

THE KING'S CROWN



April 2025



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

April 5th —Men's Breakfast

April 8th—Quilt Group

Wednesday Lenten Discussion/Service 7:00pm/7:30pm

Maundy Thursday 4/17 @ 7:30pm

Good Friday 4/18 @ 7:30pm

Easter Vigil Service at Emmanuel Clay 4/19 @ 7:30pm

Easter 4/20 @ 8:15am and 10:30am

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

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

In April we will celebrate the joy and hope of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything—it is the cornerstone of our faith and the foundation upon which our lives are built. In response to this incredible gift of new life, we are called to live differently, to respond in gratitude, and to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

Often, when we hear the word “stewardship” we immediately think of managing finances. But Christian stewardship is about so much more than just money; it’s a holistic way of living—a call to care for and wisely use the gifts with which we have been blessed. It is an orientation toward generosity and mutual interdependence. As God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis shows us, we are blessed in order to be blessings to others. Whether it’s through our time spent in prayer, the talents we share with our community, or donations of monetary resources, each act of stewardship is an echo of the love and grace we have first received from Christ.

This calling is not just about fulfilling obligations, but about using what we’ve been given to build relationships and experience joy together. As we use our gifts in service to God and others, we become more attuned to God’s presence in our lives and more connected to our neighbors. Even (maybe especially) in times of uncertainty or hardship, sharing generously strengthens community and empowers us by investing in our collective wellbeing. Christ has already won the greatest battle against death, cruelty, and hatred. He has granted us forgiveness and new life through his victory and called us to share those gifts with the world in manifold ways. His resurrection is the foundation of our stewardship.

During this month, I encourage you to reflect on how God has blessed you with gifts—both big and small—and how you specifically are called to use them for God’s purposes. Whether you’re serving in the church, in your home, in your community, or in your workplace, every act of service is an opportunity to be a steward. Your ministry happens in every aspect of your life, in all your vocations. Our stewardship is a response to the incredible grace of God, who has given us all that we need to live abundantly. Christ’s resurrection, his triumph over sin and death, is the foundation of our ability to share courageously, act mercifully, and live boldly.

Reflection Questions for the Month:

How does the resurrection of Jesus inspire and shape my understanding of stewardship?

What gifts—time, talents, and treasures—has God entrusted to me, and how can I use them to serve others in light of Christ’s resurrection?

In Christ’s abundant grace, Pastor Rebecca



April is always a month of promise and hope; the cold and darkness of winter is retreating; the daylight hours are extending , and new life is all around us ! Even our liturgical calendar is moving us from the somber time of Lent to the wondrous joy of Easter as we celebrate Christ's resurrection by the end of the month.

The music of this month will align with this journey from Lent to Easter, from sadness to joy , from darkness to light! The Son-Light choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, and again at the end of April. The Brass Ensemble will be playing on both Palm and Easter Sundays. The Hand Bell Choir will be joyfully ringing the Sunday after Easter.

There will also be somber, touching, and beautiful music for the special services of Holy Week.

Please come and be a part of our worship as we grow together as God's people, as we learn more about the cost and joy of discipleship, and as we join our hearts and souls lifting praise to our risen Christ! Come join in as we once again will sing joyful "Alleluias!" to our King of Kings!

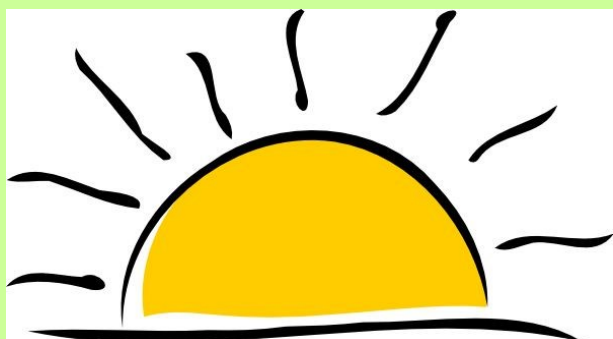
Words from "Glorious Day" by J. Wilbur Chapman

"Living, He loved me;
Dying, He saved me;
Buried, He carried my sins far away;
Rising, He justified freely forever -
One day He's coming ! O Glorious Day!
O Glorious Day!

Come and see , Come and hear, Come and worship.

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

4/11, 4/25, 5/9

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 April 5th.

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



KOK Mower & Trimmer Volunteers Needed!

Spring will be arriving soon and our church lawn will need care. We are currently looking for **NEW** volunteers to help maintain our lawn. We also need volunteers 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.

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



Lutheran Campus Ministry Spring Festival and

Basket Raffle – Join LCM on Sunday, April 6th, 2 – 4p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 2840 Cold Springs Rd., Baldwinsville for this afternoon of music, fellowship and food PLUS a basket raffle and live auction to support Lutheran

Campus Ministry. Once again, we will have our famous Chocolate Basket donated by Thrivent Financial. We are seeking basket and raffle item donations for the auction. For more information and to donate baskets and other items please contact: Christine Jones (315.200.7625), Sue Sterner (315.735.8062) or Rev. Jeff Kane (jkane@syr.edu / 315.355.7900).

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

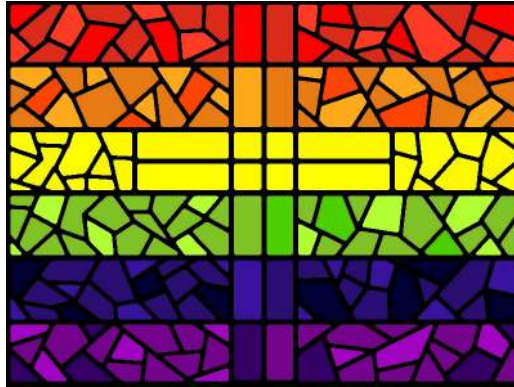


Jan Richardson composed this benediction. She is an author and artist who works out of Florida, but offered this piece at a memorial service in Minnesota, for Sam Nordquist. He was a trans-sexual man brutally murdered recently in Upstate New York, by people he had trusted. He had recently moved here from Minnesota. I hope that it will comfort you if the news recently has discouraged you, but also perhaps that it might motivate you to take action against the encroaching darkness being experienced by people in the LGBTQIA+ community, especially those who are trans-sexual. For several years, I have served on the synod's "Gender Justice Taskforce", and we have been seeking ways to lift up our siblings in this community.

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

"Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light" © Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*. Used by permission. janrichardson.com



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.



We will be celebrating first communion on Sunday, May 4th! Preparation will include a class from 2-5pm on Saturday, May 3rd for any children participating and their parent(s).

The tradition at King of Kings is for children in 1st grade to begin receiving Holy Communion, but if your child is older or younger please feel free to have a discussion with Pastor Rebecca about

whether this might be the right time for them.

Please email the office to let us know you would like to be part of our 2025 First Communion program, or reach out to Pastor Rebecca with any questions.

At March's meeting we talked about the onboarding of our new Vicar, Melissa Bedell. Melissa will officially start on Monday, March 17th. We welcome Melissa to King of Kings.

Melissa will spend the first week at King of Kings and the second with Good Shephard in Fayetteville. Each church

will plan to have Melissa for a total of 20 hours each. A schedule will be developed along with an intern team consisting of three members from King of Kings to guide Melissa throughout the year. Vicar Melissa will be paid \$62,000. Both churches will equally split Vicar Bedell's compensation.



Council reviewed expense reports. We were down for the month of February. The weather and increased year to date expenses played a factor on this. Hopefully, March will provide a stronger report for King of Kings. We will also be evaluating our bank accounts to make sure we are earning the most on the church's investments, checking and savings accounts.

Property and Grounds is very active. They continue to plan for the improvements in the Spring to the parking lot and making sure we have all energy efficient products in our building. They will also be reviewing our plowing contract for next Winter as there were some problems with our current one.

Pastor Rebecca and other teams continue to plan for the Lenten Season and the celebration of Easter on April 20th. King of Kings continues to support the community through Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Food Banks and other organizations in need. There is also a Easter Basket drive to purchase food for those in need. Please sign up to provide a meal and or purchase a ham.

In Christ, Lisa Clark

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

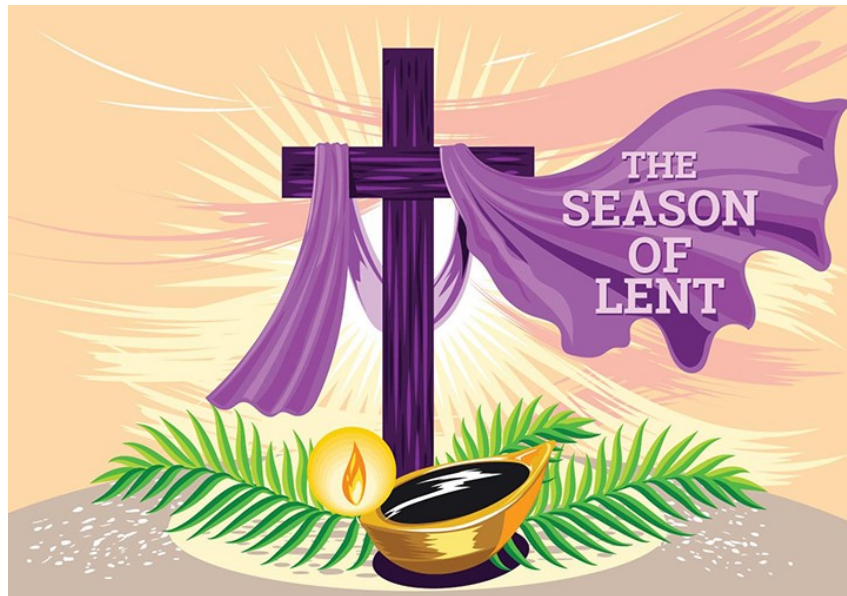
People's News



Kudos to Kaylee Hepburn who was recently honored by her school's ELA Honor Society as part of their Winter Awards! Way to go, Kaylee!

Congratulations to Jake Draper and Nicole Hube who were recently engaged! Jake is the son of Sue Draper.

Anita Leitgeb was spotted on NewsChannel 9's coverage of the recent Syracuse Mets pre-season Open House event.



Mid-Week Services... Wednesdays 4/2, 4/9

7:00pm Discussion/7:30pm Service

4/17 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30pm

4/18 Good Friday Service @ 7:30pm

Easter Prayer Vigil... 4/18 8:30pm until 4/19 12:00pm

4/19 Easter Vigil Service at Emmanuel Clay @ 7:30pm

4/20 Easter Service @ 8:15am, 10:30am (Brunch served at 9:30am)



Does an older adult in your life need help? What are some of the signs you can look for if they don't recognize that they need help or they don't request that they need help? These might be some of the questions you are asking yourself as you care for an aging spouse or relative. It's not always clear whether an aging parent or relative needs help. An emergency or sudden illness will make it clear that help is needed but sometimes an aging adult won't want to cause worry or admit they are struggling. The National Institute on Aging has a list of signs to look for in this article, "Does an Older Adult in Your Life Need Help?"

Caregiver Group meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:30am

All are welcome, whether you can come for a short time or for the whole meeting. We are here for each other to support each other, listen, vent, and share resources. Please join us if you can and if you know someone else who could use the support invite them to come along and join us.

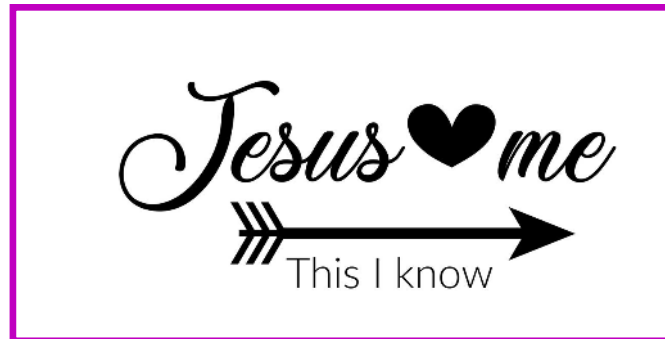
We understand that being a caregiver is a full-time job so know that we can prioritize the conversation if you have a limited time to attend and we don't expect regular attendance. Everyone's experiences are valued by our group.

If you are on the list and your situation has changed, please know that you are welcome to attend the meetings but there is no pressure to continue to attend if you don't need the support at this time.



Sunday School/Children's Time Happenings

We have entered Lent and the children have been asked to remember that Jesus Loves them. Every time the children see purple, they are encouraged to whisper, "Jesus loves me this I know."



I hope you have been in church or watched the live streams to see our Children's Time. Each week, a puppet and I have been interacting to teach a children's message. The children come forward and sit with Pastor Truland, the puppet helps answer the questions I ask, and we all learn about one of the readings for the day. I appreciate the families that come and bring their children to participate.

Please contact Susan Evans or leave a message with Pastor or Rachel to let us know you heard God calling you to help with our Children's Time at King of Kings Lutheran Church.

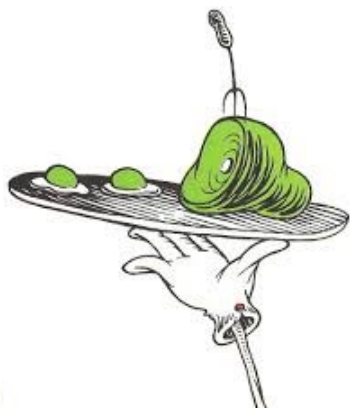
Susan Evans, Sunday School Director

Easter Flowers Order Forms

Now Available!

If you are interested in purchasing flowers for Easter Sunday, there are order forms and envelopes in the narthex. The choices will be Tulips, Easter Lilies and Daffodils, \$11 each. Orders need to be in by Sunday April 13th.





Easter Dinner and Hams

King of Kings is excited to once again partner with the Westside Food Pantry to provide Easter dinner to families.

The sign up for the hams are currently filled, so we encourage people to provide a bag of non-perishable groceries to complete the Easter dinner. To provide the rest of the meal, sign up in the Narthex or call/mail ASAP.

We have committed to meals for 25 families. Each family has a MINIMUM of 6 people and we ask you to keep that in mind when you shop. Please consider the following items:

- Instant potatoes and jarred gravy OR boxes of scalloped potatoes and canned milk
- Applesauce
- 4 cans of vegetables
- 4 cans of fruit
- A package of bread/dinner rolls (please check expiration dates)
- If possible, a non-perishable sweet/dessert
(Please avoid any mixes that require additional items that the family may not have...including baking pans)
- These families have children, so some Easter candy/treats would be VERY welcome
- Perhaps add some fun Easter paper napkins

Please have your meal contribution double bagged (paper) OR BETTER YET in a reusable shopping bag with handles.

All “bags” are due at KoK placed INSIDE in the designated collection site by Sunday, April 6, 2025.

If you have signed up already to sponsor a ham, please send/bring in cash or check payable to KoK to church office by **Sunday, March 30** (memo line...Easter Dinner) You may also donate online—green button on left side of KoK homepage.

Schedules for April

Usher

4/6 Greg/Julie Yoder
4/13 Bob/Joanne Kolch
4/27 Carl Bastedo/Bob Hickman

Lector

Sherry Miller
Lisa Sousou
Peter Pavlacka

Worship/Communion Assistant

4/6 Bob Lebel/Sarah Richardson
4/13 Cheryl Gatling/Michele Hayes
4/27 Keith Gatling/Weta Hayden

Counter

Greg Yoder/Sue Tierney
Art Leitgeb/Barb Nies
Lorraine Savidge/Barb Nies

Coffee Fellowship

4/6 Michele Hayes
4/13 Cathy Miller
4/27 Susie Bastedo

Altar Guild for April

Cathy Miller/Cheryl Gatling

****The schedule for 4/20 Easter Sunday has not been included
as the information wasn't complete for all positions
at the time of newsletter print*

****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

Steve Miller, Chair
Jennifer Foor, Vice Chair
Barb Winkel, Financial Secretary
Cindy Johnson, Recording Secretary
Carl Bastedo, Treasurer
Barb Nies, Council Member
Lynn Myers, Council Member
Kurt Richardson, Council Member
Lisa Clark, Council Member
Pastor Rebecca Truland



Ministry Teams

Finance—Doug Keim
Property—Art Leitgeb
Worship & Music—Beth Colbert
Children's Ministry—Sue Evans
Mutual Ministry Committee—Anita Leitgeb
Fellowship—Shari Murray
PALMS—Weta Hayden
Stephen Leader—Marcy Grundner
Quilters—Donna Huberty

King of Kings Lutheran Church
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