

# THE KING'S CROWN



May 2025



King of Kings Lutheran Church

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Web: [www.kingofkings-ny.org](http://www.kingofkings-ny.org)

Facebook: King of Kings Lutheran Church - Liverpool, NY

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## Upcoming Events

*May 3rd—Men's Breakfast*

*May 3rd—Church Clean Up (all welcome!)*

*May 13th—Quilt Group*

**James Bible Study**

*Wednesdays at 1:00pm*

**Caregiver Group**

*2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:30am*

**Men's Bible Study**

*Biweekly on Fridays 6:00am*

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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**

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Saint Paul's words in 2 Corinthians remind us that giving is not a transaction or an obligation, but an invitation to participate in God's joyful, abundant love. This is what makes the donation of financial offerings an act of worship. We are not purchasing something, either goods or services; we are making a show of trust in God's providence.

As stated last month, generosity is not just about money, though financial giving is important and necessary in the life of the church. It's about how we choose to live, how we embody God's grace in our relationships, and how we reflect God's heart in our world. It's about how we show up for one another—with our time, our skills, our presence, and yes, our resources.

In a world that often tells us to hold tight to what we have—to protect, accumulate, and compete—generosity turns things upside down. It says: There is enough. You are enough. We have enough. That's why "cheerful giving" is so radical—it refuses fear and embraces abundance. It declares faith in a God who is always giving: the Creator who gave us breath, the Christ who gave himself for us, and the Spirit who gives us strength each day.

When we give freely, we align ourselves with our baptismal calling to restoration, healing, and hope. We become part of something bigger than ourselves. Whether it's mentoring a young person, volunteering at a local food pantry, pledging to our congregation, or simply making time to listen deeply to a neighbor—we are bearing witness to God's generosity through our own.

And we can be honest: generosity changes us. Generosity is a muscle that needs exercise just like physical muscles. It's a discipline that takes practice. It makes our hearts bigger and reminds us that we are not alone. Generosity weaves us into community in ways that are deeply life-giving. It connects us to God, not because God needs our gifts, but because God delights in seeing us love one another.

We are living in uncertain financial times, and everyone's individual financial situation looks different. But it's important to remember that in every act of generosity, we reflect the heart of God for one another. Solidarity as a community and faith in God will carry us through anything that is to come.

*Reflection Questions for the Month:*

What fears or assumptions sometimes hold you back from giving freely?

When in life have you experienced the joy of giving, and how did it shape your heart?

In Christ's abundant grace,  
Pastor Rebecca



The beautiful month of May is here! We are still celebrating the joy of Christ's resurrection and are singing "Alleluias" to His name! The earth is in bloom all around us, reminding us that the cold and gray of winter never lasts forever; it is the season of renewal, replanting, hope and rebirth.

May is also the month that we usually celebrate "Church Music Sunday" as a way of recognizing and thanking the musicians of the church who have added so much to our worship throughout the year.

Music can touch us in ways few other things can; from the hushed and holy sounds of the congregational singing of "Silent Night" in the candlelit sanctuary, to the loud, joyful sound of the brass ensemble leading us in singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" it is hard to imagine our worship without musical praise being part of it. What do you feel as you sing the powerful words of "Amazing Grace", when you hear the clear tones of the flute or the drone of the bagpipe on a favorite hymn; when you hear the Hand Bell Choir play a beautiful and uplifting piece; when you hear Son-Light sing a song that expresses praise, thanks and awe of the amazing God we serve?

At King of Kings we are blessed with so many wonderful musicians willing to share their time and talent to add to our worship. This year, The Son-Light Choir, the Hand Bell Choir, the Brass Ensemble and other soloists will be playing on various Sundays throughout the month of May. In addition, on the second Sunday of the month we will have a "Hymn Sing" where you can select a favorite hymn to be sung.

Classical, traditional, contemporary, gospel, praise and worship - there are so many styles of music that were written for worship. May the music ministry at King of Kings uplift you, fill you, move you, and be a blessing to you. I wanted to thank every musician who has shared their gift in the service of the Lord.

Here are some songs you may enjoy.

I Can Only Imagine - MercyMe

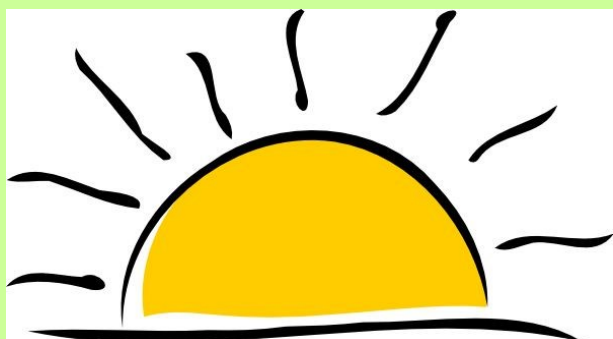
Royal Choral Society: 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir - Psalm 150

In the words of Robert Lowry: "Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"

All praise and glory to God!

Beth Colbert, Music Director



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

5/9, 5/23, 6/6

Our Sunday Services are now LIVE on BOTH Facebook AND YouTube



Streaming Sunday Service

Link on computer and phone  
[www.youtube.com/@kingofkings-ny](http://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 May 3rd.

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](mailto: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](mailto:kokchurchsecretary@gmail.com)



The Little Libraries are getting low in books. So if you have any books you are looking to re-home during your spring cleaning, drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

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




**William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a poet and playwright whose influence on the English language is difficult to measure. His insight into the human psyche allowed him to construct a large number of dramas that are astonishing for their power. Most of his writing was in verse, and some of it was not for stage presentation. His 154 sonnets helped to establish that form (3 stanzas of four lines each, with a closing couplet, with rhyme scheme abab cdcd efef gg). One of my favorites (xxv) goes beyond human love, and aspires to bask in the radical gift that comes from divine grace: agape love.**

Let those who are in favors with their stars  
Of public honour and proud titles boast,  
Whilst I, whom fortune from such triumphs bars  
Unlooked for joy in that I honour most.

Great princes' favourites their fair leaves spread  
But as the marigold at the sun's eye,  
And in themselves their pride lies buried,  
For at a frown they in their glory die.

The painful warrior famoused for fight,  
After a thousand victories once foil'd  
Is from the book of honour razed quite,  
And all the rest forgot for which he toil'd.

Then happy I, that love and am beloved  
Where I cannot remove nor be removed.

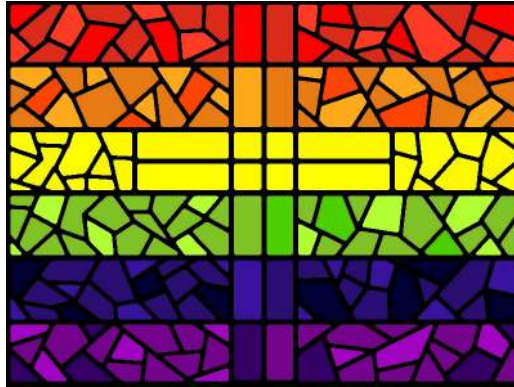


**CHURCH**  
*Clean Up*

The Church Cleanup will be taking place after next month's Men's Breakfast on Saturday May 3rd.  
There will be a free breakfast, as well as free hamburgers/hot dogs for lunch!

We can use as much help as we can get, any gender/any age, we will welcome the help, thank you!





*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.

Vicar Melissa was in attendance at the April Council meeting. She will be at King of Kings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. In general, she will be at King of Kings on Mondays and Wednesdays. (Schedule may be adapted for important events and programs)



You will notice activity in the parking lot over the next several weeks/months. First up is significant repair to several spots. That work is more than a simple patch. Pieces will be excavated, new base put in and then a new layer of asphalt. Later on the entire parking lot will be sealed and new lines will be put in place. The funding for this will come from the Capital and Building Fund. While not a long term fix, this project will extend the life of the parking lot for a few years so that a long term solution can be researched and funded.

With broad smiles the Council approved the list of those who wish to become members of the King of Kings congregation. New members will be welcomed at the worship service on Sunday, April 27th.

Council is pleased to inform the congregation that plans for VBS (Vacation Bible School) are in the works. Vicar Melissa is undertaking this project, and it will be a collaborative endeavor with Good Shepherd Lutheran and Grace Community Church (which shares space with Good Shepherd)

Speaking of collaboration, some KoK members, Pastor Rebecca and Vicar Melissa attended a "Collaboration for Christ's Sake" workshop led by Synod leadership. Central Crossroads congregations explored ways to collaborate in order to serve our neighbors. King of Kings and Good Shepherd working together with Vicar Melissa was highlighted as an example of "Collaboration for Christ's Sake"

Finance reports of January and February had caused some concern; however, the reports from March show that giving and spending appear to be closer to being on track.

THANK YOUs!!! Council wanted to be sure to acknowledge all of the time, effort, creativity, planning, and talent that went in to the 60th anniversary celebration. Many people were involved in making the day a rousing success. WELL DONE ALL!!!!

*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 Madison Lapp from Liverpool High School who was recently selected to the 2025 Junior High All County Band. The festival was recently held at Nottingham High School.

Congratulations to Connor Smith and his drumline from Phoenix High School! They earned Bronze medal honors at the recent NYSPC Championships.

The Greater Liverpool Chamber of Commerce recognized Anita Leitgeb as its Most Valuable Player for the first quarter of 2025. Well done, Anita!

Happy 50th Anniversary wishes to Peter and Deanna Pavlacka! May God bless you as you celebrate this special occasion!

A warm welcome to King of Kings new intern, Vicar Melissa Bedell, as she begins her shared service with King of Kings and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fayetteville. Vicar Missy will be with us until March 2026.

As King of Kings marks its 60th anniversary, we send along prayers for God's blessings to Joan Genf, who is the last remaining charter member of our congregation.

Many thanks to all who provided food for Easter dinner for families served by the Brown Memorial Food Pantry.

We welcome the following new members who joined King of Kings in April:

Dennis & Linda Frado

Rebecca Hyland & Rachelle Parris

Paisley & Gavin Parris

Jennifer, Madison & Brayden Lapp

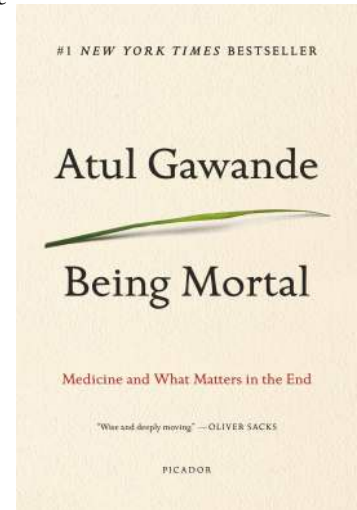
Nany Stamp

Wendy Schumacher

Bob & Fawn Sherwin



During our meetings we've been discussing books that have been helpful to read during our caregiving journeys. I just finished reading "Being Mortal" by author and doctor, Atul Gawande. As a surgeon, difficult conversations about end-of-life decisions with his patients and their families led him to learn more about palliative care. Telling patients, "I'm worried" and then asking them their fears, giving them information and then asking them what they understood changed his understanding of his patients and their hopes and fears for the life they were expecting to live. Dr. Gawande is a wonderful storyteller and his perspective on life and death is an excellent read!



### **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.

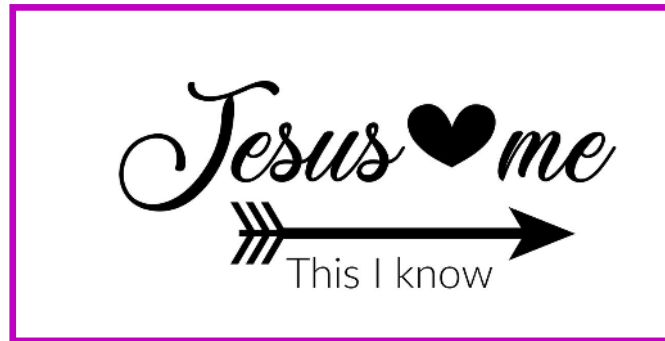
We understand that being a caregiver is a full-time job so know that we can prioritize the conversation if you have a limited time to attend and we don't expect regular attendance. Everyone's experiences are valued by our group.

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**

Are you remembering that Jesus Loves You? We are asking the children that when they see purple, they are encouraged to whisper, "Jesus loves me this I know."



On Palm Sunday we used a THANKS prayer to remember our walk with Jesus.

Dear God,

T is for the	<u>t</u> hanks we give to you.
H is for our	<u>h</u> earts, where you live.
A is for your	<u>a</u> wesome power.
N is for knowing that there's	<u>n</u> othing you won't do for us.
K is for the	<u>k</u> indness you show us.
S is for the	<u>s</u> acrifice you made in giving us your son, Jesus.

Amen

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



As many of you have heard, Facebook is going to delete all our old streaming videos, including church services, prior to February, as of May 21. Howie Mansfield has been working out a download of key services since we started streaming in March of 2020. If anyone has a service you would like saved from that time to now, please email Howie Mansfield, [howiemansfield@gmail.com](mailto:howiemansfield@gmail.com). Thanks for Watching!



We had an amazing show of support for our Food Pantry partner with the April “Easter Basket” collection. The volunteers at the Westside Food Center (Brown Memorial) were smiling ear to ear as we loaded up four tables of donations. In addition to all of the wonderful ingredients for side dishes, there were many colorful paper goods and more than a few bags of Easter candies. King of Kings also blessed them with a check (for hams) of \$720, \$100 in gift cards to Price Chopper and a donated Turkey.

Special thanks to the Girl Scout troops who meet at King of Kings. They donated a bit over \$100, items for side dishes and full case of Girl Scout cookies. If you know anyone who is a part of or works with the Liverpool Unit of Girl Scouts, please thank them.

On a somber note, we have been told that funding for all Food Pantries and CNY Food Bank is in flux. As a result, they are all having difficulty making plans due to the continuing uncertainty. We will be in contact with Westside and there may be some special collections needed in the coming weeks and months.

Reminder: two of the most requested items at the Pantry are baby wipes and cereal.



**Greetings King of Kings members, family, and friends. Vicar Missy here. What an honor and blessing to be among you for the next year as we learn, worship, laugh, serve, and love together, in the name of Jesus the risen Christ! I look forward to our time together and to meeting everyone. If we have not met yet, please introduce yourself. Bear with me, as I learn names and faces. I am excited to see what this intentional time together will bring. I am so happy that we have joined one another on this path of ministry and development!**

**With love and service,  
Vicar Melissa M Bedell**



Sunday May 18, 4:00pm~6:00pm.  
"Get to know vicar Missy"

Youth in grades 8-12. Pizza, games,  
bible study!

June 8th—Annual Church Picnic  
with Yoder Chicken..yum!

More details to come!





# BUILDING BRIDGES

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

InterFaith Works

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

2PM SYRACUSE  
- 6PM INNER HARBOR

401 SOLAR STREET, SYRACUSE, 13204

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*The Epistle of*  
**James**

One of the most controversial  
books of scripture in history.  
Where will you land?

Wednesdays @ 1pm  
April 23 - June 25



## **Schedules for May**

### **Usher**

5/4 Dan/Patti Weingarten  
5/11 Rick/Kathy Sampson  
5/18 Eric Richardson/Sarah Richardson  
5/25 Carl Bastedo/Bob Hickman

### **Lector**

Niel Zuern  
Sherry Miller  
Avery Head  
Sherry Miller

### **Worship/Communion Assistant**

5/4 Jeff Swanson/Sarah Richardson  
5/11 Cheryl Gatling/Michele Hayes  
5/18 Barb Winkel/Bob Hickman  
5/25 Keith Gatling/Kathy Sampson

### **Counter**

Steve Salem  
Jenna Wysokowski/Jennifer Foor  
Sue Tierney/Greg Yoder  
Eric Richardson/Peter Pavlacka

### **Coffee Fellowship**

5/4 Shari Murray  
5/11 Pat Lebel  
5/18 Lisa Clark  
5/25 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

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

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**King of Kings Lutheran Church**  
**8278 Oswego Road**  
**Liverpool, NY 13090**

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