

THE KING'S CROWN



April 2024



King of Kings Lutheran Church

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

Web: www.kingofkings-ny.org

Facebook: King of Kings Lutheran Church - Liverpool, NY

Upcoming Events

Saturday 6th—Men's Breakfast

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th

Pastor Carroll RIC discussions & worship

(see inside for details)

Tuesday 9th—Quilt Group

Sunday 14th—Potluck

Caregiver Group

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:30am

Men's Bible Study

Biweekly on Fridays 6:00am

May
Newsletter
Deadline is
April 15

Mission Statement

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

From the Desk of Pastor Rebecca

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

As a synod, we are encouraged by our current bishop to cultivate a G.R.A.C.E. mindset. The letters of G.R.A.C.E. stand for five discipleship practices: Generous Love, Restorative Justice, Adaptive Leadership, Collaboration & Connections, and Experimentation.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

After weeks of Lenten reflection and simplicity, in the season of Easter we lavishly praise God and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with shouts of alleluia! Just as many voices and instruments come together to make a beautiful symphony of music, our ministry joins with other partners near and far to magnify our service for the sake of changing lives.

In our 2024 budget, we approved an increase in the annual financial offering King of Kings sends to the Upstate New York Synod. I am so proud of and grateful for the commitment this shows to collaborating and connecting with other Lutheran congregations in our state and beyond. This money funds salaries for the Bishop and other synod staff, but it also covers candidacy costs for individuals discerning a call to become a pastor or deacon. It funds grants for campus ministries. It helps create resources for congregations about stewardship, advocacy, and more. These things are only possible because of the way we join our offerings with other communities.

King of Kings also has ties with other organizations we have committed to sending benevolence money to every year, including InterFaith Works, Habitat for Humanity, and the Brown Memorial Food Pantry. This is one way we respond to Christ's call to love and serve our neighbors. A congregation alone can never accomplish what can be done when we support other Lutherans, other Christians, and others of different faiths or even no faith in their missions to provide shelter, food, and dignity for all in need.

Financial offerings are not the only way we collaborate with other churches and charities. We build beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We collect personal hygiene products. We host a music school. We connect with one another through activities like our caregivers support group, monthly men's breakfast, and the quilting group. Our professional and personal lives are ways we, as disciples, connect and collaborate with others—probably the way we spend most of our time doing so! Think about how many workplaces, schools, and homes King of Kings collaborates with from this perspective. Those are ministry fields, too.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Thanks be to God for the ways the Holy Spirit brings us together with others in order to share the good news.

Pastor Rebecca



Alleluia! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

We continue to celebrate the risen Christ throughout the month of April. The hymns and music will be joyful and full of praise for our Redeemer and King!

Come and raise your voice in song! There is always room in the choir for more voices, and if you play an instrument and want to offer a solo for special music, please get in touch with me and I'll find a place on the schedule. bmcolbert61@gmail.com

This is the season of joy! Let us rejoice with music and song! " For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. " Psalm 92:4

From the hymn "The Day of Resurrection"

" Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!
The world resounds in triumph, and all that is there-in;
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end! "

Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Beth Colbert, Director of Music

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. Hebrews 10:24

Please join us at church on Wednesdays at 9:15 for conversation, support and shared wisdom. Caregiving can be a challenging and disorienting experience. Come join this group when you are able. All are welcome, supporters and caregivers both.



EASTER DINNER COLLECTION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS



Thank you to all who contributed to the “Easter Dinner with a Twist” collection. Over \$650 and nearly 30,000 baby wipes were delivered to our friends at Brown Memorial’s Westside Food Pantry. WOW! Your contributions helped many families enjoy a hearty Easter Dinner. The baby wipes will enable the pantry to supply the most requested non-food item to their clients. Special thanks and a shout out to: Liverpool area Girl Scout troops who collected money for the hams as well as food items to stock pantry shelves. If you know any of the girls or adult leaders, please extend a personal thank you and let them know how grateful the congregation is for their partnership in this effort.

People News...

Congratulations to Alex Richardson who recently completed Sergeant training with the Marine Corps. Thank you for your service, Alex!

Emilie Sousou has been recognized as a Gold Key recipient for photography through the Scholastic Art Awards at Liverpool High School. Nice work, Emilie!



RIC Holy Conversation-This Weekend!

Saturday April 6th at 10:00am & Sunday April 7th at 11:00am

Our very special guests that weekend will be Pastor Julius Carroll and his lovely wife, Geneva. Pastor Carroll was King of Kings’ Intentional Interim Pastor from 2018-2020.

Pastor Carroll will be leading a conversation and question and answer session regarding becoming an RIC congregation in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday April 6th beginning at 10:00am. He will also be preaching on Sunday April 7th at 9:30 and leading a second conversation with us at 11:00am.



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

Among the many questions that we have received from you is the question, “What does the ELCA say about human sexuality?” So, I would like to share with you a couple frequently asked questions found in the “Lutheran Guide to Advocate for LGBTQ People in Church & Society” from Reconciling Works.

What does the ELCA social statement on sexuality say about supporting same-gender couples and their families?

The social statement *Human sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009)* states that the ELCA:

“...recognizes that it has a pastoral responsibility to all children of God.” (p.19)

“...supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights” for all and has also “called upon congregations and members of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to **advocate for their legal protection.**” (p.19, emphasis added)

“...will attend to the need for **equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities** under the law” for all (p. 33, emphasis added).

What does the ELCA say about performing wedding for same-gender couples?

As of 2009, pastors may preside over same-gender marriages. Here is what former ELCA Secretary David Swartling said in May 2012 about the ELCA’ policy on marriage:

“First of all, the ELCA governing documents, the constitution and bylaws, say nothing about marriage. Secondly, the ELCA’s policies have never told a local pastor in a congregation who that pastor should marry or should not marry. That is a matter up to the discretion for that pastor in consultation, hopefully, with his or her congregation and his or her synod. The requirement is that you need to comply with state law. If state laws allow marriage of same-gender person, there is nothing in ELCA policy that either says that is permissible or prohibited... There is nothing that prescribes who a congregation pastor can marry or not marry, so long as it is consistent with state law. “

As I stated above, these are just 2 FAQ’s that are found in this pamphlet. If you would like to read more there are pamphlets available in the brochure holder in the hallway next to Pastor’s office.

KING OF KINGS QUILT GROUP

Did you hear? The Quilt Group is starting the 60th anniversary of Kings of Kings early. In 2025, King of Kings will be celebrating the 60 years of being a congregation.

A new quilt will be made to hang on the wall next to the 50th anniversary quilt. This effort is ongoing in 2024 and will be moving along monthly. Sew a seam, press a block, help with placement of completed blocks. All are welcome.

Tuesday, April 9th at 1 p.m. is the next get-together in the Sunday School wing. More information? Contact Donna Huberty donnaahuberty@outlook.com or 315-935-5422.

Let's make this a quilt a church family project. And who knows? You too, may become a King of Kings Quilter!



**MBSB (Ministry of Brief Stewardship Blurbs): ...
Thank you, Oh God, for entrusting to me the gift of**

_____.

Please help me to find ways to share it better with the community into which you have called me.

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

As a reminder, on Saturday and Sunday April 6 & 7 we will welcome Pastor Julius Carroll here to lead us into Holy Conversation and to lead Worship. Your Congregational Council have tentatively set a date of May 19th to hold a congregational meeting to vote on whether to make the commitment to become a Reconciling In Christ congregation.

Please save these dates for Holy Conversation. I would like to, once again, include our proposed Aspiration Statement for your perusal.

You are Not Alone!

At King of Kings Lutheran Church, we embrace all individuals and respect their dignity and worth, for all are beloved children of God. We seek to recognize everyone's own distinctions, and we strive to protect all from oppression. As a congregation we share God's vision of love for people of every race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socio-economic status, age, ability, political persuasion, and personal history. At King of Kings, we commit ourselves to ongoing and consistent efforts to advocate for racial equality, and to be allies to all who are oppressed simply for being who they are. Our sanctuary is a place for worship and praise, and to celebrate baptisms, marriages, funerals, and other milestones of growth in faith for all who come. Here we believe there is a place for EVERYONE.

Welcome to King of Kings.

This is the aspiration statement that the RIC Core Team composed and Council has approved. This aspiration statement **DOES NOT** override our Mission Statement. It is merely to show people that we are truly a welcoming congregation.

If you are unable to attend any of the meetings, please feel free to contact any of our RIC Core Team members with your thoughts. The Core Team members are Barb Winkel, Sarah Richardson, Jennifer Foor, Weta Hayden, Betsy Herpich, Dawnelle Jager, Bob and Pat Lebel, Sue Tierney. Also, if you would prefer you could talk with any of your Congregational Council members, which include Lisa Clark, Steve Miller, Jennifer Foor, Robin Ngumbi, Kurt Richardson, Sue Tierney, Carl Bastedo (Treasurer), Barb Winkel (Financial Secretary), Cindy Johnson (Recording Secretary).

Sunday School & Stepping Stones News for Families from Sue

The post Christmas season has been slow in our Sunday School program. We are hoping that more friends will join us this spring for lessons on Abraham's descendants: Jacob and Joseph. We have learned about Abraham's child Issac and Issac's children Jacob and Esau. Sunday School meets weekly at 10:45, with music, a lesson, and activity.

We celebrated the Faith Stepping Stone of Prayer Tents on March 3rd, where kids visited tents and learned prayers for different situations: The Lord's Prayer (both versions), bedtime prayers, meal prayers, and praise prayers (hum along below) were gathered at each station, and then kids made a placemat to take home.

During Easter morning services, look for Children's Bags for your child, and enjoy celebrating the service and joy of the season.

Upcoming Dates:

Craft Sunday on April 21, to celebrate Earth Day

No Sunday School on April 28

No Sunday School on May 12, Mother's Day

Last Day of Sunday School on June 2

Rise and Shine and give God your Glory, Glory
Rise and Shine and give God your Glory, Glory
Rise and Shine and give God your Glory, Glory
Children of the Lord

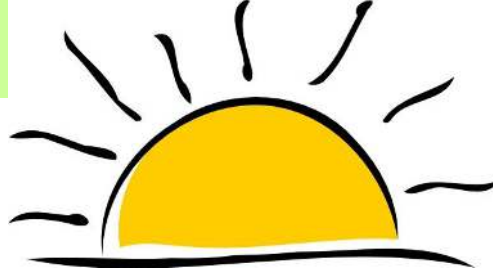


Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu
Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu
Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!



The Men's Bible Study Group meets every other Friday 6:00am in person or by Zoom (your choice). Please contact Steve Miller if you are interested in joining them.

Upcoming dates are
4/12, 4/26, 5/12, 5/19



Spring will be arriving soon and our church lawn will need care. We are currently looking for **NEW** volunteers to help maintain our lawn. New this year is the option to help with trimming our lawn and church property. This option would not require use of the large mower but rather the use of common lawn tools (push mower, trimmer) to help maintain our grounds. Training is provided for all equipment and time commitment is minimal. If interested, contact Dave Wackerow (davidwackerow@gmail.com) or leave your name and contact information on the sign up sheet posted in the narthex. Thanks for your help.



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

**The Men's Breakfast group
will meet Saturday,
March 2nd.
Coffee will be up at 7:30 AM,
breakfast at 8:00 AM.
Please join us, and bring a
friend.**

COUNCIL CORNER

Financial, Treasurer and Pastoral Report were received and reviewed. Mutual Ministry also reported and noted that the Faith Formation job description has been finalized. The search process will begin using free resources (church sign, Facebook, Chamber of Commerce and those that may be provided by the Synod).

The Nursery has been painted. Huge thank you to Lynn Myers and Cathy Miller. Other members of the nursery update team are putting together a list of items that are still needed to refresh the space.

The Property and Grounds team submitted a list of actionable items to be completed over the next few months. Council approved the expenditures of related supplies. The work will be done by volunteers. We are grateful that we have a team of people with a great variety of skills to enable King of Kings to complete indoor and outdoor maintenance issues with an eye toward conserving financial resources. Council also approved disbursement of Capital and Building Funds for the replacement of HVAC units and kitchen/bathroom updates to replace cracked linoleum floors and rusted stalls. In both cases prep work for the installations will be done by volunteers thereby saving those costs.

Council reviewed the RIC timeline which includes a visit, service and Holy Conversations with Pastor Julius and Geneva Carroll. See more in this newsletter.

On a fun note, as the Council meeting was on Pi Day (March 14). Pastor Rebecca brought Apple Pie and Ice Cream to the meeting. Hooray!

Church members are welcome to review the monthly meeting minutes. They are kept in a binder in the church office.

Schedules for April

Usher

4/7 Darren/Mary Moyer
4/14 Greg/Julie Yoder
4/21 Eric Richardson/Karen Wild
4/28 Dan/Patti Weingarten

Lector

Peter Paulacka
Kurt Richardson
Doug Keim
Beth Head

Worship Assistant

4/7 Jeff Swanson/Bob Hickman
4/14 Keith Gatling/Michele Hayes
4/21 Stephany Richardson/Bob Hickman
4/28 Cheryl Gatling/Kathy Sampson

Counter

Sue Tierney/Niel Zuern
Seve Salem/Art Leitgeb
Eric Richardson/Peter Paulacka
Dan Weingarten/Weta Hayden

Tech Booth

4/7 Lisa Clark/Jeremy Clark
4/14 Dave Krause/Bob Hickman
4/21 Howie Mansfield/Pat Lebel
4/28 Dave Krause/Don Spoerke

Coffee Fellowship

Pat Lebel
Shari Murray
Shari Murray
Carl Bastedo

Altar Guild for April

Cathy Miller/Cheryl Gatling

**** For any questions or changes to the schedules, please reach out to the person who coordinates volunteers for your role and then let Rachel know of any changes.*



Church Council

Lisa Clark, Chair
Steve Miller, Vice Chair
Barb Winkel, Financial Secretary
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Carl Bastedo, Treasurer
Robin Ngumbi Council Member
Sue Tierney, Council Member
Kurt Richardson, Council Member
Jennifer Foor, Council Member
Pastor Rebecca Truland



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
PALMS, Weta Hayden
Stephen Leader: Marcy Grundner
Quilters: Donna Huberty
Women's Group:

**King of Kings Lutheran Church
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