Pastor's Corner February 2020

According to the local papers, long-time members of Grove United Methodist Church have been told "to stay away in an effort to make it more appealing to young people." The plan is for the struggling church to close in June and "reboot" in November. When the church reopens, the current members, most of whom are 60+, are asked to stay away during the re-creation of the church. In the meantime, these folks have been asked to shovel the sidewalks and keep their offerings coming. As you can imagine, this has created a lot of media attention.

Whether or not this strategy may work, it has certainly taken the "United" out of their name. One of the great joys of congregational life is the diversity of ages. On any given day at King of Kings, I have the pleasure to interact with everyone from preschoolers to parishioners in their nineties. We discover that we can all learn from each other. The child-like faith Jesus expects from us can easily be demonstrated at a children's message in worship. When you go to visit an old saint, you may discover that they gave more to you than what you came to bring.

A friend of mine sent me a poster online that identified all kinds of North American trees. My first thought was to sigh and think, "My Grandpa knew all of these." Shortly after he died, I ran across an African saying in the Smithsonian. It said, "When a man dies, a library burns to the ground." That really hit home. How many times have you wished you could go back and ask a parent or grandparent about something? Whether it was family lore or a skill they excelled in, it doesn't matter. Each of them was a wealth of information.

The Word calls us to honor our parents and our elders. Out of Christ's love, we reach out to the widow and the orphan. There is a place for all of us in Christ's house. God has given gifts to all of us! How bereft our lives would be if we only spent time with those who were our age or agreed with our every thought. King of Kings Lutheran Church and School would not be here apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who are now in their eighties and nineties! Introduce yourself to someone you don't know next Sunday. You will be glad you did!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Steven Bielenberg

Regular Sunday Service Times

8:30 AM - Classic Worship

2330 Dale Street North | Roseville, MN 55113 Church 651-484-5142 School 651-484-9206

> 9:45 AM – Sunday School & Bible study classes

11:00 AM - Alternate Worship

12:15 PM - Hmong Bible Study

1:30 PM – Hmong (language)

Community Worship

(1st Sunday each month)

Office Hours

Regular Hours 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
February 17 – President's Day
No School



Saint Valentine was either a priest or a bishop in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine since 496 AD.

In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, making known the love of Christ by word and deed within our church, community and the world.

From the Window View of Pastor Lee

When I first started full time here at King of Kings, Pastor Steve said I can have Mondays off since he takes Fridays. At first I was a little jealous. We love our Fridays don't we? We can't wait until Friday comes around, it's the beginning of that two days of rest and fun after a long week of stressful work.

I have a friend on social media and when Friday comes around, it never fails, I can bet she'll say something about how much she loves Fridays. What is another day people talk about? You guessed it, Mondays. We love our Fridays but we hate our Mondays, and I don't think I need to explain to you why. Just ask the estimated 17 million people that will take the day off or call in sick the day after the Super Bowl or what some call it: "Super Sick Monday."

I'm no longer jealous of Pastor Steve's Fridays off. While everyone is complaining about how they hate Mondays, I'm resting physically and mentally. Spending my Mondays with the kids and grandkids during the day and taking the wife on our weekly date night. But just because it's my day off from the office, I'm never really off.

As a once upon a time a non-believer of Christ but now a child of God, a Christian, an Evangelist, a Missionary, I'm always ON. I don't know how to turn off. I don't know how NOT to be a child of God, a Christian, an Evangelist, a Missionary. I can't turn it off no matter how hard I try. Everyone I talk to and come in contact with I can't help but love them, and in the back of my mind my wheels are spinning on how I can share Jesus with them; no matter if I'm talking to a stranger, my church member, or my grandkids.

Are you always ON too?

Blessings, Pastor Vue Lee

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my **beloved** brothers, be steadfast, immovable, **always** abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is **not in vain**.

Faithful Stewardship

Our stewardship is the expression of our faith as we manage our lives and resources for God's purposes. It is the wise management of who we are and all that we have. God has chosen us as His stewards and grants us the wonderful privilege to serve Him. He also equips and empowers us for service. As He molds and transforms us into His stewards, we acknowledge that everything in this life is a sacred trust from Him. God is the source and owner of all things. He allows us to use His creation and intends it for our good.



Our stewardship is seen in our deeds and actions. Our acts of stewardship become more Christ-like as our relationship with Jesus grows. Out of love and gratitude for our Savior Who has redeemed us, we are eager to perform our stewardship activities. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we become faithful stewards who respond willingly and joyfully to God's love, goodness, and mercy. Through faith, we are empowered to do as God directs us in 1 Peter 4:10: "As each has received a gift, use it serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Rews and Rotes

2020 King of Kings Spring Recycle Sale



Sponsored by King of King's Women's Ministry

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 4, 2020, 8am – 1pm,** for the **annual Spring Recycle Sale**. You can start now by setting aside items for our annual sale.

What does the Women's Ministry do with the proceeds? We support the following mission projects: Sandwich Project, Christmas Shoebox project, Concordia Academy and King of Kings school scholarships, Hmong ministry, and Concordia University. In addition, we provide to King of Kings college students going into church work with a small gift of financial assistance, and support the work of the group that provides funeral meals.

We believe these are all important functions of the congregation and hope you will support us in 2020.

Please mark your calendar, we will need assistance to set up the event on Friday, April 3 and conduct the sale on Saturday, April 4. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy or Glenn Matthees, project chairs, 651-245-2987.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of 6 sleeping bags, \$10 gift card, toiletries, towels and washcloths, bedding, bras, t-shirts, underwear, socks and winger

gear on **1/2/2020** to Simpson Housing Services. With your support we are able to fulfill our mission to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness.

Last year we provided supportive housing services to **2,046** people, and placed **1,446** people into housing - including **275** families - **families like Hawa's:**

Hawa, a positive and determined single mother of one-year-old, Hassan, moved into Simpson's Young Parent Program after experiencing homelessness. Shortly after starting with Simpson, Hawa gave birth to her son. She felt overwhelmed as a new mother. Simpson advocates supported Hawa by listening, assisting with employment and childcare, securing transportation, and connecting her with other parents.

Hawa's' story inspires us to continue this vital work, and we couldn't do it without generous supporters like you. Thank you for being a part of our community, and partnering with us to end homelessness, one person, one family, at a time.

In gratitude,

Nahrissa Rush Volunteer Coordinator



Membership Updates:

In by Baptism: Maximus Jorgenson, son of Bryce & Kathryn Jorgenson

Address Update:

Beverly Anderson The Shores of Lake Phalen, Room 230 1870 East Shore Drive Maplewood, MN 55109 Wrobel Family 2295 Birch St. White Bear Lake, MN 55110

DECEMBER GIVING INFORMATION

Regular offering – \$66,557.18;
Parking Lot – \$,7415.00.;
Other specified offerings - \$1,466.07
Joyful Response – General \$17,170.00;
Parking Lot - \$9,085.00

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS WITH THE ROSEVILLE P.D. The holidays are over, but winter weather and hunger still pose challenges to some around us. What can you do? It's so easy, donate any of the following items and drop them off to Pastor Lee: 1-gallon zip top bags, fruit snacks, granola/protein bars, water bottles, socks, gloves, beanies, hand wipes, chap stick, tooth brushes/paste, Cub/Target Gift Card of any amount, and a handwritten note. He will then pass them on to Roseville PD for distribution. If you don't feel like shopping, you can make a monetary donation and Pastor Lee will buy it on your behalf.

Luke10:27: He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'



Minneapolis Sandwich Project for the Homeless:



Please join us on Thursday night, February 13th from 7-8pm in the Jerusalem Room in assembling sandwiches for the homeless. The past years we have put together about 400 sandwiches. All supplies are provided and families are encouraged to join us for this service project! Sponsored by Women's Ministry-WAIC. Questions? Please contact Julie Hibbing at 651-337-1153 or Pam Collova at 651-249-3811.

But, as it is written,
"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love
him"— these things God has revealed to us
through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches
everything, even the depths of God.
I Cor 2:9-10

2019 Advent Bible Reading: Isaiah 1-39

The Board of Lay Ministry would love to hear about your reading through Isaiah during the season of Advent! If you have some thoughts or inspiration to share, please contact Pastor Bielenberg, Pastor Lee, Vicar Miller or Steve Dahl, Chair of the Board of Lay Ministry.

Prayer Requests From Lutheran Bible Translators:

- 1. Pray for wisdom as I work this week on preparing to check the Zayse translation of Philippians.
- 2. Pray for wisdom, good communication, and good health as I meet with the Zayse team January 27-29 to check the last chapter of Revelation and the book of Philippians.
- 3. Pray for the process of choosing a general contractor to build the Bible translation building at the Mekane Yesus Seminary. They hope to have one chosen by early February.
- **4.** Pray for the process of hiring a national coordinator for the EECMY translation program. We will be evaluating some applicants this week.
- **5.** Praise for safe travel and a refreshing time as we traveled to Kenya January 3-8 for a retreat with other LBT missionaries from eastern and southern Africa.
- **6.** Pray for peace as the country prepares for nation-wide elections in August.

God bless.

Jim & Sue Kaiser Translation Consultant in Ethiopia, Lutheran Bible Translators

Meal Train For Incitti Family:

Our middle school teacher, Hannah Incitti, and her children (preschooler Cameron and 1-year-old Evelyn) are currently without their husband/father Matt while he is serving with the Air National Guard in Africa until Feb/March 2020. To help them out during his deployment, we've created a "meal train" calendar to provide dinner for the family once a week (Wednesdays) and lunch for Hannah once a week (Tuesdays). If you'd like to help the family by providing a meal or two, you can sign up by going to: https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/IEAD5131

(Password = 2330) Meals can be placed in the KoK kitchen refrigerator on Tues/Weds mornings or afternoons. Please label items as "Hannah's Lunch" or "Incitti Family Dinner" and include any specific instructions for reheating, etc. Gift cards can be dropped off at the office anytime

Letter from the Dicar

"Enduring Attack and Fighting Back"

The Catechism as Our Defense

Anyone who knows me for very long will quickly discover that I love books. I read, buy, borrow, check-out, and collect books on many different subjects and by authors from around the world and throughout time. When I get to heaven, I'm sure there will be a desk in a library with my name on it.

One of the books I have been devouring lately is a short work by John Pless, who teaches pastoral theology at our seminary in Fort Wayne. The book is entitled, *Luther's Small Catechism: A Manual for Discipleship*, and it is a true gem. In this book, Pless commends Luther's catechism to us as believers as a weapon to defend our faith. Pless works on the premise that the Christian life is not a search for knowledge or an upward ladder of holiness but, rather, a struggle. The nature of Christian faith, says Pless, is that it endures attack.¹

From where does the attack come? It comes from those three enemies of trust in Christ: the world, the devil, and our old sinful nature. These three, as Luther identifies, lie to us, trying to draw us into "false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice."²

This attacks our faith by giving us false promises and enticing us to believe in them instead of the finished work of Christ's death and resurrection. Sometime these false promise are subtle and sometimes they are not. Perhaps we sold our society's lie that money will bring us ultimate happiness. Perhaps the devil comes to us at night and attacks our self-worth with nightmares from our past. Perhaps we are tempted with the lusts of the flesh that seem nearly omnipresent in our society. Whatever the temptation may be, the catechism provides us with the means to defend ourselves and our trust in Christ against such attacks. Luther even used the nickname of *Enchiridion* (a short, defense sword from ancient Rome) to describe the catechism's nature as a weapon.

The catechism works for us as a defensive weapon, because it preaches the true promises of God against the lies of the world, Satan, and our old sinful nature. It is the Bible in brief, telling us God's will for our lives and our world, and telling us the good news of what God has done for us. In this way, the catechism presents itself as a resource for our life of faith far beyond two years in confirmation. The pattern of words that we memorize becomes written on our hearts, so that we can draw them out in defense of our faith when it comes under attack.

In a world in which so many voices around us and maybe even within us tell us that we have no worth, that we haven't performed enough, or that what we believe is not true, the catechism's words remind us what *is* true. The catechism reminds us that we are created in God's image, that we are valuable in God's sight, that God loved us so much that He became human and suffered and rose again for us. The catechism reminds us that in baptism we have become God's children and that the old identity we had under sin has been put to death, drowned in the holy bath of the Triune God. The catechism reminds us that our Lord will return again for us, give eternal life to our mortal bodies, and fix everything wrong, when He will recreate this world.

Above all, the catechism reminds us that we belong to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Can there be any sweeter words than Luther's explanation to the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed? These words remind us how much God loves us, what He has done for us, and how, no matter what, that we belong to Him forever. Learn these words; write them on your heart; and pull them out when you are under attack. You will find no better defense, for in them is contained the One who gave Himself for you.

"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

that I may be his own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true."3

Amen.

Your Vicar, Joshua Miller

¹ John T. Pless, Luther's Small Catechism: A Manual for Discipleship (St. Louis: CPH, 2019), 11.

² Martin Luther, *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (St. Louis: CPH, 2017), 22, the explanation to The Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer.

³ Luther, Small Catechism, 17.

Education and Pouth Rews

LifeLight – Wednesday Nights LifeLight is a Bible Study with daily readings and questions. The group meets on **Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:45pm** in Room 104 (Media Center). There is a lecture and discussion led by Al Wassermann. Books are \$10. Contact Al Wassermann to ask questions or get more information: almarge2hikers@g.com or 651-484-1487.

Adult Small Groups Are you interested in starting or hosting a small group Bible Study? Contact DCE Sally Schuster at sschuster@kingofkingsroseville.org or 612-540-0714 for resources and training. We have many curricula that can be used – video based or book based – and you can host in your home, at church, or elsewhere like a coffee shop!

VBS: Save the date!

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School which will happen on **June 22-26**, **2020 from 9 am to Noon!** Registration will open later this month. Please begin praying for this important ministry and if you're interested in volunteering, please contact DCE Sally Schuster at sschuster@kingofkingsroseville.org or cell: 651-341-3830.

Youth Ministry

- Middle School (6th-8th Grade)
 - Youth Night every Wednesday:
 - 3:00 pm Study Hall/Free time
 - 3:30 pm Snack and Small Group Time for those who have late practice
 - 4:45 pm Snack and Small Group Time for the rest of the group
 - 5:30 pm Dinner
 - 6:00 pm Pick up time
 - Starting on February 26, we will get done at 5:45 pm for Lent Dinners begin!!!
 - **Sunday mornings:** Each week, there is a middle school Bible study held in Room 111 (Mr. Schmidtke's Classroom). Most weeks, it is only 6th graders as the 7th/8th graders have confirmation in Room 101 (Mr. Boll's Classroom). Whenever there is no confirmation, the MS Bible Study will still be happening and the 7th/8th graders are welcome to join the 6th graders.
- High School (9th-12th Grade)
 - **Community Night every Wednesday:** We meet from 7-9 pm each week and have discussion, snacks, and gym time. On February 26, we will begin meeting after Lent Worship until 9 pm.
 - **Sunday mornings:** Most Sundays, we will have a video-based Bible Study on various topics with on-site service projects sprinkled in! We meet in the Youth Room (Room 112) from 9:45-10:45am.
- **Sign Up for Text Alerts!!!** We use Remind to communicate what's coming up! Text the following codes to the number 81010 to sign up:
 - MS Youth: @27c366HS Youth: @h8e247
 - If you have kids in both groups, please sign up for both! Add your kids to the appropriate group as well!
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - As Sally's role has become part-time, there is the opportunity for you to be the point person for extra events and fundraisers! Check out this list of established events and sign up:
 https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044baca82da7fb6-youth7 If you have other suggestions, please let Sally know so that we can coordinate with the entire organization.

Our main mode of communication is the Weekly Update e-newsletter that comes out on Mondays and is sent to all parents of 6th-12th graders. If you are not receiving it or have any questions, please contact DCE Sally Schuster at sschuster@kingofkingsroseville.org, cell: 651-341-3830, office: 612-540-0714 or check your junk mail. You can also check the bulletin boards by the sanctuary and youth room and the website for information.





Coming up this week!

Affordable Christian Education Parent Seminar King of Kings Lutheran School will be hosting a seminar to show families the different programs that help make Christian education affordable. This event will be on **February 4 at 6:30pm** and is open to everyone (current and prospective families). This is a great opportunity to listen to live testimonies on how it is financially possible to make private education a reality. This seminar will also be live streamed through our Facebook page for those who are not able to attend.

3rd Annual Auction & Dinner

Join us for the 3rd annual Royals Night fundraiser

Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the Southview Country Club at 5:30 pm.

The night includes a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, mystery boxes, raffles and more. This year's fundraiser will feature entertainment by David Burkart, offer a cash bar, and an Italian inspired dinner.

Your attendance and support has a significant impact on the students and families of King of Kings. All proceeds from this special night directly benefit King of Kings Lutheran School.

Click for Registration

Registration Deadline: Feb 28th

Tickets: \$50 includes Italian themed dinner, drink ticket, desserts.

Childcare: \$7 per child (must be potty trained) includes homemade pizza and lemonade.

Sponsor a Teacher

By donating \$10 at registration, you will help offset the cost for our staff to attend.

Unable to Attend

You may still make an in-spirit donation. Just click "Tickets" on the registration site.

To avoid a processing fee, register in the school office or mail a check along with guest name(s), dinner option, and child care option if needed to: King of Kings, Attn: Wine in the Woods, 2330 Dale St N, Roseville, MN 55113.

Tuition Raffle

Purchase tickets in the King of Kings office! 1st Place = \$500 voucher towards tuition 2nd Place = \$250 voucher towards tuition

February Events:

Feb. 4 - 6:30pm - Affordable Christian Education Seminar

Feb. 5 - Spelling Bee

Feb. 6 - 8th Grade Shadow Day at CA, 6th Grade Field Trip

Feb. 7 - Half Day (noon dismissal), Teacher In-Service

Feb. 9 - Royal Bells performs at 8:30am service

Feb. 14 – PreK Field trip to Bell Museum

Feb 17 – N O SCHOOL

6:30pm - Board of Education Meeting

Feb 18 - 9:00am TEC 21

Keep "Liking" Us on Facebook!

Facebook is a great way to network and share the blessings we have at our church/school ministry. Please find us at the following link and 'like' our www.facebook.com/kokroseville

Note: this is a separate page from the church.



Minneapolis Sandwich Project for the Homeless: Please join us on Thursday night, **February 13**th **from 7-8pm** in the Jerusalem Room in assembling sandwiches for the homeless. The past years we have put together about 400 sandwiches. All supplies are provided and families are encouraged to join us for this service project! Sponsored by Women's Ministry-WAIC. Questions? Please contact Julie Hibbing at 651-337-1153 or Pam Collova at 651-249-3811.

Main Street Living Choir Opportunity for LCMS Church Choirs Amy Schutte, music director at Emanuel Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, is coordinating a local choir that would be recorded for Main Street Living and would be shown on TV in the near future. The first recording session is **February 15.** Much more detail is available on the packet on the table in the narthex or contact Amy: church phone: 651-457-3929; cell (call or text): 651-983-8169; acschutte10@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes on "Martin Luther and Beauty" on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM in the Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University. Dr. Mattes will show that Luther's theology of the cross opens a way for a theological appreciation of beauty in creation, salvation, and life. He is Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Grand View University, Des Moines and author of "Luther's Theology of Beauty: A Reappraisal." Part of the Vern Gundermann Reformation Heritage Lecture Series. Free and open to the public.

"What's Your Idol?" Men of Christ Retreat Lutheran Island Camp will be hosting a men's retreat this February 21-23. Check out the list of activities and objectives on the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex. Registration is available online: www.islandcamp.org or by email: register@islandcamp.org.

Camp Omega Plunge Are you and your team ready for the 3rd annual Camp Omega Plunge? Bring your courageous self to the Morristown Community Center from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on **Saturday**, **February 22**. New this year: Plunge participants can also raise money for their own school or youth group as part of the plunge. Learn more about how this works on the Camp Omega website.

Women's Ministry Annual Spring Recycle Sale. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 4, 2020, 8am – 1pm. You can start now by setting aside items for our annual sale. More details coming later!

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on April 19, 2020 at the 11:00AM service.

SAGES Gathering May 4-5. Register today for the SAGES Gathering 2020 in Mankato. Featured presenter Dr. Mark Jeske will guide attendees through the "20/20 Vision: Courage today. Hope tomorrow." The gathering will also feature workshops, fellowship, and a banquet with entertainment by the Gundermanns.

VBS: Save the date! Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School which will happen on June 22-26, 2020! More information to come after the New Year and registration will open in February. Please begin praying for this important ministry!

Paul's Missionary Journey Tour With Cruise—Visiting Biblical sites of Athens, Corinth, Philippi, Patmos, Ephesus, etc. (Oct 6-16, 2020). Contact Rev Darold Reiner, retired LCMS Pastor & past Int'l LWML Counselor (406-890-1149) imhis38@gmail.com (Savings and convenience: The tour departs from the Minneapolis airport!)