

THE KING'S CROWN



December 2024



King of Kings Lutheran Church

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Facebook: King of Kings Lutheran Church - Liverpool, NY

Upcoming Events

December 7th—Men's Breakfast

December 10th—Quilt Group

December 15th—High School Christmas Party

December 29th—Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday

Genesis Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00pm

Caregiver Group

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:30am

Men's Bible Study

Biweekly on Fridays 6:00am

January
Newsletter
Deadline is
December 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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us! December is a great time to contemplate the second portion of our worship services, the liturgy of the Word, because Christmas is when we celebrate the Word coming to dwell with us on Earth.

Lutherans believe that “Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, [and] the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God.” That comes from the ELCA’s constitution. We come to know Jesus through the witness of the writings in the Bible, but we worship Christ, not Scripture. We proclaim the Word (Christ) through reading the Word (scripture) and also through preaching, praying, singing, sharing peace, and more.

Both the Old and New Testaments are used in worship because both contain law and gospel, which helps us celebrate the absolute faithfulness of God’s steadfast love in the face of humanity’s sin. Both Testaments are the Word of God, calling us to faith and offering us undeserved mercy.

Aside from reading Bible passages aloud, the longest part of the liturgy of the Word is the sermon. The Use of the Means of Grace says that the purpose of a sermon is to “proclaim our need of God’s grace and freely offer that grace, equipping the community for mission and service in daily life.” Although a sermon may also teach, inspire, or persuade, the primary purpose is to be honest about our sin and offer the community God’s love and forgiveness.

Reciting a creed can also be part of the liturgy of the Word. The Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed are statements of faith that were written in different centuries and became part of the orthodox faith in different ways, but both describe and define the heart of Christian beliefs. The creeds are a way of reminding ourselves of our baptismal connection to Christians from other traditions: Roman Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, and more all confess these creeds despite whatever differences we have in our theologies.

The Prayers of Intercession are a direct response to the scripture and preaching we have already heard, which call us to be a priesthood of believers who boldly approach God on behalf of people besides ourselves and on behalf of creation. Sharing the peace of Christ is the final element of the liturgy of the Word, and I will simply quote from one of my seminary textbooks: “The exchange of peace is a ministry, an announcement of grace we make to each other, a summary of the gift given to us in the liturgy of the Word.” When we are Gathered, before we share the Meal, the Word creates and sustains the Church among us.

In Christ’s peace, Pastor Rebecca



Advent and Christmas - my two favorite times of the Church year. Advent is the time for waiting, and for reflection on the gifts that Christ brings to this "weary world". Christmas is the celebration of joy at His birth - and rebirth in us. Hope, peace, love - all are promises fulfilled in the Christ Child.

Music is always an important part of this special time of year. The Hand Bell choir will be ringing on the first Sunday of Advent; The Son-Light Choir will be singing a couple of beautiful pieces on the second Sunday of Advent. There will be special soloists for the other 2 Sundays of Advent, and Christmas Eve. Steve Richardson and the Brass Ensemble join in for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. December 29th is the "Lessons and Carols" service where we'll be singing several well-loved Christmas carols.

Please plan on being part of the Advent and Christmas worship at King of Kings . If you would like to be part of the music program this season please feel free to contact me at bmcolbert61@gmail.com.

I always like to give gifts of music this time of year. As I have done before, I am sharing a link to "Magnum Mysterium" by Morten Lauridsen. The Latin words describe the wonder of the birth by Mary - and of how the animals of the stable were the first to see the holy Christ Child . I encourage you to light a candle, sit with eyes closed and let this wash over you.

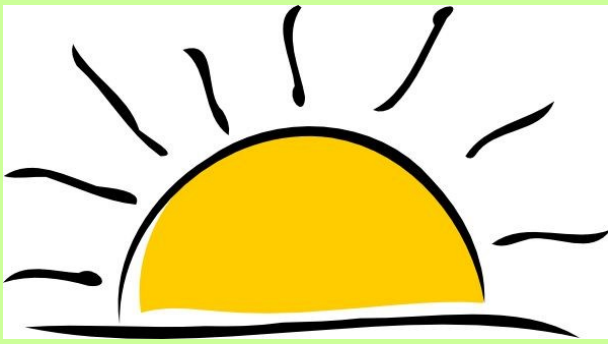
Lauridsen: O Magnum Mysterium
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS4_I0osCx8

There is a second piece I wish to share with you. Matt Maher's "Glory (Let there be Peace)". It is a poignant, uplifting song that is especially relevant during these times of difficulty throughout the world. It is a reminder to " not be afraid" because Emmanuel is with us.

Matt Maher - Glory (Let There Be Peace) ([Official Lyric Video])
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW4c6DcxgGc>

Wishing you love, peace, hope, and joy in this blessed season.

Beth Colbert
Director of Music



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
12/6, 12/20, 1/5

Our Sunday Services are now LIVE on BOTH Facebook AND YouTube



Streaming Sunday Service

Link on computer and phone
www.youtube.com/@kingofkings-ny

(No passwords required).

On your TV, go to the YouTube channel (837 on FIOS), type in kingofkings-ny and select the circle that has our name and our stained glass windows



Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast group will meet

Saturday December 7th.

Coffee will be up at 7:30am,
breakfast food at 8:00am

This month will have

“Belga Belgian Waffles” (original recipe
From the 1964 Worlds Fair)



Property & Grounds Meeting

9:00am December 7th

After the Men's Breakfast

All are welcome to attend

KING OF KINGS QUILT GROUP

What's the buzz? We are going to have an old fashioned bee! What is a bee, you ask? It is not the annoying buzzing flying insect, it is going to be a quilting bee!

A quilting bee, historically, was a chance for women to get together and socialize while doing an important task of working on a quilt. Chatter about children, recipes, their lives and even some gossip would keep the work fun.

The 60th Anniversary Quilt has been machine quilted and all that is left is hand sewing the binding to the back of the quilt. A binding is a long piece of fabric that encases the top, cotton batting and the backing (called the quilt sandwich). The binding will be machine stitched to the front of the quilt, and the fabric will be pulled around the edges to be hand stitched to the back.

That is where you all can help. Hand sew a section of the binding and be a part of the making of this piece of art.

Come to the meeting on Tuesday, December 10th at 1 p.m. Please bring a sewing needle and small scissors or snips (and thimble if you use one). The thread will be provided.

Please contact Donna Huberty with any questions. donnahuberty@outlook.com or 315-935-5422.

Come be a part of the social gathering that hints of times past. And put some of your stitches in the historic 60th Anniversary Quilt!



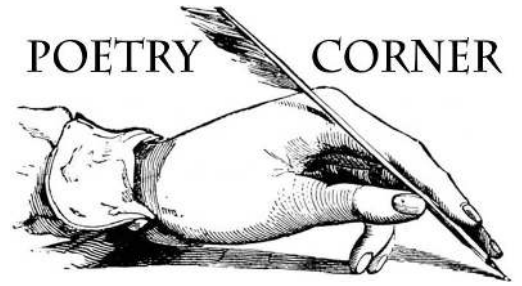
Photos Wanted

Painting, staining, kitchen/bathroom remodel, school supply collection, lawn mowing, new first aid station, nursery refresh and resupply and more (so many more) Well, you get the "picture". If you have any photos of any of the varied community and church home projects of this last year, please send them to the office. We plan to use them for celebration. kokchurchsecretary@gmail.com

Brought to you by the Worship and Music Team,
A.W.E division.

Poetic expressions intended to inspire prayer, awe, joy
into your spiritual journey.

Curated by Bob Lebel



Emily Dickenson (1830-1886)

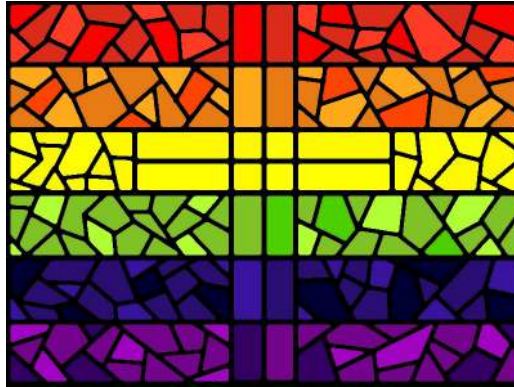
American poet and recluse (Amherst, Massachusetts)

“Hope”

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.



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.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

On the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9:30am

****There will not be a 4th Wednesday meeting in December due to the holidays****

Caregiving can be challenging and lonely, come join us for conversation, support and shared wisdom.

**Come join this group when you are able.
All are welcome, supporters and caregivers both.**



Calling all 9th-12th graders! You are invited to a Christmas party on 12/15 in the Youth Room. Be ready for food, games, and other get-to-know-you activities. We'll also be brainstorming how we can redecorate and reorganize the Youth Room to make it your own special space.

Council celebrated the continued good financial outlook of King of Kings. The generosity of our members is a blessing to the congregation and community.

Annual financial planning is under way for 2025. Budget review is scheduled for January 19, and annual meeting is scheduled for January 26.

2025 marks King of Kings' 60th anniversary. Planning is underway for a celebration, tentatively scheduled May 2025.

The Property & Grounds group continues their work supporting the Church. Recently completed projects include painting of the fellowship hall, a new shed roof, organization of the mechanical room, repair of the music wing furnace, and repair of the middle entry door sidewalk. Thanks to all who gave of their time and talents to support these projects. The next quarterly group meeting will be Saturday December 7 after the men's group breakfast.



The Thanksgiving Food drive was a great success, with well over 500 food items donated. Other recent outreach events include 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, and dozens of kits of caring for handout to those in need in the community. Thanks to all who contributed to support these important efforts for the wider community.

People's News



Congratulations to Stephen Salem, who was named WCNY Classic FM Music Educator for the month of October. Way to go, Steve!

Eileen Welch was recently "in the news" cheering on her son Connor Smith and the Phoenix High School Firebirds Marching Band at the NYS Field Band Competition at the JMA Wireless Dome.

Liverpool HS Marching Band finished 8th in the national class bracket at the recent Bands of America competition in Delaware. Emilie Sousou is a member of the marching band.

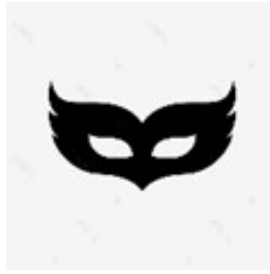
Bob Lebel was the keynote speaker at the recent Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Fall Banquet. He spoke on the topic of "Living Virtuously from Aristotle



The Next Best Christmas Pageant is Coming!

The fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22, is set aside for the presentation of our Christmas pageant. The plan is similar to last year's (except I'll try not to break my arm this year). We'll have readings and songs. This year, we'll create a banner by adding a portion at each segment. There will be parts and costumes for all children, all ages and abilities. There is no formal rehearsal but we'll be there after church on December 1 and 8 for informal rehearsals if you prefer. If you can only make it to church on December 22, we'll make it work. If your child would like to read a portion, I can send the scripture verses for practice.

Questions, suggestions, volunteers can email Barb Nies at banies26@gmail.com or call 315 635 5271.



Attention all Super Stewards!!

Thank you all for being such great Super Stewards and getting your Faith Offering Cards to me. I only had to reach out to a few folks with a gentle tap on the shoulder.

Your contribution envelopes are in the Narthex. Please pick these up ASAP. If you see someone's name on a box of envelopes and they haven't been around for a while, here is your chance at being a Super Steward in a different way. Why not give these folks a call, and go out for coffee or just take these envelopes to them. Let them know about the great things that are going on here at KoK. Invite them to come back and see for themselves. Remember, **excitement inspires interest**.

There are so many ways to be a Super Steward as we head into a new year. Maybe you could consider helping Sue Evans out with the Sunday message to the kids. Or you could help the puppet troupe. I mean, really, who doesn't like to play with puppets? Do you like to sing, or play a musical instrument? Beth is always looking for musicians.

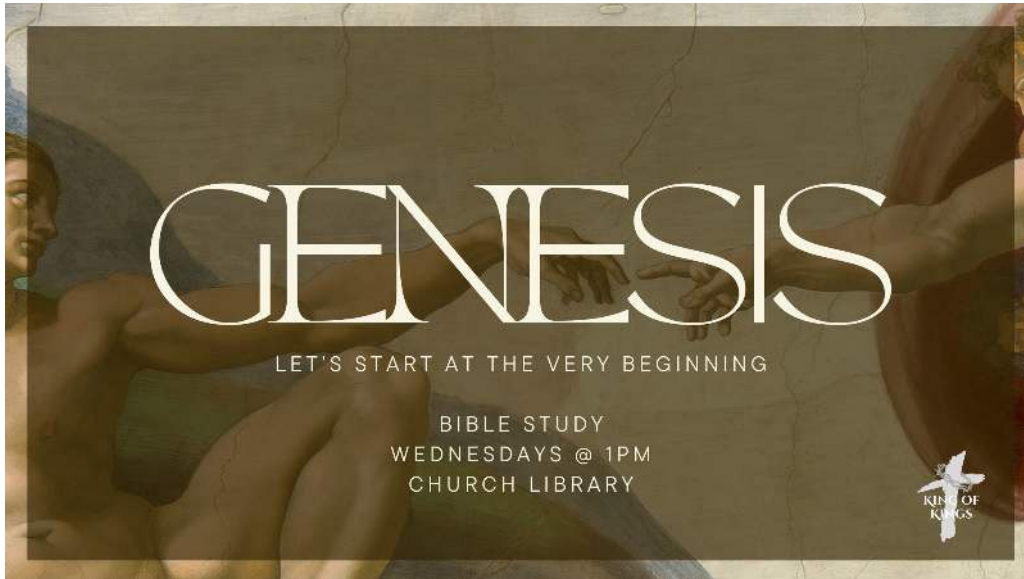
There are so many ways to help our ministries here at KoK. Ask a Council member or Pastor where you might fit in. By having many people doing little things, we can make big things happen at King of Kings.

Thank you all again for all that you do.

Barb Winkel

King of Kings Financial Secretary





A Bible study led by Pastor Rebecca is meeting on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the church parlor. Our first topic will be Genesis. Bring yourself and your favorite Bible--no other preparation required!

“My Jaw Dropped”

That was the reaction of Quincy Stockton, Food Pantry Director at Brown Memorial, when he saw the tremendous outpouring of love from King of Kings. Your generosity assured that the Pantry was able to provide a Thanksgiving feast and more for their client families. An entire pickup load of the ingredients for side dishes, fun Thanksgiving plates/napkins and many personal care items was delivered. In addition, a check for \$1000 and a \$50 grocery card was given to buy Turkeys and other perishables. \$250 dollars worth of baby wipes were provided from a Thrivent Action Team grant. At this writing we do not have confirmation, but are confident that Thrivent NE will award the pantry \$500. Quincy and the volunteers at the Pantry want the Congregation to know how much they truly appreciate the generous support from King of Kings.



We have asked Quincy and the team to determine if they have specific seasonal needs at the Pantry. If so, we may announce a monthly or quarterly focus depending on what they need and otherwise have a hard time securing. Stay tuned.

For those of you who may not know, Brown Memorial is a United Methodist Church on the west side of Syracuse. The Westside Food Pantry is housed in the Church. King of Kings has supported the food pantry for many, many years.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday

Here is one more chance to wear your favorite Ugly Christmas Sweaters for the year!
On Sunday Dec. 29th come and sing carols and listen to lessons in your finest of ugly Christmas sweaters. Laughter and fun are bound to ensue.



**Annual Budget Meeting
January 19th**

**Annual Meeting
January 26th**

**Annual Reports are due to Rachel
by January 2nd.**

***Monthly Resources & Support for those
to feel less alone in this life stage.***

Reflections Management & Care
<https://reflectionsny.com/>

Senior Home Care Solutions
<https://www.syracusesenior.com/>

Positive Approach to Care
<https://teepasnow.com/>



Schedules for December

Usher

12/1 Carl Bastedo/Bob Hickman
12/8 Darren/Mary Moyer
12/15 Greg/Julie Yoder
12/22
12/29 Eric Richardson/Bob Hickman

Lector

Bob Hickman
Volunteer
Lisa Sousou
Bob Lebel
Peter Pavlacka

Worship Assistant

12/1 Bob Lebel/Sarah Richardson
12/8 Peter Pavlacka/Julie Yoder
12/15 Stephany Richardson/Kyle Richardson
12/22 Keith Gatling/Michele Hayes
12/29 Bob Lebel/Weta Hayden

Counter

Weta Hayden/Lorraine Savidge
Art Leitgeb/Jennifer Foor
Jeremy Clark/Dan Weingarten
Jenna Wysokowski/Doug Keim
Niel Zuern/Weta Hayden

Coffee Fellowship

12/1 Shari Murray
12/8 Shari Murray
12/15 Cathy Miller
12/22 Kurt Richardson
12/29 Susie Bastedo

Altar Guild for December

Peg Gosch/Cathy Miller

****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, Art Leitgeb
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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