clark

Council Chair

From the Desk of Pastor Wolling

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Greetings to all. Bishop Lee Miller II has asked me to serve as a Transitional Pastor for the good people of King of Kings during this period of discernment and search for your next called pastor. Many of you know me as the former Dean; I also was the called pastor at Luther Memorial for 10 years.

The first question folks usually ask me is “What exactly do you do?” I work with the congregational leadership to assure continuity of worship, availability of pastoral care and to give what guidance is needed in matters of governance. I work limited hours while at the same time I am available for emergencies of all natures – as long as they don’t include heating and plumbing! I’ve already met with Beth to talk worship planning and with Maria and Rachel to begin to orient myself to your situation and needs. Although I will be with you occasionally to lead worship, there will be others filling that need.

I will be your pastor (albeit in a more limited capacity) and your pastoral questions and concerns should be directed to me. Call or email with questions and concerns. **Please** call when you need a pastoral presence – that’s why I’m here.

The other facet of my work is to facilitate the discernment process as you consider your future. This is more than just ‘we need a pastor’ but some serious conversation about how King of Kings is called to do ministry in this post covid world, even as we continue to heal from 2.5 years of shared trauma. We aren’t the people we were in 2019 and the church who is called to be the presence of Christ in the community cannot be the church that it was in 2019 – or any other year! What have you learned about yourselves? What changes do you observe both internally and externally? What is needed in 2023 to help people grow spiritually and to reach out to others who are looking for connection?

But first we need to get organized. I will be with you on February 12th -Super Bowl weekend – to lead worship and begin to get to know you better. Until then, put this in your phone God bless you all.

Pastor Gail Wolling

Incredible.....

Here we are approaching the second month of the new year. A time to celebrate being together and awaiting all the month has to hold. For some, it may be sharing valentines, for others it may be anticipating a trip away or perhaps completing tasks and knowing the crisp chill of winter is upon us. For me, winter time is an opportunity to hibernate inside, baking, cooking, reading, watching movies and creating.

When my son was younger, I recall watching *The Incredibles* movie with him. Afterwards, as we were walking up the stairs he asked, “Mom, if you had a super power what would it be?” I remember telling him I think we all have a super power and I pray that more people learn of its importance and share it with others. His curiosity sparked the words “You do? What is it?” In one word, I replied, love. “Love”? Love. The conversation continued as we prepared for prayers.

For those of us who are parents, I believe we are our children’s first teachers. Our children live fully in our midst, observing, listening, talking, discussing, trying, mirroring, questioning, growing, replicating, modeling among other things as they grow with us. When given the opportunity to be with family, friends and members of the community, their learning expands and grows accordingly.

At King of Kings church, we are blessed to have a community of faithful members who dedicate their gifts of time, talents and more to reflect God’s love among us. For in our presence, we reflect God’s love. According to Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” When we attend weekend services in person, we strengthen our connections and build community. We may not know the difference we make in someone’s life or what God has planned for each of us, each day. Yet, we do know His love for us and how we feel when greeted with smiles from members upon entering the church welcome area, or when we share a hand shake or hug during the time of peace.

Imagine church through the eyes of a child for a moment or two. What do they see or don’t see or hear before, during or after a church service? I’ve observed children held and hugged by family members and encouraged and prompted to look and see. Through participating in the service, we are all gifted by the giggles and grins, whimpers and tears, reminding us in those moments, how our past has prepared us for now. How we too, have experienced similar feelings and expressions learning and observing others as we grow in faith as disciples. Children seeing through the eyes of wonder and curiosity, filled with love and surrounded by caring adults, makes a tremendous difference in the community. Imagine the long-term effect of children learning and growing their faith by participating in faith programs at King of Kings. I often wonder and imagine the impact and difference of more people saying yes to attending programs at church. Thus, I ask, what programs and time(s) would you like to see at King of

Kings? I often wonder and imagine the impact and difference of more people saying yes to attending programs at church. Thus, I ask, what programs and time(s) would you like to see at King of Kings that would help your family with their faith journey? In the meantime, you're invited to attend the Sunday school program following our 9:30am service. There's music, bible stories, activities and snacks for the children. Two times a month, the confirmation and senior youth groups meet from 4-6pm. There's information about all of these programs on the bulletin board in the welcome area.

In addition to the youth programs, as children of God, we have a wonderful opportunity before us, to ask ourselves the following questions as we embark on the course to seek and find a Pastor. At the January KoK Council Meeting, Julie Grindle from Synod attended and suggested as part of the discernment process during the Pastor search that we look at: Who are we? Who is it that we want to be? Where do we want to go as we work together as a community of faith?

I believe, change is constant as is God's love for each one of us; and that through prayer, discernment, discussion, sharing our gifts and commitment, we will clarify and bring forth what's best for the existing and growing congregation at King of Kings Liverpool. Together we have the incredible opportunity to look and see and we are stronger by dedicating ourselves to spending time in prayer, attending worship/programs and community events amplify God's love.

How many times have you asked or heard the phrase as quoted from The Incredibles movie? "Dashell Parr: *Are we there yet?* Bob Parr/Mr. Incredible: *We get there when we get there!*" The timeline is unknown, yet rest assured, God has a plan and has prepared us for now. May the love you know, emanate and shine forth restoring and impacting lives in the community on the incredible journey before us. I have discovered, the more we let go and let God, the more incredible the outcome.

Habakkuk 1:5

*"Look among the nations! Observe!
Be astonished! Wonder!
Because I am doing something in your days—
You would not believe if you were told.*

Peace and love,
Maria Jackson



Special Delivery-“Make & Take”

You're invited on February 12th before or after service to “make & take” a valentine or card to share with another. Materials will be provided on tables in the Welcome Area.

Wondering who to share a message with; perhaps you give it to the cashier at the convenient mart or the bank teller or the drive thru server or a family member or friend? What if there's someone who needs to hear from you? Imagine the difference a message will make in the lives of others.

Encouraging words help others as do small acts of kindness.



KINDNESS: Special Announcement

Mark your calendars in preparation for February 17, 2023 Random Acts of Kindness Day and kindness week February 12-18th, 2023. Help to shift the perspective where we live in community where kindness is the norm. Printed materials/ideas will be available in the Welcome Area in February. If you can't wait to see, go to “The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, Random Acts of Kindness Day 2023” for more information and how you make a difference together with others.

As a starter...perhaps paint a rock with a message and bring it to King of Kings to add to the “Kindness Rocks” collection by our church entryway or take a walk in your neighborhood for someone else to find or deliver hand to hand with an invite to attend a service or event with us at King of Kings.

Kindness rocks and so do you!

Share the love, Maria Jackson

Pastor Tara & all my church family,

Thank you all for doing all you did for Tom's memorial service. The service was beautiful. The luncheon was perfect.

We love you all.

Rita, Jacob, Time, Steven Garrett

Schedules for February

Usher

2/5 Carl Basteo/Bob Hickman
2/12 Darren/Mary Moyer
2/19 Greg/Julie Yoder
2/22 Volunteer
2/26 Dan/Patti Weingarten

Lector

Peg Gosch
Avery Head
Bob Hickman
Peter Pavlaka
Lauren Seiter

Worship Assistants

2/5 Cheryl Gatling/ Bob Hickman
2/12 Lauren Seiter/Michele Hayes
2/19 Barb Winkel/Keith Gatling
2/22 Volunteer
2/26 Bob Lebel/Kathy Sampson

Counters

Sue Tierney/Kurt Richardson
Eric Richardson/Peter Pavlaka
Dave Allen/Greg Yoder
Volunteer
Stephany Richardson/Mary Moyer

Altar Guild for February: Lisa Clark

People News...



Our sympathy and prayers are extended to those mourning the loss of loved ones, especially to **Barb Nies** and the family of **Jean Winslow** and to the family of **Adrienne Saurer**. May God's love and the promise of eternal life bring you comfort and peace.

A warm welcome and prayers for God's blessings on **Rachel Webb** who has joined the staff as Administrative Assistant.

Faith Formation / Sunday School



Sunday School continues to meet at 10:45 weekly. We have been studying the New Testament stories of Simeon, Anna, and 10 Men Healed. There will be no class on Annual Meeting day, January 29, and no class February 26, due to school break.

Please email the church if your child is interested in First Communion Classes this spring. We are looking for a time this spring to offer this Faith Stepping Stone. Children in first grade and older are eligible for this class.

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.

Thanks, Sue Evans, Faith Formation Leader

Sunday Youth Program Staff Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 12th, following Sunday School. Materials will be provided for youth to create Valentines while the staff meet from 11:30am-12:15pm.

We appreciate you,
Maria Jackson



Welcome February! The shortest month of the year that somehow feels like the longest month to our winter weary minds that wish for warmth and sunlight!

But here's the good news - we have "Son-Light"! We will hear in scripture that Jesus is our Light - indeed, the Light of the world! What joy that brings. We will also learn again of God's commandments, and the importance of obeying them in a way that honors him, but also means life for us.

We will celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord on February 19th; we'll reflect on that time when His true glory as the Son of God and the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets was revealed. Then, on the last Sunday of the month, we begin the season of Lent and will be called to increase our reflection of, and study of our relationship to God.

The music of the month will be filled with praise and joy as we celebrate Christ as the Light of the World. We'll sing with awe and wonder about the Transfiguration of Jesus, and then sing of the beginning of our Lenten journey and the call for drawing nearer to God.

We will also be singing and playing music of African-American spirituals and composers as we observe and celebrate Black History month.

Hand bell rehearsals will be resuming by the end of the month, and there is ALWAYS an ongoing need for singers and musicians to either join the choir, or volunteer for special music. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in helping out.

I'll end with the inspiring words from the first stanza of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson.

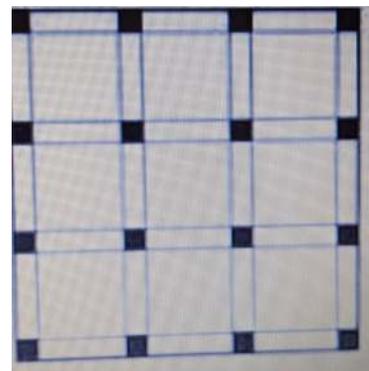
*Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past
has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present
has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

See you at church!

Beth Colbert, Director of Music Ministry

King of Kings Quilt Group

There is nothing like cuddling in a quilt on a cold Winter night. A quilt keeps one warm used on a bed, is handy to snuggle in while watching TV or reading a book, or used as a decoration on a wall or even the back of a chair or sofa. A quilt can be made in very traditional fabric prints or very contemporary with the use of bold statement fabrics or solids. However a quilt is used or made, sometimes the blocks need some separation from each other to appreciate the differing blocks and to make the quilt pattern more cohesive. That's where "sashing and cornerstones" come into play. Sashing is the fabric strips on four sides of a block. Cornerstones are squares of fabric at the intersections. These are used to divide the blocks to make a more cohesive look especially when the blocks are different (as in our sampler series).



Come Tuesday, February 14th at 1:00 pm to learn about this finishing technique. Bring your nine completed sampler blocks. If you have not completed the blocks or want to check out the class, come anyway. This is useful knowledge for your getting a quilt top completed easily. And a quick quilt top can be made with 12 1/2" squares of fabric separated by the sashings and cornerstones. Any questions can be directed to Donna Huberty

Salty Syracuse Youth

During the month of February, Salty Syracuse Youth meets at Atonement Church. Please mark your calendars to attend the program on February 5th and 19th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Please direct your interest and questions to Maria Jackson. See you soon!

Permission slips are available on the bulletin board in the KoK Welcome Area.



Council Corner...

The following topics were discussed at the monthly January Council meeting:

- The Finance Chair reported to Council that King of Kings finished the year 2022 with income slightly exceeding expenses.
- Assistant to the Bishop Julie Grindle was present to discuss next steps in our search for a new pastor. The process starts with an update to the church's Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which is used to describe King of Kings to potential candidates; and is followed by appointment of a Call committee. Julie also reviewed recent efforts by the Synod to more efficiently connect congregations and potential candidates.
- Our Transitional Pastor (formerly Dean) Gail Wolling was present to confirm her commitment of 15-20 hours per month in the office to serve King of Kings until we find a permanent or interim pastor. During this period Pastor Wolling anticipates preaching at King of Kings once a month. She will also assist in identifying supply pastors to preach the remaining Sundays.
- Council approved a draft 2023 budget for discussion at a congregational meeting following the January 22nd service, and the January 29th Annual Meeting.

With love, grace and good trouble,
Steve Miller, Council Member
King of Kings Lutheran Church

Men's Breakfast Group News...



Our monthly Men's Group Breakfast will be on **Saturday, February 4th at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall**. We start with coffee at 7:30 and food at 8:00 am. Kurt Richardson is the cook extraordinaire. Suggested donation is \$3.00.

Please If you have any questions regarding breakfast, please contact Peter Pavlacka or Chuck 'Grundner.

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
Pastor Gail Wolling



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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