

THE KING'S CROWN



May 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 4 @7:30am/8:00am—Men's Breakfast

Tuesday 14 @ 1:00pm—Quilt Group

Sunday 19 after service—RIC Congregation Vote

Tuesday 21 @ 11:00am—Lunch at Tassone's

Caregiver Group

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:30am

Men's Bible Study

Biweekly on Fridays 6:00am

June
Newsletter
Deadline is
May 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

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

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.

Using this acronym to guide my newsletter messages has been helpful for grounding the way I communicate here about what it means to be a 21st century follower of Jesus, and it has helped me dwell with the vision of a place that formed me but which hadn't been home for over a decade: the Upstate New York Synod. I feel closer to our shared mission with other nearby ELCA congregations, and I hope you do too.

Experimentation is perhaps most biblically described as doing a new thing without being certain of the outcome, but trusting that God's presence and grace will be with us no matter how things turn out. It is a spiritual discipline because through the words of the prophets and through the life of Jesus Christ, we have seen that God is always calling us to new places, new ways of caring for one another, new standards of love and generosity. This doesn't happen by doing things the way we've always done them or by staying in the same place forever (physically or metaphorically). God will make a way in the wilderness—a path through the unknown.

This is a part of discipleship that requires vulnerability. To experiment means to be open to doing something wrong or to failing. But many of the institutions we know and love in the church started as experiments! Did you know that Sunday School is only 200-250 years old? It began during the Industrial Revolution for the purpose of teaching of teaching children how to read. With long hours and days spent in factories, churches saw an opportunity to use the Bible to teach literacy when there was no other way for the working class to receive the empowerment of an education.

Life since 2020 has required a lot of experimentation from us as a church, as a society, and as individuals. I know we have been exhausted by it and are grateful for glimpses of "normality." But we also have to remember that it will never be 2019 again, and as we continue to move out of a time of experimentation borne of necessity, embracing experimentation borne out of creativity, joy, and trust in God will be a way of expressing our faith in the "new things" God has promised.

In your personal life, maybe this could look like giving a new form of prayer a try, or attempting a screen-free weekend with your family. As a congregation, we have the advantage of an extremely flexible sanctuary—I can honestly say I don't have any plans yet, but someday you shouldn't be surprised to find it rearranged! And what might faith formation look like in the coming years? How much will be familiar, and how much might we experiment with? I know we can have the freedom and courage to try new things because of the promised grace and mercy of the one through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Lord.

With joy and gratitude,

Pastor Rebecca



So much to be thankful for in May as the trees are greening up, flowers are blooming , and we get to spend more time outside in God's beautiful creation. I am always so glad that May brings "Church Music Sunday" - a day where we acknowledge the importance of music in our worship experience, and express our gratitude for the musicians of the church. We are truly blessed here at King of Kings with many wonderful people willing to share their time and their musical talents to help lead worship and lift praise to God. I am always humbled by the amount of volunteer hours people give to the music program. I hope I haven't missed anybody but here are the groups of musicians that currently are participating:

Son-Light Choir: Barb Winkel, Sheirel Mordaunt, Mary Lou Lorch, Beth Head, Deanna Pavlacka, Cathy Miller, Dawnelle Jager, Rachel Webb, Ginger Donaldson, Eric Richardson, Steve Miller, Avery Head, Bob Lebel, Niel Zuern, Doug Keim.

Hand Bell Choir: Mary Lou Lorch, Betsy Herpich, Denise Whiston, Beth Head, Deanna Pavlacka, Joanne Keim, Lisa Sousou, Jeremy Clark, Eric Richardson, Kurt Richardson, Avery Head, Steve Richardson, and our friend Barb Nies.

Brass Ensemble - Directed by Steve Richardson. Jeremy Clark, Avery Head, Jeff Swanson, Steve Kemp, Jacob Sousou, Dave Wackerow, Steve Salem

Sunday School - We love to hear the SS kids sing! We thank Sue Evans for her help with teaching the kids a variety of songs.

Steve Kemp and Steve Miller have frequently played guitar for special songs and services, Barb Winkel provides "percussion in the corner" most Sundays , and we have had many people provide vocal and instrumental solos throughout the year. What a blessing it is to have music that draws us into worship and praise of our great God.

So please say a big and heartfelt "Thank- You" to all of our church musicians.

To God be the glory!

Beth Colbert



Attention: Need Paint Volunteers

Help paint the King of Kings' Sanctuary, Narthex,
and small hallway by the music room.

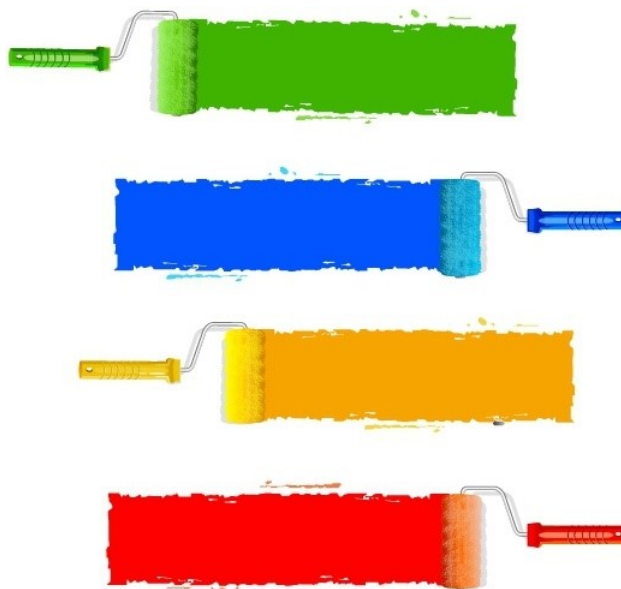
When: Entire week - Starting June 23 after service.
Will finish up on June 29/30.

Paint when you can, often as you can, and as long as you can!

Signup in Narthex or contact Art.

Bring all the drop cloths you can and we need a few fans.

Coordinator: Art Leitgeb Email: Art.Leitgeb@gmail.com Phone: 315 243-7695



*Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses
in the world, through Jesus Christ,
our true vine.
Amen.*



Keep a look out for more information!

Lunch at Tassone's
May 21st at 11:30pm



People's News



Congratulations to Sofie Gatling who is graduating from Capital University in Columbus Ohio with a degree in Math.

Best wishes to Emma and Nick Zingaro who were recently married! Sue Northrup is the proud mother of the bride.

Congratulations to Brian Richardson and Helena Sartor who have become engaged! Brian is the son of Kurt and Sarah Richardson.

Sincere sympathy to Lynn Weeks and family on the passing of her mother, Helga. May loving memories bring you comfort and strength.

Anita Leitgeb was "in the news" recently when she was interviewed on News Channel 9 at opening day for the Syracuse Mets.

His many friends at King of Kings were saddened to hear of the passing of former long time member, Dick Bader. Prayers and sympathy are extended to his family.

The Baldwinsville Boys Hockey Team recently qualified for the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award. Jack Heatley is a senior on the team. Jack is the son of Mark and Tracey Heatley and grandson of Rick and Kathy Sampson. Congratulations!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Leitgeb family on the passing of Art's dad, Alfred Leitgeb. May God's peace be yours in the days ahead.



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

I would like to thank everyone who participated in any and/or all of our Holy Conversations as we took the time to bring your questions and concerns to the table. I hope this gave us all the opportunity to understand what being Reconciling In Christ (RIC) means to King of Kings.

Your Congregational Council has 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.

I would urge everyone to attend to vote your convictions, whatever they may be. This vote will very important for the future of King of Kings. The format is the same as the vote for a new Pastor. You will receive a ballot, and you can vote yea, nay, or abstain. You must be present to vote according to our Constitution.

We will be voting to accept the aspiration statement, and in accepting this statement, we would also accept the other commitments that will allow us to become Reconciling In Christ Partners with ReconcilingWorks as stated below by ReconcilingWorks.

I pray that you all will take the time to vote, and be a part of this very important decision.

To be recognized as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner, your faith community will:

1. *Clearly state a welcome to people of “**all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions**” or “**LGBTQIA+**” and name its commitment to “**racial equity**” or “**anti-racism**” in its welcome statement.*
2. ***Be open to calling** an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.*
3. *Allow sanctuary/community space/ to be used for **LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.***
4. ***Make a meaningful contribution annually** to support the national RIC program.
 - a. *A **meaningful** contribution is determined by your faith community, its budget, and the understanding that your generosity funds the RIC Program. Meaningful contributions vary for each RIC partner.**

KING OF KINGS QUILT GROUP

There has been a flurry of activity as we are starting our big project. There has been cutting, sewing, pressing, and creating the blocks that will be assembled into a quilt. And with this commotion, chatter about events, travels, families and sometimes silly mistakes makes the work enjoyable and our time together quickly passes. It seems that this is the modern version of the old fashioned quilting bee.

The quilt we have begun, is for the 60th anniversary of King of Kings. It will blend with the 50th anniversary quilt hanging in the Sanctuary, with a black background and bright colors mimicking stained glass. The plan for this new quilt is to hang in the Sanctuary next year.

Work continues in May and there is always room for more help. Sew a seam or two, press a seam, add your support in this endeavor. The next get-together will be Tuesday, May 14th at 1.p.m. in the Sunday School Wing. And as always, if you require more information, contact Donna Huberty donnahuberty@outlook.com or 315-935-5422.

Please join us as we continue on this journey.



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 the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 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.



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

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.

Yours in Christ;

Barb Winkel and your RIC Core Team. Sarah Richardson, Weta Hayden, Dawnelle Jager, Sue Tierney, Jennifer Foor, Besty Herpich, Bob and Pat Lebel.

**HELP OUR PANTRY
PARTNERS PROVIDE
MUCH-NEEDED
HEALTHY FOOD TO
OUR COMMUNITY
THROUGHOUT
THE SUMMER**

MOST NEEDED ITEMS



Canned chicken/Tuna (preferably packed in water), Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Soups, Cereal, Oatmeal, Beef Stew, Mac and Cheese, Chef Boy R Dee, canned Fruits and Vegetables, Shelf Stable Milk, Shelf Stable Juice, Flour, Sugar, Salt and Pepper, Oil, Dried beans, Nuts, Pasta, Rice (especially jasmine rice)

**DONATIONS MAY BE
DROPPED OFF AT THE
INTERRELIGIOUS FOOD
CONSORTIUM
731 JAMES STREET
SYRACUSE
315-474-8855**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES COORDINATOR AT
INTERFAITH WORKS,
315- 449-3552, X 126**

www.interfaithworkscny.org

Update to the Congregation from the Property and Grounds (P&G) Committee

The members of King of Kings have been diligent in their commitments to giving. With careful planning and good stewardship of our financial resources, Council has been able to approve expenditures of \$30,000 for projects needed to maintain our building and grounds. These projects will be financed out of our Capital and Building Fund. While some work is contracted, substantial savings are realized because preparation, painting and cleanup will be done by volunteers.

The following investments will be made in our church building and grounds this year

- The week of April 22, existing linoleum floorings will be stripped from the kitchen and bathrooms. A product which goes on fire station floors will be applied and cured directly over the concrete slab, with color chips applied to the final layer. This coating is approved by the county department of health, is easily cleaned and does not require annual stripping/re-application of floor wax.
- We will be replacing another original heating unit, installed in 1992 and located above the mechanical room; and the outside air conditioning unit attached to it. They are at the end of their useful life, and we realize savings by replacing both at the same time.
- New partitions will be installed in the bathrooms, which are more easily cleaned and won't corrode.
- The parking lot will be sealed and striped.
- The sanctuary, narthex and music hallway (last painted ~2008) will be repainted.
- The garage and playscape will be stained.
- Misc. repairs/upgrades planned for windows, outlets, and outside structures.
- The nursery has been painted.
- New toilet in the men's bath has been installed.

Future projects

In addition to addressing routine maintenance items, the Property and Grounds (P&G) Committee is considering some important discretionary projects after 2024. These include:

- new quartz countertops for the kitchen
- new vanity and upgrades for women's bathroom
- safety/security upgrades
- replacement of two remaining HVAC units (three have now been replaced)
- staining the exterior of the Church
- roof replacement

What you can do

There are volunteer opportunities available and we welcome the participation of all members:

- Continue your commitments to stewardship and giving, which make these projects possible
- Participate in spring/fall cleanups
- Look for signups this spring to help repair the walls and paint the church sanctuary, music hallway and narthex. Contact Art Leitgeb (243-7695)
- If you see a needed repair, or have a suggestion to improve our church, please add your idea to our active whiteboard. The projects whiteboard is located in the music hallway behind the sanctuary, opposite the mechanical room. All suggestions are considered at quarterly P&G committee meetings.
- If you'd like to join the P&G committee please contact Steve Miller (382-6297) or Bill Myers (882-5640). Committee members form teams to accomplish various projects.

Sunday School News for Families from Sue

Our Sunday School program continues to meet weekly at 10:45, with music, a lesson, and activity. In April, we learned about The Last Supper. Eleven friends sampled over 12 types of breads, grapes, and grape juices. In May, we will learn more about Abraham's descendant, Joseph. Crafts will be available in the Fellowship Hall instead of regular Sunday School on Memorial Day. Sunday School will wrap up in June, taking a break for the summer.

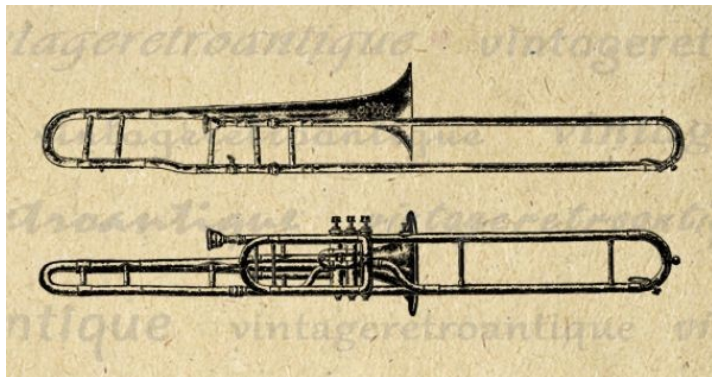
Upcoming Dates:

No Sunday School on May 12, Mother's Day

Memorial Day Craft, May 26

Last Day of Sunday School on June 2

BONES EAST CONCERT

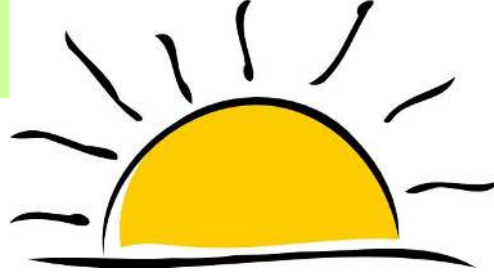


ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 873 DEWITT STREET, SYRACUSE, WILL HOST A BONES EAST CONCERT AT 2 P.M. ON SUNDAY, MAY 5TH. BONES EAST IS A 25-30 MEMBER TROMBONE ENSEMBLE THAT INCLUDES A RANGE OF MUSICIANS, MOSTLY SEMIPROFESSIONALS, RETIREES, AND STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND TALENT. THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED AND WILL BENEFIT LOAVES AND FISHES ELCA WORLD HUNGER. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.BONESEAST.COM

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

5/10, 5/24, 6/7



A huge thank you to the confirmation class as they have put together more care kits for the homeless population. If you would like to take a few with you to distribute, they are in the basket next to the tech booth

MEN'S
BREAKFAST



The Men's Breakfast group will meet Saturday, May 4th.

Coffee will be up at 7:30 AM, breakfast at 8:00 AM. Please join us, and bring a friend.

COUNCIL CORNER

The council met on April 11, 2024. We reviewed King of Kings current financial situation which is good especially with five Sundays in March. While expenses are up, income is also up along with a substantial savings in energy costs with our move away from National Grid to Solar Simplified. We are thankful for our members' financial commitment to the church.

Council also reviewed the many projects the Property and Grounds team is moving forward with along with future projects to consider for 2025. We look forward to the new flooring being installed in the kitchen and bathrooms which will be much easier to maintain and increase life. In addition, the team is moving forward with painting in the sanctuary, narthex, back hallway by the music room and the attached rooms. With members volunteering to paint we save over \$8,000 in labor! This team is still looking for someone to manage these projects and lead the group. Please see Steve Miller or Kurt Richardson if you are able to help (no hands on skills required).

We discussed the ongoing conversations our church has been having with the RIC team. As a council, we have proposed the date of May 19th to have a congregational vote, after service, to approve the RIC affirmation statement and the other commitments. Council has asked for a congregational in favor vote of 85% to officially approve King of Kings as a Reconciling in Christ Partner. Please plan on attending this very important meeting to cast your opinion of what you would like the future of King of Kings to look like.

In Christ,
Lisa Clark

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

Schedules for May

Usher

5/5 Rick/Kathy Sampson
5/12 Eric Richardson/Sarah Richardson
5/19 Bob/Joanne Kolch
5/26 Hollie Zimmerman/Karen Wild

Lector

Colleen Richardson
Stephany Richardson
Betsy Herpich
Sherry Miller

Worship Assistant

5/5 Barb Winkel/Weta Hayden
5/12 Lauren Seiter/Kathy Sampson
5/19 Stephany Richardson/Michele Hayes
5/26 Keith Gatling/Weta Hayden

Counter

Greg Yoder/Niel Zuern
Jennifer Foor/Doug Keim
Jenna Wysokowski/Cathy Miller
Sue Tierney/Dan Weingarten

Tech Booth

5/5 Lisa Clark/Jeremy Clark
5/12 Dave Krause/Bob Hickman
5/19 Howie Mansfield/Pat Lebel
5/26 Dave Krause/Francis Ngumbi

Coffee Fellowship

Shari Murray
Lisa Clark
Cathy Miller
Shari Murray

Altar Guild for May

Cindy Johnson

****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
8278 Oswego Road
Liverpool, NY 13090**

Return Service Requested

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